

Najib defends planned attendance at Rohingya rally
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UMNO AGM Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak is firm in his decision to attend the Solidarity March over the ongoing Rohingya crisis tomorrow, citing that it is not about interfering with Myanmar's affairs.

He was responding to deputy director-general of the Myanmar President's Office, U Zaw Htay, who had warned Malaysia against interfering in Myanmar's affairs.

"I want to tell him - this is not about interfering with Myanmar's affairs, this is about defending humanitarian and universal rights!" he thundered in his closing speech at the Umno annual general assembly today.

His remarks prompted the thousands of delegates in the hall to stand up and shout "Allahuakbar" (Allah is great).

Asking them whether he should attend tomorrow's gathering and receiving a "yes", Najib then confirmed that he will be attending the event.

"InsyaAllah (God willing), I, Najib Razak, president of Umno will attend (the gathering)!"

"And I won't change my mind because it is not Najib who will be attending but Najib who represents three million Umno members," he added.

Najib further argued that with Myanmar not solving the matter at hand, the Rohingya will only turn to Malaysia in seeking refuge.

"Right now there are 56,000 Rohingya and Myanmar people holding the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) card in Malaysia.

"How can they (Myanmar) say that it is an internal affair when they bring the problem here and cannot solve the problem there," he added.

Citing the brutality against the Rohingya - of humans being burned alive, women being raped and children being slaughtered - this, stressed Najib, was not an Asean community that could be accepted.

"The Asean region cannot tolerate such uncivilised, cruel and brutal behaviour.

"We urge them to change their behaviour," he stressed.

And Umno, he added, is firm in its decision to attend the rally as well as its opposition to the spate of violence against the Rohingya.

The Rohingya solidarity rally is expected to take place at Titiwangsa Stadium tomorrow, with other Umno leaders in attendance.

PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang is also expected to be there.

The Myanmar government is facing growing international protest following reports that the killing of the ethnic Rohingya in the country had intensified.

Myanmar does not recognise the Rohingya community as its citizens.

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