

Najib, Hadi join hands to protest Rohingya plight

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Anne Muhammad & Zikri Kamarulzaman

Approximately 10,000 gathered at Stadium Mini Titiwangsa in Kuala Lumpur this morning to protest Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya.

Sharing the stage at the rally was Prime Minister Najib Razak, Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang and PAS Youth chief Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Aziz.

The rally titled '*Solidariti Ummah Rohingya*' was a colourful affair of with participants donning red and green to mark their political affiliations, although Rohingya migrants made up the bulk of the protesters.

The crowds chanted "free the Rohingya" and "Rohingya needs your voice to end ethnic cleansing".

Yesterday, Wisma Putra rebutted the Myanmar government, which was reported [warning](#) Malaysia to stay out of its affairs, by saying the rally would proceed as the issue also affects the security of the region.

Previously, the Myanmar government said Najib's presence at the rally would be a violation of Asean's non-interference policy.

Hadi: M'sia compelled to interfere

However, Najib said the Myanmar government cannot only cite this policy while ignoring other Asean charters on human rights.

"Are they (Myanmar) blind? They can't just interpret the Asean charter according to their own whims," the premier said.

Speaking before Najib, Abdul Hadi said Malaysia must intervene because Islam compelled Muslims to protect the rights of anyone who is oppressed.

"The crisis in Myanmar not only makes it *wajib* (compulsory) for Malaysia to intervene, but all who have signed the UN human rights charter, the Geneva convention, Asean, the OIC, and all human rights defenders," the PAS president said.

Abdul Hadi said no country lives in isolation and the international community must use all diplomatic means to help the Rohingya community.

"Let there not be a situation where animal rights are more important than human rights," said Abdul Hadi.

The four-hour rally concluded at about noon.

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