

## **Anwar talks to Hamas leader, calls for humanitarian corridor out of Gaza**

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Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has called for the cessation of the bombardment of the Gaza Strip and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor in Rafah, which connects Gaza to Egypt.

In a social media post, Anwar said that he had spoken by phone with Hamas head of political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, yesterday to express Malaysia's unwavering support for the Palestinians.

"Given the dire situation in Gaza, I strongly advocate for the immediate cessation of bombardment and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor in Rafah.

"It is also imperative for Israel to abandon its adherence to the politics of dispossession, immediately ceasefire with Hamas, and genuinely pursue a peaceful resolution to end the ongoing conflict.

"It is crucial to prioritise the well-being and safety of all individuals affected by this crisis," said the prime minister, who received the call from the Hamas leader.

He added that in this spirit, Malaysia was committed to delivering humanitarian aid, particularly in the form of food and medicine to alleviate the suffering of those in need.

As the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip continues, about 2.3 million Palestinians remain trapped as Israel announced a total blockade of the enclave – no water, no fuel, and no electricity – after the conflict erupted on Oct 7.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry was quoted as saying that Israel has yet to allow the opening of the Rafah crossing, which would allow civilians to flee the embattled region.

Yesterday, Anwar said that Malaysia sending its troops to help Palestine in its ongoing conflict with Israel is not a simple task.

Speaking at the Dewan Rakyat, he said such a decision is not for Malaysia to make alone as any form of assistance to Palestine can only be delivered with the permission of the neighbouring countries.

“Without their agreement, we cannot even land our aircraft. So I hope they can understand this, do not confuse the rakyat,” he said yesterday morning.

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