

Stop meddling in border dispute, Thai protesters tell Anwar

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Bernama

Protesters gathered in front of the Malaysian embassy in Bangkok today to demand that Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar stop “interfering” in Thailand’s handling of its border dispute with Cambodia.

According to the Bangkok Post today, the protesters are also planning to visit the US Embassy, as they believe Washington has unfairly linked trade negotiations with Thailand’s sovereign right to protect its territory.

The rallies were organised by a nationalist coalition called United Power of the Land to Protect Sovereignty, known in Thai as “Ruam Palang Phaen Din Pok Pong Athipatai”.

Prominent figures who attended the rally included activist Pichit Chaimongkol, former senator Kaewsan Atibodhi, former red-shirt leader Jatuporn Prompan, and lawyer Nitithorn Lamlua.

The group waving Thai national flags and banners arrived at the Malaysian

Embassy on Sathon Road with a truck equipped with loudspeakers.

They accused Anwar, in his previous capacity as the Asean chair, of meddling in Thailand's efforts to safeguard its sovereignty.

They also demanded that he refrain from pressuring Thailand to negotiate with Cambodia over disputed border areas.

Peace accord in jeopardy?

On Oct 26, Thailand and Cambodia signed a joint declaration on a peace deal dubbed the "KL Peace Accord", marking a formal step toward halting hostilities and restoring peace along their disputed border.

The agreement was signed by Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and his Cambodian counterpart, Hun Manet, on the sidelines of the 47th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The signing was witnessed by Anwar and US President Donald Trump.

However, the agreement unravelled after Anutin decided to postpone it, following a landmine explosion along the Thai-Cambodia border that reportedly injured several Thai soldiers.

Subsequently, Anwar said Chief of Defence Forces Nizam Jaffar has been tasked to resume negotiations on the matter.

Political interference

Pichit further accused Anwar of overstepping his role as Asean chair by ordering Thailand to stop border operations.

He also accused Anwar of “political interference”, claiming Malaysia and the US were attempting to unduly influence Thailand’s decisions.

Kaewsan, on the other hand, accused Malaysia of having large investments in Cambodian casino operations and that Anwar was using the peace dialogue as a political tool despite corruption problems at home.

He called on Asean to ensure Anwar “has no place in the regional bloc”.

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