

Recall our envoy in Jakarta, urges Khairy
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Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin today mounted pressure on the Wisma Putra to withdraw the country's envoy to Indonesia as a sign of protest towards anti-Malaysian demonstrations in Jakarta.

"There has been some form of agreement on the standard operating procedure (SOP) about enforcement (and) how to react in the case of intruding fishermen.

Three Indonesian maritime and fisheries officers were arrested by Malaysian police off the coast of Johor on Aug 13, sparking anti-Malaysia protests in Indonesia. Seven Malaysian fishermen have also been arrested by Indonesian authorities in the incident. Both countries later released the detainees.

"But this does not address what is happening now, where our embassy in Jakarta is a target for demonstrations and attacks on a daily basis," Khairy said.

Losing patience over the lack of enforcement from the Indonesian authorities, he said it is high time stronger measures were imposed to prevent more untoward incidents.

"Yesterday our embassy was attacked, again. We see no seriousness on the part of the Indonesian government to guarantee the safety of our embassy.

NONE "I feel that this message is not being sent out firmly by our foreign minister because although I understand we have different systems, I believe that our police will make sure there are no attacks on any foreign missions in Kuala Lumpur," Khairy (left) added.

Foreign Minister Anifah Aman and his Indonesian counterpart Dr Marty Natalegawa met in Kota Kinabalu yesterday to come to a diplomatic resolution on the ongoing demonstrations.

Despite the meeting between the government representatives, several protesters trespassed into the Malaysian embassy and removed the Malaysian flags at the security guard's post and waved Indonesian flags, reported national news agency Bernama.

Some 170 protesters from Laskar Merah Putih (LMP) and several other groups from the Ganyang (Crush) Malaysia campaign demonstrated at the embassy for an hour.

According to Bernama, the embassy is expected to send a protest note to Indonesia's foreign ministry over police inaction.

"We don't see the same assurance of security from the Indonesians. What's the use of talking about SOP when the main issue is the attacks on our embassy... had that been conveyed very strongly through the diplomatic channels, we would have seen some response from the authorities.

"I have gone so far as to say that we should withdraw our ambassador. How are we going to continue our service in Jakarta when our own embassy is still being attacked by demonstrators?" Khairy asked.

'Foreign Ministry should send a strong message'

He demanded that the Foreign Ministry "send a strong message" and to stop tolerating such attacks.

"We will not tolerate our embassy being used as a target for these demonstrators. If the Indonesian authorities are going to take this lightly, to ensure (our) safety... we must recall our ambassador in protest," he said.

Dismayed over the apparent inaction of the Indonesian government to halt the protests, Khairy said that ties between the two countries have soured greatly.

"Faeces is being thrown at our embassy... how long are we going to tolerate this? Imagine if we do this here. I'm sure they would think of recalling their ambassador. But we are so kind, not doing anything.

"We can recall our ambassador and tell them that this is not a reflection of government-to-government ties deteriorating but a reflection that we no longer have confidence in the security services in Jakarta to protect us.

"Look, are we going to look after good diplomatic relations at the expense of the security of our country, of our maruah (dignity)? How long is this going to continue?," he asked.

He stressed that withdrawing the Malaysian ambassador would be a "diplomatic move", not "confrontational".

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