

Malaysia sees no end to Jakarta protests yet
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PETALING JAYA - Malaysian officials are not expecting protests outside the Malaysian Embassy in Jakarta to chill out anytime soon.

They believe the protests could go on for at least another week, prodded on by negative stories on Malaysia in the Indonesian media.

However, they said a warning issued by Malaysia that it might issue a travel advisory is worrying Jakarta as the country is a popular tourist destination among Malaysians, according to The Star.

"The Indonesian government does not want Malaysia to issue any travel warning. It is thus taking efforts to calm the situation. . .The Indonesian government is taking a very rational approach because government to government ties are very good," The Star reported an official as saying.

"It is just that the street protests against us are being carried out by an unscrupulous minority. We believe the silent majority does not agree with their own countrymen's action," said the official.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has expressed disappointment over the incident.

On Thursday, demonstrators had spat at Malaysian flags and taunted Indonesian policemen guarding the embassy in Jakarta, according to a Bernama report.

Shouts of Ganyang Malaysia (Crush Malaysia) were heard as the demonstrators protested against what they claimed to be encroachment by Malaysian authorities in Indonesian waters on Aug 13.

Some of the demonstrators hurled stones and slippers at the policemen. One person was arrested for throwing a bamboo pole at the security forces.

They demanded an apology from Malaysia and asked the Indonesian government to recall its ambassador to Kuala Lumpur.

The residence of the Malaysian ambassador in Patra Kuningan, southern Jakarta, remained under tight security following a threat to hurl faeces into the compound.

Barisan Nasional Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin blamed the Indonesian media for "fanning anti-Malaysian sentiment" in a post on Twitter on Thursday.

"You don't see that happening here," he said.

He urged Wisma Putra to immediately recall the Malaysian ambassador in protest if the Indonesia could not ensure the safety of the embassy in Jakarta.

Gerakan, meanwhile, has called on Indonesia to immediately keep Bendera in check.

Its International Relations and Affairs Bureau chairman Ng Lip Yong said concrete measures needed to be taken to stop the extremist group from further inflaming the situation.

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