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Najib raps Israel for ship attack

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has expressed his sadness over Israel's "arrogance and lack of human compassion" in the attack on a Malaysian vessel carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza.

He said this showed that Tel Aviv's regime of cruelty against the people of Palestine still continued.

"Israel will do anything to continue its oppression of the people of Palestine, including not allowing aid to reach them."

"Malaysia will continue to send aid to the people of Palestine," he told Malaysian journalists at the Macdonald Randolph Hotel here on Monday.

Najib was commenting on reports that *The Spirit of Rachel Corrie*, the Malaysian humanitarian-aid vessel with 12 anti-war activists and journalists on board, were attacked by Israeli naval forces.

The boat had left Port of Piraeus, Greece, for Gaza last Wednesday with a cargo of pipes for the restoration of its sewerage system.

The ship is now anchored in Egyptian waters, about 30 nautical miles from Gaza.

Najib had earlier met with 170 Malaysian students from Oxford University and selected institutions at the Lancaster Room of the hotel.

Najib is here at the invitation of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies (OXCIS) to deliver a speech, "Coalition of Moderates and Inter-Civilisational Understanding", at Oxford University's Sheldonian Theatre.

He began his visit with a tour of the OXCIS centre in Marston Road.

A number of Muslim countries, including Malaysia, contributed to its construction.

Its auditorium, decorated by intri-



cate traditional designs, was built by a Malaysian team.

During the tour, OXCIS director Dr Farhan Ahmad Nizami announced the creation of the Tun Abdul Razak Fellowship, sponsored by Bank Rakyat.

Oxford University, located about 90km northwest of London, is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. It has a student population of more 20,000.

Meanwhile in Alor Star, Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) adviser Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir said that political will alone was not enough to stop Israel's dominance in Gaza.

Mukhriz, who is also deputy international trade and industry minister, instead called on the global community to unite and strongly condemn the Zionist regime's siege of the 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza.

"The foundation had approached several international bodies, including the United Nations, over Israel's action on numerous occasions.

"However, political will alone is not enough to stop the regime from terrorising Gaza. We need the voices and support from people around the world in order to help the Palestinians," said Mukhriz after meeting padi farmers in Kampung Kubang Chenok, in Padang Sera, about 40km from here, yesterday.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak delivering his speech on 'Coalition of Moderates and Inter-Civilisational Understanding' at the Sheldonian Theatre of Oxford University. — Bernama picture

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