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# Malaysia wants all quarters to abide by Gaza truce deal

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**SUPPORTIVE:** Najib also wants Gaza blockade to be lifted

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday welcomed news of the ceasefire in Gaza and called on both sides to stand true to the agreement.

"I call on both sides to ensure that there is no further destruction of property or loss of life.

"And I join other leaders in calling for a total removal of the blockade in Gaza so that Palestinians can enjoy the right to life and the livelihood that they deserve," he said at an International Conference on War-Affected Children dinner here last night.

Najib said Israel's use of military force over the past eight days had been disproportionate and destructive, taking an unacceptable toll on Gaza's civilians.

"It is the latest wrongdoing committed by a democracy which claims to prefer peace, but too often chooses war."

Najib said while the ceasefire was most welcome, a long-term solution to the conflict in the Middle East should be found as it was time to break the cycle of violence.

"We must now focus on the broader Middle East peace process to ensure that the region moves from conflict to stability and its people have the security and dignity they deserve."

Earlier, in a statement, Najib paid tribute to all the parties who brokered the peace deal.

"In particular, we commend Egypt and President Mohamed Morsi for having shown leadership



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak's** wife, **Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor** (second from right), presenting a mock cheque for RM1 million to former prime minister and chairman of the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission, **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad**, at the War-Affected Children's Charter to Criminalise War launch dinner at Dewan Tun Dr Ismail, Putra World Trade Centre, yesterday. The money came from the Gaza Appeal Fund, initiated by Rosmah. With them are Najib and Dr Mahathir's wife, **Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali**, who is also a trustee for Kuala Lumpur Foundation to Criminalise War. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

in sponsoring the ceasefire, as well as United States President Barack Obama, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon."

In his dinner speech, Najib recalled his visit to post-war Bosnia 20 years ago when he was defence minister.

"I was taken to a cemetery where I saw a gravestone without a name. When I asked the officer escorting me about this, he told me the grave was a burial place for five unnamed newborn babies who died after the hospital was hit by shells. That poignant moment remains etched in my memory until today."

Najib said among the horrors of war, the most haunting were stories of children forced to fight, and child casualties.

Najib also paid tribute to Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and her team for their efforts and achieve-

ments in highlighting the effects of war on children.

Dr Siti Hasmah had earlier launched the Criminalise War Club, which aims to set up clubs in secondary schools in the country.

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**Page 1 pic:** Palestinians celebrating what they say is a victory over Israel after an eight-day conflict in Gaza City. Israel and the Hamas movement ruling the Gaza Strip agreed on Wednesday to an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire to halt the conflict that has killed 162 Palestinians and five Israelis.