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Stamp out extremism, says Najib

THREATS: Acts of Islamic State militants barbaric, sickening



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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York on Thursday. Reuters pic

GIVING plenty of tirade to outline threats posed by Islamic State (IS) militants in his speech at the United Nations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Malaysia will receive 3,000 refugees fleeing Syria as a result of terror crises in the next three years.

He said like in all other irregular migrations of people as a result of terror, such as the persecution of Rohingyas in Myanmar, Malaysia and the world could not turn a blind eye to the Syrian refugee issue, which was becoming chronic.

Speaking at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, Najib called the actions of IS militants "sickening" as they claimed to represent Islam but committed barbaric acts against innocent people.

Najib took delegates back to five years ago, when he called for a global movement of moderates to stamp out all forms of extremism around the world. He said Malaysia had followed up on the initiative as, amid the current IS threats, the voice of moderation was in danger.

"Let no one doubt how seriously Malaysia regards the problem of militants: both those who wish to use Kuala Lumpur as a transit point and

those who wish to sow violence and destruction at home."

Malaysia had arrested and intercepted hundreds of potential terrorists wanting to join IS militants fighting in Syria. About 100 Malaysians have been held, some of them pre-emptive arrests.

"We have instituted legislation to allow this. When evidence is irrefutable, we will unhesitatingly take action. If our citizens' lives are threatened by bombing a mall or a

police station, we would be negligent of their trust not to intervene before it is too late," Najib added.

He called on world leaders to work together to combat the IS threat.

"Military and intelligence services need to share information and countries need to collaborate more, daring to pre-emptively act when necessary."

He said more, too, must be done to spread Islam's true message, as IS had hijacked the religion for its own

warped ambitions.

Najib also spoke of the need to put a stop to another brand of terror — those perpetrated by the Israeli government against the Palestinians. He called on Israel to stop its violations of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and of Muslim worshippers in Jerusalem.

Najib expressed Malaysia's disappointment that its proposed resolution to set up an international tribunal into the shooting down of

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 did not go through because a veto was exercised.

The plane was shot down over Ukraine last year and efforts to discern the parties responsible have been futile.

"We will continue to seek justice through other legal options because we owe it to the families of those who perished in this outrageous crime."