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Najib: Pilgrims in Mina died as martyrs

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LEANNE GOH
in New York



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he was grieved by the deaths of hundreds of pilgrims in the stampede in Mina during the haj pilgrimage.

In sending the Malaysian Government's condolences to the families of the victims, he said they died as martyrs.

Speaking after performing Hari Raya Aidiladha prayers at the Islamic Cultural Centre of New York at 9am (9pm Malaysian time last night), he urged Malaysian pilgrims to follow the guidelines given to stay safe.

Najib is in the United States for a nine-day visit in conjunction with the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He arrived here at 6.30am (local time) on Wednesday along with his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor. They were received by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman, together with Malaysian Ambassador to the United States Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin and Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Datuk Ramlan Ibrahim.

During his visit, the Prime Minister is expected to speak at several leaders' summit and hold bilateral talks with a few heads of government.

He will address the general assembly at



Deep in prayer: Najib and other Malaysian delegates performing the Aidiladha prayers at the Islamic Cultural Centre of New York. Next to him is Dr Awang Adek. — Bernama

the UN headquarters here on Oct 1. Prior to that the Prime Minister will join world leaders at the UN Peacekeeping Summit that will be presided by US President Barack Obama on Sept 28.

Last year, Malaysia won one of the five non-permanent seats of the United Nations

Security Council (UNSC) for the 2015/2016 term.

Apart from a session with Malaysian students, Najib is also scheduled to meet representatives of the American business community. In attendance are also several Malaysian ministers.