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Najib, Hadi lead Rohingya rally

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SOLIDARITY: Umno, Pas leaders join 14,000 to condemn atrocities committed by Myanmar forces

KUALA LUMPUR

UMNO and Pas leaders yesterday put aside their political differences and stood side by side at Titiwangsa Stadium here in a show of solidarity with the Rohingya in Myanmar.

Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his Pas counterpart Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang, as well as other leaders from both parties, rallied together with some 14,000 participants of the Himpunan Solidariti Ummah Untuk Rohingya, sending a strong signal that Muslims in Malaysia condemn the barbaric deeds committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Najib said the suffering being visited on the Rohingya was an affront to Islam.

Addressing the participants, who had filled the stadium to the brim since 8am, he said the genocide being committed against the Ro-



hingya went beyond politics, adding that this was why he and Hadi had come together for the ummah.

He stressed that standing up for human rights, and the lives and

property of the Rohingya, was an obligation for Muslims and a part of the religion's Maqasid Syariah.

"This is our obligation. It is a must for all of us to help defend their lives, property and rights to

continue their lineage.

"This is why Pas is together with us today.

"We can have political differences, but when it comes to Islam, we have to stand united.

"This is above politics," he said to cheers and shouts of "Allahuakbar" from the audience.

Najib said world organisations like the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation must step in to stop the persecution of the Rohingya.

He said the world must not wait until it was too late, like what happened in Bosnia and Rwanda, where millions of lives were lost.

Hadi, in his speech, said international intervention was needed to address the persecution faced by the Muslim minority group.

"The government (of Malaysia) must work with other countries to defend the Rohingya and other ethnic groups in Myanmar."

Hadi said Malaysians, including political leaders, had to put aside their differences to show concern over the atrocities committed against the Rohingya.

"We are here today (yesterday) to defend Islam and human rights.

"We must do what we can as a nation to help them (Rohingya) as their rights as humans are being torn down in Myanmar."

He said based on the Quran, it was an obligation to help fellow

Muslims who were facing brutal treatment.

After their speeches, Najib and Hadi walked together to an outdoor stage where Yayasan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (Yadim) head Dr Yusri Mohamad read out a declaration by a coalition of Malaysian Islamic non-governmental organisations urging strong action against the Myanmar government.

The declaration was then handed over to Najib.

Present were Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa, Supreme Council members Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainudin, Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom and Datuk Seri Idris Haron; and Pas deputy president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man and Youth chief Nik Abdul Nik Aziz.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** with (from left) Pas deputy president **Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man**, Deputy Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi** and Pas president **Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang** in a show of solidarity at the **Himpunan Solidariti Ummah Untuk Rohingya** in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.