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Newspaper	THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Date	22 JULY 2016

Lawsuit Buffets Malaysia Leader

Opposition renews
calls for Najib to
resign as Singapore
extends its own probe

WSJ - 22/7/2016
Prime Minister Najib Razak faced fresh calls to resign Thursday after the U.S. moved to seize more than \$1 billion of assets allegedly siphoned from a development fund he founded. But with elections likely years away, Malaysia's well-entrenched leader looked set to easily weather the latest storm.

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The U.S. Justice Department filed a civil lawsuit Wednesday seeking to seize assets it said were part of "an international conspiracy to launder money" misappropriated from IMalaysia Development Bhd., or IMDB.

Authorities in Singapore, Malaysia's wealthy neighbor, followed on Thursday by saying they had seized bank accounts and placed restrictions on property transactions worth a combined 240 million Singapore dollars (US\$178 million) as part of their own probe into IMDB.

A request to comment from Mr. Najib's office went unanswered on Thursday. Earlier, his office said it would fully cooperate with any lawful investigation in line with international protocols.

In the wake of the U.S. announcement, Malaysian opposition lawmaker Tony Pua said his country had "become the global laughingstock."

Other opponents of Mr. Najib called for his resignation.

"It would be better for the prime minister to step down," said Kamarul Azman Habibur Rahman, who was expelled

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