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# PM: Extradite tanker hijackers

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**MT 'ORKIM HARMONY':** Najib makes request to Vietnam PM at Sochi meeting

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**M**ALAYSIA has requested for the extradition of eight hijackers of Malaysian tanker MT *Orkim Harmony* to face trial in the country.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the request was conveyed to his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc during a bilateral meeting with the latter on the sidelines of the Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit yesterday.

"We want the eight suspects to be extradited and brought to justice here and the Vietnamese prime minister had indicated that our request would be looked into," he said at a press conference with Malaysian media at the end of the summit yesterday.

MT *Orkim Harmony* was reported missing on June 12 last year after leaving Malacca for Kuantan.

Communication with the vessel, belonging to Petronas and carrying 6,000 tonnes of RON95 fuel worth an estimated US\$5.6 million (RM22.8 million), was lost as it travelled across the South China Sea.

The eight men were detained after being stranded on Vietnam's southwestern Tho Chu Island. They were identified as Indonesians — Hendry, 39, from Jakarta; Ruslan, 61; Kurnia Wan, 49; Randi Andilya, 19; Ahjas, 35, from Natuna; Fauji, 27, from Medan; Abner, 28, from Barelend; and Khon Danyel Despol, 49, from Kisaran.

Najib said in the 30-minute meeting, he and Nguyen agreed to enhance trade and economic cooper-



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** meeting his Vietnamese counterpart **Nguyen Xuan Phuc** in Sochi, Russia, on the sidelines of the **Asean-Russia Commemorative Summit** yesterday. Bernama pic

ation as per the strategic partnership agreement (2016-2018) signed last year. This was the first time the two leaders met since the appointment of Nguyen, who took office last month.

"We agreed that the agreement should be the platform and guideline for both countries to work together to enhance bilateral and economic ties," he said.

Najib said he also requested Viet-

nam reduce its bureaucratic red tape to make it easier for Malaysian investors, adding that Malaysia was the 10th biggest investor in Vietnam.

He said in the meeting, Nguyen

had also requested for Malaysia to consider reversing the freeze on the hiring of Vietnamese workers.

Najib said he also congratulated Nguyen on his appointment and invited him to visit Malaysia soon.