



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to reporters after a book launch at Wisma Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. He says the situation in Sudan is still under control, based on reports received yesterday morning. BERNAMA PIC

VIOLENCE IN KHARTOUM

'BRING CITIZENS HOME IF SUDAN WAR WORSENS'

King asks mosques to hold prayers, PM says govt monitoring situation in crisis-hit nation

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THE Yang di-Pertuan Agong has advised the government to bring home Malaysians from Sudan if the conflict there worsens.

Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, in a posting on Istana Negara's Facebook page, also called on Malaysians to pray for the safety and wellbeing of their countrymen in Sudan following the current crisis in the country.

"His Majesty has called on all mosques to organise *solat hajat* and *doa selamat* to pray to Allah to protect Malaysians in Sudan and for tensions in the country to subside soon."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the situation in conflict-stricken Sudan was still "under control", based on reports received yesterday morning.

As such, he said, there was no need to bring Malaysians home at

However, he said the government was monitoring the situation.

"We are monitoring the situation. But as soon as we feel there is a risk, we will bring them (Malaysians) home," he said.

Earlier, Bernama reported Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir had advised Malaysians in Sudan to take precautions and not to go out for the time being due to the conflict in the country.

He said they could contact the Malaysian embassy in Sudan directly, adding that any information or further action would be communicated from time to time.

"Wisma Putra is closely monitoring developments in Sudan together with other government agencies, including the National Security Council (NSC), and other agencies to ensure the safety of every Malaysian in Sudan," he said.

To date, 29 Malaysians in Sudan, who are mostly students, had been accounted for and confirmed to be safe, he said.

Zambry said an inter-agency meeting was held to get the latest information on the situation in Sudan and to discuss proposals to ensure the safety of Malaysians during the conflict.

The coordination meeting, chaired by Foreign Ministry deputy secretary-general (bilateral relations) Datuk Norman

Muhamad, also involved the NSC, Home Ministry, Prime Minister's Department's Research Division, National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma), the police and Petronas.

Zambry said: "A 24-hour operation room has been set-up at Wisma Putra to monitor the situation, in addition to a WhatsApp group for communications."

The conflict between the Sudanese armed forces and a paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has sparked political unrest and threatened security in the country.

International organisations reported that dozens of civilians had been killed in the conflict, with hundreds wounded.

Foreign wire agencies reported that violence erupted after weeks of power struggles between Sudan's army chief, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the powerful RSF.

The clash was reportedly over plans to integrate RSF into the regular armed forces.

Both sides have blamed each other for the start of the conflict.

While most of the fighting is occurring in Khartoum, other parts of Sudan have seen battles as well. Those reportedly killed included three employees of the World Food Programme in North Darfur.