

PM CONDEMNS U.S. VETO OF GAZA CEASEFIRE

The killing of innocent civilians, babies and women must stop, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has condemned the United States' veto of the proposal by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for an immediate ceasefire in the Palestine-Israel conflict.

Anwar said there was no basis for any country to deny the ceasefire in Palestine and frustrate the process.

"On behalf of the Malaysian government, I would like to condemn the decision made by the US to oppose the ceasefire (in Palestine) at the UNSC.

"Notwithstanding all other arguments, we have suggested that we must stop the killing of innocent civilians, babies and women.

"There is no reason, absolutely no basis for anyone to deny this (ceasefire) and frustrate the process," he said on the second day of the Madani Government One-Year Celebration at Bukit Jalil National Stadium here yesterday.

Yesterday, the US vetoed the UNSC resolution, which was co-sponsored by nearly 100 UN member states that demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

The resolution also received the support of 13 Security Council members, while the United Kingdom (UK), which is also a permanent council member with veto power, abstained.

At the same time, the draft resolution called for all parties to the conflict to adhere to international law, particularly the protection of civilians as well as an immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

The resolution comes after UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres on Dec 6 warned that the war in the Gaza Strip might aggravate existing threats to international peace and security.

Guterres also invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter and stated that the current conditions were making it impossible for humanitarian operations to take place.

While repeating his call for a humanitarian ceasefire, Guterres wrote that the humanitarian conditions in the war were fast deteriorating into a catastrophe with potentially irreversible implications for Palestinians.

Anwar said he was also disappointed with the decision made by the US, which disregarded the human rights of Palestinians.

Following this, he said Malaysia would not emulate the US in terms of democracy and human rights values.

"The whole world condemns and objects to the murder of innocent civilians, but they still (continue) and (due to this), I am tremendously upset and object to their decision that disregards hu-

man rights.

"I am also deeply saddened by the outrageous decision to ignore the clamour and appeal by the international community (for a ceasefire).

"Hence, if we want to view the US (highly) in terms of democracy and human rights, it seems that we should postpone (the thought)."

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said UNSC's continued failure to objectively address the grave situation in Gaza was a great injustice and a total disregard for human lives.

"I deeply regret that the UNSC has failed to adopt a resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, supported by 102 countries including Malaysia, because of a single veto," he said on X.

On Friday, a notice of protest supported by 38 Malaysian members of parliament was handed to the US Embassy in Malaysia.

The notice was to protest the actions by the US, the UK and European Union on their support for the cruelty committed by Israel towards Palestinians.

Malaysian Parliament Caucus for Palestine head Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh had said about 30 non-governmental organisations and political activists had also supported the notice of protest. **Additional reporting by Luqman Hakim**



Antonio Guterres

Page 1 pic: A picture taken from southern Israel near the border with the Gaza Strip yesterday showing smoke rising from buildings after an Israeli strike.