

PM: JAPAN RESPECTS OUR STAND

KL, Tokyo give their support for peace to prevail in Gaza, says Anwar

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JAPAN respects Malaysia's stand of condemning the oppression against the Palestinians in Gaza.

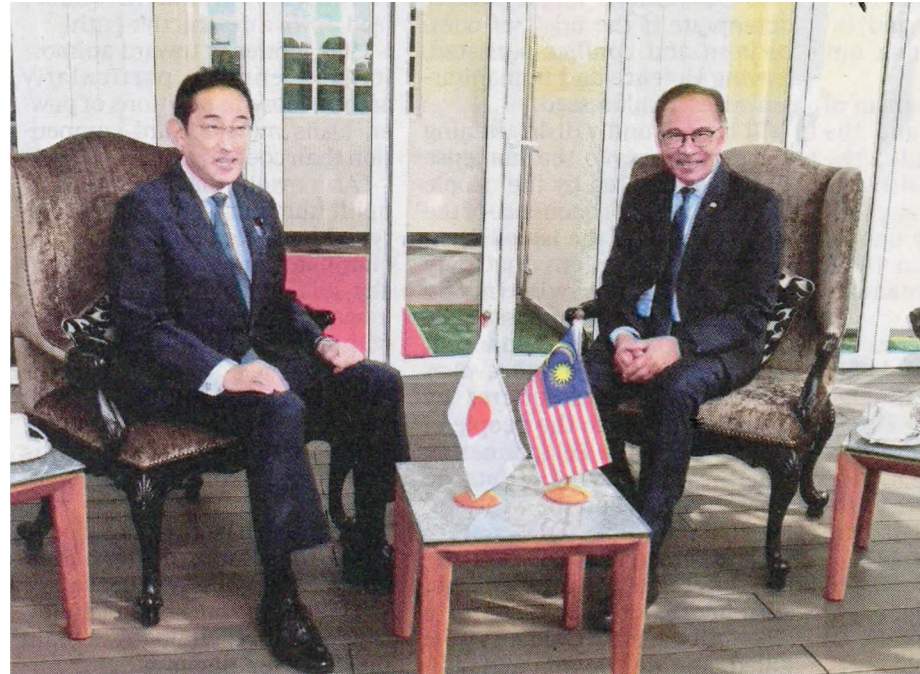
The matter was confirmed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at a joint press conference with his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, yesterday, in conjunction with the latter's visit to Malaysia.

Both leaders, said Anwar, had given their support for peace to prevail in Gaza.

"Although there is a difference in emphasis, but I must commend Prime Minister Kishida for his commitment, first, against the settlements by Israelis in Palestine.

"Secondly, for his support, so that there is peace in the region and humanitarian assistance in Gaza because the bombs dropped in the area have exceeded the level of damage in Hiroshima during World War 2."

Both leaders had a meeting to discuss ties, especially in trade



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, holding talks at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya yesterday.

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and investment, education, defence, environment and energy security, as well as information and communication.

Last month, Japan condemned Hamas for its "terror attack" that led to the military clash in Gaza.

It has refrained from criticising Israel's fierce bombardments, viewed as disproportionate by an increasing number of nations.

On Saturday, Japan provided US\$65 million in additional hu-

manitarian aid to Palestinians.

Yesterday, it called for immediate action in accordance with the international law to end the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Kishida said such a commitment was crucial to prevent the crisis from spilling over into other countries.

"I explained Japan's position and said it is important for all direct parties to act in accordance with international law, preventing the spillover (of the conflict)

to neighbouring countries, and de-escalating the situation quickly, and especially at this moment, improving the humanitarian situation in Gaza."

Anwar commended Kishida for his support for peace and the need for humanitarian aid in Gaza.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with his Japanese counterpart, Fumio Kishida, at the Seri Perdana Complex in Putrajaya yesterday.