



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (left) and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the 8th Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Riyadh on Saturday.
BERNAMA PIC

EXTRAORDINARY ISLAMIC SUMMIT

PM CALLS FOR DIPLOMATIC PUSH

Anwar asks OIC states to assertively call for Gaza ceasefire, expedited humanitarian aid

RIYADH

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries to consistently and assertively call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and for humanitarian assistance to be expedited.

Speaking at the 8th Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the OIC, here, on Saturday to discuss the Israeli aggression in Palestine, he said the ummah expected tangible results and concrete action from the one-day summit.

"I call upon each of us (OIC members) to strategically employ our diplomatic channels and networks in every dialogue and on every stage, be it bilateral or multilateral, regional or international.

"Let us consistently and assertively call for the following in a concerted diplomatic campaign to institute an immediate ceasefire and expedite humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza."

The summit at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Centre was hosted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also Saudi prime minister.

More than 11,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children, have been killed in more than a month of relentless Israeli airstrikes and brutal ground op-

erations in Gaza. Thousands of people remain unaccounted for, believed to be trapped under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

According to an international human rights organisation, Israel fighter aircraft have dropped more than 25,000 tonnes of explosives on the Gaza Strip since Oct 7, which is equivalent to two nuclear bombs.

Anwar, who arrived here on Saturday, wanted an end to all Israeli settlement activity and settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank.

He called for investigations into breaches of international law, including war crimes, through international institutions.

He said Malaysia supported the Arab Peace Initiative and negotiations with reputable mediators to advance the two-state solution, recognition of the independent state of Palestine based on pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He called for the forced displacements of civilians to immediately cease.

He wanted OIC members to combat the global rise of Islamophobia, while safeguarding the right to peaceful expressions of support for the Palestinian cause.

For more than a month, he said, the besieged people of Gaza have been subjected to Israeli forces' barbaric cruelties and genocide, indiscriminately targeting men, women and children.

"Gaza has become a graveyard of martyr innocents, mostly children of Palestine. Neither homes, hospitals nor religious sanctuaries, Muslim or Christian, are safe from Israel's indiscriminate attacks."

He said this continuation of the politics of dispossession of the

Palestinians was not taking place in the dead of night, but was being perpetrated in full view of the world in a flagrant breach of international law.

"The political class of Western nations exhibits a selective myopia towards the turmoil in Palestine."

He said a change in awareness had taken root, as seen in unprecedented mass demonstrations worldwide, including in the west, in support of Palestine.

"Ironically, in these capitals that herald free speech and human rights as sacrosanct rights, some authorities have denounced proponents of the Palestinian cause, maligning them as purveyors of hate speech and supporters of terrorism.

"This is perverse double standards writ large."

He applauded Saudi Arabia for convening the summit.

"And I commend Your Highness for setting the tone of unequivocal support for the Palestinian cause and for your condemnation of the colonisation and atrocities committed by Israel.

"I wish to also thank President Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt for facilitating the humanitarian aid."

Earlier, Anwar held a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II on the sidelines of the summit.

He also held bilateral talks with Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakr, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and leaders and delegates from OIC member states. **Bernama**

Page 1 pic: A child wounded in Israeli strikes waiting for treatment at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, yesterday.