

'HAMAS NOT A TERROR GROUP'

Fahmi: PM consistent on Palestine-Israel conflict

SAN FRANCISCO: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has never categorised Hamas as a terrorist group or taken a flip-flop stand on the Palestine-Israel conflict, Communications and Digital Minister Fahmi Fadzil said.

He said Anwar's stand had been consistent.

"You can see it... Whether it is in Parliament or any other statement he has made all this while. The prime minister has been firm and consistent in our stand.

"We condemn all forms of violence," he said when comment-



Fahmi Fadzil

ing on a statement issued by Concerned Lawyers for Justice (CLJ).

The CLJ, a civil movement consisting of lawyers, had expressed its disappointment after alleging that Anwar had insinuated that Hamas was a terrorist organisation.

The movement said it was crucial for leaders to exercise caution in their statements to prevent the perpetuation of stereotypes and misinformation.

On Nov 7, Anwar urged the public, especially the media, to not refer to Hamas as a militant group and to provide a better un-

derstanding of Israel's brutality.

During his question time in Dewan Rakyat, he had said such awareness among media companies must be established to adhere to the people's concerns and sensitivities, as well as recognise the rights of Palestinians.

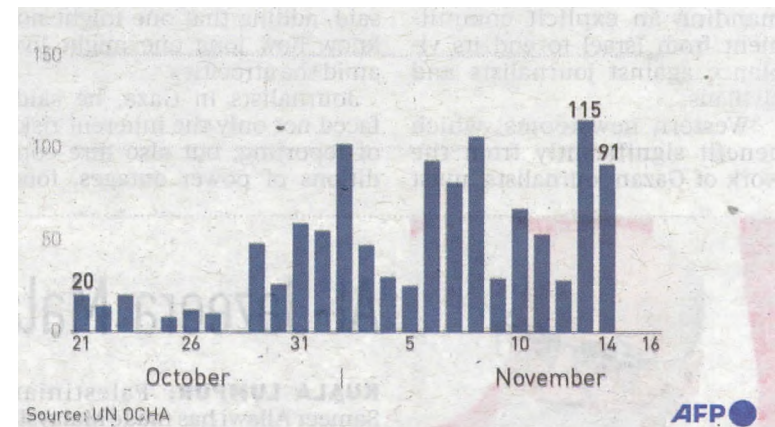
Anwar cited an instance in the past when the African National Congress and anti-apartheid activist and politician Nelson Mandela was accused of being associated with terrorism, but the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj continued to give his support to the congress despite the West's stand.

Malaysia's refusal to consider Hamas as a terrorist organisation had also led to the United States issuing three demarche notes to the country since Oct 13.

A demarche is a formal diplo-

TRUCKS THAT ENTER GAZA

No trucks entered Gaza Strip on Nov 15 and 16, a first since Oct 28



matic representation of one government's official position, views or wishes on a subject to an appropriate official in another government or international or-

ganisation.

Demarches generally seek to persuade, inform, or gather information from a foreign government.