

'Malaysia against all forms of terrorism'

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia strongly rejects all forms of terrorism and categorically condemns the killing of innocent people and taking women and children as hostages in Palestine, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Speaking in English for the international audience in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Anwar said Malaysia condemns the bombing of civilians, homes and hospitals and the consequential massacre of innocent children, women and men that is being carried out day and night by Israeli forces.

"Let us be clear, the Zionist state of Israel is an occupying force

> As occupying force in Palestine, Israel required to observe responsibilities under international law: Anwar

and as such, it carries responsibilities under international law. These criminal acts are in clear violation of the norms of international law. The actions taken by Israel, the cutting off of food, water, humanitarian aid and electricity are violations of international law."

Anwar said the situation in Palestine is an agonising reminder that the fight for justice knows no

borders and Malaysia must stand united in solidarity with all oppressed people.

He said the credibility of the international system itself is at stake, and Malaysia must voice its opinion and encourage others to do so in order to preserve that system, which seeks to uphold peace in the world.

Anwar added that it is foolish to think that Malaysia would be

unaffected by what is happening in the world.

"We are a trading nation actively engaged in regional and international commercial and economic activities, proactively seeking foreign direct investment to drive our economic advancement.

"So let me be clear. We will remain a fiercely independent nation, and continue to express what is right and our position on the issue of justice and freedom without fear or favour."

Anwar said the war not only affects the Muslims but also the Christians in Palestine, Bernama reported.

He said Palestinian Christians have been victimised just as much as their Muslim brothers and sisters, and they too have been driven from their historic cities in large numbers.

He added that the underlying cause is the illegal Israeli occupation and apartheid policies and in this sordid history and the ongoing saga of cruelty, oppression and genocide, Palestine's Muslim and Christian communities alike are the helpless victims.

"For those who continue to think or suggest that the atrocities committed against the Palestinians affect Muslims alone, let (them) be reminded that the world's most ancient Christian community resides in Palestine, totalling 47,000, based on a census conducted in 2017.

"Nevertheless, the Zionist government of Israel is hell-bent on presenting a binary conception of the crisis, capitalising on the notion of a besieged Jewish state being encircled by an overwhelming and menacing population of Muslims in the region and therefore facing imminent existential threat," Anwar said.



Anwar said it would be unwise to think Malaysia would be unaffected by atrocities committed elsewhere in the world. - **BERNAMAPIC**