

# Gaza support does not cloud local concerns: Anwar

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has clarified that his participation in international conferences, where he raised issues related to Palestine, does not mean that domestic problems, especially those affecting minorities in the country, are being ignored.

Anwar said in addition to

accepting invitations from world leaders, he also saw such conferences as an opportunity to address humanitarian issues, emphasising that the concerns are not solely religious in nature.

"No minorities in our country are mass-murdered, no churches and temples are destroyed en masse. So, while there are those

who disagree with our support for Palestine, I don't think it's reasonable, sensible and rational to bring up this issue of hatred.

"This is not just about Islam (and Muslims) because Christian populations are also involved. Although most mosques were destroyed, seven churches in Gaza were also completely destroyed.

So, I hereby stress the need for us to look at this issue," he said during the Minister's Question Time at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Anwar was replying to Aminolhuda Hassan (PH-Sri Gading), who wanted to know the outcome of the recently concluded 8th Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Saudi Arabia regarding crimes and genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.

At the summit hosted by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Anwar also urged OIC member states to press for an immediate ceasefire, and for humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza to be expedited.

Anwar said he also raised the issues of Palestine at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Economic Leaders' Meeting in San Francisco and called for the immediate cessation of genocide and atrocities in Gaza.

He said during the Apec Economic Leaders' Informal Dialogue, which he attended on the invitation of US President Joe Biden, he also reiterated Malaysia's stand not to allow any party or world power to dictate the country's stance on the issue.

"Don't let the westerners think of this as colonial hegemony, determining our policies and forms of action. They cannot dictate our stance.

"That is where I stated quite firmly, and I said they must at least begin to stop the attacks now because I mentioned that one more day (of war) means more children, women and civilians are being victimised." - Bernama



Anwar said international conferences were opportunities to address humanitarian issues - **BERNAMAPIC**