

# PM CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON GAZA HOSPITAL

Anwar says Israeli action is extreme and has reached the Level of insanity

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has condemned the recent attacks on Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza, which claimed the lives of 500 Palestinians.

"The attacks (on Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital) by the Israelis are extreme. Regardless of who committed the attacks, this is the result of war, it has to stop. It's time for us to de-escalate the situation.

"It has reached the level of insanity, and humanity has been lost as women and children continue to become the victims."

Anwar again slammed the Western world for their hypocrisy over the treatment of the Palestine-Israel crisis.

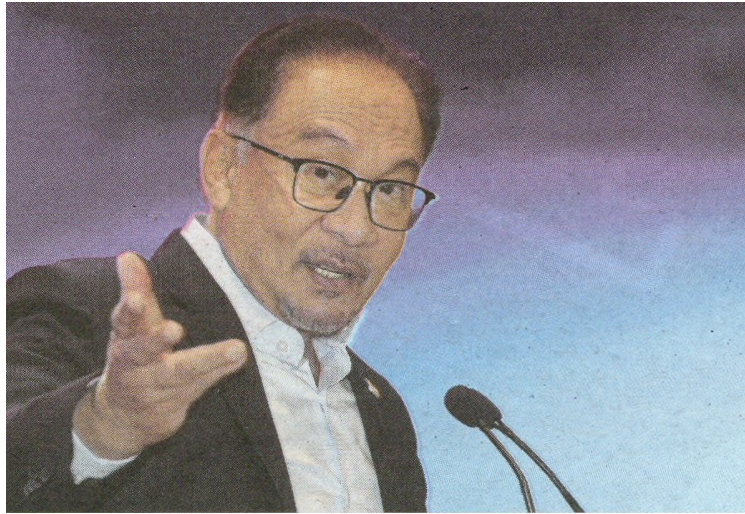
"It is regrettable that the Western countries talk about human rights, but they seem to have categories – there are upper-class people and then there are slave-class people, and we strongly condemn this."

Anwar said he would consider travelling to a few countries to discuss the matter or to make phone calls.

"I will go to Riyadh tomorrow (today) to attend the Gulf Cooperation Council-Asean Summit and later I will meet with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed Salman Al-Saud for discussions.

"I am also considering travelling to a few countries or making phone calls to their leaders to discuss the matter."

Anwar earlier officiated "The Path Towards Greater Prosperity for Malaysia" symposium organised by Universiti Malaya through the Social Wellbeing Research Centre at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here. Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Sabah, Sarawak Affairs and Special Functions) and acting Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali and Universiti Malaya board of directors chairman Tan Sri



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim delivering a keynote address at the opening of the 'The Path Towards Greater Prosperity for Malaysia' symposium at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday, BERNAMA PIC

Zarinah Anwar.

On a related matter, Anwar said he would bring back Malaysian soldiers serving under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon if their safety could not be guaranteed.

The decision, however, would be jointly made by Malaysia and the UN, he said.

"The decision for them to either stay or leave will be a joint decision made by us and the United Nations. If we find that the security situation there is guaranteed, they will stay there. If not, we will bring them home."

On Tuesday, Wisma Putra said the government had instructed the Malaysian embassy in Beirut to take precautionary measures since the area in South Lebanon had been attacked by Israel.

The embassy has also been instructed to monitor the condition of the peacekeepers of the Malaysian Battalion, or Malbatt.

Meanwhile, several Arab nations have condemned the bombing of the hospital in Gaza, Bernama reported, quoting the Anadolu Agency.

Official statements of condemnation were issued by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon and Libya.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry said it "condemns, in the strongest terms, the heinous crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces by bombing Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital in Gaza, which led to the deaths of hundreds of civilians, including children, (and) wounded and injured people".

The statement stressed that it "categorically rejects this brutal attack" and called on the international community to stop practising double standards when it comes to "Israeli criminal practices".

Qatar's Foreign Ministry described the bombing of the hospital as "a brutal massacre and a heinous crime against defenceless civilians".

It also said it was "a blatant violation of the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law".

Oman's Foreign Ministry expressed its denunciation and condemnation of the targeting of the hospital, stressing that what happened was a "war crime".

Egypt's Foreign Ministry also condemned the bombing, stressing that "the deliberate bombing of civilian facilities and targets is a serious violation of the provisions of international and humanitarian law and the most basic values of humanity".

The Algerian president also condemned the "deliberate attack".

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati called the act an "Israeli crime" and denounced "the global conscience that is silent about injustice".

In Libya, National Unity Government head Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh said the targeting of the hospital was a "brutal crime".

Page 1 pic: The vicinity of Al-Ahli al-Arabi Hospital where hundreds of Palestinians were killed in a blast yesterday.