

# MALAYSIA REGRETS WEST'S STANCE

Attacks on Palestine civilians must stop and aid must be provided, says PM

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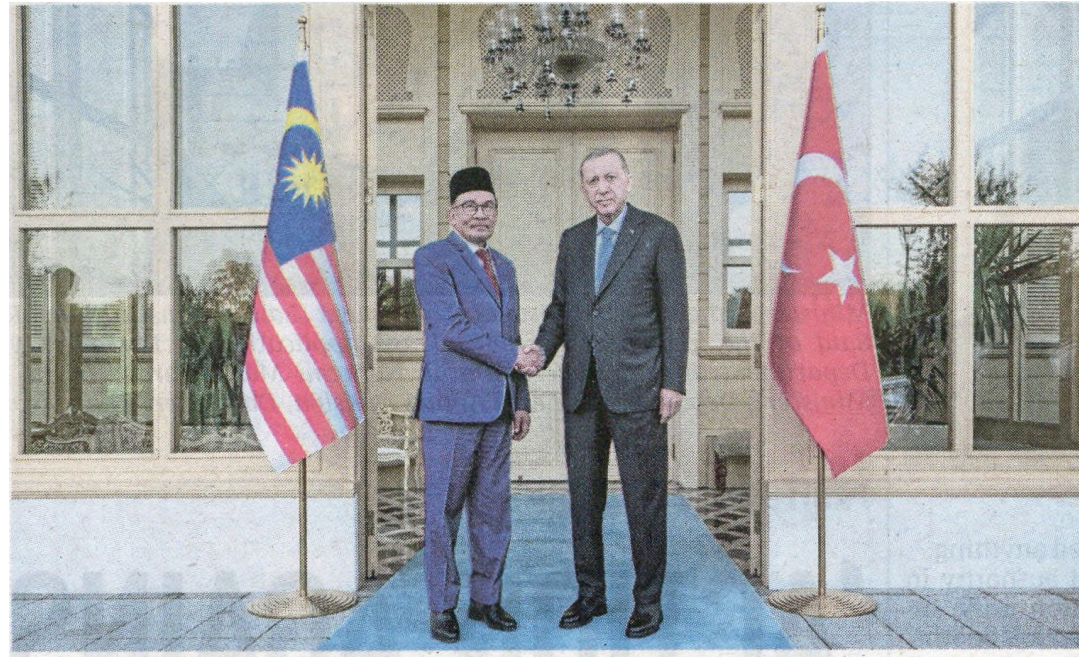
**M**ALAYSIA regrets the stance adopted by several Western nations seen as unwilling to support humanitarian issues in Gaza, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

He said Malaysia was resolute in its position that all forms of attacks on civilians, including Palestinian women and children, must be stopped, and humanitarian assistance must be provided to them.

However, he said, several Arab leaders he had met had provided positive responses to the issues raised by Malaysia regarding the developments in Gaza.

"Many Islamic countries have made positive determinations. Stop the attacks and intensify efforts to assist the people of Gaza from a humanitarian perspective," he said at a press conference at the end of his two-day working visit to Turkiye on Sunday.

Earlier, Anwar had a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Vahdettin Pavilion here, where they discussed various issues, including



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Vahdettin Pavilion in Istanbul on Sunday.*

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trade, economic cooperation, bilateral relations and more.

Prior to that, the prime minister also held meetings with Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek, Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and the country's National Intelligence Organisation director Ibrahim Kalin.

Anwar said Turkiye was seen as being at the forefront in terms of providing aid to the Palestinian people, as the country had worked on channelling various forms of medical aid to Gaza despite the logistical issues.

The prime minister said the conflict in Gaza was worrisome because if Israel persisted in invading and capturing the terri-

tory, it would lead to a prolonged crisis involving many Arab countries.

Anwar later departed from Istanbul for his working visit in Egypt, where he was expected to hold a meeting with President Abdel Fattaji El-Sisi, with humanitarian issues continuing to be the main topic of discussion.

In Cairo, Anwar said all parties, including the world's major powers, must work towards a cease-fire in Gaza to ease tensions in the region.

"Malaysia is not a big country, not an Arab country, not a Gulf country that neighbours Palestine. But we are responsible for voicing the conscience of the

ummah and the Palestinian people," he said, when speaking at a meet-and-greet session with the Malaysian diaspora and students in Egypt.

About 1,200 Malaysians gathered at the event, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Deputy Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister. Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan and Malaysian ambassador to Egypt Zamani Ismail, among others.

The prime minister was also scheduled to pay a courtesy call on the Grand Imam of al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb before departing for Kuala Lumpur.

**Bernama**