

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY WEEK

DON'T GO OVERBOARD IN ACTIONS

This follows viral video of schoolchildren holding toy weapons at event

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants schools to monitor their Palestinian Solidarity Week activities.

This comes after images of children holding toy weapons, allegedly related to the event, went viral.

“Regarding Palestinian Solidarity Week, we discussed it in the cabinet.

“We encourage Palestinian Solidarity Week. We don’t compel any school to do it, but the event must be monitored to prevent

any issues.

“The act of bringing toy guns to schools needs to be controlled,” he said at the Ramli Corner Selera Kampong eatery in Dengkil yesterday.

A video that made the rounds on social media showed a man in protective gear and a mask holding a toy rifle and leading teachers and students during a school assembly.

One of the teachers was carrying a placard while others were seen displaying Palestinian flags or wearing scarves with Palestine-themed patterns.

Some participants at the school event were also seen carrying toy rifles.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says the government does not compel schools to hold Palestinian Solidarity Week. He was speaking after performing prayers at Masjid Al-Ilmi in Dengkil yesterday.' PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Several screenshots taken from social media also showed children at a school in Klang wearing green bandanas with “Save Palestine” written on them. They were also carrying toy guns.

Earlier yesterday, it was reported that the Global Human Rights Federation (GHRF) condemned images of children holding toy weapons allegedly linked to the

Palestinian Solidarity Week in schools.

“Describing it as ‘shocking and frightening’, GHRF president S. Shashi Kumar wanted the government to immediately halt the programme.

He shared several screenshots taken by a female teacher allegedly from a school in Klang, Selangor.

The images showed schoolchildren holding toy guns and rifles, and wearing scarves and head covers indicating their support for Palestine.

On Thursday, the Education Ministry defended the programme, saying that it aimed to instil humanitarian values and empathy, “regardless of race, religion or social status”.