

M'sia aware of risks in championing Palestinian cause: PM

RIYADH: Malaysia is aware of and expects repercussions from Western countries for championing the Palestinian cause, but will continue to highlight the plight of the Palestinian people on the international stage, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said the Palestinian cause is a humanitarian one as its people have continued to suffer due to the oppression and cruelty of the Zionist regime.

"Yes, (I know there are) many risks. I don't have any choice as there is killing of children and women.

"I'm not concerned (about the repercussions) as all (Asean and Gulf Cooperation Council) countries are of the same opinion. There is consensus about the humanitarian issue in Gaza," he told the Malaysian media at the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday.

Anwar said apart from bringing

up the Palestinian-Israel conflict at the first Asean-Gulf Cooperation Council Summit, he also discussed the matter privately with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Turkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as well as Egypt President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi.

"We don't want to be alone. Putrajaya has already stated our

stand. I believe all countries need to come together to look for a solution for the Palestinian people," he said when asked if Malaysia would lodge a complaint against Israel at the International Court of Justice over its actions against the Palestinian people.

Anwar said pressure is needed to stop Israel's current actions against Gaza and he could not set his duties as a Muslim aside where the matter is concerned.

"If left unchecked, the fallout

would have a severe impact on regional security. We need to get other nations involved.

"Our concern is based on humanitarian factors and the suffering wrought on the Palestinians in Gaza, (this is an attempt) to disrupt all life there.

"This can give rise to fanaticism and terrorism. If forced into such dire circumstances, the only options they have is to fight or die, and they would choose to continue fighting." - Bernama