

GOVT MULLS FLYING OUT MALAYSIANS IN IRAN

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We will bring our people home if the situation escalates, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will hold discussions with the Foreign Ministry on the evacuation of Malaysian citizens from Iran should the situation in the country escalate.

He said this following international reports regarding Israeli-guided missile strikes on a site in Iran.

"We will hold discussions with the foreign minister this (yesterday) afternoon. If there are worrisome circumstances, we will bring back (Malaysian citizens in Iran)," he said after performing Friday prayers at Masjid Bandar Teknologi Kajang here yesterday.

Anwar reiterated that the Israeli government's attack on the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, had violated all international regulations.

"But if we look at the Western narrative, there is hardly any objection at all. Iran used that as an excuse to attack even though the situation was under control. Israel uses this narrative only as a response to Iran's actions.

"First, our stance is we condemn the attack on the Iran embassy. Second, we want peace. Many people are affected, not just in the Middle East, but also the whole world."

Anwar said the conflict had also led to soaring oil prices and increased transportation costs.

"That is why we are urging for security to be guaranteed and for the cessation of Israel's aggressive violence, which persists due to the reluctance of major powers to rein in Israel's cruel, violent and aggressive actions."

Earlier, international media reported that Israeli-guided missiles struck a site in Iran.

Iranian news agency FARS reported that explosions were heard at an airport in the city of Isfahan, but the cause has yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, Malaysia has ex-



A military truck carrying parts of Iran's air defence missile system during a parade in Teheran on Wednesday. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for a cessation of Israel's aggressive violence. AFP PIC

pressed concern and disappointment over the veto that blocked Palestine's full membership in the United Nations.

The Foreign Ministry, in a statement, said the veto raised questions about the Security Council's true desire to realising the rights of the Palestinian people.

It said these rights included the ability to determine their own destiny following Israel's illegal occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem since 1967.

"Malaysia is concerned and deeply disappointed following the use of a veto in the UN Security Council to block Palestine's entry as a full member of the UN on April 18, despite support from the majority of UN member states."

He added that Malaysia remains committed to the struggle of the Palestinian people and will continue efforts towards establishing an independent and sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"Malaysia urges the international community, including the UN Security Council, to continue efforts towards full Palestinian membership in the UN."

The United States prevented the UN from recognising Palestine as a state by using its veto power to deny full membership.

The US reportedly said an independent Palestinian state should be established through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, not through UN action.

The Centre for Human Rights Research and Advocacy (Centhra) described the US veto action as not only a diplomatic fail-

ure but also a profound betrayal of core principles of justice and equality.

Centhra said the veto not only signified a setback for US diplomacy, but also worsened its global isolation.

"Behind widespread international condemnation and repeated calls for justice, the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination and human rights continues to be ignored by powerful states, especially the US.

"Rather than advocating for justice and equality, the US has prioritised political interests over principles of justice and decency."

Centhra also said the US action to block the resolution to recognise Palestine as a full UN member maintained injustice and undermined the UN's credibility.

"It sends a dangerous message that powerful states can act, with impunity, disregarding the rights and dignity of marginalised communities.

"In the face of such egregious injustice, the global community must speak out and demand accountability.

"Principles of justice, equality, and human rights must be prioritised, regardless of political considerations. The US veto on Palestine surpasses diplomatic barriers. It represents a moral failure that requires a united response from all who uphold the dignity and values inherent in every human being."

As a supporter of human rights and social justice, Centhra had called on all countries to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and support efforts to hold Israel accountable for its actions.