

# PM: DON'T INVITE **MEDIOCRE** SCHOLARS

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Anwar criticises US academician Gilley's stance, says such visiting professors are not welcome

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**M**EDIOCRE scholars should not be brought in as visiting professors, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

His criticism against United States academician Bruce Gilley came in the wake of the latter's controversial statements against Malaysia for supporting Palestine.

"Mediocre scholars should not be invited as visiting professors in the first place.

"The rest has been answered by the Higher Education Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir)," he said after the groundbreaking of the Malaysia Airlines Bhd's Academy and Flight Simulator Centre here yesterday.

Anwar was asked to comment on Gilley's speech at Universiti Malaya (UM), as well as his post on X.

Gilley, in his post, said he had left Malaysia due to safety concerns and described Malaysia as unsafe for travel.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the groundbreaking of Malaysia Airlines Bhd's Academy and Flight Simulator Centre in Sepang yesterday. With him are Transport Minister Anthony Loke (third from left) and Malaysia Aviation Group chairman Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin (second from right). PIC BY EIZAIRI SHAMSUDIN.

"I have safely departed from Malaysia, one step ahead of the Islamo-fascist mob whipped up by the government there.

"This is not a safe country to travel to now," he posted.

The political science professor, during a recent talk at UM, had

allegedly accused Malaysia of advocating for a "second Holocaust" against the Jewish population.

The university received criticism over the matter and had since issued an apology and expressed regret over the incident.

It announced immediate mea-

sures to address the situation.

Zambry said restrictions on visiting professors and speakers who are pro-Zionist must be viewed from aspects of security and the possibility of their statements tarnishing Malaysia's image.

Zambry said, as such, allegations that such restrictions would affect academic freedom were invalid.

"I hope that those who commented on this can distinguish between the context of academic freedom and freedom that touches on the country's image and reputation," he said after attending the Higher Education Ministry's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration here yesterday.

Zambry also reiterated the ministry's stance in encouraging every university to check the backgrounds of academicians before inviting anyone to any programme.

"If you look at this man (Gilley) and his background, even his writings...in the context of colonialism and imperialism, how can you allow this kind of lecturer to come and teach us?"

"We have so many professors here, much better than this guy.

"Again, I want to stress here, that this is not a question of trying to curb the freedom of academicians in Malaysia. This is about image and the statement that came out of the context of the academic line."

He said Gilley's claim that Malaysia was not a safe country to visit was a very dangerous statement that caused discomfort to many parties.

"Even the US embassy in Malaysia is not comfortable with the statement issued by the professor.

"Today, the embassy reaffirms that Malaysia is still a safe country to travel to," he added.