

CABINET SHOCKED BY HANIYEH'S DEATH

PM extends condolences to Late Hamas leader's aide and family

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CABINET members were shocked when they learnt that Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh had been assassinated yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim conveyed this to Hamas official Dr Basem Naim in

a phone call.

"The entire cabinet was shocked. This madness of the Israeli Zionist regime, going after people in their bedrooms, and torturing people and thinking they can end this war and aggression in this manner," said Anwar.

Naim, a close friend of Haniyeh and a long-time Palestinian freedom fighter, said Haniyeh's death was a profound loss.

"This is a very, very big loss, not only for the Palestinian people, but for the whole ummah and for all free people," said Naim.

Haniyeh was assassinated early yesterday in Teheran after he attended a swearing-in ceremony

for the Iranian president.

Naim said it was vital to continue Haniyeh's struggle.

"The most important thing is to continue on the path of brother Haniyeh until we, the Palestinian people, achieve the national goals of freedom and dignity."

Naim said Israel had not only threatened and acted against Palestinian interests, but also targeted Syria, Iraq and Iran.

Anwar, who met Haniyeh during a working trip to Doha in May, said the Hamas leader was key to securing peace in Gaza.

"Just a few days back, we received the latest information from our brothers in Turkiye.

Clearly, brother Haniyeh has been one of the pillars in the struggle in wanting a peaceful resolution to defend the rights of the Palestinian people," he said.

Anwar expressed his condolences to Naim and Haniyeh's family.

"Again Dr Basem, to all the family members and colleagues, please stay strong. May Allah protect us," he said, ending the call with a recitation of a Quranic verse from the chapter As-Saf.

The verse states: "He will also give you another favour that you long for: help from Allah and an imminent victory. So give good news O Prophet to the believers."

Anwar had condemned the assassination as "a murder of the most heinous kind".

Earlier, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil said the cabinet condemned the killing of Haniyeh and urged for an immediate investigation.

The Foreign Ministry said it unequivocally denounced such acts of violence and called for all peace-loving nations to do the same.

Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim during a conversation with Hamas official Dr Basem Naim over the death of Ismail Haniyeh yesterday.