



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Doha, Qatar, on May 14. Anwar says only the heedless and unconscionable will not see the need to intensify pressure on Israel to stop their murderous rampage. BERNAMA PIC

## HAMAS LEADER'S ASSASSINATION

# ANWAR: MURDER OF THE MOST HEINOUS KIND

**Killing of Ismail Haniyeh aims to derail Gaza peace efforts, says PM**

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim condemned the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the strongest terms.

He said the killing of the former Palestinian prime minister was meant to sabotage efforts to establish peace in Gaza.

"This was a murder of the most heinous kind, plainly designed to derail ongoing talks aimed at ending the carnage in Gaza that has claimed over 40,000 lives," he said across social media.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed Haniyeh death. He was killed hours after he attended the swearing-in ceremony for Iran's new president.

Anwar said this happened due to Israel's impunity.

"Only the heedless and unconscionable will not see the need to intensify pressure on Israel to stop their murderous rampage."

He said Haniyeh's death was a worrying development for suffering Palestinians as it had reduced the chances for a ceasefire.

"I am deeply concerned about

what this tragedy would mean for the Palestinian people, who have already been so cruelly subjected to so much pain, hardship and suffering for so many decades."

On May 14, Anwar met the Hamas leader while on a working trip to Qatar, which drew criticism from several quarters. He refuted the criticism as shortsighted.

"Detractors who have criticised me for meeting with Ismail Haniyeh in the past fail to appreciate Haniyeh's profound desire for a peaceful Middle East and a Palestinian nation restored to its rightful dignity."

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday urged Meta to explain why a post on Instagram about Anwar's meeting with the Hamas leader in May was taken down.

"We condemn the actions of the Instagram platform provider Meta" for taking down the post, it said in a post on social media.

"This is clear discrimination against the situation in Palestine and the country's leaders.

"We demand an explanation and apology from Meta."

In May, Anwar met Haniyeh to convey his condolences over the loss of his family members in an Israeli airstrike a month earlier.

In another social media post, Anwar expressed his grief over the loss of "a dear friend and a valiant advocate" for the Palestinian people.

The post included a video of Anwar's phone call with senior

Hamas official Dr Basem Naim.

"Please be assured that we are as strong as ever in our support, our commitment for an independent Palestine," Anwar told Naim.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi described Haniyeh's death as a great loss for the Muslim world.

In a Facebook post, Zahid described the profound sadness he felt upon receiving the news.

"There are no words to describe the sadness in my heart upon hearing the news of the passing of a friend, leader and warrior, Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas chief, and his bodyguard, who were both martyred in the attack."

Zahid reminisced about his meetings with Haniyeh, during which they shared stories of the struggles and triumphs in the fight for Palestinian freedom.

"He provided much advice and encouragement for me to continue assisting and contributing, whether in times of defeat or victory.

"A great loss for the Muslim world. But his fighting spirit will not fade. This loss will surely ignite the fervour of the next generation in the struggle to achieve justice and freedom for the Palestinian people.

"Rest, my friend. May you be free of fatigue and exhaustion. Your loss will ignite the spirit of millions the ummah until we achieve our goal — a free, independent and sovereign Palestine."