

META PROBING REMOVAL OF ANWAR'S POSTS

Firm disrespects Palestinian struggle by removing content on Haniyeh's killing, says PM

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META is investigating how Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's posts on

late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh came to be deleted, Bernama reports.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, the unity government spokesman, said a Meta representative informed him via a text message at 3.30pm yesterday that the social media giant, which owns Facebook and Instagram, was looking into the matter.

"They (Meta) said they were also confused about why it (posts removal) happened. That's the only information given. No further explanation.

"So we will give them time to investigate. No deadline.

"Our communication with Meta is ongoing and I will issue a press statement on the development, if any," he said.

Fahmi was speaking after closing the Youth Content Maker Lab 2.0 at the Tun Abdul Razak Institute of Broadcasting and Information in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Earlier in Putrajaya, Fahmi said the ministry had asked Meta to explain why only these posts on the prime minister's Facebook and Instagram accounts were targeted.

"I understand that content uploaded by Bernama, specifically Bernama Radio, has been removed and it was the same content. The government regrets Meta's actions. It is unclear whether the content was automatically removed by Meta or following public complaints."

Fahmi requested that any media outlet with similar issues to report them to the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to assist in restoring the content.

"If any media colleagues have



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Doha, Qatar, in May. FILE PIC

experienced this, please inform MCMC so we can work on reinstating the posts."

Earlier, Anwar slammed Meta for removing more posts on Haniyeh, saying it was "unreasonable" to consider a fighter who struggled to liberate his homeland as dangerous.

Anwar's posts conveying his condolences to Hamas official Dr Basem Naim over Haniyeh's death were removed from Facebook and Instagram.

On Instagram, the content was removed as it had "dangerous individuals and organisations".

A notification from Facebook said Anwar's post was removed as it had elements that praised or supported people or organisations that had been defined as dangerous.

"Meta has once again acted disrespectfully and insulted the Palestinian struggle by removing a video post, along with condolences and criticism regarding the killing of Ismail Haniyeh.

"Let this serve as a clear and unequivocal message to Meta: cease this display of cowardice and stop acting as instruments of the oppressive Zionist Israeli regime," said Anwar.

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister's Office asked Meta to explain why it had taken down a post from May, showing Anwar's meeting with Haniyeh.

Malaysian Alliance of Civil Society Organisations chairman Lukman Sheriff Alias said it was time for Malaysians to stand up against arbitrary censorship and say no to complicity in silencing the genocide in Palestine.

"We have received numerous complaints over the past few years of postings and accounts

being deleted by social media platforms for promoting basic human rights of the Palestinians without any call to violence.

"The continuation of these censorship will only allow the genocide, ethnic cleansing, apartheid and injustices suffered by Palestinians for decades to continue unabated in silence," he said in a statement.

The government will organise a Palestine solidarity rally at the Axiata Arena in Bukit Jalil at 8pm on Sunday to signal Malaysia's stand to the international community.

This will be the second Palestine solidarity rally at the venue after an event on Oct 24.

Anwar, cabinet members and other leaders will be present.

Anwar said the rally would relay Malaysia's strong and clear signal in condemning Haniyeh's murder and Israel's "insanity" towards Palestinians.

"The Foreign Minister (Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan) issued a statement earlier during the Upper House session (on the government's stand).

"We have also discussed the matter in the cabinet, and the cabinet condemns the continued atrocities, killings and insanity committed by the Israel regime," said Anwar.

Haniyeh, who usually lived and worked in in Qatar, was the chief of Hamas' political wing and the public face of the Palestinian group. **Additional reporting by Qistina Sallehuddin and Fuad Nizam**

Page 1 pic: Mourners carrying the coffin of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Teheran yesterday.