

A refuge for Palestinians

PM: We will continue to provide humanitarian aid and support

By CHARLES RAMENDRAN
and FAZLEENA AZIZ
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Condemning the cruelty and atrocities of the Israeli regime against Palestinians, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said that Malaysia will allow vulnerable Palestinians, namely the wounded, women and children, to seek refuge here.

“We will continue to provide humanitarian aid and support. We do not care about what the Western world expects from us and attempt to decide which nation we should have ties with or not,” said the Prime Minister at the Free Palestine gathering last night.

In a powerful display of solidarity with thousands of supporters, Anwar called for an end to the violence against Gaza.

As the crowd rallied for peace and condemned the armed attacks by Israel, Anwar underscored the growing international demand for justice and a lasting resolution to the violence that has plagued the Gaza region since last year.

He said Malaysia’s support for Palestine has been consistent and firm.

The Prime Minister renewed his pledge to stand by Palestine, vowing to never surrender to the pressure of the powers of the West.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who also addressed the crowd, said he supported Anwar’s decision on the Palestinian cause.

Citing the recent unity meeting held in China with the Palestinian factions, including Hamas and Fatah, he said the call for a peace meeting signals that the late Hamas political bureau leader Ismail Haniyeh was for peace



Display of solidarity: Anwar giving his speech during the Free Palestine gathering at Axiata Arena Bukit Jalil Kuala Lumpur. - FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

and not aggression.

He added that by assassinating Haniyeh, it clearly shows that Israel does not want a peace treaty, and it drew condemnation from the world.

“Malaysia is not alone (in its support).

“We have seen Muslim and non-Muslim countries, east and west, coming together with one heart,” he said.

Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul recalled his meeting with Haniyeh, whom he met at the swearing-in ceremony of the

new Iranian president, Masoud Pezeshkian.

Johari conveyed Haniyeh’s message of hope that the Prime Minister will continue to fight for the Palestinian cause and be a voice on the international stage.

Also present at the event were Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, Agriculture and Food Security Minister Mohamad Sabu, Human Resources Minister Steven Sim, and Deputy Entre-

preneur Development and Cooperatives Minister Datuk Ramanan Ramakrishnan.

The rally last night aimed to send a strong message to the world that Malaysia condemns the killing of Haniyeh and the ongoing brutality of the Zionist regime.

On Oct 24, last year, a “Malaysia with Palestine” rally was held, bringing together political leaders from both the unity government and the opposition to express solidarity with the Palestinian people.