

# PM HOPES U.S. WILL HELP END GAZA WAR

Anwar welcomes change in America's approach to the conflict in the Middle East

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**M**ALAYSIA has expressed hope that the United States (US) will continue to re-

evaluate its approach and hasten an end to the ongoing violence and bloodshed in Gaza.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the current humanitarian crisis was a pressing issue that required comprehensive measures and attention from major world powers.

"We have consistently voiced our concerns about the reluctance of the US and the West to apply pressure on Israel. However, it's important to acknowledge positive developments.

"Despite the constraints of the US political system in an election year, President (Joe) Biden has recently shown growing impatience with his Israeli counterpart. He has started to advocate for a ceasefire proposal in exchange for releasing hostages.

"We welcome these early signs of change in America's approach to the conflict. We hope the US will continue to re-evaluate its strategy and expedite the end of the killings and carnage."

Anwar said this in his keynote address at the 37th Asia-Pacific Roundtable (37APR) organised by the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia.

He said Malaysia could not endure the current world crisis, which has stripped away peace and stability.

"We cannot stand idly by and allow this to be yet another chapter of mass killings and displacement that furnishes the historical volume of atrocities that have been committed, recognised, and then tragically but conveniently ignored," he said.

He added that more people were dying on battlefields, being forced from their homes, or needed of life-saving aid than in recent memory, despite the idea of peace and stability being



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at the 37th Asia-Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

preached around the world.

"Last year, when I addressed the APR at this stage, I spoke about how geopolitical and geostrategic developments have overshadowed some regional mechanisms and multilateral frameworks.

"Today, a mere 10 months later, I am doubling down on my doubts and misgivings about the world's faith in these mechanisms and the international system.

"This system was designed in the post-war era to ensure peace and stability, which held much promise in rhetoric, but has proven to be a dismal failure in delivery.

"Despite our efforts and various international mechanisms, the pursuit of peace is failing. Indeed, it is no longer about maintaining peace but preventing the worst."

Meanwhile, Anwar reiterated calls for an end to the ongoing violence and political marginalisation in Myanmar, urging adherence to Asean's Five-Point Consensus.

He said Asean was facing a significant challenge with the crisis in Myanmar, given the scale of death, displacement and fighting.

"This message Asean should convey must come from a unified voice. Failure to act when there is ample cause to believe that a member state is violating the spirit of the Asean Charter is a dereliction of our moral duty.

"Of course, Asean can only facilitate any effort when the various parties in Myanmar are ready to do so. But this does not mean that we should not try multipronged, more creative tracks. The status quo is not static."

Anwar said that while it was not Asean's place to decide what is best for the people of Myanmar, it was incumbent upon "friends and neighbours" to help facilitate what and where they could.

"We will also work with other Asean member states and dialogue partners who influence

Myanmar to push for peace, more effective humanitarian mechanisms and the eventual political engagement of all relevant stakeholders in that country."

Anwar added that as Malaysia prepared to chair Asean in 2025, the country would strive to lead with

moral character, as emphasised in the principles of Malaysia Madani.

On another matter, he said Malaysia would remain independent and not choose sides between China and the US.

Anwar said the constant discussions and speculations on choosing sides were counter-productive and would contribute to mistrust and suspicion.

He said perceiving Malaysia as tilting to one side in a so-called strategic pivot from the other was an oversimplification and a gross misperception of the nation's interests and character.

*"We hope the US will expedite the end of the killings and carnage."*

**DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM**  
Prime minister