

# PM: KL TO SEEK FULL SUPPORT FOR UN BODY

Anwar to Leverage Arab-Islamic Summit to back Palestine aid agency

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**M**ALAYSIA will propose to the Arab-Islamic Summit that full support be given to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to carry out its mandate in Palestine.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said this included providing social services and humanitarian aid.

"Malaysia intends to leverage this summit to secure support from Arab and Islamic nations for this initiative.

"Additionally, it aims to oppose the decision by the Israeli Parliament on Oct 28, which seeks to dismantle UNRWA and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in northern Gaza, where residents have been facing starvation due to prolonged disruption of essential aid," he said in a special Dewan Rakyat session.

Anwar has been invited to attend the summit on Nov 11 in Riyadh by Saudi Arabia's king.

Turkiye's Anadolu Agency reported that the summit would discuss Israel's attacks on Palestine and Lebanon, as well as regional developments.

Anwar said it was important for Malaysia and the international community to condemn the genocide in Palestine and to pressure Israel to agree to a ceasefire.

He said this would allow for the delivery of medicine, food and other humanitarian aid.

"Additionally, Malaysia aims to mobilise the Special Committee against Apartheid at the UN regarding Israel."

He said one approach the summit could take was to support ceasefire talks mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar.

"Since May, these three countries have been developing a framework for an agreement that needs to be approved by all involved.

"Our concern arises from the fact that Israel's brutal actions



Palestinians getting physiotherapy at a United Nations Relief and Works Agency facility in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, on Oct 29. AFP PIC

are unlikely to occur without the support of countries that supply weapons to them, including the US and several European nations," he said.

Anwar said Malaysia's participation in the summit was also part of efforts to increase diplomatic pressure on Israel to implement a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, release Palestinian detainees and restore the flow of aid to Palestinians.

He said Malaysia was committed to advocating for Palestine's rights.

"A fair and definitive resolution means ending colonisation and dispossession, violence, oppression and genocide."

He said Malaysia supported UNRWA's efforts in Palestine and would boost coordination with the agency.

"There is no alternative to UNRWA, as stated by 15 heads of UN agencies and humanitarian organisations. For 75 years, UNRWA has been the main lifeline for delivering international aid to the Palestinian people," he said.

Anwar said Malaysia's support for UNRWA was recognised by its commissioner-general, Philippe Lazzarini, who expressed his appreciation to Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan during the recent 79th UN General Assembly (UNGA).

He said Malaysia had contributed RM25 million to UNRWA to assist Palestinians in Gaza.

He said this was in addition to the RM100 million in aid that had been provided, including bringing injured civilians from Gaza for treatment in Malaysia.

"We will continue with this... we are discussing with the Foreign Ministry to expedite further financial assistance," he said.

He said that last Thursday, Malaysia joined in the drafting of an UNGA resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice.

"This is regarding Israel's obligations to allow the activities and presence of the UN, for the benefit of Palestinian civilians.

"The draft resolution is under negotiation and we will review it following any violations of international law to consider expelling Israel from the UN.

"A total of 101,641 Palestinians have been injured, and 11,000 are missing. On average, 118 Palestinians are killed and 277 injured a day since October last year. The situation in Gaza remains dire, marked by relentless violence, supported directly and indirectly by Israel's allies."

Anwar condemned Israel's attacks as "excessive".

He added that there were countries that championed democracy, human rights and justice, but would turn a blind eye to new forms of colonisation, oppression, apartheid and genocide.

"This has never happened in modern history. To me, only those who are barbaric and insane will allow and... defend this tyranny."

He said Malaysia had taken stronger measures than any other country to press Israel to end the violence in Gaza.

"I don't mean to boast, but I have taken steps that go beyond the willingness of many countries. In fact, friends from other countries have warned me about the risks involved. You know how the US has overthrown governments just because of opposing positions? This is a risk I have to consider."

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