

ANWAR, SISI CONDEMN ISRAELI ATROCITIES

Leaders pledge to advocate for peace to prevail in the Middle East

KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi have condemned the Israeli war on Gaza and its attacks on Lebanon.

In a joint statement issued on Sunday, during the prime minister's second visit to Egypt in conjunction with the 65th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the two leaders agreed on the need to advocate for peace to prevail in the Middle East.

Malaysia also expressed its appreciation to Egypt for facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid from Malaysia to Palestinians in Gaza.

"Both leaders reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent state of Palestine.

"They urged the United Nations Security Council to reconsider Palestine's application for full membership, in line with Resolution A/RES/ES10/23 adopted by the UN General Assembly on May 10.

"Both leaders condemn Israel's violations of international law, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law in its military operations, which also violates the sovereignty of Lebanon, through its continued incursions in Lebanon and airstrikes.

"The strikes have resulted in the loss of over 2,000 civilian lives and the damage of infrastructure. A ceasefire should be reached to stop this humanitarian catastrophe.

"Both leaders express their full support for the full implementation of UNSC Resolution 1701 to safeguard peace and security in the region."

UNSC Resolution 1701 was adopted in 2006 and called for a full cessation of hostilities between Israel and Hizbollah.

On other matters, Anwar and Sisi agreed that both countries should boost ties in several areas.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim speaking at a roundtable session with industry leaders in Cairo yesterday. He is flanked by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz (left) and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan. BERNAMA PIC

The statement said that leveraging this new phase of closer friendship and cooperation, both leaders agreed ties should reach a level of strategic partnership in the near future, as a catalyst for ensuring both countries' progress and development, and to enable the synergy of efforts towards creating a stable, just and equitable world.

"Both leaders agreed to strengthen political relations by increasing high-level exchanges between the two countries.

"In this vein, Malaysia is set to host the second Malaysia-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting and Bilateral Consultation at the earliest convenience and mutually agreed time.

"Both leaders recognised the potential of their economies and expressed confidence in the growth of trade value and two-way investment activities.

"The leaders highlighted that the two countries' comprehensive and resilient trade and investment relationships are based on the common interest in free, fair and open trade."

The statement said Anwar and Sisi agreed that the Asean free-trade agreements and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa would be beneficial for both countries, respectively.

Another area in which the two leaders saw beneficial was the "longstanding and robust" defence and security relationship

between the two nations, said the statement.

They agreed to undertake measures to boost cooperation here.

The statement said Anwar and Sisi underscored the importance of maintaining and building higher education and training cooperation and support between the two countries.

"In this vein, Malaysia is pleased with Egypt's gesture of friendship in granting scholarships for Malaysians studying in Egyptian institutions of higher learning."

Meanwhile, Anwar thanked Sisi, the Egyptian government and its people for facilitating his visit. He said he looked forward to reciprocating Egypt's hospitality through a state visit by Sisi to Malaysia.

Earlier, Anwar said he would bring the voice and mandate of Malaysians people to the Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh to discuss the atrocities by the Israeli regime against the people of Palestine and Lebanon.

He said the summit was expected to reach a consensus among Islamic countries on resolving the conflict in Gaza.

He described the violence carried out by the Israeli regime as being seemingly uncontrolled, extreme and aimed at wiping out the Muslim population there.

He said there had never been any country in the world that violated the law, but faced no consequences.