

# 'ICC ARREST WARRANTS A VICTORY FOR JUSTICE'

Court's decision on war crimes by Israeli PM, Gallant significant, says PM

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has hailed the recent arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence chief, Yoav Gallant, over alleged war crimes as a significant victory for justice, humanity and accountability.

Speaking to the press after Friday prayers at Surau Al-Husna in Presint 9 here, Anwar expressed his firm support for the ICC's decision, calling it an important step forward in addressing the suffering of the Palestinian people.

"We welcome the decision and agree that if Netanyahu makes any visits abroad, he should be arrested," he said.

He also said the decision was based on the law and solid evidence of oppression, cruelty and

ongoing violence against Palestinians, specifically under Netanyahu's leadership.

Anwar said the ICC's actions confirmed what many had long argued, that Israel's actions in Gaza and Palestine had crossed legal and ethical lines, and that accountability was necessary on the international stage.

"This is a confirmation of what has been happening all this while. The ICC is a body that makes decisions based on law and evidence, and this is a reminder of the oppression that has been ongoing," he said.

The ICC's arrest warrants also target Hamas leader Ibrahim Al-Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif, further highlighting the court's commitment to pursuing justice against all sides of the conflict. The warrants are part of a broader international effort to hold individuals accountable for war crimes and crimes against humanity amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

The United Nations' human rights office had expressed its full support for the ICC's actions in furthering accountability, reinforcing the call for international legal action.

Unity government spokesman Fahmi Fadzil reaffirmed Malaysia's stance on the matter, making it clear that the country

would not extend any diplomatic courtesy to Israel.

"The cabinet has discussed the ICC arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant, and we welcome this announcement. They will not come to Malaysia, as Malaysia does not recognise and has no diplomatic relations with Israel," he said at a post-cabinet meeting press conference yesterday.

Fahmi said Malaysia remained firm in its position of supporting the Palestinian cause against Israeli aggression.

The arrest warrants come at a time of heightened international tension, particularly over the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Just days before the ICC's decision, the United States exercised its veto power in the United Nations Security Council, blocking a resolution that called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

The move by the US sparked further debate on the role of global powers in the conflict. In response to the US veto, Anwar said: "That is the US's decision, but I think the world thinks otherwise."

*See also Page 16*

*Page 1 pic: A demonstrator chanting slogans in front of a poster of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during an anti-government rally in Tel Aviv on Nov 16.*