

PM HAILS TRUCE BY CAMBODIA, THAILAND

It reflects shared understanding that restraint is vital for civilian safety, says Anwar

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has welcomed the immediate ceasefire between Cam-

bodia and Thailand, describing it as a recognition of restraint following weeks of deadly border clashes.

"I welcome the ceasefire agreed by Cambodia and Thailand," he said in a Facebook post.

"The decision to halt fighting and to hold forces in place reflects a shared recognition that restraint is required, above all in the interest of civilians."

Anwar's remarks came hours after Thailand and Cambodia's defence ministers, Natthaphon Narkphanit and Tea Seiha, signed the ceasefire deal.

The agreement puts a halt to fighting, which has seen at least 47 people killed and more than a million displaced following exchanges of rocket fire and artillery barrages.

Anwar also said that the joint statement outlined practical and positive measures, including verification by the Asean Observer Team and direct communication



Cambodian defence minister Tea Seiha (left) and Thai defence minister Natthaphon Narkphanit exchanging ceasefire documents during the special General Border Committee meeting in Thailand's Chanthaburi province yesterday. AFP PIC / AGENCE KAMPUCHEA PRESS

between defence authorities.

"These provide a basis for stability, and I am hopeful that both sides will carry them out faithfully."

Anwar said he supported all efforts to ensure that the ceasefire would be honoured and to safeguard Asean's prestige and credibility as a "region of peace".

Meanwhile, Reuters reported the defence ministries of both countries as saying that the ceasefire was holding with no reports of fresh clashes following the signing of the agreement around noon.

Earlier, Natthaphon and Tea said both sides agreed to maintain current troop deployments without further movement.

"Any reinforcement would heighten tensions and negatively affect long-term efforts to resolve the situation," the state-

ment said.

The new ceasefire will be monitored by the Asean Observer Team, which will see direct communication between the defence ministers and armed forces chiefs of both countries.

In the coming days, the Thai and Cambodian foreign ministers, Sihasak Phuangketkeow and Prak Sokhonn, will hold further discussions on border issues in Yunnan, China. These talks will also involve Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Border disputes between Thailand and Cambodia have persisted for over a century, but tensions came to a head in July after five days of clashes that left 48 dead and scores of people displaced.

In October, United States President Donald Trump and Anwar helped broker a truce which broke down earlier this month.