

# PM: MALAYSIA WILL ALWAYS BACK JUSTICE

Anwar says nation has a track record of helping the oppressed, citing Bosnia, South Africa



**MOHD  
ISKANDAR  
IBRAHIM**

## MANAMA (Bahrain)

**M**ALAYSIA will continue to speak out in support of Palestine, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said, adding that Malaysia is a free and sovereign nation with every right to firmly express its stance.

"We are not choosing to oppose anyone, but wherever there is oppression and cruelty, we must defend and fight for justice.

"There are a small number of people, even in Malaysia, who doubt and even oppose it. So, I ask them, have they not been taught about humanity? About justice? Were they raised to allow their neighbours to be trampled upon and killed?"

He said this at a press conference after the conclusion of his official visit to Bahrain, at the invitation of Crown Prince Sheikh Salman Hamad Al Khalifa.

International media had reported claims that Anwar was advised by government officials not to be too firm on the Hamas-Israel issue to avoid repercussions from the United States.

The concerns were linked to actions taken by US President Donald Trump, including imposing higher tariffs on foreign countries under his new policies.

Anwar said Malaysia's initiative in assisting those affected by oppression was not new, citing past efforts such as during the Bosnian War and apartheid-era South Africa.

"Thus, with Palestine, compared to past instances, it has suffered destruction to such an extent. That is why we tell our friends in the Gulf countries, the Arab and Islamic world, we must give as much as we can. In fact, what we have given is still too little.

"So, in the coming days, when there are events for Palestine, I hope the people will come together and express their views."

Meanwhile, Anwar described the opportunity to address over 400 Islamic scholars at the Intra-Islamic Dialogue Conference (IIDC) as a great honour for Malaysia.

As the only head of government to speak at the conference, he said it served as proof of the efforts made by the Malaysian government to elevate Islam.

"His Majesty the King of Bahrain (Sheikh Hamad Isa Al Khalifa) and Sheikh Al-Azhar Al-Sharif (Professor Dr Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad At-Tayyeb) gave me the opportunity to attend and deliver the keynote address at the IIDC.

"This conference brought together prominent Islamic figures from all over the world and from all sects, with the goal of fostering unity and avoiding conflicts.

"We accept the reality that there are differences of opinion, whether in theology or practice."

In his speech, Anwar stressed the need for scholars and intellectuals to unite and address the sectarian divide, taking firm steps to support Palestine and Syria.

He also said exploiting sectarian differences and divisions only weakened political unity and hindered the much-needed cooperation among Muslim nations.

"Let us not boast and claim that we are the only ones who are right, while labelling others as infidels or hypocrites. This call for unity is the message of all scholars worldwide," he said.

"This is a reminder for all Muslims, especially us in Malaysia. We must set a good example by fostering unity, respecting differences of opinion, but not allowing them to lead to animosity."