

KL, PARIS CALL FOR GAZA CEASEFIRE

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HALIM MOHAMED

Anwar, Macron demand full aid access to Gaza

PARIS

MALAYSIA and France have jointly called for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, and demanded unhindered humanitarian aid access to the war-torn enclave.

This joint position was articulated during a meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace.

Anwar praised Macron's commitment to pursuing peace in the Middle East, describing it as commendable amid continued atrocities.

"We strongly condemn the ongoing bombings and atrocities committed against civilians, women and children. It is deeply saddening that the international community has yet to resolve this crisis," he said.

Macron echoed the sentiment, saying that he and Anwar were united in their belief that a permanent ceasefire must be accompanied by the release of hostages.

"We are working with several parties, including Saudi Arabia, to achieve this. Israel must also allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza without obstruction."

Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's condemnation of Israel's attack on Iran and expressed support for France's broader peace efforts in the region.

"If we condemn Iran and condone Israel's actions, then we have a problem. We must resolve this conflict on the basis of fairness.

"Iran must be reminded that nuclear energy must only be used for peaceful purposes and that



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Élysée Palace in Paris on Friday. AFP PIC

they must honour their commitment to allow inspections."

Macron said that Iran must reaffirm its commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and repeal legislation hindering cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Earlier, in a separate engagement at Sorbonne University, Anwar described the devastation in Gaza as "a failure of conscience, empathy and leadership".

"The destruction of schools and hospitals, the annihilation of families — this reflects a deep failure to recognise the value of human life," he said in a lecture to academics and students.

"When we fail to recognise the humanity in others, we risk losing the humanity within ourselves. Statistics are not just numbers.

"Each represents a life — a mother, a child, a father — and their stories must move us not only to feel, but to act."

Anwar criticised the global community for its inaction despite lofty rhetoric on human rights and democracy.

He welcomed the decisions by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ), but lamented the lack of accountability.

"Those responsible for the crimes respond with impunity and contempt. It is the responsibility of world leaders to speak with moral clarity and act with urgency to stop the killings," he said.

Amid the bleakness, Anwar pointed to growing civil society resistance — including students, academics and global protest

movements — as a source of hope.

"In their condemnation of this genocide and calls for an end to the violence, we find strength. But we need more than hope — we need meaningful action."

Meanwhile, Malaysia has stressed that any pause in the conflict in Gaza "must not be exploited as a tactical manoeuvre" and that "unimpeded humanitarian access is required to avert mass starvation", according to a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry on Friday.

The ministry said Malaysia "appreciates the latest efforts to end the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza", particularly the 60-day ceasefire proposed by the United States and mediated by Egypt and Qatar. It called for the proposal to serve as a pathway towards a permanent ceasefire.

Malaysia also reiterated its condemnation of the Israeli regime's atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, including the targeting of civilian infrastructure and the violent actions of Israeli settlers.

"These constitute gross violations of international law."

It affirmed Malaysia's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood, with East Jerusalem as the capital, and called for Palestine's full membership in the United Nations.

Anwar later flew to Rio de Janeiro to attend the 17th BRICS Leaders' Summit hosted by Brazil. The aircraft carrying him and his delegation landed at the Galeão Air Force Base at 5.41am local time (4.41pm in Malaysia) after a 12-hour flight from Paris