

Anwar and Macron call for lasting truce in Gaza

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PARIS: Malaysia and France have both reiterated calls for a ceasefire in Gaza as the Asian leader paid an official visit to his European counterpart here.

President Emmanuel Macron, speaking near the steps at the entrance of Palais de l'Elysee, said the two nations were now calling "more than ever" for an agreement on a permanent ceasefire, the release of hostages, and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid, which is so desperately needed in Gaza.

"I commend the efforts of the mediators and call for the swift conclusion of the agreement currently on the table.

"A lasting solution cannot be achieved without reopening a clear political perspective based on the two-state solution – where two states live side by side in

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Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

peace and security – allowing for the creation of a Palestinian state and full regional integration of Israel," Macron, who hosted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, said in French.

He said in the immediate term,

faced with an unbearable humanitarian situation, it is Israel's responsibility to allow the civilian population access to humanitarian aid.

The president also said this concern for international law saw the

absence of a legal basis for the retaliatory strikes on Iran and called for a negotiated solution.

Iran must unequivocally reaffirm its support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty and agree to a deal that would lead to the end of uranium enrichment in Iran, while allowing the country to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, he added.

Anwar, who stood next to Macron, lauded the latter for trying to resolve the outstanding conflict in Gaza.

"Of course, we have condemned the continued bombings and atrocities inflicted upon civilians, women and children, and it's a shame that the international community is not able to resolve this. So your initiative was supported by us," he said.

Anwar also said that he could

not deny the issue of the use of nuclear power for peaceful means.

"Nuclear Non-Proliferation, proliferation, or even power, cannot be seen to be selective," he said.

Malaysia had also committed to the two-state solution, he said, adding:

"We must impress upon Iran to use this for peaceful methods and peaceful means and allow for inspection, which they have given commitment to.

"But I think we have to follow through. Therefore, please be assured, President Macron, that we will be here."

Later, the two leaders had an official working dinner followed by Anwar having a tete-a-tote with Macron, before flying off to Rio de Janeiro for the third and final leg of his visit to three cities.