



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting the Sarawak PKR leadership in Kuching yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

STRIKES ON IRAN NUKE SITES

NEW STRAITS TIMES 23 JUN 2025

pg. 2

PM: U.S. WORSENING MIDEAST CRISIS

All violence should end, says Anwar

MOHD ROJI-KAWI
AND ILAH HAFIZ AZIZ
KUCHING
news@nst.com.my

THE United States' interference in the conflict between Israel and Iran has only worsened the crisis in the Middle East, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

Commenting on the US military strikes on three Iranian nuclear sites, the prime minister did not mince his words as he questioned the international community's inconsistency in responding to the conflict.

"If we claim to be neutral, there should at least be a call to end all acts of violence.

"But why is Israel allowed to act in such a manner while Iran is denied the right to respond?

"Now Iran is under attack and has chosen to fight back. Unfortunately, the involvement of external powers like the United States is only making matters worse."

He said this after a meeting with the Sarawak PKR leadership here.

US President Donald Trump said that the US military launched strikes yesterday against three Iranian nuclear sites, including the Fordow uranium enrichment plant. Trump said a full payload of bombs was dropped on the underground facility in Fordow.

Anwar said: "We have stated that for peace to prevail, Israel

must be pressured to stop its provocative and violent actions against others.

"When you launch attacks and kill people, there will, of course, be retaliation from Iran."

He expressed concern that the conflict could lead to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which would pose a threat to the global economy.

"What matters most are human lives and justice. Malaysia will continue to speak out on this."

Anwar said: "Our stand is that independent nations must not be silenced when it comes to speaking out on human rights and justice."

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan addressed the Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Saudi Arabia.

He said Israel had disregarded international law by escalating the conflict in the Middle East through its attacks on Iran.

He added that Israel had failed to adhere to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

"We are gathered here today to express our solidarity with the government of Iran in response to the aggression and attacks launched by the Zionist Israeli regime. These attacks have caused loss of civilian lives and extensive damage to public infrastructure," he said.

Mohamad added that Malaysia called on the OIC to mobilise its influence in response to any escalation that threatened regional stability and posed global implications.

"The international community and the UN Security Council

must condemn the actions of the Zionist Israeli regime, which must be held accountable for the conflict in the region.

"The international community must not allow actions that undermine diplomatic efforts or threaten global peace."

He said that lasting peace could be achieved only through wisdom, restraint and constructive dialogue.

He called on the international community to take stronger action against Israel's atrocities against Palestine and its recent aggression against Iran, which resulted in the deaths of Iranian civilians.

"The UN Security Council's paralysis over Israel's atrocities is embarrassing. There can be no peace without justice.

"The very notion of justice demands that we confront the ridiculous and impossible conditions being placed on Palestinian statehood."

He said Malaysia was steadfast in its solidarity with the Palestinian people, while urging the global community to exert all efforts to realise an independent Palestinian state, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital.

"We stand at a critical juncture. The OIC's relevance depends on the strength of our institutions, including the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission."

Page 1 graphic: The underground nuclear plants in Fordow on March 19. It is a high-grade uranium enrichment facility with space for around 3,000 centrifuges.