

# PM SLAMS BRAZEN ATTACK ON VETERAN SPORTS JOURNALIST

Fahmi says Anwar also thanks the Thai govt for assisting Malaysians stranded by floods in Hat Yai

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has condemned the broad daylight assault on veteran sports journalist Hareesh Deol in Bangsar, describing such attacks on journalists as wholly unacceptable.

Government spokesperson Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the prime minister emphasised that no journalist should ever face violence while carrying out their duties.

"The prime minister has expressed his condemnation of the actions of several individuals attacking the senior journalist and stressed that it should never happen to any journalist, especially while performing their work," he told a press conference here yesterday.

Fahmi added that the government would leave further investigations to the authorities.

Hareesh, deputy president of the



Some of the university students who were stranded by floods in Hat Yai, Thailand, returning home at the Bukit Kayu Hitam border checkpoint on Thursday.  
BERNAMA PIC

National Press Club and founder of Kuala Lumpur-based news organisation Twentyt-wol3, was attacked by two men dressed in black on the evening of Nov 25 outside the Tanjung Balai Group building.



Hareesh Deol

The incident has drawn widespread condemnation, including from Gerakan Media Merdeka, the Malaysian Media Council and the Football Association of Malaysia.

On Thursday, city police chief Datuk Fadil Marsus said the assault might have stemmed from a personal dispute involving the

suspect's wife and that Hareesh might have been mistaken for someone else.

The 37-year-old suspect, R. Krishnan, had pleaded guilty in the magistrate's court yesterday to voluntarily causing hurt to Hareesh.

In a separate matter, the government expressed its gratitude to Thailand for assisting Malaysians stranded by floods in southern Thailand.

Fahmi said the prime minister conveyed his appreciation to the Thai police, who worked closely with the Malaysian police to help those affected in Hat Yai.

"The prime minister has requested that information be shared with the cabinet regard-

ing the recent floods in Hat Yai.

"The latest update is that a volunteer team of 45 members concluded operations last night after five days of rescuing Malaysians stranded there," he said.

According to Wisma Putra, 1,459 Malaysians had been evacuated with assistance from the Royal Thai Army, including 38 university students and lecturers. Fewer than 300 Malaysians remain stranded, and rescue operations were ongoing.

Separately, the prime minister extended his condolences over a high-rise fire in Hong Kong, which claimed 75 lives, left around 70 injured, and some 200 still missing.