

GOVT MAKING EFFORTS TO FREE GSF ACTIVISTS

Immediate release of all Malaysian volunteers being sought, says Anwar

KUALA LUMPUR

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has given his assurance that the government is exerting every effort to secure the release of Malaysian activists and volunteers detained by Israeli forces during the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) humanitarian mission.

"I give my assurance that all efforts are being mobilised to ensure the immediate release of all Malaysian activists and volunteers without compromise," he said in a statement yesterday.

Anwar said he had spoken to Sumud Nusantara Command Centre director-general Datuk Dr Sani Araby Abdul Halim for the latest updates, adding that he had conveyed his regards to the families of the detained delegates.

He also emphasised the need to safeguard their health and

welfare at all times.

Anwar confirmed that all 23 Malaysians detained by Israel were safe and diplomatic efforts were underway to repatriate them.

He said Turkiye's National Intelligence Organisation was representing Malaysia in contacts with Israeli authorities, with plans to bring the detainees home via Istanbul.

"I have asked President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan if they can pick them up from anywhere around Israel and bring them to Istanbul. They will be taken together with other Turkish detainees, and from Istanbul we will bring them home," he said after performing Friday prayers at Masjid Al-Khadajah in Pantai Dalam here.

Anwar said he had not contacted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as Malaysia has no diplomatic relations with Israel, but expressed hope that the matter could be resolved within one or two days.

"This involves the Israeli regime, so there are no guarantees," he added.

He also advised Malaysian activists planning to take part in upcoming humanitarian

missions to Gaza to postpone their sailing plans.

"Given the current situation and the impact on those involved in the GSF, I think it would be wise to pause for now, to renegotiate and reorganise.

"The important thing is to save lives. Sometimes we speak as if we are heroes without limits, but the oppression has already claimed the lives of 65,000 Palestinian."

A new round of humanitarian flotilla missions had departed from Italy under the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and the Thousand Madleens to Gaza, comprising 10 boats carrying international journalists, medical experts, parliamentarians and activists.

Nine Malaysians are among the participants, including Professor Emeritus Dr Mohd Alauddin Mohd Ali, who heads the delegation, three medical doctors, two lecturers, a humanitarian activist and an Astro Awani journalist.

Page 1 pic: A screen grab of a viral video showing Global Sumud Flotilla volunteers, including Malaysians, being held somewhere in Israel yesterday.