

# Anwar hails UN sec-gen as consistent 'voice of conscience'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim praised United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres for being a consistent “voice of conscience” in defending global principles and addressing crises, particularly the atrocities committed in Gaza.

Speaking at the Asean-United Nations Summit, Anwar said Guterres had shown courage and consistency in defending multilateral principles, freedom and the rights of minority communities.

“Before anything else, I must express how glad we are, not only for your presence, but for your voice of conscience, courage and consistency in upholding the spirit of multilateral arrange-

ments and respecting the rights of countries and minorities,” Anwar said.

He further lauded Guterres’ tenacity and courage in addressing humanitarian crises.

“Certainly, we must say that it is a challenge, but we admire your tenacity and courage, including, as I mentioned earlier, in addressing facts and cases like Gaza, the atrocities committed, and you have been a very consistent voice of reason and conscience.”

At a press conference ahead of the summit, Guterres had said the UN was ready to play a key role in facilitating Malaysia’s bid to deploy peacekeepers in Gaza.

He said it was crucial at this



*A drone view showing the destruction in a residential neighbourhood, after the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area, in Gaza City, on Saturday.* **REUTERS PIC**

stage to ensure that the current ceasefire holds and that the first phase of the peace agreement is fully implemented.

Guterres also expressed appreciation for Malaysia's consistent and principled foreign policy

stance, particularly in championing the Palestinian cause.

He said Malaysia has consistently advocated the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own state.