

HAMAS TARGETED

MALAYSIA SLAMS ISRAELI STRIKE ON DOHA

Attack shows failure of the international system, says Anwar

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MALAYSIA has condemned Israel's strike on Doha, with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim calling it "a wanton act of aggression" and a violation of Qatar's sovereignty and international law.

"Malaysia condemns in the strongest possible terms the Israeli air strikes on Doha. This wanton act of aggression is a blatant violation of Qatar's sovereignty and a grave breach of international law," he said in statement posted on his social media accounts.

Anwar said the strike in the middle of the Qatari capital endangered civilians and threatened to inflame a fragile region.

Malaysia does not have diplomatic ties with Israel due to its support of the Palestinian cause.

Israel claimed responsibility for the attack on Tuesday, saying that it targeted Hamas leaders in Doha.

Qatar condemned the attack, saying it had targeted residential buildings housing Hamas political bureau members.

Anwar said Israel's actions against Qatar, a nation recognised for its role in mediation and dialogue in the Middle East, demonstrated "utter contempt for peace and diplomacy".

"Such an assault is indefensible and intolerable.

"Malaysia stands in full solidarity with Qatar and calls on the international community to hold Israel accountable for this outrageous aggression," he said.

At another event in Putrajaya later, Anwar said Malaysia was ready to engage with Organisation of Islamic Cooperation members over the attack.

He said he was ready to contact the Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman as well as leaders of other Islamic countries regarding the matter.

"The foreign minister has already been in contact with (Qatar's) foreign minister," he said after opening the 9th International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities.

Anwar said Israel's aggression demonstrated the failure of the international system.

"They are capable of striking any country under any pretext, and we have strongly condemned such actions.

"This shows that the system I was talking about earlier, the international system, has failed... one country commits blatant crimes against another country and can get away with it.

"This undermines the entire system and order," he said.

Government spokesman Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the government condemned Israel's attack as well as its continued assault on Gaza and a separate strike on a humanitarian flotilla in Tunisian waters.

"I am deeply affected by the two drone attacks on the vessels *Familia Madeira* and *Alma*, carried out within 24 hours of each other.

"Targeting humanitarian activists and peace missions is cruel, inhumane, a violation of international law and a clear disregard for universal values," he said at his weekly post-cabinet media briefing yesterday.

Fahmi said the attacks on the flotilla were an attempt to intimidate and weaken humanitarian efforts aimed at breaking the blockade of Gaza and delivering aid to Palestinians.

Earlier, the Malaysian embassy in Doha said no Malaysians were hurt in the attack.

"So far, no Malaysians have been reported (injured) in the incident. However, Malaysians in Qatar are advised to remain vigilant and to avoid the affected area," the embassy said.