

'Release Maduro at once'

US action in Venezuela clear violation of international law, says PM

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PETALING JAYA: Describing the military operation by the United States in Venezuela as a clear violation of international law, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called for the immediate release of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife.

"President Maduro and his wife must be released without any undue delay.

"Whatever may be the reason, the forcible removal of a sitting head of government through external action sets a dangerous precedent.

"It erodes fundamental restraints on the use of power between states and weakens the legal framework that underpins international order," the Prime Minister said.

Anwar said history has shown

that abrupt leadership changes brought about by force can often lead to greater harm than good, especially in a country already facing economic and social challenges.

"It is up to the Venezuelan people to determine their own political future," he added.

He said Malaysia commits to respect for international law and sovereignty as paramount to peaceful relations between states.

"Constructive engagement, dialogue and de-escalation remain the most credible path towards an outcome that protects civilians and allows Venezuelans to pursue their legitimate aspirations without further harm," the Prime Minister said.

On Saturday, US President Donald Trump announced that his country's forces had bombed Venezuela and captured Maduro

and First Lady Cilia Flores in a dramatic overnight military attack that followed months of rising tensions.

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra said Malaysia opposes all forms of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of other states, as well as the threat or use of force.

"These are fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law," it said.

"Malaysia consistently upholds the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue, respect for sovereignty, and adherence to international norms.

"At this critical time, it is crucial for the concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint and seek peaceful solutions through dialogue and diplomacy," it added.

In parallel with these develop-

ments, the Foreign Ministry said its priority remains the safety and well-being of Malaysians abroad.

The Malaysian Embassy in Caracas has established contact with registered Malaysians in the country, and said that all confirmed registered citizens are currently safe and accounted for.

"The embassy is actively monitoring the situation on the ground and stands ready to provide necessary consular assistance should the need arise," it added.

Malaysians in Venezuela who require consular assistance may contact the Embassy of Malaysia in Caracas by phone at (58-212) 720 4257 or email mwcaracas@kln.gov.my.