

**Don't play blame game over Bernama man's death, says Najib**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**September 04, 2011**  
**By Boo Su-Lyn**

SUBANG, Sept 4 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak urged the public today not to blame anyone for the death of a local journalist killed in Somalia last Friday during a humanitarian mission organised by Putera 1 Malaysia Club.

The prime minister said safety is never guaranteed, even with precautions or training.

"Sometimes, even if you wear bulletproof vests, it's not a 100 per cent guarantee," Najib told a packed press conference at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base here today after receiving Bernama TV cameraman Noramfaizul Mohd Nor's body.

"Many international journalists have also been killed in many parts of the world. You can take precautions, you can put them on courses and all that for safety, but there's no absolute guarantee once you're in (areas) of conflict," he added.

The PM said it was "very careless" to play the blame game, stressing instead that it was important to learn from the incident to prevent future occurrences.

"As I said, no one can guarantee anything. If you're not prepared to take risks, then stay at home," he said.

Noramfaizul was part of a 55-strong Malaysian mission providing aid to famine-stricken Somalia from August 28. He was killed and another cameraman injured just hours before the mission was due to fly home yesterday.

Najib Razak (4th left) and his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (3rd left) perform a prayer in front of the coffin of Noramfaizul Mohd Nor. — Reuters pic

Umno lawmakers yesterday denied accusations that the club's humanitarian mission to Somalia was a publicity stunt.

Noramfaizul was killed in the Somali capital of Mogadishu when African Union peacekeepers allegedly shot at a truck in which six mission members, including the 39-year-old, were travelling.

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin has defended the club chairman Datuk Abdul Azeez Rahim — who is also an Umno supreme council member — and said: "There are always risks attached and I'm sure he took precautions for everyone involved."

Media rights watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) rank Somalia as the deadliest country in Africa for media personnel, with 23 media workers killed since 2007.

War-torn Somalia has not had a functioning government for more than 20 years.

When asked if Umno Youth should be held responsible for Noramfaizul's death, Najib said: "That's a very unwarranted question, totally insensitive question which I will not even address."

The PM also stressed that the mission members were subjected to the local transitional Somali government, when pointed out that they were not given bulletproof vests.

Najib added that Noramfaizul's death would not deter Malaysia from launching further humanitarian missions.

"The late Noramfaizul is a national hero and his sacrifice is an example, a story that inspires us to play our role. This incident should not break our spirit in helping the more unfortunate," he said.

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dont-play-blame-game-over-bernama-mans-death-says-najib/>