

PM Wants Malaysians To Leave Syria
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PEKAN, July 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the government has decided that all Malaysian students and expatriates in Syria be brought back to Malaysia immediately due to the worsening turbulence in the Middle Eastern country.

Najib has also given the approval for the Malaysian embassy in Syria to be immediately closed and to instruct the embassy staff including the ambassador to return to Malaysia for security reason.

"I received a call from Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman after breaking fast just now, asking for permission to bring home our students and other Malaysian citizens there due to the worsening turbulence.

"In this regard, I feel our embassy in Syria ought to be closed immediately following the latest developments there," he said after performing Isyak and Tarawih prayers at the Pulau Serai Mosque with about 300 people, here, Saturday night.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Pahang state assembly Speaker Datuk Seri Wan Mohamed Razali Wan Mahussin.

Anifah in a statement Saturday said that the Malaysian government had decided to start the process of bringing home Malaysian students in Syria immediately.

The arrangement is being coordinated by the Foreign Ministry and National Security Council together with the Malaysian embassy in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

Anifah said the Malaysian ambassador in Damascus and four embassy officers would also be asked to return to Malaysia temporarily after the transfer of the students.

The 138 Malaysians comprising 128 students and 10 expatriates registered with the Malaysian embassy in Damascus are reported to be safe at the moment.

The ministry has also urged all Malaysians who are still in Syria to return home immediately and those planning to visit Syria to postpone their trip until the situation there is safe again.

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