

**Hamas Thanks Najib On Support For Palestinian Cause
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 27 (Bernama) -- Hamas has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for his full support to Palestinians and the Palestinian cause.

Speaking to Bernama after a meeting with Najib Tuesday, Hamas' head of international relations Usamah Hamdan said he explained to the Malaysian leader about the recent deadly attacks on Gaza by Israeli military and the subsequent ceasefire arrangements.

"We thanked him for his efforts and his position regarding the Israeli onslaught, condemning it from the very first hour," he said.

On the political level, he alluded to Najib's call for international leaders to help stop the Israeli attacks on the blockaded Gaza Strip, home to about 1.6 million people -- touted as one of the most densely populated regions in the world.

Usamah noted that Najib had informed him that Malaysia would continue to support the Palestinian cause and unity.

"He had said clearly about the importance of this unity," said the Hamas official.

Usamah is in the Malaysian capital to participate in a two-day international forum on conflict and conciliation held in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly 2012.

Accompanied by Palestinian Cultural Organisation Malaysia chairman Muslim Abu Umar, Usamah's meeting with Najib lasted for about 20 minutes.

Over 150 Palestinians had died in the eight-day conflict between Israel and Hamas movement in Gaza before a truce brokered by Egypt, working with the United States, headed off an Israeli invasion of Gaza.

The prime minister also met charge d'affaires from the Qatari embassy, Rashid M. Al-Mulla.

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