

US president to play role for ceasefire in Gaza conflict

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In Phnom Penh

US President Barack Obama has responded to a call by Malaysia and Indonesia asking for his country to get Israel to stop its military aggression in the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Malaysia had called for a resolution not only for the short-term but in the long run to end the conflict.

"Obama said he would try and that he wanted the current violence to stop. But to get a comprehensive and final solution would be a huge undertaking.

"He knows the challenges and complexities of the problem.

"This is a very complex and almost insurmountable (problem)," Najib told the Malaysian media after attending the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) meeting, which was also attended by Obama yesterday.

Officials said Malaysia and Indonesia had spoken up about the need for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip during the Asean-US Summit on Monday.

Malaysia also urged the United States to find the right time to resuscitate negotiations based on a two-state solution.

"I think there is a desire on his part to try and find a final solution to the issue. Obama said this morning that he made a few calls after Malaysia and Indonesia raised the issue.

"He is taking action to play a role for a ceasefire there," said Najib.

On the TPP meeting requested by Obama, the Prime Minister said the seven leaders who attended the meeting agreed for negotiations to be concluded by next October.

"I stressed that all participants must show flexibility to reach an acceptable package, which is balanced and implementable."

Leaders from Australia, Brunei, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam and the US attended the meeting.

Najib also invited Obama to visit Malaysia.

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