

Israel told to remove blockade so that Palestinians can enjoy their right to life
The Star Online
23 November, 2012

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has appealed for the ceasefire in Gaza to hold out, saying a long-term solution should be worked out.

The Prime Minister asked Israel to remove its blockade on Gaza "so that Palestinians can enjoy their right to life".

"It is with great relief that we awoke to news of a ceasefire in Gaza (yesterday). I call upon both sides to stand true to the ceasefire agreement and ensure no further destruction of property and loss of life," he said at a dinner in conjunction with the International Conference on War-Affected Children here last night.

The conference, held at the Putra World Trade Centre earlier in the day, featured local and international speakers highlighting the effects of war on children.

Najib said the focus should be on a broader Middle East peace process, saying the region should move from conflict to stability.

"No child should lose his or her home, family or life. It is incumbent on us, the governing generation, to make the changes that children deserve," he said.

Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Najib's wife, donated RM1mil from her "Gaza Appeal Fund" initiative to the Gaza Emergency Fund.

The Malaysian Chapter of the Criminalise War Club, headed by Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was also launched at the event.

Delivering a keynote address at the opening of the conference, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was incorrect to say that Muslims only sympathised for fellow Muslims who were oppressed.

"We hope that the world will not accuse us of being biased in favour of Muslims. We are in favour of humanity, no matter where they are.

"If we look back into history, we have condemned the genocide against the Red Indians (and) genocide in Australia, and these people are not Muslims. We are concerned with genocide against anyone," he said.

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