

Mapim Calls On Government To Initiate OIC Emergency Meeting To End Violence In Egypt
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The Malaysia Islamic Organisations Consultative Council (Mapim) today proposed that the government take the initiative to convene an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries to stop the killing of civilians by Egyptian security forces.

Its president, Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid said the Malaysian government also needed to call the Egyptian ambassador and express its condemnation of the Egyptian military leadership which continued to use violence against the supporters of former president Mohamed Mursi who was toppled in July.

"We sent a letter to the prime minister today, asking that an emergency meeting be held (by the OIC) to stop the violence against the civilians in Egypt.

"We have also sent a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, requesting for action against the Egyptian military leaders," he told a press conference (PC) at the Mapim office, here.

The PC was also attended by representatives of 12 other Islamic non-governmental organisations including the Persatuan Ulama Kedah, Persatuan Ulama Malaysia, Persatuan Persaudaraan Muslimah Malaysia and Sekretariat Himpunan Ulama Rantau Asia.

Azmi said as a country with close ties with Egypt, especially in the field of education, Malaysia should do the necessary to stop the killings of civilians in Egypt by government troops, purportedly to disperse the pro-Morsi demonstrations which were actually peaceful.

"It is learnt that until yesterday, 278 civilians had been killed after the troops fired at Morsi's supporters.

"It is also feared that the crisis in Egypt could adversely affect the Palestinians in Gaza as the only land route crossing via Egypt to send humanitarian aid to Gaza had been closed.

"This crisis may even threaten stability in the whole Middle East," he lamented.

Azmi pointed out that the atrocities committed by the Egyptian security forces deserved immediate action by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, such as imposing sanctions and deploying UN troops to the troubled areas of Egypt.

"All Islamic nations and the civil society must state their stand against the violence in Egypt and bring back democracy to that country," he said.

Meanwhile, the Egypt Graduates Association of Malaysia (Ilmam) urged the government to hold a special parliamentary meeting to express regret over the violent conflict in Egypt and to call on all Islamic nations through the OIC to help stop the killings of civilians in Egypt.

Its vice-president, Syed Abdul Kadir Aljoofre said immediate action was needed in order to save lives as well as to protect the safety and welfare of Malaysian students in that country.

He said society should view the conflict as a universal issue not just of the Egyptians, while he also urged Muslims to perform the "qunut nazilah" to pray for the safety of the people there.

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