

Najib calls on youths to avoid ideologies which threaten national security

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (pic) today warned youths to stay away from liberalism or pluralism, calling such ideologies a threat to the country's peace and security.

He said youths needed to embrace the concept of "wasatiyah" or moderation and avoid being influenced by "militant and extremist ideologies".

"Youths must distance themselves from extreme and militant ideologies which could harm the country.

"They must also avoid from being trapped by liberalism or pluralism. The best approach is moderation or 'wasatiyah'," said Najib in his speech during the National Youth Day 2014 in Putrajaya today.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi told a press conference recently that militants were targeting humanitarian missions as a vehicle to increase their numbers.

The media also reported the existence of Muslim militants in Malaysia interested in joining the war in Syria.

He said while the government will not prevent the public from carrying out aid missions to other countries, organisers must be held liable should they be found guilty of harbouring terrorists.

"We are concerned that organisations are using humanitarian missions as

a cover to train militant groups, and the police are constantly monitoring this.

"We encourage humanitarian missions, but we will not allow them to use the missions to train members for militant activity," Zahid told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur on May 2, 2014.

Zahid's remarks were in response to Malay daily Utusan Malaysia's report that many Malaysians, including a former musician from a popular 90s rock band, were believed to be involved with a militant group in Syria.

Quoting a security source, the paper said the Malaysians were purportedly influenced by the fight for "jihad", which they believed would allow them to die as martyrs in the civil war waging in the Muslim country.

Fighting under the banner of "jihad", they were believed to be trained to use firearms, before departing to Syria through flights in Turkey, Jordan or Lebanon.

Utusan Malaysia also reported that some Malaysians involved with the Syrian militant groups had died in battle.

The Malaysian Insider reported on May 2 that the 10 militants arrested last month intended to take part in the ongoing civil war in Syria.

Zahid also said that another militant was later arrested in Segambut, bringing the total number of arrests to 11. - May 15, 2014.

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