

Najib wants bodies of Malaysians in MH17 tragedy home before Aidilfitri
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BY JAMILAH KAMARUDIN

Datuk Seri Najib Razak wants the remains of Malaysians killed in the downing of MH17 to be flown out of Ukraine soonest possible, preferably before the Aidilfitri celebrations next week.

The prime minister said this was to allow for proper burial to be given to them on Malaysian soil.

"We would prefer everything to be done before Hari Raya (which falls on July 28). The remains that have been identified will be brought back and laid to rest here," he said after breaking fast at Masjid Al-Najihin, Bandar Sri Permaisuri in Cheras, today.

Najib assured that the government would do everything in its power to pressure the international community to bring the perpetrators to justice, but stressed that Malaysians must also play their part.

Najib today recounted his meeting with the family members of the Malaysian victims yesterday and how he had difficulty controlling his emotion after listening to the victims relate their pain.

He noted that the public ended up being the victims of any conflict that cannot be settled peacefully anywhere in the world.

The Kuala Lumpur-bound flight MH17 went down in the middle of a conflict zone between Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed separatists after being hit by a surface-to-air missile last Thursday.

Those responsible for downing the commercial airliner have yet to be identified,

with Russian and Ukrainian authorities blaming each other and pro-Russian separatists for the disaster.

The crash left 298 passengers dead, including Najib's step-grandmother and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein's grandmother Puan Sri Siti Amirah Prawira Kusuma.

Najib said the international community should not only condemn the incident but must also take action against the perpetrators for bringing down MH17.

"Malaysians must show that we cannot accept this sort of action. We demand that whoever is responsible must be brought to justice," he said. – July 20, 2014.

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