

## **'PM was being courteous when shaking Netanyahu's hand'**

**The Rakyat Post**

**October 5, 2015**

**By NAWAR FIRDAWS**

**A screen grab of the Twitter exchange between Gerakan Youth chief Tan Keng Liang and PKR lawyer Latheefa Koya. -- Pic credit Twitter**

**KUALA LUMPUR,** Tan Keng Liang has come out in defence of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak who is under fire for shaking hands with his Israeli counterpart during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Gerakan Youth chief had on Twitter pointed out that being courteous and shaking hands was a normal part of the Malaysian culture and Najib was not exempted from doing so when meeting with other heads of state.

"Normal for anyone including @najibrazak and other head of states to 'bersalam'. PM @najibrazak was being courteous. It's all about a person's upbringing," he wrote in response to PKR lawyer Latheefa Koya who had on the micro-blogging site condemned Najib for being "civil" with Israel.

Latheefa had earlier shared *The Malaysian Insider's* article quoting Israeli online newspaper *The Times of Israel* which praised Najib for taking a different stand from his predecessors by calling for a new dawn in Muslim-Jewish relations.

She also tweeted Najib, asking the Barisan Nasional chairman why he shook the hand of a "murderer".

"Why do you need to shake hands with the murderer of Palestinian children and women!!"

Replying to Tan's statement that it was the Malaysian way to shake hands with the people they met, Latheefa simply said she was disgusted that Najib shook hands with Netanyahu not because he was a Jew, but because he had innocent Palestinians blood on his hands.

Tan then asked in return:

"So, if meet Anwar, does it mean we should not shake hands with him since he's a convicted sodomite? Pls think b4 talk," he said, alluding to former Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who was now serving five years' imprisonment for sodomising his former aide.

Najib earlier explained that he had merely bumped into Netanyahu near a door in the UN headquarters after Netanyahu had finished his speech.

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