

Anifah To Meet Myanmar Counterpart To Discuss Irregular Movement Of People
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PUTRAJAYA, May 20 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman will meet his Myanmar counterpart U Wunna Maung Lwin soon to seek a solution on the influx of irregular movement of people crises.

"In the ASEAN spirit, we always discuss to find solutions which benefit all affected countries.

"However, we must also listen to Myanmar's difficulties," said Anifah at a media conference after meeting with his counterparts from Indonesia, Retno Marsudi and Thailand's General Tanasak Patimapragorn here Wednesday, to address the irregular movement of people's plight.

"Although ASEAN does not interfere in domestic-related issues, these problems (irregular movement of migrants) is not only Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia or ASEAN's problem, but is an international community's problem," he said.

Anifah said Malaysia, as 2015 ASEAN Chairman, might also call for a mini ASEAN Summit meeting during the one-day 'Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean' on May 29 in Bangkok.

To a question, he said the affected countries would continue engagement with Myanmar, from time to time to find a long-term solution in relation to the migrants.

Anifah also said he would issue immediate instruction to maritime authorities to provide humanitarian assistance to migrant boats.

According to a joint statement issued after today's meeting, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand will continue to uphold their responsibilities and obligations under international law and in accordance with their respective domestic laws, including the provision of humanitarian assistance to the irregular migrants.

It was reported that 1,158 Bangladeshis and Rohingyas from Myanmar, including women and children, landed illegally by boat in Langkawi, Kedah on May 10, with the figures reported to be the largest ever to date.

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