

Najib, Malaysia failed to lead Asean in boat people crisis, says PKR
The Malaysian Insider
May 30, 2015

Malaysia, under the administration of Datuk Seri Najib Razak, has failed to provide leadership as chair of Asean and member of the UN Security Council in solving the Rohingya boat people crisis, a PKR lawmaker said.

Alor Star MP Gooi Hsiao Leung (pic, right) said the prime minister had yet to provide any definite proposals to solve the crisis and had also failed to address Myanmar's persecution of the Rohingya people as the root cause of them fleeing their country.

He added that similarly, when the country's foreign minister led a delegation to Myanmar on May 21, there was no word on the assurances sought and given by the Myanmar government to solve the refugee crisis.

"Malaysia has also failed to issue any public statement expressing any form of concern or condemnation following the UN Security Council briefing by UN Human Rights Chief, Zeid Ra'ad Hussein, on the dire situation and institutional discrimination of the Rohingya Muslim minority in Myanmar," Gooi said.

He added that after 17 Asean countries concluded an emergency meeting in Bangkok yesterday, there was still no public statement regarding Malaysia's stand on the issue.

As such, Gooi said it was time for Putrajaya to stop skirting around the issue and instead work towards a permanent regional solution for the refugee issue.

As member of the UN Security Council and Asean chair, Gooi said Najib should take the lead and make a public stand on Malaysia's position – that the country supported the UN General Assembly resolution urging Myanmar to grant full citizenship rights to the Rohingya Muslims.

He added that Najib must also lead Asean to endorse the UN General Assembly resolution.

Gooi also urged the prime minister to reveal the details of the draft Asean Convention on Trafficking in Persons, and the corresponding Regional Plan of Action to be tabled at the upcoming Asean ministerial meeting in September, adding that this had been discussed at the Asean level since 2007.

"In particular, the prime minister should highlight how exactly the convention will curb human trafficking, and whether the provisions in the convention would be legally binding on member states to comply with," he said. – May 30, 2015.

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