

Israeli windsurfers no-show at Langkawi event after Putrajaya denies duo visas
Malaysian Insider
Dec 26, 2015

Malaysia has denied entry for two Israeli windsurfers participating at the ISAF world youth championships in Langkawi scheduled to begin tomorrow.

The Israel Sailing Association (ISA) said that two of its windsurfers, Yoav Omer and Noy Drihan, along with their coach Meir Yaniv, would withdraw from the championships due to several demands by Malaysia to restrict the use of Israeli flags and symbols, Israel National News reported.

ISA also said that Malaysia would not play the Israeli National anthem should an Israeli win a gold medal.

ISA chairman Gili Amir said Malaysia's demands were unacceptable and decided not to participate as the delegates did not receive entry visas.

"As we have yet to receive visas, 24 hours before the planned departure, and because of the limitations and difficulties imposed on us the organising committee of Malaysia, we decided not to participate in the competition.

"We condemn the unsporting conduct of the organising committee. We will not accept humiliation and we are considering filing a lawsuit against the ISAF and the host country in coordination with the Olympic Committee of Israel," he was quoted as saying.

Malaysia does not have diplomatic ties with Israel.

Meanwhile, Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin (pic) told The Malay Mail Online that there was little to be done as Putrajaya had to abide by its diplomatic policy.

"We accept the decision by the Israeli Youth Team to withdraw from participating in the championships.

"As this is a diplomatic issue, we are guided by the existing policy of the Malaysian government," Khairy was quoted by the newsportal as saying.

Sailors from 50 countries [have arrived in Langkawi](#) for the ISAF Youth World Championships, Bernama reported.

Among the notable countries taking part in the championship are Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Holland, Germany and France. – December 26, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/israeli-windsurfers-no-show-at-langkawi-event-after-putrajaya-denies-duo-vi>