

Neighbours Pray For Safety Of Mohd Nor Azrin And Other Malaysians In North Korea

KLANG, March 10 (Bernama) -- The neighbours of Malaysian Embassy counsellor in Pyongyang, Mohd Nor Azrin Md Zain at his home town in Kampung Raja Uda here are all praying for his safety, and that he, his wife and children return home as soon as possible.

A neighbour who only wanted to be known as Lim said he found out Mohd Nor Nazrin was among 11 Malaysians not allowed to leave North Korea about two days ago.

"I pray for their safety, and hope they can come back here soon," he told Bernama here today.

Mohd Nor Azrin, his wife Iza Karmila Ramli and their three children, Annur Zulaikha, Aynur Zhafirah and Ayscha Zinnirah were among 11 Malaysians barred from leaving North Korea shortly after Malaysia expelled the country's Ambassador to Malaysia, Kang Chol, declaring him 'Persona Non Grata'.

However, two of the 11, Stella Lim and Nyanaprakash Muniandy, who were in the country as part of the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme have since been allowed out of Pyongyang, and are now in Beijing.

Another neighbour when met said he hoped the government would do its best to ensure the safety of Mohd Nor Azrin and other Malaysians there.

"Hopefully the government can discuss well with the North Korean government, the safety of our people should be the main priority," said the retired civil servant who only wanted to be known as Omar.

Earlier, about 1,000 pilgrims at Masjid Kampung Raja Uda performed 'solat hajat' after the Friday prayers for the safety of Mohd Nor Azrin and all Malaysians in North Korea.

Meanwhile, Bernama failed to meet with the counsellor's mother and other family members as they were not at home since morning.

Diplomatic relations between Malaysia and North Korea were strained following the murder of Kim Jong-nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (klia 2) on Feb 13.

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