

New York turns into fortress as UN General Assembly high-level meetings kick off

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NEW YORK, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- With the high-level week of the 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) about to start, the contours of New York City, often touted the “world’s capital” because of the presence of the United Nations and many of its affiliated organisations, acquire the countenance of a well-guarded fortress.

Security is top priority both for the UN and the city itself which wants to ensure the UNGA passes without any untoward incident that could cast a black shadow on its reputation as a well-protected bastion where international leaders and dignitaries can discuss important issues..

The streets, from 42nd to 48th along the First Avenue, where the United Nations’ iconic building is located, are closed to traffic and heavily guarded by machine-gun wielding security officials who do not let passers-by enter without exhibiting the appropriate ID cards issued by the UN and other agencies.

Thousands of uniformed and plainclothed officials are combing important strategic locations in the city and “leaving nothing to chance”, as the police have been saying. Their ubiquitous presence will be visible this entire week.

The entrance to the 43rd Street between the Second and First Avenue, where Malaysia’s permanent mission to the UN and the Malaysian consulate-general are located is closely guarded by security officials.

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