

Dr M pledges support for Palestine

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tiating table as he was considered a terrorist.

"But at the same time, the same people are inviting freedom fighters like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu and others to visit their countries, people who formerly were terrorists."

Dr Mahathir said the West's and human rights activists' hypocrisy was also evident in their selective condemnation of violence and oppression.

He pledged Malaysia's continued support for the Palestinian cause and urged Western countries who claimed to uphold the rule of law and democracy to support the Palestinian struggle for independence and democracy.

Mr Arafat, who spoke after Dr Mahathir, began with a verse from the Quran which warned of the duplicity of the Jews.

However, he stressed that the Palestinian struggle was not against the Jews but against the Zionist oppression of the Palestinians.

In a fiery 15-minute speech, Mr Arafat also said the Zionists, who have been persecuting the Palestinians, occupying their lands and violating their human rights, were now onto a greater evil.

"They are now looking to establish a Greater Israel stretching from the Euphrates to the Nile," he said, referring to the Israeli Government's plan to resettle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

He ended his speech with three cries of "Hidup Rakyat Malaysia", which received tremendous applause from the crowd.

Earlier, organising chairman Anwar Ibrahim, who is also Education Minister, told the gathering that Malaysians would never abandon their support for the Palestinian cause.

"The people and the Government are together with the Palestinians in their struggle to be free from the Zionist oppression," he said.

Dr Mahathir and PLO leader at unity rally

Western hypocrisy under fire

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**By Sabry Sharif
and Zulkifli Othman**

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.
— Malaysia today criticised Western nations and human rights groups for the hypocrisy and double standards that they practised in refusing to condemn the Zionist oppression of the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said some Western nations turned a blind eye to the atrocities committed by the Israelis against the Palestinians as it served their purpose to do so.

"Thus, the absence of condemnation by these quarters for the thousands of Palestinians who have been killed or seriously injured in the occupied territories by Zionist police and military forces during the last 27 months of the *intifadah*," he said at the Malaysian-Palestine unity gathering at Stadium Negara.

Yet, they claim to be champions of democracy and human rights, the Prime Minister added.

Present with him and President of the State of Palestine Yasser Arafat on the special stage were Federal and State Government leaders from the Barisan Nasional component parties.

"Why this double standards?

Other pro-independence movements are acknowledged and supported by them but not the Palestinians," the Prime Minister said.

He said although this demand was universal among pro-independence movements, Western champions of democracy and human rights refused to acknowledge these rights when it came to the Palestinians.

"Therefore, it is clear that their support depends on how well it suits

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their interests and not that of the oppressed people or nation," he said.

The gathering to honour Mr Arafat was attended by about 5,000 people.

The Prime Minister said the double standards and hypocrisy also applied to the call by world leaders to end the violence in the occupied territories through peaceful negotiations.

Pointing to Mr Arafat, he said Israel and her supporters among the Western countries as well as human rights groups opposed the Palestine President's presence at the nego-

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