

Dr Mahathir raps foreign newsmen for negative bias

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By Syed Abu Bakar

ALOR STAR, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hit out at foreign journalists for writing negative reports about the country.

The journalists, he added, had selected Malaysia to write about because the country was progressive and has not "begged" for aid from Western nations.

Dr Mahathir said certain Western countries would prefer Malaysia to beg for aid from them.

On the two (foreign) journalists who were given three days to leave the country after they participated in an anti-logging demonstration at Kuala Baram, near Miri, last week, he said they came here with the intention of discrediting Malaysia.

The Prime Minister arrived here en route to the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) to close the Home Ministry's sports carnival at the university campus in Sintok.

He also said some Western countries seemed to think that Malaysia "does

not know how to govern itself and should be taught what to do".

"They still have a superiority complex," he said.

In Miri, police said they will refer the eight foreigners arrested for last Friday's anti-logging protest in Kuala Baram, about 16km from here, to the Immigration Department for further action.

All eight, who are being held at the Lambir prison here, refused to produce

their travel documents and reveal their identities.

The detainees, four women and four men, were arrested after they chained themselves to logging barges and suspended themselves from the top of two cranes at the timber port.

Sarawak police chief Senior Assistant Commissioner Mohamed Ghazali Yacub said a police report has been made against the eight for not producing their travel documents and that they would be referred to the Immigration Department.

He said the eight had only identified the environmental groups they belonged to.

The protestors are among a group of 10 who are believed to have entered Sarawak early last week.

Two other group members, identified as freelance correspondent Annie Leonard, 30, from the United States and Frank Mumberg, 27, from Germany, who were arrested at the same time as the eight, had been deported.

Police are in a dilemma as without their names, it is not possible to file charges or deport them.