

# PM: Be grateful to security forces for the peace we enjoy

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Malaysians should be grateful to the security forces, especially the police, for maintaining peace in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said today.

He said the country was very fortunate as there were no riots and the situation was peaceful.

"We sometimes forget the benefits of living in a peaceful country. If we observe some other countries, we will find that their citizens live in fear and cannot move about freely, facing danger

in the streets and in their own homes.

"But here we have a police force that is responsible and which carries out its duties well.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, was speaking at the 1991 Police Day Awards at the Putra World Trade Centre today.

Also present were Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub and Deputy Education Minister Dr Leo Michael Tovad.

Dr Mahathir added: "The

police have long been involved in the defence of the country although this is normally the duty of the army.

"But because the threat to security had come from inside the country, the police had to play a para-military role.

"And they did it so well that we have no more threats from communist terrorists who laid down their arms two years ago."

Dr Mahathir also said that while Malaysian police were armed, they did not use

their weapons indiscriminately.

In dispersing demonstrators and rioters, for example, they used tear gas and canes but not batons so that no permanent injury would be inflicted.

In contrast, the police in Israel were ready to shoot unarmed demonstrators even if they only attacked them with stones, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that while accusations had been made against the police for not carrying out their duties as they should, those guilty were small in number.