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Mahathir-China

MALAYSIA HAS OWN VIEW ON BEIJING COURT CASE, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has the right to make its own assessment of the decision by a Beijing court to sentence Wang Dan, a Chinese dissident, to 11 years in prison for allegedly plotting to overthrow the government, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

"We make our own assessment," the Prime Minister said when asked about Malaysia's view on the case after the United States had expressed concern shortly after Wang was sentenced yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after visiting Tenaga Nasional Berhad headquarters here, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia has its own stand and so does the United States.

He said China has the right to take action against its own nationals.

Wang, a leader of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement crushed in June 1989, was sentenced by a Beijing court after he was found guilty of conspiring to overthrow the government.

Reports from Beijing quoted Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang as saying today that no foreign organisation, individual or government has the right to interfere in Wang's case.

On a report quoting the New Zealand police as saying that they were focusing on a Malaysian suspect in a parcel bomb explosion that injured two Malaysian students in Wellington yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he will comment after getting the report.

Hui Mei Keuh, 20, and Ken Kok, 25, both studying at Wellington's Victoria University, were badly burned when the package they had picked up from a courier depot exploded in their car.

They are reported to be in stable condition at Hutt Hospital, Wellington. -- BERNAMA

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