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SANCTIONS SHOULD BE ON GREEK CYPRIOTS, SAYS ERBAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- Turkish Prime Minister Prof Dr Necmettin Erbakan today criticised the four US Congressmen for asking that sanctions be imposed against Turkey over the death of two Greek Cypriots in the Cyprus buffer zone.

"If sanctions were to be imposed, it should be on Greek Cypriots because they were ones who engaged in this provocative action," he said responding to questions from reporters after giving a speech at the International Islamic University (IIU) here.

He said the Greek Cypriots were the ones who penetrated the border and should be punished, not Turkish Cypriots.

The call by four US Congressmen on Friday came after a Greek Cypriot was clubbed and stoned to death by Turkish Cypriots, including police, after demonstrators broke into the buffer zone on Sunday during a protest against the 22-year-old Turkish occupation of Cyprus.

"Of course, we can't remain indifferent if they tried to trespass the border in a terrorist way," he said.

Erbakan, who arrived yesterday for a three-day official visit, said the border guards were only carrying out their duties.

Earlier in his speech, he praised Malaysia especially Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the establishment of the university with students from 45 countries.

HT ABG