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JUST-Congressmen

ACCEPT MAHATHIR'S EXPLANATION, U.S CONGRESSMEN URGED

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- The 27 U.S Congressmen who demanded that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad apologise for his remark about a Jewish conspiracy in relation to currency manipulation, or resign as prime minister, should accept his clarification on the matter, JUST said today.

JUST, the International Movement For A Just World said the Congressmen should accept it in the interest of maintaining good relations between their country and Malaysia.

The movement's president Prof Chandra Muzaffar said it was the height of absurdity for the Congressmen to make the demand which reflected the growing arrogance of the people in power in Capitol Hill.

"They have arrogated to themselves the right to appoint and dismiss leaders in the South; the right to decide who should trade with whom; the right to tell leaders of other nations which countries they should or should not visit; the right to order a sovereign nation to sell or not to sell arms to certain countries," he said in a statement, here, today.

He said that if the US Congressmen had any understanding at all of democracy, they would appreciate the simple fact that Dr Mahathir was the head of a democratically elected government.

Prof Chandra said that to challenge Dr Mahathir's right to be prime minister was to challenge the right of a democratically elected government to rule.

He said at a time when the nation was facing enormous challenges from an unjust global system, Dr Mahathir's leadership was crucial.

"Indeed, Dr Mahathir's leadership is equally indispensable for the nations of the South as a whole who are being increasingly marginalised within the existing global system," he said.

JUST claimed that it was because Dr Mahathir had emerged as an effective spokesman for the rights of the South that he was being targeted by those who sought to perpetuate US global dominance.

He added that Conservative members of the US Congress were among the most ardent advocates of a US dominated global system and that was why they were trying to remove Dr Mahathir as prime minister. -- BERNAMA

MNY JK