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Ong-threat

HOME MINISTRY ASKS US EMBASSY TO LODGE REPORT

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 13 (Bernama) -- Deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting has asked the United States embassy here to lodge a report with the authorities about it receiving a telephone call threatening to kill four American citizens in the country.

At the same time Ong also warned individuals or parties taking the law into their own hands that the authorities would not let them go unpunished.

"So far the government has not received any official police report (from the embassy on the telephone death threat). But we (the Home Ministry) advise it to make an official report of the threat.

"We guarantee that the police will investigate and take firm action and ensure that anyone trying to undermine security and create disorder will not get away. This is my guarantee on behalf of the Home Ministry," he told a news conference at Parliament House lobby.

The US embassy here said today it had received a telephone call threatening to kill four American citizens in Malaysia.

In a statement, it said the threat to kill the Americans was one of two telephone calls it received this morning threatening to harm American citizens in the country.

" We are unable to assess the credibility of these threats," said the statement under the heading : Important Notice For The American Community In Malaysia".

Ong said it was needless for the embassy to create an alarming situation out of the death threat call for which the credibility could not be ascertained as yet.

However, the police had already done the necessary by communicating with the embassy, Ong said.

On whether the call was made by people trying to take advantage of the two US-related issues Malaysia was dealing with now, Ong said: "The government will never agree to anybody, any quarters to take our law in their own hands."

The issues pertain to a draft resolution before the US Congress against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and US investigation into a gas deal in Iran involving Petronas, the national oil corporation.

"Malaysians, as you know, are law abiding. Anybody, if they want to do anything, it must be lawful. We will not allow anybody doing anything illegal or above the law. That is our principle," he said.

Ong said the government would not compromise on security.

"We will make sure every resident, visitor or citizen irrespective of which country they are from, we will protect them. We will try our best, our police and our security agencies will do our level best," he added.--

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