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Youth-Israel

JERUSALEM:UMNO YOUTH CONDEMNS ISRAEL

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today protested against the impending shift of the Israeli capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, the site of one of Islam's holiest mosques, describing it as an arrogant move that would derail the West Asia peace process.

Movement leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the Umno Youth executive council, which met for three hours here today, vented out its strong protest, condemning the Jewish state for its insolence.

He urged Foreign Minister Datuk Abddulah Ahmad Badawi to immediately communicate with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)'s "contact group" countries, to get all the OIC nations to pressure Israel.

At the same time the Umno Youth urged all local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to contact their counterparts abroad to also bear pressure on Israel.

"If these NGOs have been highly critical of those countries which it said have violated fundamental human rights, now is the time for them to prove their criticisms by deeds," he told a press conference after the meeting.

He said Umno Youth would cooperate with all NGOs in holding rallies to declare their stand against Israeli insolence and protest the United States' adoption of a resolution recognising Jerusalem as the new Israeli capital.

The US move contravened United Nations Security Council's Resolution 425 of 1978 which rejected any attempt to change the demographic position and status of Jerusalem, he said.

Zahid echoed the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Muslim nations initiate a drive to get world support to oppose the Israeli move to make Jerusalem her new capital.

The Umno Youth wanted Muslim nations to reinforce their commitment to save Jerusalem and give financial support to the Palestinians to enhance their resilience in defence of their honour, Ahmad Zahid said.

Zahid said Umno Youth called on Muslim nations to review their trade relations with Israel as an initial signal to Israel and the US to stop their arrogance.-- BERNAMA

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