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Malayalis pledge support for PM

JOHOR BARU, Sun. - The 100,000-strong Malayali community in Malaysia is solidly behind Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and will oppose any attempt by foreigners to undermine his position as the Prime Minister.

The community represented by the All Malaysia Malayali Association (Amma) unanimously adopted a resolution to this effect at its 22nd annual delegates conference here today.

This was in response to the draft resolution by the 34 United States congressmen asking Dr Mahathir to either make a public apology for his alleged anti-Semitic and anti-American remarks or resign.

Amma delegates at today's conference said foreigners had no right to call for Dr Mahathir's resignation as he was the democratically-elected leader of the country.

"Foreigners have no right to call for Dr Mahathir's resignation. Only the citizens of Malaysia enjoy that right, and only they can determine the leaders and government of the country," said Amma president Dr Joy Varughese.

Earlier, opening the conference, Dr Varughese said it was time for Amma, which had maintained a low profile for many years, to make its presence felt in the national social and cultural scene.

Amma, a non-political and non-religious umbrella body set up more than 22 years ago, is a social and cultural organisation dedicated to promotion of Malayali traditional culture.

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