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PM: Force Israel to obey UN resolutions

Farush Khan in Beirut

IN the wake of attempts to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on the world to apply pressure for the enforcement of resolutions passed by the United Nations.

The Prime Minister said the big powers should also live up to their promise that they would enforce resolutions passed by the UN.

"We support fully resolution 425 passed by the UN, but we find in some cases there seems to be reluctance on the part of those capable of enforcing this to enforce it when their friends are involved."

He was speaking to reporters on Wednesday at the end of his three-day official visit to Lebanon.

Resolution 425 calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the strip of land in southern Lebanon that it has occupied since 1978 as a self-declared "security zone".

The Prime Minister called on peace-loving countries to marshal world opinion against Israel's attitude of not wanting to adhere to resolutions passed by the UN.

He was asked to comment on the resolution by the United States House of Representatives recently to recognise Jerusalem, a holy city claimed by Arabs and Jews, as Israel's unified capital.

Dr Mahathir said the resolution was not contributing anything to the peace process.

"We think the US Congress is totally insensitive to what is happening. They only see with a blinkered view of the situation ... only one side of the story."

Such a view, he said, made the problem more difficult "because people are not sensitive and they don't understand the conflicts in this region".

On Israel's occupation of land belonging to Syria and Lebanon, (where Israel controls the water supply), the Prime Minister said such actions not only affected the countries concerned, but also the peace process with Palestine.

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