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Chinese papers warned about reports on Indonesia

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik today urged local Chinese-language newspapers to be careful when reporting or making any statements on the situation in Indonesia.

He said the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday for the newspapers to stop condemning Indonesia for the May riots was "correct" and should be taken seriously.

"The newspapers have to be careful on the statements they make because there are sensitive issues involved," he said during a post-Cabinet press conference today.

He said that although the local media might not have criticised them personally, Indonesia might have a different perception of these reports.

He said the comments were generally focused on the raping of women and children which have been considered as racial but are actually cases of human rights infringement by inhumane individuals.

"The reports did not mean to criticise all Indonesians," he said.

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