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MBM HIT OUTS AT US OFFICIAL OVER CRITICISM ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Youth Council (MBM) today hit out at a U.S. official for criticising Malaysia over its handling of the deportation of illegal immigrants, in particular the Indonesians.

MBM secretary general Saifuddin Abdullah said the council took exception to the remarks by U.S. deputy spokesman James Foley who not only criticised Malaysia's action but also urged the Malaysian government to ensure that its action did not violate human rights.

"MBM feels it is a matter for the Malaysian and Indonesian government. The United States has no right to interfere.

"Besides, the U.S. human rights record is also not impressive," he said in a statement.

While describing Foley's statement as incorrect, he said MBM did not think Malaysia's stern action in deporting the illegal immigrants as breaching human rights.

"The government in this country has the right not to accept them and to send them home," he said.

MBM also supported statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia would continue with the deportation of illegal immigrants as scheduled.

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