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Mahathir-US

NO ISLAMIC NATION STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO AMERICA

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- The United States could do whatever it wishes against Islamic nations as no Islamic nation is a world power capable of defending their fellow Muslim brothers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said there are Islamic nations with huge populations such as Indonesia and Bangladesh but they have not been able to defend themselves or to help fellow Muslims in other countries.

"So, when an Islamic nation is attacked, we are not able to do anything. This situation will continue if Muslims continue not to practice the true teachings of Islam...always fighting among ourselves and disunited, these will make us weak," he said.

The US has launched bomb attacks on Iraq in the past few days resulting in the death of tens of innocent people and injuring hundreds others.

Dr Mahathir said this in addressing some 7,000 people from land development schemes such as Felcra, Risdan and several other agencies of the Rural Development Ministry at a "rural folks love the country" function here today.

He said although the US gave the excuse that the attacks were launched due to Iraq's threatening posture against its neighbours such as Kuwait, Syria, Palestine and Jordan, the excuse was nothing more than a "fairy tale".

"In Bosnia and in Kosovo, where hundreds of thousands of Muslims have been killed and injured by the Serbs, the US did not help out saying it did not have the right to intervene," he said.

"The fact is that the US did not attack Serbia because Bosnia and Kosovo are Islamic countries and they do not produce oil. The US attacked Iraq to protect the oil revenue in Kuwait."

Dr Mahathir said he was thankful that although the Muslim population in Malaysia is not large, the country is peaceful as the Muslims are united.

As such, he said the country's leadership has been able to focus on inspiring Muslims to take up science and knowledge to match the non-Muslims.

The Prime Minister also reiterated his call to the people to remain united as only then can the country and the people avoid being re-colonised by foreigners.

He said continued solidarity was important although the number of intellectuals in the country has increased.

Dr Mahathir reminded the people, specifically Muslims, to be in control of their desires in the holy month of Ramadan.

He said the control of desires did not only concern eating and drinking but covered all forms including the lust that defies logic held by the so called reform supporters.

On the building of the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building, Dr Mahathir said there was nothing wrong if it made the people feel proud that the country has something better than in western countries.

"The building did not belong to me, but at least I could tell to the westerners that we too have it, and much higher than the ones in the west.

"It does not mean that we want to glorify ourselves or to be arrogant, just that we want to be on par," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RA THG

