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Kaddoumi-Rights

PALESTINE TO RESORT TO ALL MEANS TO DEFEND ITS RIGHTS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Palestine will resort to "all means" to defend its legal national rights and free itself from foreign occupation, Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi said today.

"As long as our lands are occupied, we have the right to use all means to defend our legal national rights," he told a news conference at the end of his five-day visit to Malaysia, here.

Asked whether the "means" included renewed attacks, Kaddoumi said: "When you squeeze the cat into a corner and the cat doesn't find any outlet, it would scratch you."

Kaddoumi, who was accompanied by his political adviser, Terzi Zuhdi, also urged Arab nations to tighten their boycott on Israel commodities and sever whatever form of relationship they may have with Jerusalem to protest against Israel's adamant attitude towards the Palestine-Israel peace accord.

"We should tighten our boycott on Israeli commodities and freeze our relations and close our liaison offices established after the peace process was launched by the US," he said when asked if a total ban on Israeli products by the Arab nations would threaten Israel's economic position.

He pointed out that the Arab countries had, since 1996, imposed sanctions on Israel commodities for violating the peace accord.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told Kaddoumi on Monday that Malaysia would continue to call on the United States to exert its influence so that Israel would adhere to the peace accord.

Kaddoumi also asked other Islamic nations to continue to stand by their side in their struggle. He also thanked Malaysia for its continuous support of the Palestinian struggle.

He said the support was vital even though the international community had said that the peace accord was "collapsing" due to Israel's adamant attitude.

On whether terrorism and tensions will re-emerge as Israel continues to ignore the peace agreement, he said: "I don't know how the Palestinians can be patient when their living conditions are becoming worse and worse."

He said Israel had contained Palestinian's economy by controlling its airport and disallowing Palestine from building a port, among others.

While here, Kaddoumi also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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