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Mahathir-Iraq

MAHATHIR SLAMS FOREIGN ATTACKS ON IRAQ

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described foreign attacks on Iraq as an example of a breach of international laws and practices by people who believe that they are powerful enough to ignore them.

"They have no respect for international law and yet these are the same people who try to teach us how to run our country, how to conform to international practices and all that," the prime minister said when asked about his opinion on the situation in Iraq.

Dr Mahathir was speaking during an interview with Radio and Television Malaysia after recording his Hari Raya Aidilfitri message at Wisma TV in Angkasapuri, here.

He said the fact that the United Nations Special Commission (Unscm) in charge of disarming Iraq had been reportedly used to spy on that country showed that there was a "lack of regard for what is fair, right and honourable".

"They have no honour at all and these are the people we are dealing with now in the world," he said.

American and British fighter jets rained missiles on Iraqi targets for four days last month after Iraq failed to extend cooperation to Unscm weapons inspectors.

Since then, there have been reported military confrontations over no-fly zones in Iraq which were set up after the 1991 Gulf War, supposedly to protect Kurds in the north and Shi'ite Muslims in the south from attacks by Iraqi forces.

Dr Mahathir said: "It looks like now that there is a unipolar world, those who have power are bent upon maximising their oppression of the weak.

"We thought that the success of Western democracies would lead to a fairer, more just world. But it is quite obvious that when people are given power they will misuse it."

-- BERNAMA

MAM RM