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MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH VIOLENCE IN CHECHYA

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today the government is deeply concerned with the escalating violence in Chechnya.

He said that over the last few weeks, civilian casualties had risen considerably and thousands of innocent civilians had been forced to flee their homes to escape aerial bombardment.

"The government of Malaysia would like to urge the government of the Russian Federation, with which it has always enjoyed close and friendly relations, to exercise restraint in order to minimise human suffering in Chechnya," he said in a statement issued here.

He said Malaysian government also called on both sides to seek a peaceful and negotiated settlement in Chechnya.

Syed Hamid is currently in South Africa to represent Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

-- BERNAMA

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