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Dr M promises justice for slain commando

KUCHING. Sun: "Justice will be done" - that was Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's assurance to the parents of the late commando Mathew ak Medan.

The Prime Minister and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, spent some 15 minutes with Medan ak Munying, 61, and Ladun Ngumbang, 56, who arrived here from Kanowit together with the late Matthew's elder

brother, Meuis.

Also present were the Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and wife, Puan Sri Laila Taib and federal and state ministers.

Ladun could not hold back her tears as Siti Hasmah hugged and consoled her.

Mathew, 23, and Det Corp R. Sagadevan were tortured and killed by the Al Ma'unah group while being held hostage during a stand-off

between the group and the authorities in Grik recently.

The Prime Minister urged the parents to leave it to court to punish the murderers.

Mahathir said: "Any parent will feel bitter and angry if his child was tortured and killed because of religion."

He later presented a personal donation to Medan together with Taib, while Siti Hasmah donated on behalf of Laila, Bakti and Sabati, as-

sociations for ministers' and assistant ministers' wives.

The Dayak Cultural Foundation also pledged RM7,000 to the family.

Medan told reporters he was touched by the Prime Minister's concern and welcomed his advice.

"Dr Mahathir also told me that Matthew will be promoted (posthumously) and an adequate compensation would be given," Medan said.