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OIC-Communique

OIC CALLS FOR INDICTMENT OF ISRAELI "WAR CRIMINALS"

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DOHA (Qatar), Nov 14 (Bernama) -- Muslim leaders ended their summit here by strongly denouncing the Israeli brutal attacks on the Palestinian people while urging the United Nations Security Council to set up an international mission of enquiry to investigate the massacres of Palestinians.

They also requested the Council to constitute an international criminal tribunal to indict Israeli "war criminals" who perpetrated those massacres.

These were contained in the communique issued after two days of deliberations by leaders of the 56-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which ended its ninth summit late Monday night.

"The Conference urged the international community to shoulder their responsibility regarding the necessary international protection of the Palestinian people in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and the rest of the Palestinian territory," they said in the document.

The OIC also urged member states with or moving towards establishing relations with Israel to break them off, including by closing down bureaus and economic relations until the Jewish state implemented the relevant UN resolutions.

Malaysia was represented at the triennial gathering in Doha by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In addition, the OIC leaders reaffirmed that Al-Quds Al-Sharif was the capital of the independent state of Palestine and rejected any attempts to diminish Palestinian sovereignty over it.

They called on the international community particularly the Security Council, to compel Israel to lift the siege on Al-Quds, guarantee the freedom of worship therein and desist from demolishing homes and withdrawing identity cards from Palestinian citizens as well as evacuating Arab nationals from the city.

The Muslim leaders also called on Iraq and the Security Council to engage in a comprehensive dialogue towards the implementation of Iraqi obligations stipulated by the relevant Council resolutions, and for lifting the sanctions imposed on Baghdad.

"The conference underscored the absence of any obstacles to the organisation of flights to and from Iraq," the communique said.

Turning to globalisation, the leaders called for the formation of a coherent Islamic entity to face up to the international trade competition due to globalisation and urged them to develop communication and information technology.

The leaders noted that the liberalisation of trade had not been beneficial to developing countries and highlighted the need for confidence-building in the multilateral trading system by encouraging the participation of all developing countries.

They also called for the speedy processing of accession of developing countries, including OIC member states, applying for World Trade Organisation (WTO) membership and emphasised that no political consideration should impede this process.

Furthermore, the Conference commissioned the Secretary-General to issue the necessary directives to complete a study on developing a mechanism to set up an Islamic union of financial markets and a clearing house, stocks and bonds.

Meanwhile, the leaders pledged in the Doha Declaration to pursue efforts to disseminate the true image of Islam and highlight its importance as a fundamental source of human civilisation at a time when it was being constantly misrepresented.

They also called for improving the performance of international

financial institutions in order to avoid crises and the situation of instability experienced by the world financial system.

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