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## Mahathir praises foreign leader who stopped export of street violence

Some Malaysians had sought assistance from a foreign country to organise street violence but they failed because the leader of that country did not permit it.

Without naming the foreign leader, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad praised the stand taken by the leader who saw the senselessness of street demonstrations which were causing chaos in his coun-

try and stopped the spread of violence to Malaysia.

Mahathir said leaders of the reformasi movement had gone abroad to seek assistance to implement their plans for street violence because Malaysians were not interested in committing violence even though they were paid.

He said these people craved to organise reformasi, apparently

to correct the situation in the country, and they were inspired by what was happening in another country.

This group carried out street demonstrations without considering the different conditions in that country.

The changes made in other countries, he said, have already been implemented in Malaysia since independence as the coun-

try has never been under autocratic or military rule.

"But to uphold the rule of law, do they need to break the law through street violence, blocking cars, forcing shops to close down and disturbing public order? Those who want the rule of law to be upheld should not break the law," he said.

Mahathir also said street demonstrations or reformasi per-

petuate violence and, far from benefiting the democratic process, result in mob rule.

When mob rule is accepted by the people, the government is powerless to do anything to revive the economy, and whatever it does will be opposed.

He said those who rise through street demonstrations will fall through street demonstrations.