

# 'Israeli atrocities spell more trouble'

BAGAN SERAI: Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said more "Osama bin Ladens" will emerge if the United States continue to turn a blind eye to the atrocities committed by the Israelis against Palestinians.

"Even if the United States manages to behead Osama, there will be 10 or 20 more Osamas after that.

"In the name of justice, if an Israeli state can be formed, a Palestinian one should be created too," he said when closing a three-day Perak Umno convention held at Bukit Merah Laketown Resort here yesterday.

Najib who is also an Umno vice-president said he supported a call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the cause behind Sept 11 terrorist attacks must also be investigated.

He said the attack on the United States should not be a reason to sideline the plight of the Palestinians, including

their leaders who were being killed by the Israelis.

On Umno, Najib said it could regain its popularity if members and grassroots leaders were willing to recognise their faults and correct them.

Speaking to reporters, Najib said the United States should provide proof that terrorists on its wanted list were staying in Malaysia.

He was asked to comment on a report that the Federal Bureau Investigation wanted nine Arab and Muslim countries including Malaysia to hand over terrorists to them.

On the ban on Malaysian seamen entering the United States, Najib said he did not know the reason behind it.

"Our stand is clear in that we don't allow Malaysia to be a refuge for terrorists," he said, adding that the government's action on the Al-Ma'unah and the KMM was proof of this,

He said Malaysia was also not on the list of states which granted aid or refuge to terrorists.