

No White Paper on militants

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Govt does not want to interfere with court process, says Mahathir

By R. Manirajan

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: The government will not issue a White Paper on militant activities in the country at the moment as some of its members are still facing charges in court.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government does not want to create problems for the legal system by issuing the paper as there are still some cases pending in court.

However, the White

Paper will be prepared by the government at some point in time, he told a press conference after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting today.

Last month, 10 people were arrested for involvement in the Malaysian Mujahidin Movement.

Mahathir said there is documentary evidence, including pictures, of the group's links with militants in Afghanistan.

"Their stand is very militant. Most members of the group are from PAS but they act on their own as they feel that the party

will not be able to come to power through democratic means.

"The only way that PAS can gain power is through militant means.

"They also feel that democracy is not the Islamic way. Therefore, they want to form an Islamic state through violence."

He said the government has identified this group and its involvement in the Philippines and Indonesia and with the Taliban government.

"The details can't be revealed at this moment," Mahathir said.

"They intent to topple

this government through violence and they were trained in Afghanistan and Pakistan. They also worship Osama bin Laden.

"We have evidence that there are Malaysians who receive training from the Taliban. They have returned to the country to topple the government and form an Islamic state."

On the United States wanting to retaliate against Afghanistan following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, he said the government will not get involved in any war with any country.

"This was the decision made by the supreme council at its meeting."

Mahathir said the council was of the opinion that during efforts to hunt down terrorists, "not one particular country should be the target and innocent people should not become victims".

He reiterated that the

government supports US efforts to hunt down terrorists as the country does not condone violence.

"The country does not have any relations with the Taliban government but only with the Afghan government in the form of a Northern Alliance representative here," Mahathir said.