

# Vote against US air strikes, says Kit Siang

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**PETALING JAYA, Sat:** Members of Parliament should put aside their political differences and pass a unanimous vote to call for a halt to the US-led bombing of Afghanistan, says DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang.

Lim said this should be done to end the maiming and killing of innocent Afghan civilians and avert a humanitarian catastrophe of 7.5 million Afghans facing starvation with the onset of winter.

Giving an example, he said in Kuwait, half of its elected MPs have signed a statement calling for an end to the bombings in Afghanistan.

He said no resolution has been taken by Malaysian MPs and it is a shame on the parliament that despite four weeks, it has not taken an official stand over the air strikes on Afghanistan.

The 193 MPs should demonstrate that they can rise to one of humanity's greatest challenges of the times and also send out a clear message to the world to reflect the government's position on the war

against international terrorism.

Lim said parliament should give top priority when it meets on Monday to adopt an unanimous all-party resolution for an immediate halt of the bombings to urge the US to take more care in its military campaign to avoid hurting Afghans already suffering from hunger and drought.

"If the Dewan Rakyat can adopt an all-party unanimous vote against the US bombing, it will be the first parliament in the world to make such a call," Lim said.

He also called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to use his influence to get the seventh Asean summit which meets in Brunei from Monday to make a collective call for a halt to the air strikes in Afghanistan.

He said it would be a great disappointment and even a tragedy if the Asean summit should just issue another declaration which is a shadow of the Shanghai Apec Summit Declaration which merely condemned the Sept 11 terrorist attacks.