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`Shameful US went ahead despite global appeals'

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The United States has been urged to address the root causes behind frustration in Afghanistan and other Muslim countries and cease military action against them.

International Movement for a Just World president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said it was shameful that the United States and other Western Governments had chosen to ignore pleas of peace activists worldwide and attack Afghanistan.

"Though they have assured the public that their targets are only military installations and terrorist bases, it is likely there will be civilian casualties," he said.

He said there was also no guarantee that the military operations will succeed in destroying Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

"The peace and security that the Americans desire so much is only possible if other people can also live in peace and security.

"It's because the power elite in Washington has unleashed so much terror upon the rest of the world in the last few decades that terror has struck the American people today."

The Malaysian Youth Council, in a statement, urged the US to cease military operations in Afghanistan as there was no proof that Osama was in the country.

"Also the United States did not get the green light from the United Nations to launch the attacks," he said.

He also criticised the United States for undermining the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference on the matter.

The OIC is scheduled to meet in Qatar tomorrow to discuss the terrorist attacks.

In Penang, the Penang Chapter of Global Peace Mission, in a telegram to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, urged him to initiate a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to discuss the attack on Afghanistan.

Group chairman Mohideen Abdul Kader said they were shocked that the US and Britain had chosen to ignore appeals for peaceful resolution by millions of people and world leaders including Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as well as other prominent religious leaders.

He said the US and Britain had chosen to launch military action against Afghanistan unilaterally without consulting the UN.

"The attack on Afghanistan will lead to displacement of millions of people and worsen the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan," he said.

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