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DAP-Iraq

CANCEL INVITE TO US AIR FORCE TO PROTEST AIR STRIKES - DAP

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- The DAP says Malaysia should cancel its invitation to the United States Air Force (USAF) to participate in the LIMA 2001 defence exhibition as a protest against the US and British air strikes in Iraq last week.

"The Malaysian Government must send a clear message to US President George W. Bush that the USAF is not welcome to LIMA after the dastardly air strikes against Iraq and his callous contempt for humanity and international law," DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang said in a statement today.

The organisers of the exhibition have announced that the USAF aerial aerobic squadron Thunderbirds would be participating in LIMA (Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition) for the first time this year.

Lim said it was most reprehensible that instead of co-operating with the international community to end the United Nations sanctions against Iraq, Bush decided to issue his first order for military action since elected as president to show that he could be as warlike as his father.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sunday also expressed his disappointment over the air raids near Baghdad.

Meanwhile, the International Movement for a Just World said the US-British bombing was motivated by the frustration arising from the failure of the US-led attempt to dislodge Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by the means of economic sanctions.

Its president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said the sanctions had to all intents and purposes collapsed since a number of countries had begun to trade with Iraq again.

"There is, thus an element of vengeance and hatred in the unprovoked attack upon a sovereign Arab said," he said in a statement.

Dr Chandra said the international community should through the United Nations demand that the US and Britain "cease to operate the illegal air-zones over Iraq which are a violation of international law."

Two civilians were reported killed and 20 others injured in the air strikes.

The Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (Abim) said the air strikes were a dastardly and cowardice action by the American and British governments who had picked on Iraq once again to demonstrate their wicked ambition and tyranny.

Abim president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman said Bush's statement that the bombing was "routine" and "humanitarian to ensure the world remained free from proliferation of weapons of mass destruction" was absurd as it was fraught with idiotic excuses.

"We join the freedom loving peoples of the world in condemning such unrestrained act of terrorism upon the people of Iraq, and also call upon the Malaysian Government and the international community to exert effort to bring good sense to some member states of the United Nations within the Security Council in particular," he said in a statement.

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