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Mahathir-Faction

FACTIONS IN EVERY ISLAMIC COUNTRY OUT TO TOPPLE GOVERNMENT- DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 15 (Bernama) -- Every Islamic country has factions which are out to topple the government in power because according to them the government is secular and unIslamic, the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said these factions launched attacks to topple the government and as a result the government in power was unable to focus on developing and defending the country.

"In Afghanistan this faction toppled the government and they later grabbed power for themselves," he said in his Hari Raya Aidilfitri message aired over Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM), TV3 and Astro.

He said the leadership of such an Islamic country only depended on the spirit of Jihad whereby the defence of a country was left to a force which was indisciplined, untrained and not organised militarily.

"At times teenagers who are unable even to carry weapons and do not even know how to use them are sent to the war front for a jihad with the assurance that a place for them in heaven had been guaranteed as though mere humanbeings can promise something in heaven, usurping the powers of God," Dr Mahathir said.

He said what happened in fact was when the government and the faction which were so courageous in launching the jihad ran helter-skelter when attacked "as though they themselves do not wish to be sacrificed in the war and die a martyr's death."

"Groups such as these supposedly struggled for Islam by toppling the governments in Islamic countries and grabbing the government's power but today not a single Islamic country is able to develop and defend Islam and other Islamic countries," Dr Mahathir said.

He said this evil came from Muslims themselves, who did not abide by the actual teachings of Islam, who were disunited and did not make efforts to develop and strengthen the Islamic nations.

The Prime Minister also said Muslims in this country when celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri should not forget their brothers of the same faith in other countries who were unable to celebrate this big day.

"We should not forget those who had to live in refugee camps, who were very weak and exposed to the bitter cold in this winter season. The camps are torn, no blankets with no food or medicine for the sick," he said.

He said more than three million Afghanistan nationals had to flee their country to escape from the bombs and rocket fire and for them there was no raya mood on this great and noble day.

"No cakes let alone any food. Children have no new clothing, only hunger and shivering in the cold," Dr Mahathir said.

The people in Palestine were unable to celebrate Aidilfitri because Israel was attacking the Arab-Palestinian region with bombs, rockets and tanks where the cities had been demolished and big fires had broken out.

Probably the Israeli attacks stemmed from the violence of the Palestinian people who exploded themselves and brought death and injuries to a number of Israelis.

"But we have to condemn the Israelis and the Israeli Government as terrorists. For every Israeli killed, four Palestinians were killed by the Israeli military," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Israeli military under the directive of the Israeli Government is no less violent and in fact more violent than the

retaliatory action of the Palestinians "but the Israeli Government and Israeli military are not condemned as terrorists by the Western world."

"Instead President (Yasser) Arafat is accused of being the head of the terrorists for not apprehending Palestinians who were terrorising. President Arafat is not the president of a country that is free and with full powers," he said.

"How will it be possible for the Arafat Government to control his people who were very angry over the loss of their relatives, grandchildren and close friends-- killed by Israel?. Even a government with full powers cannot nab all the criminals in its society, what more the Arafat Government which had not been given full powers," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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