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Mahathir-Gus Dur

GUS DUR CALLS ON DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid arrived today and called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's office here.

They had a 45-minute meeting where they discussed current developments including the United States-led retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan and the reaction of the people in both countries.

"Thank God, in Malaysia there are no large-scale demonstrations over the matter...just one or two.

"If they are held in such a large scale, then investors will not come, tourists will stay away," said Abdurrahman, popularly known as Gus Dur, after the meeting.

Abdurrahman, escorted by his daughter Yenni and the Indonesian ambassador to Malaysia Hadi Wayarabi to the meeting, said that Dr Mahathir told him that certainly most people disagreed to the bombings but the reaction to such action should be restrained.

"I told him that in Indonesia, there are demonstrations not only against the bombings in Afghanistan but also against developments in the country itself.

"That is because over there (Indonesia), our view of demonstrations is different from the view here," he said.

Abdurrahman, accompanied on his visit here by his wife, Sinta Nuriyah, leaves for home tomorrow.

He said that the call on Dr Mahathir was made out of respect for the Prime Minister.

Abdurrahman said that he wrote to Dr Mahathir recently to inform him that he was attending a seminar in Langkawi in January next year and wish to call on him during the visit.

Dr Mahathir, he said, in his reply stated that he was welcomed at any time to see him.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AHH RM