

08/11/2001

Gus Dur: Thank God there're no huge protests here

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - 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, said that Dr Mahathir told him that certainly most people disagreed to the bombings but the reaction to such action should be restrained.

Abdurrahman, accompanied on his visit here by his wife, Sinta Nuriyah, leaves for home tomorrow. He said the call on Dr Mahathir was made out of respect for the Prime Minister.

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

Asked earlier about the meeting, Dr Mahathir said it was at Abdurrahman's request.

"I had, before, told him that anytime he wants to come to Malaysia, he is welcome.

"We have no quarrel with anyone, so why not?" he said after a luncheon talk organised by the Asean Council on Petroleum.

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