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Mahathir-Terrorism

MAHATHIR CALLS FOR WORLD CONFERENCE ON TERRORISM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for a world conference among leaders to discuss the rise in international terrorism, the latest being the attacks on the United States.

He said world leaders should look at terrorism as a crime that had to be addressed by the whole world.

Dr Mahathir said all countries should also not take sides in dealing with terrorism.

"Islamic countries should not take side with fellow Islamic countries while non-Islamic countries should not take side with non-Islamic countries on who are their friends or enemies," he told reporters after signing a condolence book opened for the public at the U.S. Embassy here for victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

"We need to look at terrorism as a crime that has to be addressed by the whole world," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that if not addressed, it would be followed up by retaliation and then by further retaliation.

The prime minister said that he does not agree with such a violent manner in resolving an issue.

He said that a solution should be sought to resolve issues which were the root of such incidents.

As such, he said, the whole world should sit together to discuss the matter seriously.

Dr Mahathir said: "We will do whatever we can to stop such extremism. We must remember that we also have some people in the World Trade Centre who are still missing."

On the security measures in the country, he said the country would always be on alert as terrorism has no set period for it to end.

On the rising anti-Islamic sentiments in the US, he said: "That is a natural reaction. I hope it can be coped as quickly as possible because it is not the right thing.

"Of course people at the moment could not control their emotion," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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