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Malaysia supports US move

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ALOR STAR, Fri. - Malaysia supported the United States' move to hunt down terrorist groups and stop terrorism but did not agree if the innocent were victimised in the process, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the use of arms alone would not solve terrorism as long as unresolved problems related to the oppression of people in several parts of the world themselves remained unresolved.

Dr Mahathir said while Malaysia supported efforts to curb terrorism, it felt that it was timely for the world community to give attention to solving problems which caused people to resort to terrorism.

These included the violence in Palestine, Iraq and Chechnya.

"If we want to wipe out terrorism, problems like those in Palestine must be solved.

"We have to stop the oppression of the Palestinians and also the people of Iraq, the Chechens and others."

Speaking at the launching of the "Kedah Developed State - 2010" action development plan, Dr Mahathir said the terrorist attacks in the US also did not bring about victory to anyone.

"What will happen is that there will be more serious battles and the killing of more people."

Dr Mahathir said although Malaysia did not condone the use of violence in solving problems, it acknowledged the fact that people do resort to extreme action when there was no alternative.

"We do not support such violent action, but problems that lead people to resort to violence must be tackled and resolved."

Citing an example in Palestine, Dr Mahathir said the Palestinians were murdered in a systematic and well-planned manner every day by a government set up by their neighbours.

Their enemies made use of sophisticated weapons, placing the Palestinians in a position where the only way to defend themselves was to turn to human explosives.

"The Palestinians have no answer to this (violence); there is no way to defend themselves because they do not have weapons as sophisticated as their enemies.

"That was why some times we could see some Palestinians blowing themselves up, killing themselves in their effort to get even."

Expressing concern on the matter, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia hoped attention would now be given to solving these unresolved problems.

"After the tragedy (in the US), attention should be given to solving the problems which had caused the feeling of hatred among some people, people who had gone to the extent of ramming aircraft and causing many innocent people to die," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia preferred to concentrate on development and opposed violence and any kind of destructive actions.

"In our country, too, there are people who want to resort to violent action.

"In Malaysia, there is no reason to use violence to achieve something because we are a democratic country.

"If a government needed to be changed, it should be done in a peaceful way through elections."