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Parliament-Terrorist

MALAYSIA CONDEMNS USE OF TERRORISM TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia condemns and rejects the use of terrorism to achieve any objective, the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"So long there are ways open to resolving problems or dissatisfaction over any matter, terrorism should not be the choice," he said when replying to Datuk Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah (BN-Tambun) during Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat here.

Dr Mahathir also said conventional war would not overcome terrorism and defeat the terrorists and would only result in the innocent becoming victims and probably the terrorists themselves escaping.

Dr Mahathir said if the terrorists were killed or captured but the cause for their terrorism still remained, there was no guarantee that others would not resort to terrorism as well.

"In view of this the Malaysian Government does not agree to war being waged against countries said to be harbouring terrorists," he said.

"This will only bring disaster to the country concerned without even an iota of success in the effort to eliminate terrorism or terrorists," the Prime Minister said.

He said terrorism and terrorists could not be defeated militarily but the reasons why terrorists were terrorising should be identified and action taken to address these causes.

Only by adopting an approach of joint effort to resolving the causes for terrorism, could terrorism itself be stopped, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia practised the democratic system where the government which was disliked by the majority of the people could be changed only by the vote.

"We have found that the right to change the government through this method is indeed found in Malaysia and it is effective. Hence terrorism cannot become a choice in Malaysia," he said.

Dr Mahathir said terrorism was not the monopoly of Muslims as on many occasions people of other nationalities and religions including Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and atheists had also committed terrorism.

"It is most unfair to link terrorism to Islam," the Prime Minister said.

He said Muslims and Islamic countries should act rationally to oppose terrorism so as to restore the image of Islam.

Islamic countries should call for a conference among themselves and later an international conference to discuss the problem of terrorism and its interpretation, Dr Mahathir said.

"Today there are many interpretations to it, particularly in connection with the terrorism committed by certain governments against foreigners. International laws should be drawn up to check terrorism and the terrorists," he added.

Only if the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) adopted a rational approach and acted rationally in facing the issue of terrorists and terrorism could the image of Islam be restored, he said.

-- BERNAMA
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