

28/09/2001

NGOs hand memo to US Embassy

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Twenty-three non-governmental organisations handed a memorandum to the US Embassy today calling for global peace.

The memorandum was handed by Abim president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman to the embassy's first secretary, Simon Lee.

"This memorandum addressed to President George W. Bush expresses the importance of a global peace mission.

"We don't want the United States to use violence against violence," Ahmad Azam said.

He said they also conveyed their condolences to the families of the victims of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

The memorandum also proposed that any global war against terrorism should be initiated by the United Nations.

"The memorandum condemns any attack on Afghanistan that will jeopardise the safety of civilians and any insinuation that links terrorism with Islam," he said.

He said Muslims had always been blamed for every terrorist attack, adding that some of the attacks could have been carried out by certain interest groups or American terrorists.

Ahmad Azam said they supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for the United Nations to organise a world conference on terrorism to define terrorists "because not all terrorists are Muslims".

He said Abim was also organising a fund for Afghan refugees. Donations can be sent to the Abim Secretariat at No 3-2, Jalan 46B/26, Pusat Bandar Sri Rampai, 53300 Kuala Lumpur (03-41428300). - Bernama

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