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Mahathir-Afghanistan

PM HOPES THE US WILL HALT BOMBINGS IN AFGHANISTAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on the United States to halt bombings in Afghanistan due to the increasing number of civilians killed.

He hoped that the US would cease its operations immediately, whether or not it was Ramadan.

The bombings must be halted as nothing had been achieved so far, he told a media conference at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station in Subang here on his return from South Korea.

The Prime Minister stopped over in South Korea on his way home after attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit in Shanghai last week.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysia's sentiment was shared by other countries like Russia which felt that diplomatic initiatives should be taken to resolve the conflict in Afghanistan.

He said Malaysia's stand was that the bombings would only result in the loss of lives of civilians as compared to the targeted group, whether the Taliban forces or the Al-Qaeda movement said to be led by Washington's prime suspect Osama bin Laden.

"As far as I know, there has not been any report confirming that any member of the Al-Qaeda has been killed in the attacks," he said.

Dr Mahathir reiterated Malaysia's stand that retaliatory strikes on Afghanistan was not the way to counter terrorism.

He said that the best way was to identify its root causes.

-- BERNAMA

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