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PM: Factions out to topple governments in Islamic nations

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that every Islamic country has factions that wanted to topple their governments as the factions considered them secular and un-Islamic.

"They launch attacks to bring down the government. As a result the government is unable to pay attention to developing and defending the country," Dr Mahathir said in his Hari Raya message aired over RTM, TV3 and Astro.

He said that in Afghanistan, the factions had brought down the government and seized power for themselves. Defence of the country was left to indisciplined and untrained forces and not the military.

Dr Mahathir said because of such factions, which appeared to struggle for Islam, there were now no Islamic countries which were developed and able to defend Muslims and Islamic countries.

He said such a state of affairs was brought about by Muslims who did not follow the true teachings of Islam, were divided and did not strive to develop and strengthen Islamic countries.

The Prime Minister said the time had come for Muslims to stop blaming God and start to analyse the reasons Muslims were oppressed, Islamic countries were weak, easily attacked and defeated.

He said while Muslims here celebrated the festival, they should not forget fellow Muslims who were in ramshackle refugee camps, exposed to winter conditions without blankets, food and medicine.

"More than three million Afghans were forced to leave their country to save themselves from bombs and rockets. Many were injured or ill," he said, adding that there were no sanitary facilities.

"No delicacies, let alone food. Children have no new clothes, only hunger and shivering in the cold," Dr Mahathir said, adding that the Palestinians too could not celebrate as Israel attacked Arabs with tanks, rockets and bombs.

He said it was possible that the Israeli attacks were provoked by Palestinian violence when suicide bombers killed and wounded several Israelis. This could be termed terrorism.

"But we have to condemn Israelis and the Israeli government as terrorists too. For every Israeli killed, four Palestinians were killed by the Israeli military."

He said it must not be forgotten that Israel was formed on Arab Palestine land by Western powers out to redeem their sin of killing six million Jews in Europe by evicting Arabs from their land.

When Palestinians protested and threw stones, they were shot by Israeli soldiers. Children were not spared and many Palestinians died or were wounded.

"The actions of the Israeli military are no less violent, in fact more violent than the action of the Palestinians. But the Israeli government and the military are not condemned as terrorists by the West.

"Instead President Arafat is accused as heading terrorists for not detaining Palestinians who terrorised. Arafat is not president of a free country nor has he full powers.

"How is it possible for the Arafat administration to stop and control his people who are very angry at losing relatives, grandchildren and friends when they were killed by the Israeli government?"

He added that even a government with full powers could not catch every

criminal in society.

Dr Mahathir said in Afghanistan, Muslims warred among themselves and it is known that the Northern Alliance was frustrated and angry with the Taliban and those who joined them.

He questioned the need to kill hundreds of the Taliban and their supporters made up of Pakistanis, Chechens and Arabs, after they were apprehended.

"It seems they tried to escape and kill their guards. This allegation is not reasonable.

"That is why Western powers rejected the call for the incident to be investigated."

He said it was found that many Muslims everywhere could not celebrate Hari Raya in happiness but were instead suffering.

The Prime Minister said Muslims should not easily put the blame on fate when something terrible happens to them, adding that while praying for help and protection from God, they should also strive to protect and defend themselves.

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