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Palestine-MSRI

PRESS FOR AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, MUSLIM LEADERS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Muslim leaders throughout the world should use their new-found clout with US President George W. Bush to demand an immediate state of Palestine, a local non-governmental organisation said today.

The Malaysian Sociological Research Institute (MSRI) said this action should be followed through with "every manner of pressure they can exert" including the threat to turn off the oil and the resolve to actually do it.

Its chairman, Dr Alijah Gordon, said this in a statement issued here in reaction to the bombing of Palestinian targets across the Gaza Strip and West Banks by Israeli war planes and helicopters over the last two days.

Yesterday, Israeli helicopters attacked a headquarters of Force 17, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's personal guard, in the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Israeli missiles also struck targets in the Gaza City and the Khan Younis refugee camp in Southern Gaza as well as in the West Bank towns of Ramallah, Tulkarem and Qalqilya.

The attacks, Israel claims, was in retaliation to a spate of suicide bombings inside the Jewish state with the latest killing 25 people and wounding about 200 on Saturday.

"Make no mistake, Sharon (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon) is a ruthless War Criminal as he demonstrated when he orchestrated the Sabra-Shatilla massacre in September 1982, for which he is under indictment in Brussels for War Crimes," Alijah said.

She said there are other similar incidents involving Sharon's notorious Unit 101 throughout the 1950s.

"We pray Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will lead the demand on Bush and will relentlessly follow to bring moral pressure on Muslim governments, particularly Arab states, to stand up and be counted before its all too late," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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