

Dr M: Malaysia will aid Palestinians in Jenin

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MALAYSIA will assist Palestinians in Jenin, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who added that he has received a report from a friend in Dubai of the actual situation in Jenin.

"I have received a report from my friend. He showed me pictures of destruction there. It looks like Jenin had just experienced a terrible earthquake," he said.

Dr Mahathir said his friend had requested aid for the Palestinians.

"We give assistance, whether money, food or medicine," he added.

The Prime Minister said Muslims

today were angrier than before because the Israelis were taking advantage of current world opinion against terrorism to attack the Palestinians, with the excuse that the latter were terrorists.

"After the (Sept 11) attack, most Muslim countries wanted to cooperate to fight against terrorism but because of the discrimination in terms of interpretation, Israel's terrorism is not condemned but the attacks by (Palestinian leader) Yasser Arafat's people is condemned ... this is grossly unfair," he said.

Speaking at a Press ... from after delivering a keynote

of the Seventh Conference of the Ministers of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, he said the Israeli attacks were, in fact, an act of terrorism.

"State terrorism and terrorism by others are no different. In fact, state terrorism is worse because it is sanctioned by a legitimate government.

"The people are taking the law into their own hands.

"You cannot blame the government because in this case, the Israelis are directly involved in the act of terror. The worst part of it is that they have killed so many people in Jenin," said Dr Mahathir.