

Harakah hits out at Fadzil over Palestine forum

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PETALING JAYA: The PAS newsletter *Harakah* has criticised party president Datuk Fadzil Noor for sharing the same platform with his Umno counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a recent forum on the Palestine issue.

A writer, using just the initials PKK, wrote in the "Comment" column of the bulletin's English section that PAS leaders should not have given up on their principles and sat down with people who did not share their beliefs.

The writer was commenting on the forum, organised by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka last week, which concluded with the signing of a unity pact between Fadzil and Dr Mahathir to have a common support for the Palestinian cause and to condemn Israeli aggression in the Middle East.

The writer described the forum as a "sham," criticising the two Muslim leaders from opposing camps on the same platform and hailed as a great breakthrough towards Muslim solidarity.

He said the forum, which

was intended to show solidarity with Palestinians, forgot its planned agenda and turned out to be a show of symbolic Malay unity.

It added that instead of waiting for the end of the meeting and to be photographed with Umno leaders as "comrade in arms" for Muslim unity, Fadzil and the other PAS leaders should have walked out of the hall.

The commentator said it was not unity or solidarity that was found at the forum but just the opposite.

While one gave a history lesson on Palestine (referring to Fadzil), the other (Dr Mahathir) launched psychological warfare on Muslims on behalf of (United States President) George W. Bush who, the writer said, the Prime Minister would be meeting in a few days.

"The audience from Umno and PAS, in their excitement for 'Malay unity,' appeared to pay no attention when Dr Mahathir was tearing apart the solidarity that we already have with the freedom fighters of Palestine," he said.