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80 MUSLIM NGOS SUPPORT MOVE TO ASSIST ARAFAT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's effort to help Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who is encircled by Israeli troops, received the support from 80 Muslim non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Malaysian Muslim Women Consultative Council chairman Datuk Kamalia Ibrahim said to show this support, she and the other NGO leaders would hold a meeting with foreign ambassadors to express their view and stand on this issue.

"We have to state our a view on what is happening in West Asia even though it is only a small voice in the eyes of the world and we support what is being done by the Prime Minister in Copenhagen," she told reporters here today.

Representatives from several other Muslim NGOs were also present.

She said initially, the NGOs would meet the United States ambassador to be followed by meetings with West Asian ambassadors.

"Even though the NGOs in the country did not demonstrate, this does not mean that we are keeping quiet and do not care about the suffering of Muslims in other countries," she said.

Last Sunday, Arafat telephoned Dr Mahathir from his headquarters in Ramallah, requesting assistance before the Prime Minister left for Copenhagen for the Asia Europe Meeting (Asem).

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