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Najib-Terrorist

UNFAIR TO LABEL M'SIA A TERRORIST HUB, SAYS NAJIB

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- It is unfair for the international media to label Malaysia as a terrorist hub when terrorist activities also occur in other countries, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Majib Tun Razak today.

"It's unfair to label Malaysia as a terrorist hub because the detention (of suspected terrorists) was carried out not only in Malaysia but also Singapore. Is Singapore also being labelled as a terrorist hub?" he said.

He said Malaysia could not have possibly known of the arrival of suspected terrorists among the influx of foreign tourists and students wishing to pursue further studies in the country.

"If we had known before hand that they were terrorists and wanted by the authorities, we would have taken firm action," he told reporters after a shop-to-shop campaigning for the Gaya parliamentary by-election on Saturday here.

Najib was asked to comment on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who expressed disappointment yesterday over foreign media reports of late over unsubstantiated claim of Malaysia being a terrorist hub.

Asked whether the request by the U.S. authorities to Malaysia to hand over Ahmed Ibrahim Bilal, 25, an American citizen, would adversely affect Malaysia's image, Najib said no it would not.

"Many countries have terrorists. It's not fair for this country (Malaysia) to be labelled as a terrorist hub. Countries like the Philippines and Indonesia also have terrorists," he said.

Ahmed Ibrahim, a student at the International Islamic University (IIU), Gombak near Kuala Lumpur is wanted by Washington for allegedly belonging to a "suspected terrorist cell" in the United States.

-- BERNAMA

AT KHY SHR ABG