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Terrorism-Belkeziz

SEPT 11 EVENTS BEING EXPLOITED FOR CERTAIN OBJECTIVES

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1 (Bernama) -- The events of Sept 11 have been exploited at a global level in issues that bear no relation to those events, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conferene (OIC) Dr Abdelouahed Belkeziz said today.

The events of Sept 11 had been used as a pretext to spread terror, fear, intimidation and coercion in international relations at an unprecedented scale never known in modern history, he told the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism here.

The drive to exploit the Sept 11 events, in a bid to capitalise on the climate of fear and anticipation prevailing in international relations, was clearly visible in the attempts to achieve previously inconceivable objectives, he said.

He said these included statements on preparing for a strike against a number of Islamic countries particularly Iraq and laying plans for nuclear strikes against Iran, Libya, Syria and others.

"All these are dangerous events with grave repercussions that raise our deep concern."

The three-day meeting was opened by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Palace of the Golden Horses in Seri Kembangan here.

Referring to the situation in Palestine, Dr Belkeziz said hundreds of countries gained liberation from occupation through armed struggle or other means and no one described such struggles as terrorist campaigns before Sept 11.

He described as "disturbing" statements portraying the liberation struggle in Palestine as terrorist action.

"It is imperative that we work to have every international text dealing with terrorism to include an exemption clause on this legitimate struggle," he said, noting that the state terrorism officially practised by Israel which included an assasination campaign must be exposed.

Dr Belkeziz said there was also a need to formulate resolutions and practical measures to resist the phenomenon of spreading the fear of Islam in the minds of world public opinion, particularly in the West.

"We must further work to recommend to the United Nations to ban the use of stereotype racial expressions such as 'Islamic terrorism' in the local and international media," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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