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Palestine

M'SIA REGRETS US MOVE TO RECOGNISE JERUSALEM AS ISRAELI CAPITAL

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia regrets the United States' provocative move to recognise Jerusalem as the Israeli capital at a time when West is seized with tension, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

Describing the move as unwise, he said the US should consider the sensitivities of the Palestinian people and the Muslim as a whole before making such a decision.

"With the Palestine-Israel conflict still unresolved, it (US) has brought up another (issue), giving the impression that it doesn't care about the views of the Palestinians and the Muslims," he told reporters after the flagging off of the Palestinian Humanitarian Run at Dataran Putra, here.

The run, organised by the Malaysian Youth Foundation, was flagged off by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Syed Hamid said a motion on the protest of Malaysians to the US move would be tabled at the Dewan Rakyat on Monday or Tuesday.

Syed Hamid said that although the motion would be tabled by an opposition party, the government was prepared to debate it if the House allowed a debate.

"And we will support it. This move (to oppose the US decision) is not party-based. It's the voice of the Malaysian people who are uneasy with the action taken," he said.

Syed Hamid said that Muslims in general should rise and voice out their objections to Washington's move which had ignored their views.

President George W. Bush was reported to have signed legislation Monday which required his administration to identify Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Umno Youth leader Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who was also present at the run, told reporters that although the US was trying to draw the world's attention to the Iraqi issue, the international community should not forget the oppression of the Tel Aviv regime on the Palestinians.

-- BERNAMA

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