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Libya-Statement

KL AND TRIPOLI CONDEMN ISRAELI AGGRESSION IN PALESTINE

By: Khairdzir Mohd Yunus and Mohd Arshi Daud

TRIPOLI, April 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Libya have expressed concern over the deteriorating condition in Palestine and strongly condemned the aggression and atrocities committed by Israel.

The two countries called on the international community to take immediate action to force Israel to abide by all United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions pertaining to the formation of an independent state of Palestine with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

In a joint statement issued at the end of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Libya today, both countries condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"They emphasised the need to hold an international conference to define terrorism and identify its root causes.

"They reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate and eliminate terrorism.

"They also rejected any attempts to link Islam with terrorism and reaffirmed the people's legitimate right in the struggle for freedom and independence," said the statement.

Both Kuala Lumpur and Tripoli reaffirmed their stance that the settlement of disputes and conflicts must be based on principles and rules of international law and not based on unilateral action.

Dr Mahathir met Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi shortly after his arrival on Thursday for a three-day visit.

They have discussed a wide range of issues covering bilateral, regional and international matters.

They have agreed to further enhance relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Dr Mahathir and his delegation also met a Libyan delegation led by his counterpart Imbarak Abdallah El-Shamikh.

Dr Mahathir and El-Shamikh have agreed to further boost cooperation in the areas of economics, education, culture, technology, trade and investment.

Both leaders have also agreed to continue working at concluding pacts on investment guarantee, tourism, culture, information and communications technology (ICT), scientific research, construction and infrastructure development and the petroleum sector.

They have also agreed to strengthen existing legal mechanism in order to broaden cooperation in all aspects and to explore possibilities and opportunities for joint investment in third countries.

In addition, they have agreed to cooperate closely at the regional and international levels on issues of mutual interests.

The leaders have also agreed to work towards realising the creation of a just and multipolar world based on principles of international law, justice, equality and mutual respect for the sovereignty of nation states and to cooperate for the achievement of global, political, economic and social stability.

The two countries have also decided to work together within the UN system for the purpose of increasing the role and efficiency of the UN and its mechanism.

The areas of particular interest are UN's peacekeeping role, maintenance of international security and stability and the addressing of regional and global issues within the framework of the UN charter and the principles and norms of international law.

Dr Mahathir and El-Shamikh have also agreed to support efforts aimed at reaching just and amicable settlements to regional conflicts, to address the negative challenges of globalisation, to cooperate in exploring ways to overcome challenges and threats emanating from trafficking of illicit drugs and light weapons, to combat racism, xenophobia and all forms of extremism.

They have also agreed to closely cooperate in ongoing efforts to revitalise the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Three agreements were signed during the visit, said the statement.

The agreements include memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on cooperation in the education and ICT sectors.

The third pact is on technical cooperation and development of business opportunities between Malaysia's national oil corporation Petronas and the national oil corporation of Libya.

-- BERNAMA

MAD KHY YBY