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Terrorism-Palestine

MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE CHAMPIONING PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will continue to champion the struggle of the Palestinians at international level and in meetings between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and world leaders.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Muslims and the Palestinians themselves looked up to Malaysia as a key nation in championing the voice of the Palestinians in the Western world.

"I believe Dr Mahathir with his liberal and frank approach will voice the OIC stand and that of Palestine," he told reporters after closing the Special Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism here today.

Syed Hamid said Dr Mahathir had in fact begun the process when he visited several countries recently.

"Dr Mahathir began the process when he met President (George W.) Bush in Shanghai where he had stressed that the United States should play its role in ensuring that peace is achieved in Palestine," he said.

He said when visiting Russia, Germany and Poland last month, the Prime Minister conveyed the message that the issue of Palestine should be resolved and action taken to stop Israel from occupying Palestinian territory.

The world should not allow the continued killings of Palestinians by the Israeli military, he said.

Syed Hamid also questioned Israel's move to ignore the leadership of President Yasser Arafat through its proposal to have him exiled.

"What right has Israel to make such a decision within Palestinian territory," he said.

Arafat had been kept in isolation in his office rooms in Ramallah by the Israeli military and reports said that an attempt by a suicide squad to free him met with failure.

-- BERNAMA

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