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SEND VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT ISRAELI ARMY, PUM TELLS MUSLIM NATIONS

PETALING JAYA, April 20 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Scholars Association of Malaysia (PUM) today proposed that volunteers from Islamic countries be given military training to fight the Israeli army in Palestinian territories.

"People who are prepared to help stop Israeli soldiers from committing atrocities against the Palestinians should be given the opportunity of undergoing military training in their respective countries," said PUM president Abdul Ghani Samsudin.

The sufferings of the Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli army could only be stopped if Islamic countries joined force and sent volunteers to help out, he told reporters after opening a seminar on fighting terrorism organised by PUM.

Ghani said Malaysia would not be able to do much to help the Palestinians even if its soldiers get to serve as United Nations peacekeepers in the Palestinian territories.

"What we fear is that the UN team sent to the area will be determined by Nato, the more powerful (western military) alliance.

"They will give importance to Western strategic importance and therefore our soldiers will sometimes will only serve as foot soldiers, implementing the things they had planned which can be unfavourable to Muslims," he said.

Last Wednesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia was willing to send its soldiers to the Palestinian territories as part of a UN peacekeeping force.

On the seminar, Ghani said it was aimed, among others, at explaining the meaning of terrorism from the political, religious and social viewpoints.

-- BERNAMA

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