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Mahathir-Definition

MY DEFINITION OF TERRORISM IS MEANT FOR DISCUSSION- DR M

By: Abdul Muin Majid

PUTRAJAYA, April 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today his definition of terrorism and terrorists at the opening of a key meeting of Islamic nations on terrorism on Monday was something meant for discussion.

"But apparently people find it difficult to accept that definition. I am not insisting that my definition must be accepted. I am just proposing something for the meeting to discuss," he said.

The Prime Minister was fielding questions during a meeting at his office here with some 20 foreign journalists who covered the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism which ended yesterday.

In his keynote address, Dr Mahathir suggested that armed or other forms of attack against civilians should be regarded as terrorism and the perpetrators of such acts, terrorists.

This apparently did not go down well with some delegates to the three-day meeting as well as certain members of the media.

Dr Mahathir said, "The definition that I proposed was that any attack on civilians should be considered as terrorism whether it is done by Israelis or Palestinians.

"The Palestinians may feel justified to act in such a way (suicide bombing) but that does not mean that it is not an act of terror," the Prime Minister said.

"It may be termed as terrorist attacks but what choice have they (Palestinians)? You have no choice, so you attack. When people use terror against you, it is legitimate to use terror (in return)," he added.

He said it was up to the meeting whether or not to accept his definition or come to any other conclusion.

-- BERNAMA

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