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Syed Hamid-Terrorism

OIC'S SPECIAL SESSION TO PROJECT ISLAMIC STAND ON TERRORISM

SEPANG, March 25 (Bernama) -- The special session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Ministers on Terrorism to be held here next week aims to project the Islamic stand on combating terrorism to the mainstream of the world view on the issue.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today Islam had been wrongly perceived and misunderstood as a religion that propagates extremism.

"There are extremists in other religions too. Why must Islam be stereotyped," he said at a news conference at the KL International Airport here upon his return from Poland.

He had accompanied Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on a nine-day visit to Russia, Germany and Poland.

Syed Hamid said the action taken by the various governments against Muslims had made it necessary for Muslim leaders to relay their views on the terrorism issue.

As of now, Syed Hamid said, the Muslims' views had been sidelined and other views were imposed on them.

"We had to take corrective measures and Dr Mahathir asked the Foreign Ministry to hold a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (on the matter)," he said.

Syed Hamid believed that the western countries would closely monitor the conference proceedings to see the resolutions or the topics to be discussed.

He said terrorism could not be tackled with military strategies alone but instead there should be a holistic approach which covers the causes of the incident and religious, cultural, political, economic and social issues.

The meeting was not an ordinary meeting of the OIC but a special session organised by Malaysia with the support of all members of the OIC, he said.

He said all the OIC countries would attend the meeting by sending their foreign ministers or deputy foreign ministers.

On the prime minister's visit to Russia, Germany and Poland, Syed Hamid said that besides trade and investments, what was significant was the acceptance of Dr Mahathir as a Muslim leader who could give views from the Islamic perspective and influence the thinking of the international Islamic community.

He said Dr Mahathir, in his meetings with the leaders of the three countries, explained what an Islamic country was and disassociated extremists from Islam.

Describing the prime minister's visit as a very successful one, Syed Hamid said it clearly showed the respect other countries had for Malaysia and Dr Mahathir's leadership.

"Although Malaysia is a small country, we can play a visible role at the regional and international levels and contribute towards the wellbeing, peace and stability of the international community," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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