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Terrorism-Declaration

OIC REJECTS ANY ATTEMPT TO LINK PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE TO TERRORISM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- The Islamic nations, reaffirming their commitment to international action to combat international terrorism, rejected any attempt to link terrorism to the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation and to associate the Islamic states with terrorism.

The foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) also rejected any unilateral action taken against any Islamic country under the pretext of combating international terrorism.

"We reject any attempt to link terrorism to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the exercise of their inalienable right to establish their independent state with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital," they said in a draft declaration made available to Bernama by delegates to the special session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, here, today.

"We (also) reject any attempt to associate Islamic states or Palestinian and Lebanese resistance with terrorism which constitutes an impediment to the global struggle against terrorism," they said in the draft Kuala Lumpur Declaration.

The 17-point declaration is expected to be adopted tomorrow at the end of the three-day meeting held against the backdrop of the escalating situation in West Asia.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar told reporters this evening that the meeting had concluded its proceedings and that the declaration was ready for adoption.

However, he said, the declaration would only be adopted at tomorrow's session because the translation in Arabic and French was not yet ready.

The Islamic ministers in the declaration also condemned Israel for escalating the military campaign against the Palestinian people, including the daily brutalization and humiliation of its civilians.

This had resulted in mounting casualties, strangulation of the Palestinian economy, systematic and indiscriminate destruction of houses and residential facilities as well as infrastructures, institutions and structures of the Palestinian Authority.

They emphasised the importance of the root causes of international terrorism, convinced that the war against terrorism will not succeed if the environment that breeds terrorism, including foreign occupation, injustice and exclusion, is allowed to thrive.

They said: "We reject any attempt to link Islam and Muslims to terrorism as terrorism has no association with any religion, civilization or nationality;

+ We reiterate that preventive action must be taken to combat terrorism which should not result in ethnic or religious profiling or the targeting of a particular community.

+We unequivocally condemn acts of international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including state terrorism, irrespective of motives, perpetrators and victims as terrorism poses a serious threat to international peace and security and is a grave violation of human rights.

The OIC reiterated its call for the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The ministers also took note of the inaugural statement by Prime

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, which they described as important and which constituted an official document of the extraordinary session.

Dr Mahathir in his keynote address had presented his formula to end terrorism -- identify and attend to the causes of bitterness and anger afflicting some countries and their people that have given rise to terrorist acts or tendencies.

"Thus we reaffirm our committment to action at national level and through international cooperation in combating terrorism and agree to an action plan drawn up at the special session to address the menace."

They reiterated the principled position under international law and the Charter of the UN of the legitimacy of resistance to foreign aggression and the struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for national liberation and self-determination.

In this context, the Islamic ministers underlined the urgency for an internationally agreed definition of terrorism, which differentiates such legitimate struggles from acts of terrorism.

The Islamic countries reaffirmed their committment to the principles and true teachings of Islam which abhor aggression, value peace, tolerance and respect as well as prohibit the killing of innocent people.

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