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Terrorism-Kaddoumi

PALESTINE WANTS DR MAHATHIR TO CONTACT US PRESIDENT BUSH

By: Abdul Muin Majid

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- Palestine wants Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to contact US President George W. Bush and the European countries with a view to pressuring Israel to pull out its forces.

There must be collective action to stop the atrocities being committed by Israel in the Occupied Territories, Palestinian Foreign Minister Farouk Kaddoumi said.

"We need the good offices of the Prime Minister in order to help the Palestinians have peace and to pressure Israeli forces to pull out," he said.

"The situation in Palestine is very critical and the life of President Yasser Arafat is in danger," Kaddoumi told Bernama after talks with Dr Mahathir here.

"There should be immediate action to stop further escalation inside the Occupied Territories."

Kaddoumi, who is here to attend the Special Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on Terrorism, said the US had leverage over Israel and as such, it should do something to activate the peace process in West Asia.

Kaddoumi also said he had conveyed a message from Arafat to Dr Mahathir, thanking the Malaysian Prime Minister and the people of Malaysia for their continuous support for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

"We explained to him the continuation of atrocities and terrorism by the Israelis," he said.

Kaddoumi said Dr Mahathir was also briefed on the peace initiative adopted recently by the Arab summit in Beirut.

The Saudi-proposed plan calls for Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands occupied since the 1967 war in return for peace and normal relations with all Arab states.

-- BERNAMA

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