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Misuari-Roida

SEND MISUARI TO A THIRD COUNTRY, ROIDA URGES DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- The second wife of former Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao Governor Nur Misuari today appealed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to send her husband to a third country.

Roida T. Misuari expressed the hope that Dr Mahathir would reconsider his stand to send back Misuari to the Philippines but instead allow him to go to a third country so that he could lead a normal life.

The Misuari issue would not sour ties between Malaysia and the Philippines as both countries were members of the Asean regional grouping, she told a press conference at a leading hotel here.

Roida, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia on Dec 30 to meet Misuari, also appealed to the international media to be fair, just and objective in covering the events on the resumption of hostilities between the Philippine government and the Misuari-led Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"There were instances the press keep on pounding, calling the MNLF chairman as a fugitive and former MNLF chairman.

"We would like to correct this misconception," she said.

Roida said Misuari is still the MNLF chairman and the front under his leadership is still recognised as the sole legitimate representative of the Bangsamoro people.

Misuari's lawyer Elly Pamatong, who was also present at the press conference, said Misuari should not be deported to the Philippines to stand trial for rebellion charges as he would not be given a fair hearing.

"Sending him to the Philippines would be like signing his death will but miracles happen once in a while and it would if Dr Mahathir changes his stand," he said.

Last week, Philippine President Gloria Arroyo said her country would take custody of Misuari by Jan 15.

Misuari and six of his loyalists were arrested on Pulau Jampiras in Sabah on Nov 24 for entering Malaysia illegally.

Last Week, Misuari's third wife Tarhata Ibrahim and their three children were allowed to meet Misuari at the federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman.

Roida is waiting for police clearance to meet him.

-- BERNAMA

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