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Mahathir-Fear

STOP TERRORISM OR RISK LIVING IN FEAR, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called on Muslims and non-Muslims alike to tackle the terrorism menace together or the world will risk living in a continued environment of fear.

The prime minister said that such a condition would, among others, make people fearful of travelling or doing other things and have an adverse effect on the economy.

"I really hope that there are people who will think rationally to find a solution to the problem," he said before breaking fast with Wisma Putra staff, here.

Among those present were his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and members of the foreign diplomatic corps.

Dr Mahathir said the solution lay in stopping the oppression of Muslims not only in Palestine but also in countries like Iraq, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Kashmir and Chechnya.

The prime minister said that if the oppression was not stopped there was a possibility that there would be no end to acts of terror.

Among the 1.3 billion Muslims on the globe, maybe a thousand of them were feeling angry and frustrated and would act on their own, he said, citing the example of the bloody feud between Palestinians and Israelis.

The creation of Israel from Palestinian land, he said, had dispossessed the Palestinians who were then forced to live in camps for the past 50 years.

"Is it any wonder that they feel bitter and angry?" he said, adding that the world must understand that Muslims too should be accorded their just rights.

Taking a swipe at certain purveyors of democracy, the prime minister said there was no use for them to speak about things like human rights and freedom of speech if the so-called democratic countries would not stop committing undemocratic acts.

For example, the atomic bombs were dropped on civilian population by a democratic country, he said.

"We also should not forget that democratic countries are also the same countries which oppress many in the developing world. Democratically elected governments colonised other lands and other people, and denied them democratic rights.

"So, being democratic guarantees us nothing," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the feelings of fear and anger were felt by both Muslim and non-Muslim countries.

"The Muslim countries because they are oppressed and their detractors because for the first time they have been attacked on their own land. They are very angry, Muslims are very angry, and angry people cannot think rationally," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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