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Mahathir-OIC

UPCOMING CONFAB WILL DEFINE WHAT AND WHO CONSTITUTES A TERRORIST, SAYS
PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- An upcoming international meeting which Malaysia is organising will define the term terrorist and seek a common stand among Muslim countries on terrorism, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Presently, he said, there has yet to be a concerted effort towards defining what and who constitutes a terrorist.

"At the moment the definition tends to be confined only to Islamic nations and Muslims at large whereas Israel and the Jews are also terrorist state or people. Even Russia for that matter is a terrorist state as it has killed thousands of Chechens.

"Hurling bombs which kill thousands of innocent people is terrorism," he said when responding to questions from the floor at a dialogue with participants of a conference on issues and opening up of the Malay mind here today.

Dr Mahathir was asked on the seemingly ineffective Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in tackling problems faced by Muslim nations and defending them despite it being well-endowed financially.

The prime minister hoped OIC member countries would attend the proposed meeting and state a common stand on crucial issues besides coming to the defence of Muslim countries.

Dr Mahathir attributed the OIC's failure in coming to the defence of Islamic countries and Muslims partly to the Muslims themselves rejecting Muslim brotherhood, one of the most basic of Islamic teachings.

After the Second World War, the British and the French set up nation states in West Asia, creating individual Arab states which were once borderless Islamic entities.

"Upon becoming individual Islamic states, their preoccupation was with selfish national pursuits at the expense of neglecting the Muslim masses to fight against each other instead," he said.

Such situation transpired as a result of the way the West dictated who should be at the helm of the Arab states concerned, he said.

"As they become nation states, Islam has taken a back seat and the nation states become the greater thing. In determining their survival these states instead become enemies rather than Muslim allies," he said.

Dr Mahathir lamented that within the OIC itself, differences persisted even in matters which only demanded unison.

-- BERNAMA
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