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Norian-Warning

US WARNING ONLY A REMINDER TO AMERICANS, SAYS NORIAN

IPOH, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The latest warning by the United States on the possibility of Malaysia becoming a target of terrorist attack similar to last month's Bali bombings in Indonesia was only a general reminder to Americans wishing to visit this region, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai said today.

He said the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur explained to the police today that they do not have specific information on the possibility of the Bali blasts or other international terrorism happening in the country.

"We contacted the US Embassy today. To them, it (warning) is just a reminder specifically to Americans intending to come to this region, including our country," he told reporters after distributing Hari Raya Aidilfitri food parcels to the Federal Reserve Unit (FRU) personnel here.

He, however, declined to reveal the US Embassy officer's name, who gave the explanation on Washington's warning which had prompted criticism from Malaysian leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On Wednesday, the US State Department issued a warning that attacks similar to the Oct 12 Bali bombings, in which about 200 people, mostly foreigners were killed, could take place in other Southeast Asian nations, including Malaysia.

Washington also reiterated its fear on the possible attack in Sabah by the Abu Sayyaf group and advised American citizens visiting the islands or the beaches in the east coast of the state to be extra careful.

Norian said Sabah was implicated because of its proximity to southern Philippines, the base of the Abu Sayyaf group.

He said the embassy could not provide any specific information to the police to carry out further investigations because the warning given by Washington was only a reminder.

He said Malaysian police had close rapport with the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and had always cooperated with them to handle any issue.

"When press reports on the warning are received, we contacted the embassy for verification and they have given good cooperation so far," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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