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Abdullah warns of dangers facing Japan in Iraq

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has warned Japan that its troops face unknown dangers in Iraq.

"You are going into a situation where you don't know what is going to happen," Kyodo News agency quoted him as saying in an interview yesterday with Japanese media ahead of his visit to Tokyo for an Asean-Japan meeting.

"The situation in Iraq at the moment is not very predictable. Opposition to the US presence in Iraq is very strong; it's a pity that the war has been won but not the peace," he said.

His comments came as the Japanese cabinet formally approved a basic plan to send up to 600 military personnel to Iraq on a humanitarian mission that could last up to one year.

Abdullah echoed his predecessor, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in calling for a United Nations role in Iraq.

"If the United Nations were to be there, perhaps the situation would be different. The UN would be seen as more neutral," Abdullah said.—
AFP