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Zainuddin-OIC

AMERICAN MEDIA BOYCOTT OIC NEWS, SAYS ZAINUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- The United States (US) media, which always claim to be a fair source of information, should feel ashamed for not carrying any news on the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) 10th Summit meeting in Malaysia, said Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin.

He said although the meeting at the officers' and OIC foreign ministers' levels had been going on for two days, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had delivered a crucial speech at the economic forum of the conference, there was not even a line mentioned by the newspaper, International Herald Tribune.

On the other hand, the newspaper merely carried a photograph of the tight security in front of the conference hall at Putrajaya, he said in a statement to Bernama today.

"It's surprising because the American media had boycotted news on the OIC which represents 57 Islamic nations and 1.3 billion Muslim population.

"The American media are afraid to give the true picture and the reality with regard to the conference," he said.

He said the reality that would certainly worry them was the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin at the conference here to be among Muslim leaders while US President George W. Bush was considered as the enemy of Muslim countries.

Zainuddin said if Putin were to meet Bush in the US, it would be a major news for the American media but if the Russian leader met with leaders of the Islamic world particularly Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, this would be considered as having no news value.

-- BERNAMA

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