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Mahathir-Bombing

BOMBING IN JERUSALEM WILL NOT HELP ANYBODY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the bombing incident in Jerusalem in which 20 Israelis were killed and some 100 others including 40 children were injured will not help in the peace process in West Asia.

Dr Mahathir, who was saddened by the incident, said: "I'm very sorry about that. I don't think it's going to help anybody."

He said that there would be no end to such violent acts if one party were to bomb the other who would then retaliate, also through bombings, and again bombed by the other party.

"We bomb them, then they bomb us, we bomb them, they bomb us...in the end, there'll be killings everywhere.

"We don't care who gets killed, we even kill small children. I just don't know whether this is indeed an Islamic struggle," he said at a media conference after opening the RM34 million Menara Kastam Johor (Johor Customs Tower) here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on news reports on the action of a suicide bomber on a bus packed with Israeli families, causing the largest number of deaths in Israel so far.

According to reports, Israel froze all relations with the Palestinian Authorities and called off the handing over of two West Bank towns for Palestinian control while the Palestinian Authorities themselves suspended all dialogues with the Hamas and Jihad Islam militant groups.

Asked on hope for a peaceful solution, Dr Mahathir said that if there were parties resorting to bombings like that, surely others would not be prepared to continue dialogues.

He said that even if there were dissatisfaction over the proposed road map for peace, it should be regarded as a beginning.

"We might not be happy with the road map but at least it is a beginning. If we negotiate, we could get more.

"If we go on killing people, who would want to speak to us?" he said.

On report that the Indonesian police had identified several Malaysians to be involved in the bomb blasts in Bali and the recent blast in Jakarta, Dr Mahathir said they should be arrested.

He said Malaysians who committed crimes in other countries would be subjected to the laws of these countries.

"If they carry out a crime in another country they are subjected to the laws of that country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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