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Mahathir-Terrorism

DR M BLASTS COUNTRIES PERPETUATING WAR AGAINST TERRORISTS

By: Openg Onn

JOGJAKARTA, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today lambasted countries for perpetuating war against terrorists but in actual fact, kill innocent families, destroy homes, villages and towns from where the terrorists originate.

"After Sept 11, the world has learnt to fear terrorism, the indiscriminate attacks and killing of innocent people in a bid to achieve some goals or merely to seek revenge," he said.

Terror attacks are not just by irregulars acting on their own but states too have their own programmes of terror, he said.

"Indeed, we see states launching vicious massive retaliation, not just to kill suspected terrorists but his family, his home, his village and his town," he said in his speech after receiving the distinguished honorary fellow award from the Asean Federation of Engineering Organisations (Afeo).

It would be ridiculous to think that such attacks did not terrorise the innocent, in fact the terror was even greater, for it was systematic and executed with heavy weapons in the hands of trained soldiers, he said.

He said it would seem that the great exponents and practitioners of democracy believed that the way to spread the doctrine and to break down resistance was by terrorising the world.

Dr Mahathir said terrorism could take many forms with economic terrorism instilled as much fear and damage to life and property as bombs and guns.

Thriving economies could be destroyed, impoverishing whole countries and regions, throwing workers out of jobs by the millions, disrupting the peace and tranquility of human society with riots, killings and crimes, he said.

"Simply because the speculative and manipulating rogues and their own media do not describe their acts as terrorism does not mean that they are not acts of terrorism, acts which cause fear and terror among their victims," he added.

-- BERNAMA

OPP JM TS