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Mahathir-Jews

JEWS TOLD NOT TO ILL-TREAT OTHERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- On the eve of his stepping down as prime minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the Jews today not to inflict sufferings on others, just like what they had gone through before.

The prime minister said that although the Jews had suffered a great deal in the past, they must remember that when they were ill-treated by the Europeans, they ran to Muslim countries.

He said the Jews must remember that the Muslims were the ones who helped them when they were ill-treated by the Europeans and they should not think that they were the chosen people that could not be criticised.

"The Muslims have never ill-treated the Jews, but now they are behaving exactly in the way that the Europeans behaved towards them, against the Muslims," he told a news conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting for the last time as party president at its headquarters here.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked if he had any parting shot for the Jews following his speech at the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Putrajaya two weeks ago.

His statement at the summit that the Jews "rule the world by proxy" was taken out of context by the Western media, resulting in condemnation from Western and European leaders.

Dr Mahathir said: "We sympathised with them (Jews). We are very sad to see how the Jews are ill-treated by Europeans.

"But they must remember that when they were ill-treated by the Europeans they ran to Muslim countries in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and in Egypt even," he said, repeating the historical perspective.

"We (Muslims) have done no wrong. They (Jews) have taken lands belonging to the Muslims," he said.

He said that supposing that part of Britain and America was taken away and given to the Jews as Israel, the British and the Americans would not sit quietly and say it was alright and welcome them.

"Do you expect the Palestinians to accept being expelled from their own country and their own country being taken away and given to the Jews?" he said.

He said it was not a religious issue but a territorial one.

"You take someone's land and we will fight for it.

"Of course you take the land of the Red Indians and massacre them or you take the land of the Aborigines and kill the whole land, and shoo them to one side, of course these people have no way to fight,"

"But those who can fight back, they fight back," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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