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Mahathir-OIC

M'SIA PREPARED FOR OIC TO CONVENE MEETING ON IRAQ CRISIS, SAYS DR M

JITRA, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is prepared to provide facilities for the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to hold a special meeting on the Iraq crisis during the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit in Kuala Lumpur next week, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister was, however, sceptical that whatever decision made by the OIC meeting would be heeded by anyone.

"This is because some OIC member countries are supporting the United States (to attack Iraq)," he told reporters at his Hari Raya Aidiladha open house.

He said Malaysia noted that the OIC was not taking any action to prevent member countries from being attacked because the 51-member grouping of Islamic nations realised that it was weak and whatever was its opinion would not be taken into account by the United States.

Instead, France, Germany and Belgium made a firm stand against the plan to attack Iraq because the three European countries were strong.

"That's why it's very important for Muslims if they want to save their fellow Muslims, they must strengthen their countries.

"Instead, what's happening now is that the Islamic countries are weak and that's why they do not wield any influence to decide on the fate of Muslims," he said.

Dr Mahathir said so far Malaysia had not receive any proposal to convene a special OIC meeting in Kuala Lumpur next week.

Kuala Lumpur will host the 13th NAM Summit from Feb 20 to 25. Malaysia will play host to the OIC Summit in October.

Replying to a question on the suggestion by some Muslims to participate in the Iraq war purportedly it was a holy war, Dr Mahathir said: "It's a stupid idea. We want to fight a holy war if we can win. If we go in just to be killed, that's not jihad.

"If we want to go to a war, we must have the strategy and strength. If we go just like that, I don't see any benefit from it apart from merely venting our anger," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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