

14 FEB 2003

Peace-Message

MALAYSIANS VOICE FOR PEACE, NO TO WAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Various parties express the same message -- demanding the international community to strive for world peace in the wake of America-Iraq war, and as humanity continue to suffer in Palestine.

The People's Alliance for Peace Malaysia (PEACE Malaysia) asked people from all walks of life to hold prayers for peace on Feb 21 between 5pm and 9pm.

PEACE Malaysia's inter-faith coordinator, Shahrin Kassim, in a statement said the mass prayers ceremony is symbolic of people's unity in seeking world peace.

Among the prayers are to hope that America would not take an unilateral action to attack Iraq without considering the international community's views, trade sanction against Iraq and to stop the production of destruction weaponry.

The alliance would also organise a "Religion and Peace" forum that is expected to be attended by religious leaders on Feb 23 between 12pm and 4pm.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) deputy president Abdullah Abu Bakar in a statement urged all the 29 youth movements to attend the Feb 23 gathering at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil.

So far MYC had received a positive response from various parties to attend the mass gathering.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to present the peace decree and receive the one million signatures, collected from Malaysians, including a peace message to be presented at the 13th Non-Aligned Movement Summit that will be held between Feb 20 to Feb 25 here.

Meanwhile, Council of Churches of Malaysia urged all members to offer special prayers asking for god's help in creating a just and peaceful world.

Its general-secretary Reverend Dr Hermen Shastri in a statement today said the council members who met in Cameron Highlands, between Feb 11 and Feb 13, were deeply concerned about the escalating tensions in the Middle-East and the imminent America-Iraq war.

"Should there be a war it will cause untold sufferings on innocent men, women, children and the environment. It will also have a devastating effect upon the political stability of the region and further aggravate worldwide tension," he said.

Besides Iraq, the council also viewed the on-going Israel-Palestine conflict as another major concern.

Meanwhile DAP chairman, Lim Kit Siang, said if Iraq is rogue nation there is no justification for the United States (US) to be a super-rogue state to launch an unilateral war without United Nation's (UN) mandate.

He said US's action will only destabilise the world, fuel international terrorism and cripple peace-keeping institutions like the UN by destroying their credibility and legitimacy, added Lim.

-- BERNAMA

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