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MTUC-ILO

MTUC TO LODGE COMPLAINT TO ILO

KUALA LUMPUR, April 29 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) will complain to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) over the government's failure to ratify the ILO Convention 87 on the freedom of association and protection of the right to organise.

"The MTUC General Council has decided to file a complaint to the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association on the Malaysian government's failure to ratify the ILO Convention 87 adopted in 1948," MTUC secretary-general G. Rajasekaran said in a statement today to mark Labour Day 2003 on May 1.

He also linked the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's attendance at the ILO conference in Geneva last year.

"The anxiously-expected announcement of the ratification of ILO Convention 87 by our prime minister in his historical speech at the June 2002 ILO conference did not materialise," he said.

Rajasekaran claimed that trade union rights violations and union busting activities by anti-union employers have increased tremendously.

He said currently close to 10 employers have ignored Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn's directive to accord recognition.

Rajasekaran also lamented that the dispute settlement machinery under the Industrial Relations Department has become "highly" inefficient and that dismissed workers have to wait more than two years to have their case referred to the Industrial Court.

Furthermore, he criticised the lack of progress on the review of three important labour legislations -- Employment Act, Industrial Relations Act and Trade Union Act.

He said the United States-led invasion of Iraq and the spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) have added to the gloom to create even greater uncertainty.

-- BERNAMA

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