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Mahathir-Muslims

MUSLIMS HAVE ALL THE RIGHT TO FEEL ANGRY WITH THE JEWS, SAYS MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today took a swipe at those who condemn him as anti-Semitic over his recent remarks about the Jews but choose to keep quiet when "my Prophet (Muhammad) is called a terrorist."

The outgoing Prime Minister stressed that he knew a lot of Jews and was not against them.

"I am against those Jews who kill Muslims and the Jews who support the killers of Muslims," he told a media conference after attending a function at the Finance Ministry here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said there was a lot of anger among the Muslims whose land was taken away from them to allow for the creation of the state of Israel.

"Are we not allowed to say that we are angry with the Jews? Are the Jews some kind of creature who cannot be condemned in any way?" he said.

The outspoken Prime Minister drew the ire of Western and European leaders for his speech at the recently-concluded 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit here where he said that the Jews now ruled the world by proxy.

Dr Mahathir said that he did not care if the Europeans did not like him.

He said: "I have European friends. But when they do something wrong, I am going to tell them that it is wrong.

"You say that you are not under the influence of the Jews and yet when I criticise the Jews, the whole of the European Union wants to condemn me.

"But when somebody condemns the Muslims, calls my Prophet (Muhammad) terrorist and all that, did the European Union say anything? Which shows that they are under the thumb of the Jews."

Asked why some Muslim leaders did not openly express support over his remarks, Dr Mahathir said that possibly they were afraid that action would be taken against them.

"They are much weaker than we are. They may have more money but they are still dependent upon the Europeans.

"Because of that, they are reluctant to make their voices heard but privately of course they will support," he said.

To a question about possible fallout for Malaysia arising from his remarks about the Jews, which officials said had been taken out of context by members of the foreign media covering the OIC Summit, he said:

"I think our country can weather quite a lot of stresses. In the past we have done that. They have tried to kill us economically, they robbed us of our money, they impoverished us. But we managed.

"And we will continue to manage. I am quite sure that my successor (his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) will be able to do the same."

-- BERNAMA

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