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Mahathir-Howard

MAHATHIR SLAMS HOWARD AS INSENSITIVE

By: Neville D'Cruz

MELBOURNE, Feb 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has again slammed Australia, accusing Prime Minister John Howard of not caring about civilian deaths in any war in Iraq.

Dr Mahathir told the Canberra Times newspaper that Australia was also insensitive to its Muslim neighbours through its strong support for US-led military action in Iraq.

"We are very much opposed to this war because the basis is not sound," he was reported as saying in Kuala Lumpur.

"You don't go to war to kill the people you want to save. You say you want to save Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein, but war will mean killing the Iraqi people before you can kill Saddam Hussein.

"When people like Howard seem not to care for the lives of people in a war that is not actually connected to Australia, it is something that we cannot understand but we certainly condemn.

"Howard is not sensitive at all that around him there are about 200 million people who ordinarily would be opposed to war.

"But as Muslims we are particularly opposed, because it is not really about the fight against the terrorists.

"It is terrorising the world."

Dr Mahathir said criticism of him by Western countries was racially based.

-- BERNAMA

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