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Dr M: More violence will follow Yassin's killing

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Israel assassinated a frail and wheelchairbound old man, and the world could not do anything about it.

He said the murder of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin would only lead to more violence as his supporters were bound to seek revenge.

"It won't be long before Hamas retaliates to avenge the murder of its leader. This will of course lead to more violence in the world," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at the Palestinian embassy here where he signed a book of condolences on Yassin's death.

The 67-year-old Hamas founder and spiritual leader was assassinated on Monday by Israeli forces under the order of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

On whether the United States was partly to blame for Yassin's demise, Dr Mahathir said weapons used by the Jewish State were supplied by the US.

Also present to extend their condolences were diplomats from Kuwait, Jordan, Thailand and Iraq.