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`Angry reaction to PM's speech from those with own agendas'

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The angry reaction to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Summit was from quarters who had their own agendas, Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said today.

He said the accusations that Dr Mahathir was anti-Semitic were made by those who had importance in the countries supporting the injustice in Palestine.

"People know that there is injustice in the world, but these people are afraid to voice their opinions because of these superpowers who support it," he told a Press conference after launching Rakan Muda Ramadan at the Youth and Sports Ministry.

He said Dr Mahathir was an outspoken leader who spoke of the truth, even when others did not agree.

Dr Mahathir came under fire from the governments of Australia, the European Union and the United States for his speech during the OIC Summit last Thursday.

They criticised Dr Mahathir and accused him of calling on Muslims to wage war against the Jews.

Hishammuddin said the Prime Minister's speech was taken out of context because the Western media only quoted one small part of his speech and blew it out of proportion.

He said Dr Mahathir had been proven right before with his handling of the Asian economic crisis when the International Monetary Fund had acknowledged his success in coping with the crisis.

"The West criticised his move back then, but now it is obvious that he was right," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir's statement would be supported in the future because world leaders would eventually see the truth in his statements.