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Call to back programme

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Malaysians irrespective of their religion and race should come forward and express their support for the Peace Malaysia programme aimed at generating greater public awareness of the diverse conflicts in the world today.

Making the call today, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said Malaysians should make their stand known to the international community that they were against violence especially in Palestine and Iraq.

"We should all rally together and support Peace Malaysia which is a noble programme to express our objection against violence and calling for peace to prevail in the world."

Hishammuddin, who is Umno Youth head, said this to reporters after meeting with the Chinese non-Governmental organisations at the Selangor Chinese Assembly hall, today.

He said that to date, 1,038 associations comprising voluntary bodies, political organisations, Youth associations and NGOs had pledged their support for Peace Malaysia, initiated by Umno Youth, in conjunction with the NAM summit in Kuala Lumpur from Feb 20 to 25.

This includes 568 Chinese NGOs which today expressed their support for the programme.

The highlight of the programme will be the handing over of a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad containing signatures of an estimated one million Malaysians calling for peace to prevail in the world. It is scheduled to be held during the Malaysian Peace Rally, on Feb 23, at the National Stadium Bukit Jalil.

Meanwhile, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting who was also present at the function said the Chinese NGOs managed to collect about 20,000 signatures over the past three days. Ong, who is also an MCA vice-president, expects the NGOs to collect 200,000 signatures.