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## Prayers for world peace on Friday

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Special prayers to promote world peace will be held next Friday at selected churches, temples and mosques from 5pm to 8pm.

The decision to hold these prayers, the venues of which are still being decided, was reached at the Interfaith Council meeting here today under the initiative of Malaysians for Peace (Aman Malaysia).

The meeting, chaired by the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia (Abim) secretary-general Shahrhan Kasim, saw the attendance of Aman Malaysia co-ordinator Zulkifli Alwi, Dr John R. Gurusamy of the Council of Churches, Sanggat Singh of the Malaysian Gurudwaras Council, Ven K. Dhamma Ratana from Buddhist Mahavihara and Reverend Constantine Karmask from the Greek Orthodox Church in Amman, Jordan.

Shahrhan said the prayers would be held on Feb 21, two days before Aman Malaysia presents a memorandum on world peace to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Interfaith Council will also organise a forum on "Religion and Peace" where about 500 people from all religious associations will be attending. The forum will be held at Bukit Jalil Golf Club on Feb 23 from noon to 4pm.

The council also agreed that even after Feb 23, prayers must continuously be held for all conflicts in the world.

Gurusamy said: "Sounds like an utopian achievement but we must believe that prayers can do wonders and can be very effective too."

Sanggat, meanwhile, suggested that all people of all religions conduct a special prayer and a day fasting once a month to show the concern of Malaysians for all world conflicts and wars.

Zulkifli said since the inception of Aman Malaysia a month ago, about 1,100 non-governmental organisations had come on board, bringing with them a membership figure of about four million.

"There has been an overwhelming response."

Karmask, who was in Malaysia for a four-day visit, said while he would not be able to attend the special prayers next Friday, he applauded the "commendable efforts".

Having come from the West Bank town of Beit Jala but now residing in Amman, he said he understood well the need for conflicts between nation states to be resolved without the killing of civilians.