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Malaysian team to bring back war victims

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The People's Alliance for Peace Malaysia or Peace Malaysia secretariat will be sending a team to Amman, Jordan, to identify Palestinian war victims to be brought here to highlight Israeli atrocities.

Its co-ordinator, Zulkifli Alwi, said the group would ascertain the nature of injuries suffered by the women and children, the treatment required and the number to be flown here.

He said the team would be leaving on Monday and was expected to spend several days there.

He said the first group of victims, scheduled to leave Amman on Feb 10, would number around 20.

He said the effort to fly the Palestinians was largely dependent on financial support received by various organisations.

"The response so far has been very encouraging. We have been talking to various sponsors as well as private and government hospitals for treatment."

The Peace Malaysia programme was initiated in conjunction with the 13th Non-Aligned Movement summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur from Feb 20 to 25. A total of 460 organisations have pledged their support to the campaign.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein is the patron of the campaign.

The programme will feature seminars, workshops and forums to generate greater public awareness of the conflicts in the world today.

More than 100,000 members of political bodies, youth associations, voluntary bodies and non-governmental organisations are expected to attend the Malaysian Peace Rally on Feb 23 at Dataran Merdeka.

During the rally, one million signatures, together with the Malaysians for Peace memorandum, would be handed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Malaysian Retailer-Chains Association (MRCA), made up of more than 73 members with 2,000 retail outlets nationwide, today pledged its support to the Peace Malaysia signature campaign.

Its president, Datuk Dr Chin See Keat, has targeted a minimum of 50,000 signatures during the MRCA signature drive from Feb 5 to 16 at its participating retail outlets.

He said the MRCA was committed to standing united with all Malaysians to promote world peace.

The MRCA is also expected to support and facilitate sponsorship of medical treatment for the war victims in Malaysia.

Chin, who is also the chief executive officer of England Optical Group (M) Sdn Bhd, pledged RM30,000 to this cause.

Meanwhile, former national vice-president and community welfare chairman of the Malaysian Tamil Youth Bell Club M. Gnanasegaran said the signature campaign was a commendable effort which people from all walks of life should support.