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MB's proposal for addicts gets an airing

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MALAYSIAN Youth Council president Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo has come up with a controversial proposal.

Berita Minggu, in a front-page report, attributed to the Selangor Menteri Besar a proposal that second-time inmates of drug rehabilitation centres spend the rest of the lives there.

Dr Mohd Khir argued it was pointless trying to cure hardcore addicts as they would only return to their habit.

"We cannot give too many opportunities to addicts ... let them die at rehabilitation centres because based on experience, they will just return to their habit."

The paper also had a story on the biased and prejudiced reporting by foreign media on the recently-concluded Non-Aligned Movement summit in Kuala Lumpur.

The Australian, for example, ran headlines like "Global bad boys gather for gadfest" and "Dark corners reject US policy - countdown to war".

News that see print, according to Berita Minggu, were often slanted negatively, like reports on the North Korea nuclear weapons programmes and the Iraq crisis.

Mingguan Malaysia's "Memerhati Media" column was devoted to exposing the lies and misconception that the Australian media tried to spin out of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's inaugural speech as NAM chairman.

The Prime Minister posed a question: if victims of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars were considered by the West as collateral damage in the fight against terrorism, could those who died in the World Trade Center and Bali bombings be regarded as collateral damage in the war by terrorists wanting to help set up a Palestine state?

The Australian media, however, manipulated the remarks and went all out to portray the Prime Minister as a cruel and insensitive leader.