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MPs condemn attack on Iraq

reports on "Dewan Rakyat" by Ramlan Said; P. Sharmini; Julia Chan MEMBERS of Parliament, speaking in support of the motion on Iraq tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, vehemently spoke out against the US-led attack on Iraq.

Shah Alam MP and Backbencher's Club chairman Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed said US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair should be put on trial for crimes against humanity.

He said their action made them war criminals.

Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) said measures should be taken to restore the authority of the United Nations.

"The US and its allies have not heeded the voices of people the world over, including countries such as China, Germany, France and Russia.

"We hold to the principle that rational and peaceful measures are the best way to solve conflicts," he said.

Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong) said it was ironic that the UN Charter, aimed at maintaining international peace and security, was drafted and signed by the US and other major powers in 1945.

The Charter, close to 58 years old now, did not reflect the maturity of thought or action of its founding leaders, he said.

"This is evident from the US' actions which do not show any respect for the ideals and principles of the Charter."

Ruhanie said the "aggression without legitimacy" was as if the US was using the international fight against terrorism for its own gains and ambitions of world domination.

He termed the US-led attacks as sinister and unjustified, and urged the UN to take stronger measures in bringing about an end to the war.

He suggested the formation of a committee which would study ways to revitalise and reform the UN.

Ruhanie lauded Malaysia's continued efforts for peace through the Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Commonwealth and other international forums.

Nasharuddin Isa (Pas-Yan) said Malaysia should be more strict in its efforts and invite the OIC to take stronger measures in bringing an end to the war.

He said the disarming process should have been allowed to continue and Malaysia should not accept any form of co-operation with the US as a sign of protest.

Nasharuddin also suggested the setting up of a world children's fund which would collect funds and aid from countries all over the world for the children of Iraq.

Datuk Mohamad Aziz (BN-Seri Gading) once again likened Bush to a "devil" for his unjustified and cruel actions.

Teresa Kok (DAP-Seputeh) said local television channels should exercise caution in selecting news from foreign agencies that tend to give one-sided reports. She urged local agencies to be impartial.

She urged the Government to allow the public to be able to hold rallies or demonstrations in support of the peace efforts.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, in winding up the motion, thanked the MPs for their show of unanimous support.

He said Malaysians were against the war for the simple reason that the war was not given a mandate by the UN and was merely to bring about a regime change in Iraq.

He said the suggestions from MPs that the UN be revitalised should be given serious and due consideration.

Syed Hamid also said that the voices of the grassroots - the people of all nations of the world - should be collectively garnered to convince the US of its blunder.