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Peace Malaysia expects 200,000 at Sunday's rally

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - About 200,000 people are expected to participate in the People's Alliance for Peace Malaysia rally with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to be held at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil this Sunday.

Peace Malaysia chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo today said all Malaysians were invited to the anti-war rally.

"We hope that people from all over the country will come and join us. They will be entertained by local artistes and will witness the handing over of a declaration memorandum as well as more than one million signatures opposing the United States' intended attack on Iraq, by Peace Malaysia to the Prime Minister," he said.

To date, more than 1,000 voluntary, youth and uniformed bodies; political parties; religious and welfare groups; students and professionals have joined the campaign.

He was speaking after launching the Peace Malaysia's theme song Semarak Kedamaian, to be sung by artistes like Siti Nurhaliza, Erra Fazira, Yusry of popular group KRU, Ning Baizura, Fazley, Hattan and Ezlyn.

Dr Mohd Khir then launched a video clip of nasyid group Rabbani's popular song Setinggi Kasih and a television commercial, produced by KRU, to promote the event.

He said Ning Baizura, KRU, Elite, Siti Nurhaliza and Rabbani would also perform at a concert on Sunday.

Peace Malaysia working group co-ordinator Zulkifli Mohd Alwi said that they had collected 1.2 million signatures in the signature campaign, surpassing its one million target.

He said the rally would be shown live on RTM beginning 8.30pm and TV screens would be put up at hotels where the Non-Aligned Movement summit delegates were staying.

Meanwhile, Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Pandan Indah here became the first secondary school under the Ampang Jaya constituency to take part in the signature campaign. It was launched by Ampang Jaya MP Datuk Ong Tee Keat.

Also present were teacher Khalim Zainal, who represented the principal of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Kosas and Kamariah Mohd Sidek of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Seraya.

The two schools are also under the Ampang Jaya constituency.