

28/03/2003

Suhakam supports motion

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) today expressed its support for the motion passed by Dewan Rakyat to endorse seven resolutions relating to the war in Iraq.

The motion was tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday.

Suhakam commissioner Datuk Hamdan Adnan called for the war, which has no basis in international law, to be halted and that human rights be respected at all times.

"This move by the House upholds Malaysia's respect for the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," he said at a Press conference.

Hamdan said it also reinforced that respect for human rights cut across racial, political and religious boundaries.

"Suhakam hopes that the House will continue to show solidarity in other human rights issues brought to its attention, be it national or international."

He also said Suhakam fully supported the Government's move to set up a RM10 million humanitarian fund for the Iraqi people.

"With the heavy bombardment, the rights of the Iraqi people are being ignored.

"Humanitarian aid must come soon as their lives are in jeopardy."

Hamdan said Suhakam was opposed to the notion that the war was to liberate the Iraqis from the oppression of the Saddam Hussein regime.

"Killing them, is that what liberation is all about?" he asked.