

Dr M: UN must probe death of Saddam's lawyer

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The United Nations should immediately investigate the killing of Saadoun Al-Janabi, a defence lawyer of one of Saddam Hussein's co-defendants in their mass murder trial.

Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is a member of the Emergency Committee for Iraq, said this was necessary as Saadoun was killed under suspicious circumstances.

The committee was set up to ensure former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's right to a fair and lawful trial.

Dr Mahathir said the committee had already made requests to the Algerian, Chinese, French and Russian permanent representatives to the UN for a meeting on Monday with Ramsey Clark, another member of the committee. Clark was former US attorney-general under President Lyndon B. Johnson.

"As a member of the committee, I must express my concern over the 'trial' of the former Iraqi president.

"Already, the defence attorney of Saddam Hussein's fellow accused has been killed in most suspicious circumstances," he said in a statement.

Dr Mahathir said it was essential that the trial was fair and just and the safety of all involved in the proceedings secured.

Saadoun was abducted by 10 masked gunmen who burst into his office on Oct 21, a day after the first session of the trial.

He was one of two lawyers for Awad Hamed al-Bandar, one of seven Baath Party officials being tried alongside Saddam.

Police found his body dumped near a Baghdad mosque close to his office hours later with two gun shots to the head.

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