



Mahathir: 'He must be tried by an impartial court'

Mahathir: Saddam must get fair-trial

PUTRAJAYA: Concerned that Saddam Hussein will not get a proper and fair trial, the Emergency Committee for Iraq has proposed that he be tried by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

And it wants the judges on the ICJ panel to come from countries that are not involved in Iraq in any way.

Committee member Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the former Iraqi president must be tried by an impartial court.

"But up to this point, there is no indication that he will be assured of that. We believe that with the right composition of judges, he stands a chance of a fair trial in the ICJ."

Other members of the committee are former Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella, former French foreign minister Roland Dumas and former US attorney-general Ramsey Clark.

"By the look of things, he (Saddam) will not be getting a fair trial. He has been detained for one-and-a-half years and has not been allowed to see his lawyers or family members," Dr Mahathir said.

He said none of Saddam's lawyers had been in touch with him but had met up with Clark, who would be representing him in the trial.

Dr Mahathir said the United Nations had been informed of the committee's concern.

"If they want to act, they can act," he added.