

Five students get to speak out

Speaker's Corner to be held ahead of forum

KUALA LUMPUR: Five university students get to voice their opinions on international issues at a public speaking competition next month.

The Speaker's Corner will be the main event at the World Human Rights Day Youth Carnival at Berjaya Times Square on Dec 10, held in conjunction with the Perdana Global Peace Forum 2005.

The orators will choose from 10 topics, which cover international issues with themes like anti-war, anti-imperialism, and ways to promote peace.

The forum is organised by the Perdana Leadership Foundation and aims to build a global peace momentum that promotes peaceful solutions

rather than the use of force to resolve disputes and differences.

Foundation president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the forum was timely in view of the increasing tension worldwide, escalating terrorism, religious intolerance, relentless environment degradation and "systematic" violation of human rights.

'This is not a forum where people say things and then just go off. We will be talking a lot about wars. We should make everybody aware of how damaging and terrible war can be,' he said.

Speakers at the forum include current and former heads of state, business leaders, community leaders, key

NGO representatives and other stakeholders - among them Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Dr Mahathir, former Australian prime minister Bob Hawke, and British MPs George Galloway and Clare Short.

Adviser to the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Professor Christine Chinkin, and former UN assistant secretary-general and UN humanitarian coordinator for Iraq, Denis Halliday, are also expected to address the forum.

The Perdana Global Peace Forum will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre from Dec 15-17.



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