

# Malaysia and US discuss treatment of prisoners

KUALA LUMPUR: Human rights and the delivery of justice in relation to terrorism were the main topics discussed between US Attorney-General Alberto R. Gonzales and Malaysian Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail yesterday.

Gonzales, the 80th US Attorney-General, was on his first visit to Malaysia after stopovers in Australia and Indonesia.

Gonzales told reporters yesterday that the US would be working closely with Malaysia through the extradition treaty to penalise those found to have engaged in criminal conduct in whichever country.

He added that one of the ways to bring terrorists to jus-

tice was through the US military commission that allowed for secret evidence and no federal appeals.

He was commenting on the power struggle between the US Supreme Court and military tribunals on the war on terrorism involving the previous release of al-Qaeda suspect Yasser Hamdi and the current case on Salim Ahmed Hamdan, who had been Osama bin Laden's truck driver in Afghanistan.

On human rights and the treatment of prisoners, Gonzales said that the Geneva Convention on human rights would be upheld in all aspects.

'There are certain standards of treatment that can be utilised on criminals detained by other countries. These standards represent binding legal commitments to the US. Our values are consistent with that of the convention,' he said.

He did not elaborate.

Abdul Gani said that with the help of the US, some measures would be taken to stop piracy in Malaysia.

Gonzales, who left for China after the press conference yesterday, said the piracy issue was not one that should be contained within a single country.

'It is a world issue that needs to be conquered,' he said.