

'Killings in war are criminal acts'

KUALA LUMPUR: The Perdana Global Peace Organisation yesterday declared war as abhorrent and criminal.

Known as the 'Kuala Lumpur Initiative to Criminalise War', the declaration said killings in war were as criminal as killings within societies in times of peace and must be subject to the international law on crimes.

It also sought for all national leaders who initiated aggression to be subject to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court and that all nations must strengthen the resolve to accept the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The declaration came at the end of a three-day forum titled "Criminalise War, Stop WW4" at the Putra World Trade Centre. It said all commercial, financial, industrial and scientific activities that aid and abet war should be criminalised and force of arms should not be used except when authorised by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The declaration was passed and signed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also the Chairman of Perdana Global Peace Forum; University of Illinois Professor of Law, Professor Francis A. Boyle; former United Nations Assistant Secretary General Denis Halliday; former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Hans-Christof Von Sponeck; founder and president of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI) Dr Helen Caldicott; University of Ottawa Professor of Economics, Professor Dr Michel Chossudovsky and forum moderator Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

It called for legislators and members of Government to include peace as one of their principal objectives.

Later at a Press conference, Professor Boyle said the stopover by the world's largest aircraft carrier, the *USS Ronald Reagan*, which docked at Westport, Klang, early this month should not have been allowed. "That ship was on its way to the Gulf to participate in outright aggression of war crimes either against Iraq or Iran or both."