



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressing his hopes for a world without war to the Press while his son, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, looks on in Putrajaya yesterday. — AFP picture

Ex-Abu Ghraib detainee to speak on war

NST- 9/11/2007

PUTRAJAYA: A victim of the abuse at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq will be among the speakers at an international conference-cum-exhibition on war crimes here next month.

Perdana Global Peace Organisation chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said former detainee Ali Shalah, 46, would talk about his experience when he was a prisoner.

The exhibition, entitled "Expose War Crimes: Criminalise War", will be held at the Putra World Trade Centre from Feb 5 to 7.

"With many speakers this time around, the conference will reveal dramatically and in greater detail the effects of war," said the former prime minister at a Press conference yesterday.

With enough strength and support

globally, organisations moving to criminalise war would be able to make representations to influential international groupings such as the United Nations and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Dr Mahathir said that if such movements were weak, their voices would remain unheard and conflicting nations would continue to resort to war as a means of settling

disputes.

He said it was crucial to change mindsets, and show that war was not only cruel but should also not be an option to resolve disputes between nations.

The former prime minister added that war had resulted in many cruel acts, including the hanging of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein.