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Plan to ease Gaza sewage woes



Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali flagging off members of the *Jelajah Keamanan* at the Yayasan Al-Bukhari in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With her is her husband, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. — NST picture by Zulfadhli Zulkifli

By Masami Mustaza

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KUALA LUMPUR: Fresh from its launch yesterday, the Perdana Global Peace Foundation is embarking on an ambitious effort to send supplies to rebuild the damaged sanitation and sewage systems in Gaza.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is founder and president of the foundation, said sewage water from the damaged facilities had been leaking into the Mediterranean Sea and may cause diseases to those using the water.

"It's not just the Gazans. Even the Israelis will feel the effects of their actions."

Last June, the Perdana Global Peace Organisation had attempted to send aid to Gaza onboard the MV *Rachel Corrie* and MV *Mavi Marmara* as part of its Freedom Flotilla mission.

Dr Mahathir said as the ships were no longer in a state fit for travel, the foundation would need a new ship to transport the aid, at a yet to be determined date.

In his speech earlier, Dr Mahathir said the objective of the foundation was to spread the message that war

and killing should be criminalised.

"There are quite a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in other countries who share the same view.

"It is a success if anti-war NGOs tell politicians that if they don't forswear war, then they won't get votes."

Dr Mahathir said the situation of soldiers going to war when diplomacy fails should not be the case if diplomats had already taken the stand that there would not be a war.

"Diplomats should try harder. But if they've already taken a stand to not go to war, then people will feel less threatened by the possibility of war."

The launch of the foundation also saw the launching of the ship, *Spirit of Rachel Corrie*, and a cheque presentation from Universiti Teknologi Mara students worth RM92,000 to the foundation.

Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is the foundation's adviser, flagged off members of the *Jelajah Keamanan*, a nationwide expedition to advocate peace and criminalising war, which will be accomplished through roadshows in selected states in Peninsular Malaysia.