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Help Palestinian refugees, says Dr M

the Sun - 16/8/2013

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged the government to study ways to resolve the plight of Palestinian refugees in the country, a major problem of which is education for their children.

In making this call, Mahathir nevertheless acknowledged the government's difficulty in balancing its domestic policies while caring for the Palestinians'

welfare, as the latter would attract more refugees into the country.

As such, a systematic study should be undertaken to understand the issue further, he said at a press conference after launching an annual gathering of nine NGOs in support of the Palestinians.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are 360 Palestinian refugees and asylum

seekers registered in Malaysia.

Earlier, in his opening speech, Mahathir expressed his sadness regarding the escalating violence in Egypt.

"This is clearly our (Muslims') problem. There is no unity or purpose in working together to achieve what we have in our minds. We remain all divided," he said.

He called upon Muslims worldwide to stand united together to achieve peace in the Middle East.