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Dr M: War not an instrument to resolve conflict

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by R KAMALAVACINI

ENGAGING in war to resolve conflict between countries will never promise justice, peace and prosperity for global citizen, says former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) president, said war will increase tendency towards violence, and that it is not the proper instrument to justify peace.

"During the primitive time, the soldiers fight in the battlefield, the leaders fight among each other. But now, there are no longer soldier fights. Few extremists are video recording their brutality in killing people and publish it to create fear among the people.

"Innocent people are becoming victims now. First World War and Second World War wanted to stop all wars in the world but it did continue," said Dr Mahathir in his keynote address at the Fourth Mahathir Global Peace School (MGPS)



Pic by Hussein Shaharuddin

Dr Mahathir in his keynote address at the 4th MGPS organised by PGPF and UMY in Putrajaya

programme at Putrajaya on Tuesday.

Dr Mahathir said one can never justify the rationale behind killing someone and this include capital punishment which is being practised by several world countries including Malaysia.

"We (PGPF) are striving to criminalise war, the massive killing of people. Today, we are more civilised whereby we are capable to think, decide and

bring a change. Even capital punishment need to be abolished as no human being has the right to kill a person," he said, adding that many European countries have abolished the death penalty.

In Malaysia, death penalty is imposed for murder under Section 302 of the Penal Code and drug trafficking under Section 39B Dangerous Drug Act 1952.

On the Syria unrest, Dr Mahathir said as a follower of Islam, he is embarrassed by the increasing violence being committed by fellow Muslims in Syria as it portrays a bad perception and reputation on the religion in the global eyes.

"Based on recent history, Muslims go to war more often than any other religious followers. That is very shameful.

"Islam is about peace. But we're not very peaceful. We don't obey the teachings of our religion. We resort to war, far more often than others," noted Dr Mahathir, adding that this shows Muslim countries are

not capable to govern with peace.

In total, the Syria civil war which started in 2011 saw more than four million Syrians have fled abroad and the conflict has left more than 240,000 people dead.

Many Syrians have been fleeing to Europe for shelter.

Earlier, on the Fourth MGPS programme, PGPF chairman Tan Sri Norian Mai said four focus categories namely non-governmental organisations, academician, activists and students are the target groups under MGPS to convey the peace message to the community.

"Our next MGPS programme will be held either in the Philippines or Thailand. We are looking at collaborating with Asean countries to spread the knowledge on peace," he said in a news conference.

It is an initiative by PGPF and Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (UMY), which are aimed at enhancing knowledge on peace building.