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NOTHING TO HIDE 2.0 FORUM

ZAHID CONDEMNS VIOLENCE

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Ruckus shouldn't have happened in a democratic country, says DPM

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D EPUTY Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has condemned the violence that erupted at the Nothing To Hide 2.0 forum in Shah Alam.

Confirming that Sunday's event had a permit, Zahid said the ruckus should not have happened in a democratic country like Malaysia.

"I am saddened over what happened at the event.

"The police (in their response) took action according to the standard operating procedures," he said after opening the 37th World Congress of International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research here yesterday.

In the incident at Dewan Raja Muda Musa in Shah Alam, three teenagers were arrested for rioting at the gathering, which was attended by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

A commotion broke out shortly after a member of the audience asked Dr Mahathir about the 1985 Memali incident in Kedah.

Chaos ensued for about half an



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi at the 37th World Congress of International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him is Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (second from right). PIC BY YAZIT RAZALI

hour when a mob chased a man into the hall and beat him up. Another group of men shielded him from the mob.

A security officer claimed that the assailants were targeting Dr Mahathir when they threw objects, including two flares, in his direction.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, were

escorted out of the hall.

The police deployed a light strike force anti-riot team at 6.30pm.

Zahid, who is also home minister, said police would conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and take action against those involved.

He expressed hope that democracy in the country could

be practised harmoniously despite differing political beliefs, saying that violence towards any constituent or political figure should not occur.

On allegations that Umno members were involved in the fight, Zahid said he had no knowledge.

"The police will investigate. Let them handle the issue."