

'Society is not about war'
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Launching of exhibition ahead of Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal

War is the result of men's failure to resolve differences and it makes beasts and animals of people, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Launching the 10-day "War is Crime" exhibition and conference, here yesterday, Dr Mahathir said: "We try to show the horror of war, the cruelty, hideousness of war. But we forget very easily."

Dr Mahathir, who is president of Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF), said civilisation was about the control of emotions and war was not an answer to differences.

"Why is it that the murder of one man is considered a crime whereas the killing of hundreds of thousands of innocent people committed in wars, is not considered so?"

"What we are trying to do is to impress on people, the horrors of war.

"We want the exhibition to show pictures of what really happened in war. We will go on to criminalise war until people reject war.

"We want constant reminders that war is cruel, inhuman and that it is a crime and we will struggle to criminalise it to abolish war."

To do so, the former prime minister said they wanted to charge those, who had led their people into war.

"Two of the world's biggest war criminals are former US president George W. Bush and former British prime minister Tony Blair.

"They lied to their people so that they could go to war on Iraq."

PGPF's sister foundation -- the Kuala Lumpur Foundation's move to "Criminalise War through the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal" will be conducting a four-day hearing on war crimes against peace -- and against Bush and Blair beginning today.

Mahathir said they wanted to publicise, as much as possible, the charges against the two, to the world. "We want to show that this is not a kangaroo court and that the defendants are given a chance to fight their case.

"It is up to the judges whether they are guilty or not.

"We also want to ask people not to invite Tony Blair to give talks".

The Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission will be presided over by eminent persons with legal qualifications, headed by retired Malaysian Federal Court judge Datuk Abdul Kadir Sulaiman.

The three-member prosecution team would be led by Professor G. S. Nijar and Professor Francis Boyle and assisted by Avtaran Singh.



Former prime minister of Malaysia and president of the Perdana Global Peace Foundation, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, (centre) at the PGPF International Conference entitled 'The Arab Uprising' at the Islamic Arts Museum, in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. - SALHANI IBRAHIM

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