

**Dr M: Proper check on Saudi journalist should have been done first**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the authorities should have done a proper study of the Saudi Arabian journalist's case before deporting him.

"If it may cause the loss of life, we have to see the justification," he said.

Mohammad Najeeb A. Kashgari, 23, also known as Hamza Kashgari, was deported on Sunday after being detained three days earlier on arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Air-port en route to New Zealand.

He was fleeing his home country where he is facing persecution for blasphemy over his tweets.

Human rights groups such as Amensty International had called on Malaysia not to repatriate Kashgari as he may get the death sentence.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the authorities did not receive any interim court order to halt the deportation.

"If the court had issued such an order, I would have abided by it," he said.

Hishammuddin said the move to repatriate Kashgari was consistent with the Government's stand.

"I have repeatedly said we do not want Malaysia to be viewed as a safe transit haven for those wanted in their country of origin or those involved in transnational crime."

Meanwhile, Kashgari's lawyers are going to file a motion of contempt against the Home Minister for disobeying the court order.

They had initially intended to file a writ of habeas corpus at the High Court today when the injunction expired.

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