

## **OIC Prefers Diplomacy To Avoid Controversial Discussions**

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LIBREVILLE (Gabon), April 21 (Bernama) -- The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has been carefully monitoring and interacting with certain parties regarding the Syrian conflict.

OIC Secretary-General Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu stressed that OIC preferred to conduct activities diplomatically, to be more effective and avoid controversial discussions which were only self-defeating.

Therefore, at the early stage of the conflict, he ordered a special envoy to meet the Syrian president, with a long letter explaining the OIC position, demanding the government start its reform for democratisation of the country to set up a new constitutional organisation.

"We interact with international community -- Arabs, United Nations (UN), as well as friends of Syrian conferences, and this action is on a political field.

"We have sent a very strong message to the regime in Syria to expedite and stop the killing of innocent people," he told a press conference at the Ninth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers here Saturday.

Ekmeleddin said, due to focus on the humanitarian aspect, the Syrian Government accepted the joint committee of OIC and UN to enter the country for two weeks recently.

He said the committee compiled a "very good report" which indicated what was needed in different places, concluding that about one million people in Syria were affected by the ongoing conflict.

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