

**Malaysia's Support Of OIC Decision A Clear Message To Syria**  
**Bernama**  
**October 22, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's support for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) decision to suspend Syria's membership in the organisation was a symbolic move, consistent with its earlier message for the country to halt its internal conflict.

Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Richard Riot said Malaysia was genuinely concerned with the prolonged and violent crisis in Syria which has led to more than 30,000 civil fatalities since it started in March last year.

"I emphasise here that we do not need to dissolve the OIC. We acted in a symbolic and meaningful gesture to send a message first. A clear message to Syria on the need to take steps to end the conflict.

"If the conflict still goes on, maybe OIC will convene again. The issue of dissolving OIC does not arise at all. Malaysia is after all a part of OIC," he said in response to a supplementary question by Dr Mohd Hatta Md Ramli (PAS-Kuala Krai) at the Dewan Rakyat Monday.

Mohd Hatta had expressed disappointment over Malaysia's decision to make only a symbolic move in stating its stance on the Syrian conflict.

Richard said Malaysia supported OIC's decision to suspend Syria at its fourth Extraordinary Summit on Aug 14 and 15, in Saudi Arabia.

Malaysia had also supported the resolution passed at a Special Human Rights Council session in Geneva on June 1, to categorically condemn the cruel acts of the parties responsible for the mass killings and bloodshed in Syria, he added.

Another supportive move by Malaysia was to fully back the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria to investigate the violation of human rights in the country and bring the responsible parties to justice, he said.

He emphasised that Malaysia has and will always play its role with other member countries of the United Nations (UN) in a responsible manner to end violence and restore peace in Syria, based on the basic principles and charter of the UN, which respects the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

"Malaysia has supported all UN resolutions in line with our stance, and its efforts to implement a peace plan to halt the violence and enable peace talks to be held between all the conflicting parties in Syria," he noted.

Finally, Malaysia supported the peace plan being worked out by the new UN-Arab League special envoy for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, who has vast diplomatic experience and has been appointed to help find a peaceful resolution to the Syrian situation, said Richard.

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