

## **Countries Must Have Provision In Constitution Not To Have War Except In Self-defence - Dr M**

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**By Ahmad Fuad Yahya**

YOGYAKARTA, June 3 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad hopes that countries will one day have in their constitution a provision stating they will not go to war, except in self-defence.

The former Malaysian prime minister who spearheads the Kuala Lumpur Initiative to Criminalise War, said when that happened, the world would probably, be at peace.

"Japan puts in its constitution that it will not go to war, except in self- defence, and it has got the Japan self-defence force which is not supposed to go and fight a war in another country.

"That is the only country in the world that has included this provision that they will not go to war with any other country. Of course, there is now a movement to change the constitution so that Japan can go to war in other countries. That would be very unfortunate," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in a public lecture on 'Global Peace and Conflict Resolution', in conjunction with the launch of the Mahathir Global Peace School at the Muhammadiyah University (UMY) here.

The global peace school which is a collaboration between the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) and UMY, is part of a regional initiative by PGPF to create an international school on global peace and conflict resolution.

Dr Mahathir, who is PGPF founder, said the Kuala Lumpur Initiative To Criminalise War was suggesting to the world that whoever started a war of aggression, must be regarded a criminal.

"For example, a leader of a country who starts a war, who gives the order to invade another country and conquers that country to solve its conflict with that country, must be brought to court," he said.

He said the movement was getting tremendous support from all over the world and many people had come even from America, Canada and elsewhere to support the the move to make war a crime.

Even slavery which was regarded normal and not a crime since ancient times, could be criminalised today, he said, adding that efforts to criminalise war could be achieved in a similar way.

Meanwhile, when answering a question from the floor during a question-and- answer session, Dr Mahathir defended Malaysia's offensive against the Sulu invaders in Lahad Datu, Sabah as a self-defence war and not a war of aggression.

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