

**Increase In Killings Is Price For Freedom - Dr Mahathir  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The current increase in killings on the streets using firearms, is the price for freedom that each citizen paid, noted former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said in a more liberal situation today, it was difficult for the authorities to overcome such violence and they could only take action once it happened.

"Malaysians are very nice people and they don't like killing each other...except that nowadays, killing is a little bit more frequent where everyday, somebody gets shot...that's the price of freedom," he said.

Between April and last month, 23 street shooting cases were reported nationwide, including those involving high-profile or public figures.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after delivering a speech at the Gathering of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Helping Palestine in the Putra World Trade Centre in the capital, Thursday.

Attending the gathering are nine NGOs, namely, Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF); Aman Malaysia; Aqsa Syarif; Pertubuhan Himpunan Lepasani Institusi Pendidikan Malaysia; Islamic Relief; Kelab Putera 1Malaysia; Mercy Malaysia; Malaysian Relief Agency and Viva Palestina.

Dr Mahathir is PGPF president.

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