

When someone points gun at you, shoot first, says Dr Mahathir in support of Zahid Hamidi

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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has thrown his support behind the Home Minister's controversial "shoot first" remark, saying he would rather let criminals face the risk of being shot than putting police in danger.

"When someone points the gun to shoot at you, you shoot first," said the former prime minister.

Dr Mahathir was responding to questions from reporters on Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's "shoot first" speech in Malacca recently.

But Dr Mahathir said proper procedures must be observed before opening fire.

"Don't go around firing your guns at the innocent," he added.

Ahmad Zahid had during a meeting with Umno members in Ayer Keroh last week said there was nothing wrong in arresting gang members, saying the majority of their victims were Malays.

"What is the situation of robbery victims, murder victims during shootings? Most of them are our Malays. Most of them are our race," an online news portal quoted Ahmad Zahid as saying.

"I think the best way is that we no longer compromise with them. There is no need to give them any more warming. If (we) get the evidence, (we) shoot first," the Home Minister reportedly said.

The statement sparked outrage from Opposition lawmakers, lawyers and human rights activists, who urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to sack Ahmad Zahid.

While some viewed Ahmad Zahid's statement as a campaign strategy for the upcoming Umno polls, where he will be defending his vice-president's post, others saw this a blatant abuse of power.

But a defiant Ahmad Zahid yesterday defended his statement on Twitter, telling human rights activists to consider the rights of police officers and victims of criminals. - October 10, 2013.

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