

Dr M to jihadists: Islam propagates reconciliation, not murder or suicide
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 — The Quran tells Muslims to reconcile two enemies to achieve peace, not to kill over mere differences in political ideologies, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said, amid growing unease over the alleged involvement of Malaysian militants in the ongoing armed conflict in Syria.

The former prime minister pointed out that those who have been killed in the conflict had not attacked Malaysia or its people, or caused any unrest in the country.

The many who have been killed include children, elderly people, women and even the physically challenged, he said.

“Many are unarmed girls who are not even soldiers,” he wrote in a blog posting.

“We are not in any state of insecurity due to attacks by Muslims who do not share our aspirations,” Dr Mahathir said, adding that he had tried searching the Al-Quran for instructions telling Muslims to commit suicide or kill others in the name of Islam.

“The Al-Quran tells us to reconcile two Muslims who are enemies. Only if one party rejects peace can a third party side with the party in favour of achieving peace.

“But no word of God tells us to exacerbate animosities by taking sides. Allah repeatedly expresses His dislike for chaos,” he added.

Dr Mahathir urged religious scholars to state their views on Muslim suicide and the ongoing jihadist movement, noting that no edict has been issued on the matter as yet.

“I would like to know the opinion of our ulamas in Malaysia on the paradise that awaits these defenders of Islam,” he said.

On Tuesday, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said that 15 Malaysians were allegedly killed in Syria after joining in terrorist and jihadist activities with Islamist militant group Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), according to the Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations in New York.

It said that the news was conveyed by the Permanent Representative of Syria to the United Nations in New York in a press conference on June 18, 2014.

ISIS, also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), is a splinter group of al-Qaeda that wants to set up an Islamic caliphate encompassing both Iraq and Syria.

ISIS is viewed as a terror organisation by authorities both here and abroad.

A Malaysian suspected of being a member of ISIS was believed to have been the suicide bomber who killed 25 members of an Iraqi police team last month.

Earlier this month, three local men were arrested by police for suspected links to ISIS.

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