

**International Community Should View Weapons Of Destruction Seriously - Zahid
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is firm on its stand that the international community needs to seriously address issues on weapons of mass destruction.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said if such weapons fell into the hands of Daesh militants or any extremist groups, it would create serious problems.

"If weapons of destruction fall into the hands of Daesh group and into the hands of other extremist groups, I fear not only one country but an entire continent could be destroyed," he said in a Radio Televisyen Malaysia TV1 Special Programme with the Deputy Prime Minister aired here, Monday night.

The 30-minute programme was hosted by Sayed Munawar Sayed Mustar.

According to Ahmad Zahid, last month he was asked by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to chair the United Nations (UN) Security Council Open Debate on the production of weapons of mass destruction at UN headquarters.

He said 53 countries were involved in the debate session with the participation of 60 speakers and the tabling of working papers by nation representatives and weapon experts.

He said several experts of weapons of mass destruction, including representatives from universities and international study institutes had stated their concern on the negative implications if Resolution 1540 was not implemented.

Resolution 1540 which was unanimously accepted on April 28 2004, has set the obligations under Chapter VII of the Charter for all nation members to develop and enforce suitable and effective measures against proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons as well as the transportation method, especially to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors.

Asked on the stand of UN for its double standard which favoured big power nations and its obstruction to pressure countries producing WMD, Ahmad Zahid said it would be better if it was managed at international level such as UN and the UN Security Council.

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