

Glorifying war must be criminalised

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PUTRAJAYA: Anti-war and anti-violence messages will not mean much if television and movies continue to glorify war and violence.

Former UN assistant secretary-general Denis Halliday said in the call for war to be criminalised, such shows and movies should also be similarly criminalised.

"Glorification of war in all forms should be criminalised," he said during a special session entitled *Action Plan For The Global Network For Peace* at the Perdana Global Peace Forum 2006 here yesterday.

Halliday, a panellist at the session, was responding to a comment from the floor that even animation and cartoons meant for children were glorifying violence and war.

He said that although acts of violence were extensively shown on television, one could not do without the media because it could still play a positive role.

He added that the media had shown the atrocities taking place in Iraq and the message of non-violence had indirectly been conveyed.

Another panellist, Professor



SERIOUS TALK: Dr Mahathir listening to Halliday make a point at a press conference after the Perdana Global Peace Forum in Putrajaya yesterday.

Michel Chossudovsky from Canada's Ottawa University, said television news had reported in April of an imminent attack on Iran but there was no follow-up after that.

"Why, when this was known by the media, was there no analysis, and nothing done or written to stop it?" he asked.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is chairman of the Perdana Leadership Foundation, organiser of the forum, said the media in

the United States that propagated freedom of press was in fact controlled by five media moguls.

He said the media there did not report the true picture of what took place in Iraq or Afghanistan. He added that journalists were subordinates in a controlled media.

Because of this, he said, the local media should not depend on the foreign wire services for news reports on other parts of the world.