

Syed Hamid: Hizbollah fighters are not terrorists

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KOTA TINGGI: Hizbollah fighters are resisting Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon and are not terrorists, as charged by the United States.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the West needed to be clear about the conflict.

"The conflict did not start because of the capture of two Israeli soldiers by the Hizbollah two weeks ago, but by Israel's occupation of Arab land. The Palestinians, until now, have no country of their own."

Syed Hamid said while Hizbollah had been branded a terrorist organisation by the US and other Western countries, Israel's actions in Lebanon could be deemed the same.

"What Israel is doing in Lebanon is state terrorism," he said at a ceremony with Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman to hand over land grants to 348 settlers in Felda Bukit Wa Ha here.

The United Nations, which lost four unarmed observers after an observation post in Lebanon was bombed by Israeli planes, said the Israeli aggression was disproportionate and violated international laws.

Malaysia, as the chair of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference will hold a special meeting on the conflict on Thursday.

The meeting, to be chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, will seek an urgent stop to the aggression in Lebanon and Palestine that has caused so much death and destruction.

"The meeting is being called as the international community has been unable to end the crisis," said Syed Hamid. "It appears the Israelis have been given a blank cheque to slaughter innocent civilians." — Bernama