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Dr M: Tony Blair is a war criminal

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants former British premier Tony Blair out of Malaysia.

"I am disgusted that Tony Blair has been invited to Malaysia. This man, to me, is a war criminal. Through instigating the war in Iraq, he has killed more than (former Bosnian Serb leader) Radovan Karadzic and Saddam Hussein," said Dr Mahathir at his office at the Petronas Twin Towers yesterday.

"Saddam has been hanged, Karadzic was recently arrested but this man goes around the world, lecturing on the rule of law," he said, referring to Blair's lecture today on "Rule of Law and Good Governance" as the 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah Law Lecture, an annual event of Universiti Malaya since 1986.

Dr Mahathir, who is Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal chairman, said Blair's presence was no laughing matter and felt saddened that

Malaysia, an Islamic country, would play host to a leader who contributed in ravaging another Islamic country.

Also present was his son, Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir, the Jerlun MP who echoed his father's statement.

On Pakatan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's announcement that he will be running for the Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat in a by-election, Dr Mahathir said he was not surprised.