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Malaysian National News Agency

Hugo Chavez's Strong Opposition Against Israel An Inspiration To All

General

August 26, 2006 21:04 PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's strong opposition of Israeli aggression against Lebanon is an inspiration to all, said International Movement For a Just World (Just) president Dr Chandra Muzaffar.

He added the non-Arab leader who will visit Malaysia tomorrow, had showed so much courage in voicing his opposition to Israeli violence against Lebanon recently, to the extent of asking his foreign minister to look into the possibility of severing ties with Israel.

"Chavez is prepared to act with dignity and courage. Chavez is an inspiration to a lot of people," said Dr Chandra at a public forum "Stop the War, Save the Palestinian Children", here Saturday.

The forum which was followed by a question and answer session moderated by Bernama Editor in Chief Datuk Azman Ujang, was jointly organised by the Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI) and Deir Yassin Remembered Malaysia (DYRM).

Dr Chandra pointed out Chavez was prepared to take a strong stand against Israel because of his commitment to liberation and justice and this was something that failed to be taken by Arab countries.

He also criticised the Arab governments for their lack of support to the Palestinian cause in the last 60 years.

"It is utter disgrace...the Palestinians going through so much suffering partly because of the Arab countries," he added.

Touching on the Israel-Hizbollah conflict, he said the 34 days conflict followed by a ceasefire, proved to the Arabs that it was possible to stand up against Zionism and imperialism.

"Israel failed miserably to achieve any one of its objectives and to a certain extent it was a triumph to Hizbollah. Hizbollah's resistance for the first time, shake up the Israeli military," he said

Dr Chandra added Israel had lost 700 soldiers during the 18 years occupation of Lebanon but during the 34 days war with Hizbollah, they lost 110 soldiers and it was a setback for them.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Ambassador to Malaysia Abdel Aziz Aboughosh said Palestine will go back to the United Nations through the Security Council to deal and solve the protracted Palestinian problem.

He said Palestine will push for the Palestinian issue to be taken back by the Security Council once again, during the UN General Assembly in New York, next month.

He said the UN Security Council must ensure peace and security for the Palestinians and look into the possibility of sending peacekeeping force to monitor peace because without such a force, peace will be difficult to achieve.

Asked about the road map, the ambassador said: "The map is there but there is no road to lead us there".

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI) and Deir Yassin Remembered Malaysia in a joint statement, said the civil society of the world must find ways to stop Israeli expansionism and aggression as well as make them accountable for the untold violation of humanitarian and international law.

"Unless and until there is a just solution for the more than 4.5 million Palestinian refugees, there cannot be a lasting peace in the Middle East," they said.

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