

KL Should Push For Nuclear Disarmament

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GENERAL > NEWS

By Yasmin Ahmad Zukiman

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Malaysia should initiate efforts to push for nuclear disarmament if it is elected into the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 2015-2016, said former Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans.

He said winning a non-permanent seat on the council would provide more opportunities for Malaysia to highlight and enhance awareness of the issue to a wider audience.

"The nuclear (disarmament) issue seems to have gone off the agenda but Malaysia can help to get it back on the agenda", he told Bernama after taking part in a forum on the threats posed by nuclear weapons at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) here Wednesday.

Malaysia previously held a UNSC non-permanent seat thrice - in 1965 and in 1989/1990. It last occupied the seat in 1999/2000.

Evans noted that many people concurred on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation but were not serious as they should be about disarmament.

His remarks echoed those of Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Datuk Hussein Haniff who told the United Nations General Assembly gathering earlier this month that it was a sad reality that nuclear disarmament was still a long way from being fulfilled.

Present at today's event were IDFR director-general Datuk Hussin Nayan and Malaysian Human Rights Commission chairman Tan Sri Hasmy Agam.

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