

3,000 students protest against war, violence

KOTA KINABALU: Carrying anti-war placards and banners, some 3,000 students in Sabah held a peace march urging the superpowers to focus on world peace.

The students, from the public higher learning institutions, marched around the campus after attending a peace seminar jointly organised by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and The People's Alliance for Peace Malaysia, here Thursday.

The seminar, which touched on terrorism, war and destruction weaponry, also collected 10,000 signatures to protest against American war threats on Iraq and Israel's violence on Palestinians.

The morning session started with dialogues on the present global conflicts, followed by the march and a workshop on the same issues would be held later in the afternoon.

The seminar would end with a prayer at UMS mosque.

UMS vice-chancellor, Tan Sri Prof Dr Abu Hassan Othman, officiated at the seminar, while the closing ceremony would be attended by the Chief Minister's Assistant Minister, Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail.

Meanwhile, the "Badan Bertindak Kumpulan Belia Pencinta Nusa Sabah" (Cintanusa) is confident to collect 150,000 signatures from the local communities in its campaign to garner support to protest against America.

The movement's Chairman, Zulkarnain Mahdar, said the campaign mobilised by 50 members started early this month and had collected 9,999 signatures in the State.

"We will continue this campaign until we reach our target and if everything goes smoothly, we will present the signature documents to the co-ordinator of the Peace alliance on Feb 16," he said at a media conference held to announce the launch of the peace campaign, here Thursday.

Zulkarnain said Cintanusa also proposed to submit a memorandum with a copy of the signature documents to the American ambassador in Kuala Lumpur on the same day — urging them to solve the American-Iraq conflict through diplomatic channels.

"We also urge America to categorise currency speculators as terrorists because they can destroy many people through the economy." — Bernama