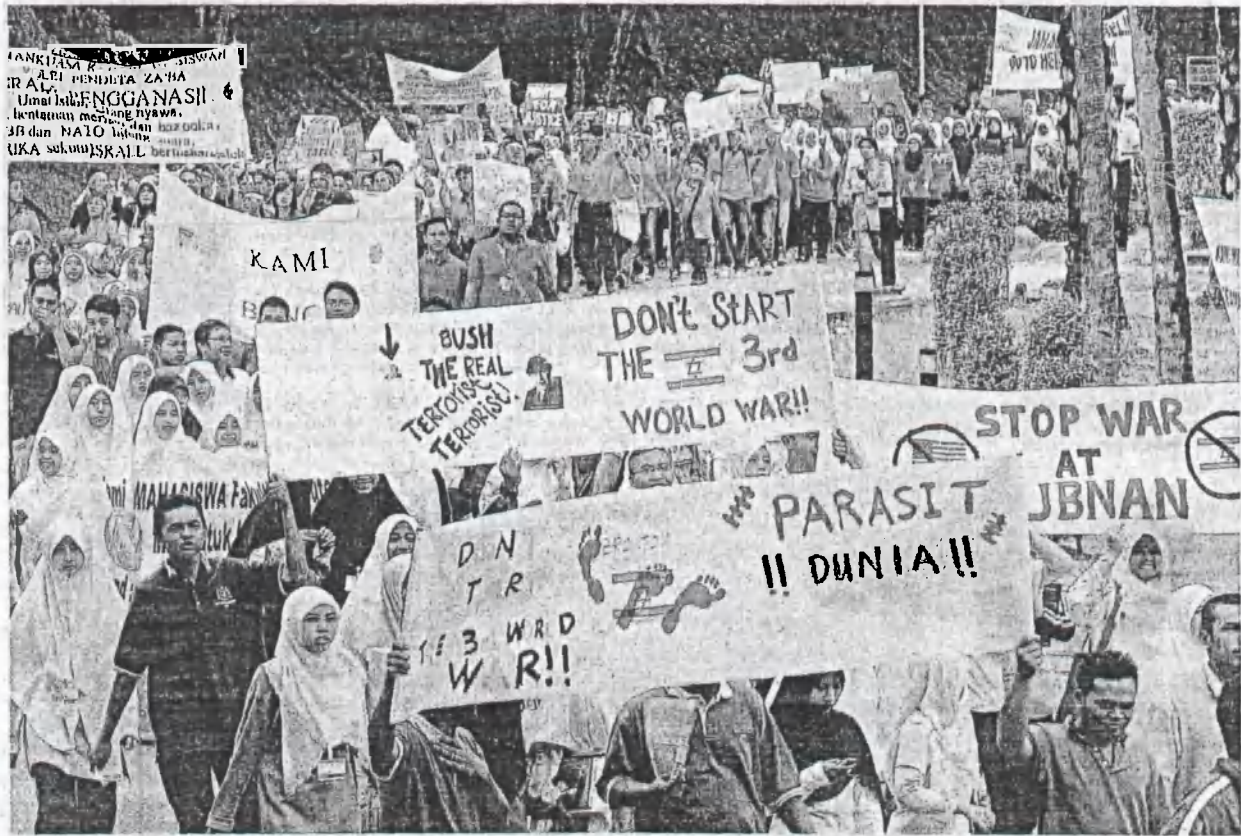


NST (2/8/06 CMS 18)

Students rally against Israel



The students, holding banners to protest against Israeli atrocities in Lebanon, at the UKM campus in Bangi yesterday. — Bernama picture

KUALA LUMPUR: More than 20,000 university students yesterday held peaceful protests in campuses across Malaysia against Israeli atrocities in Lebanon and Palestine. The protests were staged in public universities in the Klang Valley, Penang and Johor Baru. The universities are Universiti Malaya (UM) here, Universiti Kebangsaan Malay-

sia (UKM) in Bangi, Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in Skudai, Johor Baru. They shouted anti-Israel slogans and hoisted "We Want Peace", "We Hate Israel" and "Stop War" banners and collected donations for the Lebanon and Palestine Peace

Fund. "Malaysians must condemn Israeli atrocities," said UM student leader Mohd Efendi Omar, 23, who led a one-kilometre protest march at the UM campus. In UKM, student leader Mohd Anas Ali, 23, led a peaceful protest and sent a memorandum to the Government through Vice-Chancellor Prof-

Datuk Dr Mohd Salleh Yassin. In Shah Alam, at least 11,000 UiTM students protested at the university's stadium. Student leader Mohd Azhar Abdul Razak, 23, said they would send a protest note to Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, who is also Umno Youth head, next Thursday. In Penang, some 1,000 stu-

dents protested at the Dewan Budaya USM. Student leader Mohd Johari Awang Sazali, 22, said they were protesting because Israel was killing innocent victims including women and children. In UTM, student leader Saiful Islam Mat, 22, led 1,000 students in a protest at Dataran Agora, UTM, after Friday prayers. — Bernama