

CNS3894

R GE 12-08 00177 EB890

aae

PM CRITICISES WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR PRACTISING DOUBLE STANDARDS

Mahathir-criticise (pix)

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight criticised some Western nations for practising +double standards+ in their actions against several countries, including Malaysia, for so-called violation of human rights.

The prime minister said these countries were ready to take action against Malaysia if they found that human rights had been +violated+ here but had not done anything in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

+We found these human rights violated in Israel and now in Bosnia...but they appear to be a bit selective (regarding human rights' violation in the two countries) ,+ he told reporters after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting here.

+They (Western nations) always say they have the right to interfere in the affairs of any country if human rights in that country have been violated,+ he said.

However, the rampant violation of human rights in Bosnia now had failed to elicit immediate action from them, he added. -- more

♥12/08/00-43MST

CNS3897

R GE 12-08 00189 EB891

aae

Mahathir-criticise 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

+We regret their action...the people of Bosnia have a right to live freely in their country,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said the western countries and the United Nations (UN) need not argue over who should lead in efforts to bring peace to Bosnia.

+Whether it is Europe or the UN, that makes the first move is immaterial.. what is important is 'that whoever is able should act to lighten the burden of the people of Bosnia,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the Umno supreme council tonight decided to allow special information officers and Kemas officers to vie for party posts.

These officers were allowed to become Umno members because they were only contract officers and not government officers, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the supreme council, which met for three hours, had accepted the membership of former Johor Semangat 46 leader Datuk Haji Ali Raya.

He said the Barisan Nasional Youth assembly would be held in Tawau, Sabah, on Sept 16. -- Bernama

♥12/08/00-58MST