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ISLAMIC NATIONS MUST DO MORE TO HELP, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir - Bosnia

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KOTABAHARU, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Islamic countries should do more to help bring relief to Bosnian Muslims who were the victims of atrocities.

+It will be disappointing if Islamic nations allowed Muslims in Bosnia to be brutally murdered while non-Muslims are prepared to come forward and help, + the Prime Minister told a news conference after chairing a meeting of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee, here.

He was asked to comment on suggestions, including by Umno Youth and PAS, that Malaysia push for a special meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) for members to adopt a common stand on the problem.

Malaysia yesterday severed diplomatic relations with Belgrade, the first country to do so in protest against the atrocities on Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could only urge other Islamic nations to act against Yugoslavia. -- more

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Mahathir - Bosnia 2 (last) Kota Baharu

+We have set aside some money and have sent as much as we can afford but Islamic countries must do more (for the Muslims in Bosnia), + he said.

On the status of the Yugoslav embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Dr Mahathir said. +the staff of the embassy will have to leave while those business people involved in contracts, we will have to see the legal requirement...what is the legal status, whether they should be allowed to continue with their business or contract+.

As for those not working in the country, he said that so long as they had valid travel documents it did not mean that Yugoslavs could not be in the country.

Replying to a question on what would be Malaysia's stand if Serbia attended the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Jakarta early next month, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia did not recognise Serbia as the successor state of Yugoslavia.

He said he would attend the NAM meeting. -- Bernama

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