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MAHATHIR CRITICISES THE WEST OVER ATTITUDE ON BOSNIA

Mahathir-Bosnia

From Zulkifli Salleh

JAKARTA, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised the West over its reluctance to take appropriate action to put a stop to the killing in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Speaking during the general debate at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit here, he urged European countries to take action, equal to the gravity of the situation, to end the killing.

He said what was happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a vicious war involving the worst kind of human rights abuses and implementation of a version of apartheid by the Serbs.

But the Europeans, who had always considered the Balkans as their special responsibility and had once plunged Europe into a world war because an Archduke was assassinated in Sarajevo, now seemed quite unwilling to be involved in putting an end the atrocities, he added. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said: +The Bosnians do not need just food and medicine. They need to be saved from Serbian expansion by force of arms.

+The western attitude towards the killing of the Bosnians stands in stark contrast to the response to the alleged killing of the Kurds in Iraq.

+Ships and planes, men and money, have been deployed there even when the evidence is not clear.+

In Bosnia, concentration camps with emaciated prisoners have returned as Serbs implemented their version of apartheid called ethnic cleansing, he added, noting that women were being raped and even children were shot and killed by snipers.

He expressed regret that while the Bosnians had been encouraged to exercise their rights, their plight was largely ignored and they were subjected to an all out attack.

+Is this the face of the New World Order?. If it is, it is a frightening face because it is grotesquely distorted,+ he said. -- more

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Dr Mahathir also noted that while minor human rights infringements would attract retribution, blatant abuses on a massive scale went unpunished.

+What kind of a New World Order is this? What will be the fate of the many small and weak countries who make up the majority in our organisation. If we are subjected to the same Serbian-type brutality, will the world watch uncaringly on their TV screens?+ he asked. -- Bernama

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