

# NO JUSTICE FOR THE WEAK

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## Islamic way to succeed

The Islamic approach to economic justice, where the prime objective is to eradicate poverty, incorporates sufficient ingredients fundamental to a country's economic success, according to a senior fellow with the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia.

By ROHAIZAD A. RAHIM

(P)

## PM blames world community for the chaos

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The chaotic situation in the world today is a result of the international community's disregard for the principles of justice, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The international community, he said, was not caring but was instead cruel to those who were weak.

Citing the atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Prime Minister said that while the weak Bosnians were not allowed to obtain weapons for self-defence, the Serbian aggressors were al-

lowed to increase their arsenal.

In addition, the big powers had agreed to give to the Serbs the territories forcibly taken by them, without

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due regard for the rights of the Bosnian Muslims, he said when opening a seminar on *Islam and Justice* at Bank Negara yesterday.

The two-day seminar, organised by the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim), was attended by

186 people.

Also present at the opening was Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid and Ikim director-general Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister also condemned the West for going back on the principles of justice, which they professed to uphold, if such moves benefited them.

During the Gulf war, Dr Mahathir said, the West appeared to be protecting the Kuwaitis from the cruelty in-

flicted by the Iraqis.

"But when the Serbs are terrorising and killing the Bosnian Muslims, the West has a thousand-and-one excuses for not acting against the Serbs.

"The truth is, they (the West) acted in Kuwait because they wanted to protect their source of petroleum; and since they have no interest in Bosnia, they are willing to allow the Serbs to kill, terrorise and suppress the Muslims there."

Dr Mahathir said the actual princi-

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## PM: Any decision made should be just

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ple subscribed to by the West and the majority of the present world was based on "Might is Right."

In this respect, since the West was powerful, whatever they did was right, he said.

On the other hand, since the Islamic countries and Muslims everywhere were generally weak, whatever they did was wrong and unfair, he said.

"The danger is that the Muslims, in their frustration with weaknesses and

failures, will react contrary to their religious teachings."

Because of these disappointments, he said, Muslims might act rashly and commit the same offence as their foes, which would eventually lead to the confirmation of allegations by the West that Muslims were extremists.

In the Islamic context, he said, justice was perceived as placing something in its right place.

He said there were three essential points in this respect:

● PLACING someone in a post or

function appropriate to his capabilities;

● METING out sentence or making a decision appropriate to a situation or the person about to receive it; and

● PLACING wealth or property to those who rightly deserve them.

Dr Mahathir said that in selecting someone for any post or function, such as a judge, Islam demands that only the most qualified be given such responsibilities.

"If we appoint someone who is not an expert in a particular field, we will

commit two acts of injustice.

"The first is on the person appointed because he will not be able to perform due to lack of expertise and the second will be to the people or the community the appointed person is supposed to serve."

On decisions, he said any decision made should be just.

He added that justice was also demanded in the distribution of wealth either in the physical form or in the form of opportunities.