

12/08/20-45MST

U GE 12-08 00162 EG391

aae tbe

Mahathir-Nato (with pix)

MAHATHIR PESSIMISTIC NATO CAN HELP BOSNIA

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was pessimistic countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) can execute their threat to launch air strikes on Serbs besieging Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said Nato had failed several times to fulfill its threats and the Serbs no longer took the warnings seriously.

"I am pessimistic (over the Nato threats)," he told reporters when asked about Nato's warning to strike the Serbs unless they released their siege of Sarajevo.

Dr Mahathir had earlier launched the third Heart Week organised by the Malaysian Heart Foundation at a shopping complex here.

The failure of Nato, he said, had made the Serbs act as they wished and countries which often talked of justice were unable to stop them. -- more

JO MGN

CNS1673

U GE 12-08 00137 EG392

aae tbe

Mahathir-Nato 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"The Serbs will continue (with their atrocities). They will kill. They will rape. They will torture people because those who talk of justice and fair play are not prepared to do anything," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that United Nations' secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali would use the authority vested in him to order the air strikes on the Serbs.

He said Malaysia had written to the leaders of several of the countries concerned - Britain, the United States, Germany, France and Belgium - to act immediately to end the atrocities against the people of Bosnia.

The government had also written to Boutros-Ghali, he said.

"But we can do only that," he added. -- Bernama

JO MGN