

# Dr M raps West for hypocrisy

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From  
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LONDON, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised the West over its double standards in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for air strikes and military intervention to stop the killings.

Dr Mahathir, who is attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Cyprus, said this in an interview over the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) *Breakfast with Frost* programme today.

Dr Mahathir said the West appeared so preoccupied with Iraq that the moment the Iraqis turned on their radar they were willing to shoot them but adopted a different stand when it came to Bosnia.

In an interview with the BBC's David Frost, Dr Mahathir said: "To me, it looks like double standards.

"If nothing is done, then I think the West should stop talking about human rights and trying to impose their standards on other countries."

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"How can they talk about human rights when they allow these things to happen right in front of their eyes?"

"The West talks so much about human rights, about the right to interfere in the affairs of other countries if there is evidence of violation of human rights.

"And yet, in Bosnia, you see evidence of people being raped, murdered, slaughtered and shot at and it does not seem to matter."

When asked what he expected Europe, and in particular Britain, to do about the situation, Dr Mahathir said they should go in and fight the aggressor as they had the power to do so.

He said it did not matter whether such intervention involved air strikes or deployment of ground troops so long as the West intervened.

British Prime Minister John Major, featured in the same programme, said lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia-Herzegovina would not lead to an end to bloodshed in the area and that it would jeopardise the case

"How would flooding the country with arms help stop the war and atrocities?"

"It will only add to the bloodshed and killing," he said.

Major said hundreds of thousands of lives had been saved over the past year or two, and expressed concern over the cost in human terms should the UN humanitarian operation end.

He added that the only solution to the long-drawn conflict was through patience and continuing negotiations which Britain was undertaking.

He also expressed reservations about sending in troops under the UN banner and said that would entail serious questions of how long they would have to stay there.

Major said UN troops had been in Cyprus for over 29 years and that there was no easy solution to the conflict.

Also featured in the programme were Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe and chairman of the African National Congress Thabo Mbeki.