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Mahathir-Bosnia (With Pix)

M'SIA WILL NOT RELENT IN PURSUIT OF JUSTICE FOR BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan.19 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will neither give up nor accept defeat in its pursuit for justice for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

When Malaysia talked about Bosnia-Herzegovina, "we are duty-bound to discuss the fate of an independent nation that has been robbed of its sovereignty," he said.

He added: "We are talking about the double standards of several superpowers; we are talking about the principles of human rights which are not upheld justly, and we are also debating the survival of a nation that has been assailed by cruelties, injustice and atrocities."

This reaffirmation of Malaysia's commitment to the plight of Bosnia was contained in his message in the a book "Bosnia: Voices of Malaysia" to be launched by him at Parliament House tomorrow.

The 123-page book also contains pictures of the crimes committed against the Bosnians in the war-torn country.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's concern about Bosnia-Herzegovina was based on several factors. -- more

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These included the disregard for basic principles of humanity which had been formulated to ensure that peace prevailed in the world and that the sanctity of life be respected by all.

"These two key factors which underline our concern have motivated Malaysia to question the role played by the United Nations in handling the problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he added.

Dr Mahathir said based on the current situation and latest developments, Malaysia could not elect to be silent but had to question the attitude, actions and behaviour, earnestness and prejudices in the UN in handling the issue.

"More specifically, Malaysia cannot behave irresponsibly towards Bosnia-Herzegovina," he added

He said this drove Malaysia to question the UN "which is now seen to be play-acting, complacent and adopting double standards in solving the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In this respect, Malaysia would continue to question the actions of the UN Security Council which seemed half-hearted in working out and solving the problems in the former Yugoslav republic, he added. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said: "It is also for this reason that Malaysia will strive to get worldwide support so that the UN Security Council is restructured to ensure worldwide fairness and justice.

"We will also try to seek support so that the Declaration of Human Rights 1948 will be given a true interpretation, which is fair and just, in line with the needs of the New World Order."

On Malaysia's pursuit for justice for Bosnia, he said Malaysia would continue to convince friendly nations through the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Commonwealth, the South-South Dialogue and other forums, consistent with its stance so that the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue would be "debated and fought" until success was achieved.

In another message in conjunction with the launching of the book, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia condemned not only the Serbs who perpetrated atrocities with impunity but also those who were insensitive to the plight of the Bosnians.

He said it was the moral responsibility of the global community to save Bosnia-Herzegovina, a sovereign and independent nation. -- more

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He added: "Malaysia, with other fair-minded nations, must continue to seek justice for the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The Bosnians are in dire need of help. They long for peace but their basic rights continue to be brutally violated by the Serbs.

"While the Western powers vacillate, the aggressors commit more and more barbaric acts."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians of different ethnicity and creed were to be commended for their concern for "fellow human beings who have had to endure what no man, woman or child should have to bear" (in Bosnia).

He said proceeds from the sale of the book would go to the Bosnians, a small gesture of sympathy but reflective of a deep concern greater than that shown by major powers which have allowed the Serbs to continue their savagery in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The book and its 160-page Bahasa Malaysia version called "Bosnia: Suara Keprihatinan Malaysia", was compiled by Member of Parliament for Parit Sulong Ruhanie Haji Ahmad on behalf of Parliament. -- more

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Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamad Zahir Haji Ismail told a press conference here both books contained three important speeches of Dr Mahathir on Bosnia-Herzegovina and resolutions on the former Yugoslav republic adopted by Parliament on Oct.28 last year.

A total of 25,000 copies, priced at RM50 each, have been published for sale throughout the country.

Zahir said proceeds from the sale of the book would be channelled to the National Welfare Foundation's "Bosnia Aid Fund" under the National Unity and Social Development Ministry.

The Prime Minister would also simultaneously launch another book on Bosnia-Herzegovina, "Bosnia: Testament To War Crimes As Told By Survivors" tomorrow.

The author of the book is Dr Alijah Gordon, a social activist from the Malaysian Sociological Research Institute. -- Bernama

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