

# Dr M: We'll not rest until Bosnia achieves justice

By Azrin Azmi

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Malaysia will not give up or accept defeat in the pursuit of justice for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the country would continue to convince friendly nations through the Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Conference, Commonwealth, South-South dialogue and other forums consistent with Malaysia's stance so that the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue will be debated and fought until success is achieved.

"When we talk about Bosnia-Herzegovina, we are duty-bound to discuss the fate of an independent nation that has been robbed of its sovereignty; we are talking about the double standards of several superpowers; we are talking about the principles of human rights which are not upheld justly; we are also debating the survival of a nation that has been assailed by cruelties, injustice and atrocities."

Dr Mahathir said this in the foreword of a book enti-

tled *Bosnia: Voices of Malaysia*, one of three on Bosnia-Herzegovina that will be launched tomorrow to raise money for the Bosnian Relief Fund.

The fund was set up by the National Welfare Foundation under the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development.

The book is a compilation by MP for Parit Sulong Ruhanie Ahmad of extracts of speeches of the Prime Minister and Malaysian Parliamentarians and the writings of journalists pertaining to issues on Bosnia-Herzegovina and Human Rights.

The other two books are the Bahasa Malaysia version entitled, *Bosnia: Suara Keprihatinan Malaysia*, and *Bosnia: Testament to War Crime As Told By Survivors*, compiled by Dr Alijah Gordon of the Malaysian Sociological Research Institute.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was very concerned about the problems faced by Bosnia-Herzegovina based on several factors, which included the disregard for basic principles of humanity which had been formulated to ensure that peace pre-

vailed in the world and that the sanctity of life is 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 said based on the current situation and the latest developments, the country could not elect to be silent but must question the attitudes, actions, behaviour, earnestness and prejudices in the UN when handling the issue.

"More specifically, Malaysia cannot behave irresponsibly towards Bosnia-Herzegovina. We cannot but uphold our stand that it is everybody's responsibility to ensure that the world remains peaceful and that its people will enjoy peace and stability."

He added it was this fact that was driving Malaysia to question the UN which was now seen to be playing, acting, complacent and adopting double standards in solving the problems of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Malaysia will continue

to question the UN Security Council, which seems to be half-hearted in working out and solving the problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

He added this was also the reason that Malaysia would strive to get worldwide support so that the Security Council was 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."

Earlier, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohd Zahir Ismail, in announcing the launching of the books by Dr Mahathir, said he was proud that many Malaysians had already agreed to donate to the Bosnian Relief Fund through the purchase of the books.

Speaking to reporters at his office in Parliament House today, Zahir said:

"It is encouraging to know how much the public cares for the injustices being committed on Bosnia-

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## Donate to fund, Malaysians urged

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Herzegovina."

He hoped that many more Malaysians would come forward to donate to the fund.

A total of 25,000 copies of the books, to be sold at RM50 each, have been printed and Zahir hoped libraries would acquire them in bulk to help the Bosnian cause.

The books were published by Titian Klasik Sdn Bhd on behalf of Parliament Malaysia and the cost was borne by IBEX Corporation Amalgamated, Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd, RGB Sdn Bhd and Sabah Shipyard Sdn Bhd.

On the two-day Conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina that would be held here

from Saturday, Zahir said 54 countries had been invited. To date, he added, 90 representatives had already confirmed their participation.

Asked if the suggestion that a World Bosnian Day be adopted at the conference, Zahir said it was up to the participating countries whether to accept it or not.