

CNS0431  
U GE 20-01 00240 EG346  
aac tbe

Mahathir-Bosnia

UN TO BE BLAMED FOR SUFFERINGS IN BOSNIA, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr <sup>P</sup>Mahathir Mohamad has blamed the United Nations (UN) for the suffering of the Muslims in Bosnia-Mezergovina, ticking off the international body for what he described as not discharging duties entrusted to it.

In another of his strong speech criticising the international community over the plight of the Bosnians, the Prime Minister said UN had not only put its integrity in question but also the sincerity of the so-proclaimed champions of human rights.

At a function where he received a standing ovation from a group of Bosnians now taking shelter in Malaysia, he also expressed his sadness that the international community had chose to stand by and watch the Muslims in Bosnia-Mezergovina continued to face the merciless aggression of the Serbs.

"If we accept what is happening to the Bosnians now as legitimate and right, then our civilisation is coming to an end," he said when launching the books "Voices of Malaysia", "Suara Keperihatinan Malaysia" and "Bosnia: Testament to War Crimes As Told By Survivors" here today.

At the ceremony, attended by corporate leaders, senior government officers and politicians, more than Rm1 million was collected for the Bosnian Fund which, Dr Mahathir said, proved that they were still "humans", sympathising for the Bosnians. --more

AZG ABG

▼20/01/21-09MST

U GE 20-01 00178 EG347

aac tbe

Mahathir-Bosnia 2 Kuala Lumpur

In criticising the UN, Dr Mahathir said it was clear that it was the United Nations that was "holding down" the Bosnians with its policies of arms embargo over Bosnia-Mezergovina, over protecting the UN troops and failing to apply pressure against Serbia.

The embargo had left the Bosnian Muslims defenceless against the Serbs, he said, adding that it was apparent that the Western powers did not want their soldiers even to get "hurt, and not to mention killed" and that they did nothing to protect the Bosnians Muslims.

"What good are they called soldiers. We might as well called the civilians or small children to do their jobs," he said.

He said every operation of the UN troops, even when dispatching food supplies, must also get the permission of the Serbs, the enemy of the Bosnians.

"Even our own Malaysian troops there are helpless," said Dr Mahathir, adding that they had to abide by orders of the UN. --more

AZG ABG

▼20/01/21-16MST

CNS0437

U GE 20-01 00142 EG348

aae tbe

Mahathir-Bosnia 3 Kuala Lumpur

He said Malaysia's concern and help for the Bosnians should not be misconstrued just because they were Muslims.

"We also support the blacks in South Africa and they are not even Muslims. We are even among the first to apply sanctions against South Africa, way back in 1963," he said.

"We are concerned because they are human beings," he said.

In congratulating those who had donated to the fund, Dr Mahathir said they had proven that their concern was real and not hypocritical like the international community.

Prominent social worker Dr Alijah Gordon, who edited the book "Bosnia: Testament to War Crimes As Told By Survivors", criticised Unesco for failing to protect priceless manuscripts in Sarajevo from being destroyed by the Serbs. --more

AZG ABG

▼20/01/21-26MST

CNS0441

U GE 20-01 00128 EG349

aae tbe

Mahathir-Bosnia 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"Where was Unesco?," asked Dr Alijah, adding that half of 22,000 old manuscripts in Sarajevo had been destroyed.

"Although you still can reproduce people, you cannot reproduce a civilisation," she said.

Dr Alijah also suggested for a complete international boycott of British goods, not just "Buy British Last".

"They will only understand when you hit their economy," he said.

The book "Voices of Malaysia" is a compilation of speeches by Dr Mahathir and other Malaysian politicians on the Bosnian issue. The "Suara Keprihatinan Malaysia" is the translated version in Bahasa Melayu.

The proceeds from sale of the three books will be go to the Bosnian Fund. --Bernama

AZG ABG

▼20/01/21-31MST