

Prime Minister launches two books to raise funds

Dr M: UN has failed to protect Bosnians

By Manan Osman and Sharifah Fatimah

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the United Nations Security Council had failed miserably in safeguarding Bosnia-Herzegovina from Serb atrocities.

Speaking at the launch of two books on Bosnia at Parliament House today, Dr Mahathir said the UN was more concerned with protecting its forces from getting hurt than helping the Bosnians.

"The UN instructions are that the forces should only send in supplies to the besieged Bosnians if they are allowed to do so by the Serbs.

"Such are the instructions that today in Croatia here is a huge stock of food and clothing for the people of Bosnia but they have not even moved because the UN forces are not allowed to move them by the Serbs," he said.

"Of what use are the relief supplies if you cannot deliver them and if you have to ask the enemy's permission to provide these supplies to the Bosnians?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir said he also doubted whether the food and clothing sent by Malaysians for the people of Bosnia ever reached them.

Dr Mahathir said before Bosnia he could not imagine that such a thing could happen.

"Not the killings and the rapes and the atrocities committed by the Serbs. What I could not imagine was that the rest of the world, the so-called civilised world, the great powers, the people who claimed to dedicate themselves to human rights and the prevention of their violation, would stand by and just watch the atrocities committed before their eyes and do nothing about it.

"These are the very people who, immediately after the Gulf War, said that they have a right to intervene in the internal affairs of any country if there should be

violations of human rights."

Dr Mahathir said he had questioned this during the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of State in Harare.

"I asked them what gives them this idea that they can guide others.

"Their reply was that they know when human rights were being violated and therefore they have the right to use the forces at their disposal as great powers, to use them and correct what is wrong, to stop atrocities from being committed," he said.

And so, Dr Mahathir said, they (the superpowers) claimed that they had a right to intervene and to impose sanctions against China because of the Tiananmen incident.

They claimed that they have a right to do whatever they did in Iraq, to starve the people of Iraq if necessary because they were concerned that such a country might have the power to do

Proceeds from books will go to fund

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wrong, he said.

Dr Mahathir congratulated those who had taken the initiative to compile the books on Bosnia.

The two books launched today were *Bosnia: Voices Of Malaysia* and *Bosnia: Testament to War Crime As Told By Survivors*.

Bosnia: Voices of Malaysia contains a collection of speeches by Dr Mahathir on the Bosnian issue.

Cheques totalling RM1,113,991.20 were presented to Dr Mahathir at the launching ceremony which was also attended by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Malaysian Sociological Research Institute president Dr Alija Gordon and members of the Bosnian community in Malaysia.

All proceeds would go towards the Bosnia-National Welfare Foundation Fund set up under the National Unity and Social Development Ministry.

The biggest amount was RM250,000 donated by Benua Asas Sdn Bhd and handed over by its director Mohd Feisal Ibrahim. Sabah Shipyard Sdn Bhd represented by its chairman Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie gave RM180,000.

Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Thamby Chik presented three cheques — RM50,000 from the Malacca State Government, RM30,000 from Yayasan Melaka and RM20,000 from the Malacca SEDC.

The Selangor State Government, represented by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, donated RM50,000 while the Johor State Government gave RM50,000.

Other donors were Resorts World Berhad, Kerfamb Holdings Bhd, RGB Sdn Bhd, United Malayan Banking Corporation, IbeX Corporation Amalgamated Sdn Bhd, EPE Power Corporation Bhd, Jurutera Perunding Wahba Sdn Bhd, Urban Development Authority, Creative Enterprise Sdn Bhd, Ekspres Nasional Berhad, Bank Bumiputra, Hai-O Group and the World Assembly of Youth.

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