

Malaysia no longer believes UN is sincere

# PM: Our faith is

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.** — Malaysia no longer believes in the sincerity of the United Nations Security Council, the world body itself and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in helping weak nations and their people, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the UN only provided assistance to the strong as seen in the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina where the Serbs continued with their elimination of Bosnians.

He said Malaysia had lost complete faith in the credibility of the UN in protecting the weak because it had once again turned a blind eye to the massacre of Bosnians.

He said the UN apparently had no desire to help the Bosnians although it had the capacity to do so.

"It appears that they (the UN) are deliberately allowing the Serbs to kill the Bosnians so that they (Serbs) can take over Gorazde," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on the latest development in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Reporters asked for his views after he had presented excellent service certificates to Home Ministry staff at the Prime Minister's Department.

Dr Mahathir said: "The situation in Bosnia is very sad and depressing.

"I share the views of former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange who criticised the UN and the Security Council which have done nothing to help the Muslims in Gorazde.

"Actually, they have no desire to help even though they can do so if they so wish. The truth is that they want the Serbs to continue to kill and allow them to take over Gorazde."

He said it was obvious the UN did not stop the Serbs from marching on to Gorazde. The UN was just saving its own forces, leaving the Muslims without any protection whatsoever, he added.

Lange had earlier criticised the New Zealand presidency of the UN Security Council for abandoning Bosnians as "sitting ducks", adding that the UN was floundering in an "agony of indecision" in the face of a Serbian advance on Gorazde.

Dr Mahathir said: "We can no longer believe that the UN will come to our aid when anything happens to us although we have sent our troops to assist in its peacekeeping mission.

"It is quite clear that the UN is not a body which protects the weak but merely a tool of the superpowers to serve their political ends."

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News agency reports said seven UN soldiers were evacuated by helicopter from Gorazde yesterday, leaving only five UN military observers in the town against renewed Serbian attack.

The men were believed to have been involved in directing North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) air strikes against Serbian positions near the town last week.

The reports also said shells were now dropping at random on the town centre and that more than 30,000 terrified refugees were sheltering in Gorazde.

The death toll according to the news agency estimate stands at 302, including 41

children, in 19 days. A total of 1,072 have been wounded.

Dr Mahathir said he feared for the safety of Malaysian troops in Bosnia who were only equipped with weapons for peace-keeping purposes.

"If our forces are trapped, I doubt the UN forces will come to our assistance, just like the Bosnians."

Asked whether Malaysia would withdraw its troops, the Prime Minister said this was unlikely. "If we do so, then we would be just like the UN. We would be no better."

Dr Mahathir said the Government realised the danger faced by our soldiers but it could not allow the Bosnians to be killed at will by the Serbs.

Asked whether Malaysia had any plans to protect its troops in Bosnia if they came under attack, he said: "Our plan is to defend ourselves to the best of our ability."

Asked if the Government planned to review its position in the world body, he said: "There's no plan at the moment, but we are really disappointed. What is the United Nations? What is it for? It's only to suppress weak nations..."

Nevertheless, he said, Malaysia would continue to discharge its duty even though it had lost faith in the UN, the Security Council and its Secretary-General to protect the weak.

Asked about Press reports that he had received a letter of appeal from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's ability to provide assistance was limited.

He said Malaysia was ready to join the UN if it wished to attack the Serbs and hoped that the Malaysian troops would be given the necessary weapons for the task.

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about protecting the weak

# shattered

# Najib: Western powers and UN have failed miserably

FROM PAGE ONE

"But they (the UN) are not defending the Muslims in Bosnia ... they're leaving everything to the Serbs."

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina reflected the negligence of the West and Nato and the failure of the UN to save the Bosnians from Serbian atrocities.

He said Malaysia wanted tougher measures based on humanitarian considerations and justice to be taken.

Speaking to reporters after launching a low-cost housing programme in Sufgai Buloh, near here, this morning, he said the three parties had failed to protect human rights and democracy which they had been preaching.

"They have totally neglected the leadership morals by ignoring their capability to do something meaningful in Bosnia," he said.

Anwar said Malaysia could not accept the rationale given by the major powers because what was happening in Bosnia was inconsistent with the roles they should actually play.

The West and Nato, he said, acted differently when protecting their interests such as oil fields and nuclear zones.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, speaking at a Press conference after the opening of the four-day Defence

Services Asia '94 exhibition and conference at the Putra World Trade Centre today, blamed the lack of political resolve and indecisiveness by the UN and the Western powers for the Serbs' impending conquest of the 'safe area' of Goradze.

He said the Serbs would not stop their military campaign until the UN and the Western powers took swift and decisive action.

He said it was time for the UN and the Western powers to get their act together and stop the Serbs from continuously testing the resolve of the two parties.

"The Serbs have no respect for the UN or the Western powers. They have tested the resolve of the two parties, and each time, sadly, and regrettably, they have won," he said.

Najib said the UN and the Western powers had failed miserably in its diplomatic efforts to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia.

He said that while the Serbs were gaining in strength and better organised, the UN chain of command in Bosnia was in a disarray.

"We have the military commander on the ground calling for air strikes, but not getting the support from the UN.

"At the same time, we have the political and military leaders in the West squabbling among themselves on what should and should not be done while the Serbs are gaining ground," he said.

Asked if Malaysia was

particularly disappointed with Russia, the Serbs' main ally, for its failure to convince them to stop their military campaign, and if Malaysia would reconsider its commitment to buy 18 MiG-29 fighter jets for the Royal Malaysian Air Force, Najib said: "We are disappointed with all major Western powers.

"At this point in time, there is no need to link the Russian failure in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the proposed acquisition of the MiG-29s. But I can't say about the future," he said.

Najib added that the Western powers had failed to act as a cohesive and potent force to deal with the Serbs who were considered militarily inferior to the Iraqis during the 1990 Gulf War.

"During the Gulf War, the Western powers and the UN dealt with Iraq not only expeditiously but also effectively.

"Now when it comes to the Bosnian Muslims, both seem to be impervious to world opinion calling for action."

On the 1,500 Malaysian peacekeepers serving with the UN Protection Force in Bosnia, he said there had been feedback that some of them were among the UN troops being harassed in carrying out their humanitarian relief duties in Sarajevo.

However, he said none had been harmed or threatened.