

CNS8298

U GE 22-04 00157 EAO17

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Mahathir-Bosnia (with pix)
MALAYSIA CALLS FOR KOUTROS-GHALI'S RESIGNATION.
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PETALING JAYA, April 22 (Bernama) -- Malaysia today called on United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to resign for doing nothing to resolve the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was disappointed because Boutros-Ghali did not take a firm stand in dealing with the Serb aggression in that strife-torn country.

The UN should elect a Secretary-General who "is really an activist and brave," who could resolve the problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he told reporters after launching the UMNO Youth's "Gerak Kerja Perdana" programme in Subang, here.

He said he believed the resignation of Boutros-Ghali would bring change towards settlement of the problem in the former Yugoslav republic.

"What is certain is he did not do anything to settle the conflict in Bosnia," he added. -- more

KS LDR

U GE 22-04 00148 EAO21

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Mahathir-Bosnia 2 Petaling Jaya

Dr Mahathir expressed regret that Boutros-Ghali took the conflict in Bosnia lightly when it erupted more than two years ago.

"At first, Boutros-Ghali said the occurrence in Bosnia could be found anywhere... he said it was not the only one but there were 10 more in other places," he said.

Boutros-Ghali's statement appeared to encourage the Serbs to continue their aggression against the Bosnian Muslims on the grounds that it was not something extraordinary as the same thing was happening elsewhere.

Dr Mahathir said he was disappointed because Boutros-Ghali, who was responsible for leading the UN to protect the interests of all nations, took such a stand.

"By right, action (to stop the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina) should have been taken much earlier," he added. -- more

KS LDR

CNS8371

U GE 22-04 00139 EAO22

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Mahathir-Bosnia 3 Petaling Jaya

Boutros-Ghali took it that he had no power to resolved the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said now things had come to a point where the UN, particularly the Security Council, and NATO accused each other over who should be referred to before a decision was made to check the Serb attacks.

"Who is in charge... don't they know somebody who is in charge?" he asked.

Asked if Malaysia would play a more important role in the election of the UN Secretary-General in future, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's influence was limited in that matter.

In fact, he said, many countries were pressured by the big powers to elect their candidate to the post. -- more

KS LDR

CNS8383

U GK 22-04 00210 KAD23

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Mahathir-Rosnia 4 (last) Petaling Jaya

Malaysia did not support Boutros-Ghali's election to the post in 1991, he added.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that the Bosnian Muslims should be provided with arms to defend themselves from Serb attacks.

He said: "(The UN) should give the Bosnian Muslims a chance to defend themselves... but what we see is that they are stopped from getting arms.

"So, what sort of policy is it that is not prepared to help people and at the same time does not allow those people to help themselves. This is an injustice that has never occurred in history."

He believed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina would be different if the reverse occurred where "the people who are murdered are non-Muslims and the murderers were Muslims."

"If this is the situation, I believe action will be taken speedily," he said.

Speaking about Mejar Ramli Shaari, a Malaysian military observer killed in a land mine explosion in Sibenik, Croatia, on Tuesday, Dr Mahathir express sorrow and said the government owed its gratitude to the slain soldier.

"We consider him a champion who can be emulated by the people" he added. -- Bernama

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U GK 22-04 00177 KAD24

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Mahathir-Rosnia 5 (last) Petaling Jaya (reopen item)

In BERNAS, Parti Gerakan expressed support for the call for Boutros-Ghali's resignation. He was biased and racist in making important decisions, party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said.

The UN was influenced by big powers like the United States and European countries and it was uninterested in settling problems in a country that did not share the same religious belief or in which they had no special interest, he added.

"Because of its one-sided action, especially in Bosnia, the UN no longer plays the role of a world protector," he told reporters after attending a dialogue.

Dr Lim, who is Minister of Primary Industries, said the UN's weakness put the lives of Bosnians and peacekeepers in danger although they were stationed in areas declared as safe zones by the UN itself.

He said the UN should make consistent decisions without being influenced by the self-interests of any big power. -- Bernama

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