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Mahathir-Rwanda

MALAYSIA URGES UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO RESTORE PEACE IN RWANDA

KUALA LUMPUR, May 4⁹⁴ (Bernama) -- Malaysia has called on the United Nations Security Council to take urgent measures to restore peace and order in Rwanda.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who made the call today said Malaysia was deeply concerned over the tragic situation in the central African state.

In a statement received here from Paris, Dr Mahathir said that the continuing internal political strife taking place in Rwanda had led to great loss of lives and created an exodus of refugees to neighbouring countries.

Dr Mahathir is in France on a private visit. -- more

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Mahathir-Rwanda 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Rwanda has been wrecked by four weeks of massacre between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes in which an estimated 200,000 people have died while thousands more fled into nearby Tanzania.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that 21 children and 13 volunteers were slaughtered at a Red Cross orphanage in the southern town of Butare on Sunday.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to African nations to send peacekeepers to Rwanda but he said he had not received a formal reply from the Security Council to his request last week for a large UN force to stop the killing.

The bloodbath was set off by the death of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6. -- Bernama

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Mahathir-Rwanda 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur (re-open item)

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra said the Cabinet, at its (weekly) meeting today, discussed the situation in Rwanda and expressed the government's deep concern over the tribal massacres which led to the deaths of thousands of innocent people.

"Malaysia condemns these killings which have brought untold suffering to the Rwandese people and burdened neighbouring countries with thousands of refugees," it added.

"It (Malaysia) calls for an immediate end of the massacres."

Malaysia also urged the international community, in particular the UN, to effectively address the issue and initiate immediate action to end the hostilities, it said in a statement.

"In this connection, Malaysia calls on the UN Security Council to take urgent measures to stop the senseless killings and restore order." --

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