

Malaysia not providing arms to Bosnia, says Dr Mahathir

By
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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today denied a foreign news report that Malaysia was providing arms to the Bosnians.

He said the country was not in the gun-running business.

Dr Mahathir said the allegation could have come

about because Malaysia was providing arms to its 1,500 soldiers serving under the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Well, if somebody is providing arms to Bosnia it is certainly not Malaysia ... we know nothing about this," he said when asked to comment on a Cable News Network (CNN) report today alleging that Malaysia, Turkey and Iran were providing arms to the Bosni-

ans.

Responding to another question, Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) should accept the Government's decision to send a Cuepacs representative to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference in Geneva next month.

He said the MTUC was not the sole workers' representative in the country.

"There must be a rotation of representatives to the

ILO meeting."

He said the MTUC should accept this. "When the MTUC represented the country, the others were also not happy."

He said MTUC should not seek the support of foreign unions to disrupt the country's exports to protest against the Government's decision.

He said the workers, which the MTUC represented, would be affected if their union resort to such a move.

"What is the meaning of MTUC if they work for the interests of foreign workers and do injustice to their own workers," he asked.

Meanwhile, the Defence Ministry also denied involvement in any arms supply to the Bosnians.

Its Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, said: "The Ministry has no direct or indirect involvement in the delivery of arms to Bosnian forces."