

Mahathir:

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running

arms

to Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is not in the gun-running business to supply arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"If somebody is providing arms to Bosnia it is certainly not Malaysia; we know nothing about these things," the Prime Minister said.

He said although Malaysia had sent its soldiers to Bosnia for a peacekeeping mission under the United Nations Protection Force, it did not give arms to the Bosnians.

"But we have our soldiers there, maybe it's because we are supplying our soldiers with arms, but that's all, we are not in the gun-running business," he told reporters after opening the German-Malaysia Institute here.

Dr Mahathir was responding to reporters' question on a CNN report yesterday which alleged that Malaysia was one of the Muslim countries contravening the United Nations arms embargo.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, in a statement, said his ministry was not aware of any arms being sent by Malaysia to Bosnia.

"Malaysia's involvement is solely limited to the peacekeeping mandate given by the UN.

"But the Defence Ministry feels that the situation in Bosnia is an appalling human tragedy resulting from the greed of certain quarters which have a stronger military," he said.

He called on the UN to lift the arms embargo.