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Mahathir - press  
NEWS FABRICATION AJMED AT PREVENTING MALAYSIAN FORCES FROM SERVING IN  
BOSNIA -- MAHATHIR

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SHAH ALAM, June 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the news fabrication about Malaysia supplying arms to Bosnian Muslims is probably aimed at preventing Malaysian forces from serving in that country.

In line with established rules, any country involved in arms running would be isolated and prevented from serving under the United Nations banner, he said.

"It therefore looks like an attempt to isolate us," Dr Mahathir told reporters when asked to comment on the news fabrication.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after visiting the International Boat Show at the Taman Tasik Shah Alam here. -- more  
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▼05/06/20-53MST

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Mahathir - press 2 Shah Alam

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would not do anything against the rules as it would be barred from serving in Bosnia where the services of Malaysian soldiers were very much needed.

He said the Bosnians were being threatened that if they did not accept the peace proposal of the West, they would withdraw their forces from there.

If that were to happen and Malaysian forces would also not be able to serve there then the Bosnian Muslims would be slaughtered and there would be no one to help them, Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister also reiterated Malaysia's stand that the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims be lifted as they did not have any weapons with them.

"Our call for the lifting of the arms embargo only applies to Bosnia as the people in Bosnia did not have any weapons to defend themselves," he said. -- more

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Mahathir - press 3 (last) Shah Alam

Dr Mahathir said a group of Malaysian parliamentarians who visited Britain and France recently found that Members of Parliament in both countries did not want the embargo to be lifted as they feared the Serbs would get a even larger quantity of weapons.

He said Malaysia only wanted the arms embargo on Bosnia to be lifted and not that imposed on the Serbs or the rump Yugoslavia.

"The embargo and sanctions against the Serbs and the rump Yugoslavia should be strictly enforced," he said.

The Serbs were probably even now getting arms from Belgrade and other sources, Dr Mahathir said.

The West was unable to do anything to prevent the Serbs from getting arms whereas the Bosnian Muslims were not getting any weapons at all.

Asked to comment on the readiness of the Cable News Network (CNN) which aired the fabrication to put out Malaysia's denial, Dr Mahathir said, "Good, and thank you," -- Bernama