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Mahathir-Bosnia

MAHATHIR IMPRESSED WITH MALBATT SERVICE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

From Abdul Rahman Sulaiman

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PARIS, July 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr ⁹⁴ Mahathir Mohamad is impressed with the bravery and perseverance of Malaysian troops serving under the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

While congratulating them openly for their services, the Prime Minister said he felt that he was personally indebted to members of the Malaysian Battalion (Malbatt). *overseas trips*

"They actually carry out more duties than entrusted to them. They are doing a lot of welfare work to win the hearts and minds of the Bosnians to relieve the sufferings," he told Malaysian journalists here.

The Prime Minister said he was "very satisfied" as he was able to visit the Malbatt members in Konjic, two weeks ago.

Although the visit was not scheduled, he had long wished to visit them to show the country's appreciation to the Malaysian peacekeepers who had responded to the nation's call to serve in a foreign land to preserve peace.

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Mahathir-Bosnia 2 (last) Paris

+I respect our soldiers for their bravery while the international community could only afford to watch the sufferings of the Bosnians. They refused to get involve as they are afraid their soldiers will be killed. This is a disgraceful injustice to modern civilisation," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also thankful to the United Nations, the British government and Croatia for extending their cooperation for his visit.

Britain had provided a helicopter and a pilot to take Dr Mahathir from Split to Konjic.

"Although I have to wear a bullet-proof jacket, I had no fear. Our soldiers are on duty in a valley easily open to attacks by the Serbs," he added. -- Bernama

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08/07/12-45MST