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Mahathir-Rwanda

MALAYSIA BLAMES UNITED NATIONS FOR RWANDA KILLINGS

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KUALA TERENGGANU, July 28⁹⁴ (Bernama) -- Malaysia today put the blame on the United Nations (UN) for the death of about 500,000 people in civil war in Rwanda, saying the world body had not acted to stop the strife.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the UN's inaction showed that it only gave importance to economic interests and not human lives, and even then only in certain countries.

"I feel the UN is to blame for the killings in Rwanda because it had not acted immediately. But if the civil war had taken place in certain other countries, it will have mobilised troops even if the number killed is small," he told reporters at the airport before leaving for Langkawi.

Dr Mahathir had earlier opened the Ninth World Taekwondo Championships of the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF) here.

He also said he felt that the UN was no longer useful because the world body cannot come to the defence of weak nations, especially in the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina. -- more

Mahathir-Rwanda 2 (last) Kuala Terengganu

Dr Mahathir said the UN was not only doing nothing to save Bosnia but was also threatening to withdraw the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from the former Yugoslav republic if Bosnia did not accept a peace plan.

"It is for this reason that we are dissatisfied with (Yasushi) Akashi (UNPROFOR civilian chief in Bosnia) and (UN Secretary General) Boutros Boutros-Ghali," he said.

Dr Mahathir also hit out at the five permanent members of the UN Security Council for not wanting to help Bosnia at all.

"They will only help if it is in their interest," he said.

The prime minister was also asked about the position of Tunku Abdullah, younger brother of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, who claimed to have visited Israel recently.

Dr Mahathir said the government usually withdrew the passports of those who abused the facility.

Asked whether Tunku Abdullah's passport had been withdrawn, he replied: "That I have not heard, maybe so." -- Bernama

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