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Mahathir-Lebanon

MALAYSIA CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE STOP TO ISRAELI ATTACKS ON LEBANON

By: Moktar Hussain

SARAJEVO, April 20 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and the Bosnian government have called for an immediate stop to Israeli bombardment in southern Lebanon.

At a joint news conference here, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his counterpart, Dr Hassan Muratovic, said that effortd must be made to stop such attacks.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had sent letters to President Bill Clinton, Senate Majority leader Bob Dole, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafic Hariri regarding the attack.

"We (Malaysia) have sent letters to President Clinton, Mr Dole, Mr Hariri and Peres generally to say that this bombardment must stop because you cannot solve the problem through bombardment which only affected the civilian."

"The Hezbollah has not been affected at all. Obviously you have to do something else," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Israelis should first leave territories belonging to Lebanon.

It is learnt that Dr Mahathir sent the message to the four leaders from Zagreb, Croatia where he began his three-nation Balkan tour on Thursday.

At least 100 people were killed and some 300 wounded during Thursday's bomb raids by Israeli forces on civilians sheltering at a United Nations peacekeepers' base in Tyre, Lebanon.

Muratoric expressed shock that the world still allows such acts of genocide to happen.

"We watched pictures (on TV) last evening with great sadness. It reminds us absolutely of the same pictures of what had happened here. We are surprised that the world still tolerates this," he said.

"It is a pure crime... we can only condemn it. But we are surprised that there are no strong reactions from the world," he said. --BERNAMA

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