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Refugees

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA NEEDS TIME TO SOLVE REFUGEE ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Bosnia and Herzegovina will need time to solve the problem of the refugees caused by the war in the Balkans, its co-chairman of the Council of Ministers, Boro Botic, said today.

He said those people would need some sign of political stability and economic change before deciding to return to their homes.

"One of our main problems is the problem of the return of refugees which the international community is insisting to be solved.

"But I'm certain that this problem is not going to be solved very soon," he said to a question posed during a public lecture on current developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina here.

The event was organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations.

Botic said finding a solution to the refugee issue was going to take the same pace as searching for an end to the country's economic woes as well as the implementation of peace itself.

"By all means, we shall need time for that," he said.

The Dayton peace accord, reached in November 1995 between the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, signalled the end of the four-year Balkan conflict.

Another co-chairman of the Council, Haris Silajdzic, meanwhile said there was a lesser possibility for people to go to war if they had information about each other.

He also said education must go hand in hand with the human dimension of upbringing or otherwise the education system would only produce people who hated each other.

Both leaders arrived here yesterday for a five-day visit to Malaysia at the invitation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. -- BERNAMA

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