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Mahathir-NATO

DR MAHATHIR DOES NOT THINK NATO WILL MOUNT AIR STRIKES

SHAH ALAM, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he does not think that Nato will launch air strikes against the rump Yugoslavia because the oppressed people of Kosovo were not of the same religion.

"They will say they will strike...but only up to that," he said.

The Prime Minister said he believed that Nato would allow the killing of Muslims in Kosovo to continue.

"To them, if they want to die, let them die...", Dr Mahathir told a news conference at the Dewan Jubilee Perak here.

Nato had agreed to postpone air strikes by four days to enable international inspectors to confirm that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic implemented his pledge to withdraw his forces from Kosovo.

Dr Mahathir said the big powers usually would act if it involved their interests directly.

For instance, when Malaysia asked for action against currency traders when the ringgit was under pressure, the big powers did not bother to act, he said.

"Now when it affects their own interests, it is a different story," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AZH AAM