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Mahathir - Kosovo

WORLD SHOULD SUPPORT KOSOVO'S INDEPENDENCE, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the international community should support ethnic Albanians' demand for Kosovo's independence from Serbia.

He said there was no reason why the ethnic Albanians could not make Kosovo autonomous whereas the other regions of the former Yugoslavia have been granted independence.

"Yugoslavia is no longer a country now. It has been fragmented into several independent nations," he told reporters at Angkasapuri here today after taking part in a television recording.

Dr Mahathir said ethnic Albanians are not of the same ethnic group as the Serbs and are in fact different religion-wise in that they are Muslims.

"Just as Slovenia and Croatia and Macedonia can be given independence, therefore I believe Kosovo too deserves independence," said the prime minister.

"And the international community should support Kosovo's fight for independence," he said.

The prime minister said while Malaysia in principle did not support separation of a region from any country, Kosovo's demand for independence was proper as the other regions in the area have secured independence.

-- BERNAMA

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