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### Praise for Malaysia in Chicago

Freida Mohd Pilus

MY husband and I have just returned from visiting a number of universities in the Great Lakes area of the United States.

While in Chicago, I went to the Museum of Fine Arts shop on Michigan Avenue.

A dignified lady, about 60 years old, attended to me. During our conversation, she casually asked where I was from. I replied: "Malaysia."

To my surprise, she suddenly became emotional and tearfully hugged me.

"Your country is wonderful.

"Your Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir, is the first man who dared to tell the world the truth about the terrible things - the rapes, tortures and massacres that were happening to the Muslims in my country.

"Your Prime Minister was the first one to come forward to help us. "He is a brave, sincere man."

She is from Bosnia and her name is Yasmeen.

She was a judge for 17 years in the High Court there and her husband had a flourishing practice as an obstetrician and gynaecologist.

Because of the atrocities committed by the Serbs there, she and her family fled to the US.

They cannot practise their professions in the US but are grateful that they escaped with their lives.

She said the world took far too long to recognise the evil perpetrated by the Serbs, and action by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) in Kosovo came very late.

"You Malaysians are very fortunate to have Dr Mahathir as your leader," she said, holding back tears in her eyes.