

Don't take sides in wake of attacks, says Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Malaysia has advised Muslim and non-Muslim countries not to take sides in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the US.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said: "Muslim countries cannot take sides with other Muslim countries and non-Muslim countries should also not do the same."

He said Malaysia does not condone such terrorist activities and there is a need to find a way to solve the root of the entire issue.

Mahathir said all countries in the world should sit together and discuss the problem without siding with anyone.

He said this after signing the condolence book at the US Embassy here today

Mahathir was accompanied by Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He said terrorism needs to be seen as a crime that should be fought by all countries around the world.

In his message to US President George Bush on Wednesday, he said

Malaysia condemns the horrendous attacks against the US and will continue to oppose all forms of terrorism.

On the cabinet's decision to tighten security in strategic places and how

long this will continue, in the US, Mahathir said Mahathir said Malaysia this is expected and hopes has to be on alert at all times because with "terrorism there is no period when it will end, therefore we have to be on alert". On anti-Islam reactions

in the US, Mahathir said it will be curbed because it is not the right thing to do. "But of course, the people at the moment are not in control of their emotions," he said.