

US should not retaliate in anger, says Hamid

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RAWANG, Sat: The United States should not let emotions rule in taking action against terrorists so that the situation would not get out of control.

Minister in the PM's Department Brig-Gen (R) Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said although Malaysia has vowed to support any action to be taken by President George W. Bush, innocent citizens should not be made to pay for the terrorist acts against Americans.

"The US, as a mature country, should be rational in handling the matter," he told *The Sun* after a closed-door meeting with Selayang Umno members, near here, today.

Abdul Hamid said the form of action against the terrorist group involved should be carefully discussed at international level so that the best decision could be achieved.

He said this when asked about a possible attack by the US against Afghanistan where guerilla leader Osama bin Laden is based.

The US has identified Osama as the main suspect behind the attacks on the

World Trade Centre and Pentagon on Sept 11 which claimed thousands of lives.

"Malaysia sympathises with the US over the tragedy and cannot accept such a militant act against innocent people.

"Taking the lives of innocent people in such a manner is unacceptable in Islam."

Abdul Hamid, who is in charge of religious affairs, said Islam respects life, regardless of race or religion.