

'Malaysia does not harbour terrorists'

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THE US has not made any specific requests to Malaysia to extradite terrorist, nor does it consider Malaysia a country that harbours terrorists, its embassy in Kuala Lumpur said.

"Those stories are false," it said in a statement in response to numerous press reports recently, alleging that Malaysia has been asked by the US to turn over its citizens involved in terrorist activities, or that Malaysia was being branded as a country that harboured terrorists.

On the contrary, the embassy said the US greatly appreciates the Government of Malaysia's response to the September 11 attacks in the US and the country valued Malaysia's continued cooperation and support.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had yesterday said that Malaysia will not hand over its citizens involved in terrorist activities at home to the US as the country had its own laws to deal with them.

However, the Prime Minister said foreigners who committed crimes abroad but arrested in Malaysia would be extradited to the country where the offence was committed.

This, he said, would be done upon request by the country concerned.

He was responding to an AFP news report that Malaysia was among nine Muslim countries being asked by the US to hand over several hundred people suspected of having terrorist links.