

# PM to Asean: Stay out of war

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues:** Asean should not be dragged into a war if it breaks out between the US and Afghanistan, but be a moderating force to help end the conflict, said Datuk Sr Seri Mahathir Mohamad.

Participating in such a conflict will only help escalate it, the prime minister said on the *In Conversation* programme which debuted over TV3 tonight and was watched by an estimated 300 million people.

He said an all-out war is the wrong solution, as many innocent people will be killed. Instead, he suggested ways to counter the terrorist threat.

Mahathir also fielded a wide variety of questions touching on Asean, the economy, attempts to establish an Islamic state in Malaysia and globalisation.

He said the upcoming meeting of Asean heads of government in Brunei Darussalam will discuss events in the US and its repercussions to this region.

*In Conversation* is a collaboration between TV3, Thailand's iTV, RCTI of Indonesia and ABS-CBN of the Philippines and is expected to feature other Asean leaders.