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# Demand on Arafat unfair, says Dr M

**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs:**  
It is unfair to demand that Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat prevents Palestinians from retaliating against Israeli attacks, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"When the Israelis killed the children, friends and relatives of the Palestinians, there will be a feeling of anger and, definitely, there will be those who will take the law into their own hands and seek revenge," he said after tabling the 2002 Budget in the Dewan Negara.

He was commenting on the latest round of Israeli attacks on occupied Gaza and the branding of Arafat as a terrorist by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon after suicide bombings which left 25 Israelis dead in Jerusalem and Haifa.

"What power has he (Arafat) got to contain terrorism when the Israelis are terrorising the Palestinians and yet no action is taken against them?" Mahathir asked.

Meanwhile, Wisma Putra said Malaysia has urged the parties involved in the Middle East conflict to focus their efforts on finding a sustainable solution.

Israel should refrain from taking any military action that can undermine the fragile negotiations, it said in a statement.

"Malaysia holds Israel responsible for the escalation of violence in the Middle East and condemns the continuing Israeli raids in Gaza and the West Bank," it said.