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Know our enemy

ANY international effort to eradicate global terrorism must be premised on a clear and precise definition so that no nation will, unwittingly, sleep with the enemy.

Doubtless, it should be differentiated from the legitimate struggles of people under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. The problem is that global issues, be it terminology and context, are presented almost exclusively through a self-righteous, one-way legal and moral screen with positive images of Western values and innocence portrayed as threatened.

The West sees terrorism as predominantly religious fanaticism and rage among those left behind by globalisation and the distaste of Western values. But this includes the stranded minorities, the dispossessed and the impoverished majority who have been the victim of imperial terrorism. Their struggles for self-determination and liberation should not be construed as terrorism.

The Muslim world must respond to the call by Malaysia and Iran for a common and united stand against terrorism. Both Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and President Mohammad Khatami share the view that terrorism can only be defeated by resolving its causes. Both support the efforts to hunt down the perpetrators of the attacks on America but are against a war.

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