

# JUSTICE NOT REVENGE

STAR - 9 SEP 2002

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**PANGKOR:** There will be no end to Muslim terrorism if the West is bent on revenge and refuses to acknowledge that terrorists cannot be militarily defeated, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Calling for the end to the "arrogance of power," the Prime Minister said no effort had been made to win the hearts and minds of Muslims.

"Everything is being done to alienate them further, anger and frustrate them. This will only ensure a constant and probably increasing supply of recruits to terrorism.

"The West does not care to find out the causes of terrorism and remove them. The faint voices protesting among them are ignored," he said in his closing address at the Asian Global Leadership Forum yesterday at the Pangkor Laut Resort, held to discuss the changing world scenario after the Sept 11 attack on the United States.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's own experience of defeating (communist) terrorists was done not just by military means but also through psychological warfare by winning the hearts and minds of supporters and later the terrorists themselves.

"If we want to restore normalcy to this planet, the first thing that has to be done is to stop thinking of revenge and begin thinking of justice and fair play," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the world today lived in fear and was less peaceful than it was during the Second World War.

He stressed that force could not remove fear or create a richer world. "The answer does not lie in confrontation, in force, in a war to end all wars.

"The answer lies in justice and fair play, in being sensitive, in being willing to step back and admit mistakes and to banish the idea that any one race has a monopoly of the right values, right systems and the right solution to all human ailments," he said.

Dr Mahathir said pride did not have a role in solving human problems but humility did.

Humility, he said, could reduce the causes of turmoil - political and social - that the world was facing.

Dr Mahathir pointed out that most of the Western targets of oppression and attacks were Muslims and Muslim countries.

He noted there were sanctions against Iraq, Iran, Libya and Sudan - all Muslim countries, and that innocent people were being deliberately starved through sanctions imposed actually by the "very rich, overfed and most wasteful of consumers."

Dr Mahathir said no one helped the Palestinians restrain their enemies while the Israelis were being financed and armed to the teeth, all in the name of self-defence. "Is it any wonder that Muslims everywhere feel oppressed, angry, bitter and frustrated?" he asked.

He said Muslims could not go to war in the conventional way because when they did that before with Israel, they were defeated largely because

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Israel was backed by great powers.

Therefore, the only way they could retaliate was through "acts of terror, hitting out blindly at the innocent as well as the guilty."

He said because terrorists could not be easily identified or located, all Muslims were now considered as potential threats and that because Malaysia was a Muslim-majority country, its people too were now being penalised.

"Malaysians are denied visas, are checked and rechecked and are humiliated when they go to certain countries," he said.

He said Samuel Huntington's forecast about the *Clash of Civilisations* had come true, as there was now a clash of the West against the Islamic civilisation.

"And typically, the Western solution is to physically fight against the enemy, the Islamic civilisation, the Muslims," he said.