

# 'Author did not directly link BN with al-Qaeda'

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Sri Lankan writer Dr Rohan Gunaratna did not directly link Barisan Nasional with the al-Qaeda in his book.

The Prime Minister said he looked through *Inside Al-Qaeda: Global Network of Terrorism* and found that the author only said Barisan had contact with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Dr Mahathir said it was the United Nations report that made the "remark" (link), which was attributed to what Dr Gunaratna said in his book.

He noted that Barisan did have contact with the MILF as it had been trying to help the Philippines government resolve the problems in the south, adding that the MILF had also signed an agreement here witnessed by representatives from both countries.

Asked if the Government would apologise to the author, he said: "We don't apologise to such people anyway. They should be much more careful of what they write."