

# Aggressors will get bloody nose: PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government would defend Malaysia against plans by certain countries to turn it into a battlefield.

"We have heard ... should there be an attack, they will act before it reaches their border, so that Malaysia will become like a battlefield and the battle will not reach them."

Speaking to reporters yesterday, he

reiterated that these people risk a "bloody nose".

However, he refused to name the country concerned or say whether its leaders have specifically identified Malaysia in their statements.

In his New Year message, he had said there are arrogant countries who claimed they have the right to take "preemptive action" or "forward defence" that would affect Malaysia.

"We promise that if anyone violates our freedom, they will get what they call a bloody nose."

Asked whether he is referring to

Singapore, he said the media can interpret as it wishes, but stressed that he did not mention the republic.

"I was looking for terrorists at KLCC during the New Year celebrations. This was a good chance for them since many people were there. If they want to do lots of damage, they can when we are crammed into one area.

"But everyone was feeling very safe and happy. All nationalities, races and people of all religious affiliations celebrated the events together.

"People feel very safe and are not afraid of terrorist attacks."