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Malaysia hopes US won't attack Syria

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SHAH ALAM, Mon. - Malaysia hopes that the United States, which claims that Syria is harbouring senior Iraqi leaders, would not use military force against it.

Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi hoped the US would not do so as it would lead to another catastrophe.

He was commenting on a report that the US was considering attacking Syria on allegations that it was harbouring remnants of Saddam Hussein's regime.

"If they attack, there is nothing anyone can do, as they are powerful and they feel that they can attack whoever they want," he said, adding that the US would find any justification for attacking Syria.

"It's like what Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said, 'the US can charge and punish whoever is seen as challenging American interests'.

"What is important is that we must respect the sovereignty of each country, the inviolability of their territories, their integrity, the independence of their people and their right to have their own Government," Abdullah said.