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Respect overseas but a shameful contrast at home

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I WOULD like to share my experience when I was in New York City recently. Everytime I took a taxi, I was greeted with a "salam" as most of the cab drivers in New York city are Muslims.

They know I am a Muslim because of my tudung.

The next question, apart from where I am heading to, is whether I am Indonesian and when I told them I am Malaysian, they exclaimed, "Malaysia! Your Prime Minister/President Mahathir?".

Of course I proudly nodded with a big "yes".

Most of the Muslim taxi drivers are from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Middle East and north African states. They have very high respect for our Prime Minister.

They might not get his name fully or correctly but they surely are aware of the achievements of our Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the role he has played globally especially our firm stand on issues regarding the invasion of Iraq, terrorism, the role we have in the Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Conference and many more.

They see our Prime Minister as the one who "dares" to speak the truth against the super powers of the world.

In contrast, back home, I am disgusted with certain unethical acts of these supposedly religious groups of people who sketched a picture of our Prime Minister as an animal so abhorred by Islam. What an evil motive they have?