

Najib tells CNN: Mosque controversy tarnished US image
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WASHINGTON - Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said the controversy over building a mosque from the site of September 11 attacks in New York has tarnished America's image among the Muslims.

PM who spoke on CNN television on Sunday said that the effort taken by US President Barack Obama since he took office have been put off by what they view as bellicose rhetoric and growing hatred toward Muslims in the US due to the mosque controversy, AFP reported.

According to Najib, Islamophobic is a real concern to the Muslim world where "Muslims have a sense that they're not so welcome."

"They feel there is a change in the attitude of Americans toward Muslims and it's important for us to get back on track," he added.

The proposal to build an Islamic cultural centre two blocks away from the site of 9/11 attacks had been rejected by protestors on the grounds that the site should not house a Muslim community centre.

The reason was because the 9/11 attacks, which killed nearly 3,000 people, were launched in the name of Islam.

The proposed centre has also sparked a national debate over the place of Islam among other religions practiced in the US.

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