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Osama's killing 'uncivilised': Dr M

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PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has labelled the US as being "uncivilised" in killing Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden during a firefight in Pakistan on Sunday.

"He is indeed guilty, but to send a team to kill someone, that is not the way to enforce the law. If you can catch him, catch him.

"But instead, you encroach there, with him (Osama) being unarmed, kill him, then put him in the sea. To me this is the behaviour of uncivilised people," he said yesterday after presenting prizes to winners of the Perdana Leadership Foundation - MPH "Nurturing the minds of future leaders" essay competition 2010.

Mahathir said this when asked whether he thought it was right for the US to kill Osama and whether they should instead have brought him to court.

US President Barack Obama had

on Monday announced that the world's most wanted man had been shot dead in a special forces operation in Abbottabad.

Yesterday, Mahathir warned that in the long term, Osama's death could fuel more anger and violence.

"Perhaps now they will tone down for a while as they have lost their leader. But in the end, they will react. This is not a way to curb violence. This is actually revenge.

"Revenge by the US for the Sept 11 attack," he said referring to the coordinated attacks against the US by Al Qaeda in 2001 which resulted in almost 3,000 people being killed.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's call for the Chinese to support Barisan Nasional or risk losing representation in the government, Mahathir said it was a cause for worry for the whole nation, not just the Chinese community.

"Once we divide ourselves into Chinese and Malays, and we (will end up) fighting each other. That's the end of cooperation and there will be no stability in this country."