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Former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** delivering his keynote address at the **'9/11 Revisited: Seeking the truth'** conference yesterday. Bernama pic

## Dr M: Arabs could not have done it

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Arabs could not have carried out the 9/11 attacks on American soil as they did not have the discipline and capacity to do it, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the manner in which the attacks were carried out required detailed planning, precise timing and perfect execution, something which the Arabs could not have achieved.

"I apologise to the Arabs, but planning and executing the complex operations were not something they could have done well. The Arabs were great warriors in the past, but they just don't have that any more," he said at the "9/11 Revisited: Seeking the truth" conference organised by the Perdana Global Peace foundation.

Dr Mahathir said it should be noted that the Arabs had not won a single battle in their wars against Israel despite the combined armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria taking on their common enemy together.

He said it was highly improbable for terrorists trained by al-Qaeda to hijack a huge commercial airliner, let alone four, and fly them into four pre-targeted areas at

precise intervals.

Dr Mahathir said the foundation was doing the "unthinkable" by seeking out the truth behind what happened on Sept 11, 2001.

"It is beyond me why former president George W. Bush would attack Afghanistan and Iraq after knowing that the hijackers were not from either country."

Dr Mahathir said Bush's "war on terror" had since escalated into general humiliation of the Muslim population, which included holding suspected insurgents without trial, and torture inflicted on them to extract confessions.

"Even in airports, Muslims are not spared. They are subjected to thorough inspections and body checks," he said, describing the situation as the worst man-made disaster since the two world wars.

Dr Mahathir said the impulsive acts by the US had left Muslims devastated and destabilised while the world had been divided between Muslims and non-Muslims.

He said the dedication of the Global Peace Foundation in finding the truth behind what happened on 9/11 was laudable.