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# 'Use Net to counter IS threat'

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## REGIONAL CENTRE:

Najib calls on Southeast Asian govts to come up with a strategy



**M**ALAYSIA is actively exploring the possibility of establishing a regional digital counter-messaging communications centre to combat Islamic State (IS) influence on the Internet.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Malaysia was aware of IS influence being spread widely in cyberspace.

He said Southeast Asian governments must come up with an organised strategy to counter the lies being spread by IS online, supposedly in the name of Islam.

Najib called on Islamic leaders to tell the true story of moderation encouraged by Islam to counter the barbarities that extremists, such as IS, perpetrated.

"We will not allow impostors to besmirch the name of a religion which, in its true form, if interpreted correctly, is light to mankind," he said at the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism at the United Nations here, hosted by United States President Barack Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden.

Najib said Malaysia would not



**Datuk Seri Najib Razak** delivering his statement at the Leaders Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism in New York yesterday. The meeting was hosted by United States President **Barack Obama** and Vice-President **Joe Biden**. Bernama pic

tolerate any form of violence and extremism committed in the name of Islam and made Malaysia's stand clear in face of the currently rampant violence demonstrated by IS fighters.

"Renounce your virulent creed of hate, violence and extremism and be guided back towards the righteous path, or face the consequences," Najib warned.

Najib said Malaysia condemned IS's blatant misrepresentation of Islamic teachings when they say the sadistic brutality, torture and murders of innocent men, women and children were justified in Islam.

He said as Asean chair this year, Malaysia was leading the region towards combating all forms of extremism, including the possible

spread of IS beliefs in Southeast Asia.

Malaysia has made several arrests in recent months of people suspected of having an inclination towards IS.

"We must make pre-emptive arrests if necessary and, if there is irrefutable evidence, to save innocent lives," said Najib.

It may not be obvious to many, he

said, but Malaysia's law enforcement and security agencies had been working quietly to combat the menace.

Collaboration with international law enforcement agencies has been strengthened, especially in intelligence gathering.

So far, over 100 people have been detained in Malaysia for suspected IS links.