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Najib: Islamophobia is a form of oppression

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DISCRIMINATION:

Terrorism is a crisis that involves everyone, says PM

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DATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday condemned Islamophobia, calling it a form of oppression and discrimination against Muslims.

He cited a recent incident in the United States involving a 14-year-old boy named Ahmed Mohamed, who was arrested by police after his teachers mistook a homemade clock he had brought to school as a bomb.

"The clock was assumed to be a bomb only because Ahmed was a Muslim. This is what we call Islamophobia," Najib said in an audio recording posted on his official website, NajibRazak.com.

Ahmed, whose story went viral two weeks ago, received an outpouring of support, including from US President Barack Obama and Facebook founder, Mark Zuckerberg.

According to US news outlets, Ahmed had received an invitation to the White House, as well as an offer to visit his "dream school", the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Najib said any attempts to link Islam with terrorism should not be tolerated, as more terrorist activities were carried out by non-Muslim groups.

"The wars, which saw thousands



Malaysian haj pilgrims on their way to carry out the 'stoning of the devil' ritual in Mina, Saudi Arabia, on Thursday. Pic by Azam Abd Aziz

of people killed, in Iraq is a form of terrorism.

"Israel's attacks on Palestine is a form of terrorism. In fact, this form of oppression is larger in scale and has lasted for many decades."

"The use of nuclear and chemical bombs, which kill millions, is also a form of terrorism."

"The people who use such methods are not Muslim, and yet have not been regarded as terrorists," Najib said.

Terrorism, he said, was a humanitarian crisis that involved everyone, regardless of religion.

"We, as part of humanity, should unite to protect each other, regardless of religion, from those who carry out religious discrimination and oppression.

"These groups are the problem, not Muslims," he said.

Najib is in the US to attend the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak says attempts to link Islam to terrorism should not be tolerated