

**Dr M repeats conspiracies, says Arabs not capable of planning 9/11**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad continued today to back a conspiracy theory that the US government was responsible for the 9/11 attacks on its own soil, even as Americans prepared to mark the 10th anniversary of their nation's worst-ever terrorist attack.

He added that he could not believe Arab Muslims were capable of the planning required to launch such attacks against the United States.

File photo of the World Trade Center bursting into flames after being struck by an aircraft in New York in this September 11, 2001 file photo. Dr Mahathir said the US government was responsible for the attacks, not Arab terrorists. — Reuters pic  
The former prime minister repeated today the claims he had made last January, hinting that the attacks were staged as an excuse for the US government to retaliate against the Muslim world.

"This is the legacy of George W. Bush. If they can lie so as to kill Iraqis, Afghans and American soldiers, it is not unthinkable for Bush & Co to lie about who was responsible for 9/11. Human lives do not seem to mean much to Bush!!" he said in a blog posting today.

Standing by his theory, Dr Mahathir insisted that the Arab Muslims were incapable of planning such a well-strategised multi-pronged attack that saw the iconic twin towers of the New York World Trade Center crumble to the ground.

He backed his argument by pointing to an article by wire agency AFP that was published in English daily The Star last Friday, which said: "For some Americans, the deaths of nearly 3,000 people were not the scariest thing about 9/11. It was realising who carried out the attack: yes, the American government."

The line he quoted from the AFP story was part of an ironic piece about the number conspiracy theories that have mushroomed over the years.

"I believe Arab Muslims are angry enough to sacrifice their lives and become suicide bombers. More often they would kill other Arabs who may be quite innocent. Frequent targets are mosques at prayer time.

"But they or their handlers do not strike me as capable of planning and strategising such attacks so as to maximise the damage to the enemy," Dr Mahathir wrote.

But the 9/11 attack, he said, particularly the coverage given on the disaster by the American media, which saw many stones left unturned, reeked of suspicion.

He pointed out that the hijacking of four aircraft simultaneously would have required great precision in time and logistics, voicing doubt that terrorists from Saudi Arabia could have carried out such an operation with success.

"Then there was the collapse of the two towers hit by the aircraft. They came down nicely upon themselves without toppling against the other buildings close by.

"It looks more like planned demolition of buildings than collapse consequent upon being hit by aircraft," he said.

Dr Mahathir also pointed to the mysterious collapse of a third building which came down like the trade center despite not being hit by any aircraft.

"What is the explanation for this untouched building collapsing upon itself and not damaging other buildings nearby?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir then pointed again to the mysterious disappearance of the aircraft that hit the Pentagon building and the fourth plane that was supposed to have crashed in an open field.

"There was no debris of any kind, no broken parts of the aircraft, no black box, and no human bodies flung into the surroundings. Is it possible for an aircraft to vaporise totally after a crash?" he said.

The American media's uncharacteristic silence on the incident was suspicious, he said, pointing out that such incidents would typically be given full coverage, complete with revealing photographs and interviews with the relatives of the passengers who had died.

"It is now the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Bush lied about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction and as a result, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, Afghans and a few thousand young American soldiers died, thousands more wounded, maimed for life, suffering mental breakdowns," he said.

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