

Dr M condemns Isis, says Islam doesn't condone violence
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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today condemned the Isis militant group for its violent attacks in Iraq and Syria, saying it has misinterpreted Islam which is a religion of peace.

The former prime minister's views on Isis, or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is opposite that of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who in June called on Umno members to emulate the boldness and courage of Isis fighters in defeating the much larger Iraqi forces.

"There is no place for violence in Islam. Islam is a religion of peace and some people have wrongly interpreted the religion," Dr Mahathir told reporters after a youth forum in Putrajaya today.

He added that he had seen images of atrocities and executions carried out by the Isis fighters and strongly condemned it.

The country's longest-serving prime minister who stepped down in 2003 is an outspoken critic of Israel for its violence against Palestinians.

Dr Mahathir's (pic, right) views on Isis came after the group overran much of northern Iraq and grabbed huge swathes of land, in a bloody campaign which has alarmed the international community.

But Najib had said in June that "whether we agree or not is another matter, the group Isis with the strength of just 1,300 people, can defeat an Iraqi army of 30,000 soldiers".

"The defeat caused four, five generals with three, four stars to run for their lives, jumped out the window at night," Najib was quoted as saying.

Referring to Najib's statement, Dr Mahathir said: "I do not know if he knew what he was saying, but if Malaysia emulates Isis, this country will not be stable.

"Malaysia will become a very violent country," said Dr Mahathir.

Isis's struggle in the Middle East has attracted a lot of sympathisers and supporters from all over the world, including Malaysians.

Over 20 Malaysians are currently believed to be in the Middle East fighting under the Isis banner, according to police, but the figure could be higher.

Between January and June this year, police arrested 19 people for alleged involvement in militant activities linked to Isis.

The suspects were planning to carry out a host of attacks, including on the Carlsberg brewery in Shah Alam. – August 16, 2014.

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