

**Hardliners portraying Islam in bad light, says Zahid**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
**Dec 14, 2015**  
**By KC Nazari**

Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi today told Muslims to dissociate Islam from the beliefs of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (Isis) as the religion has never advocated violence.

The deputy prime minister said some of the hardliners have portrayed Islam in a bad light and added that the time has come for Muslim to erase Islamophobia "from the memory of non-Muslims".

"Now it's time Islamophobia be deleted from the memory of non-Muslims. Islam never teaches us to be involved with engage with Daulah Islamiyah or Isis.

"Islam never taught us to kill others," he said, at the Halal Conference, organised by the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC) in Kuala Lumpur.

"The problem is some of the hardcore are painting negative perception towards Islam, including the halal products," he added.

Zahid said Muslims should not be controlling the world through military might, but instead work together with the rest of the world, particularly in expanding the reach of halal products and services.

In October, Zahid said Malaysia would set up a Regional Digital Counter-Messaging Communications Centre to counter distorted narrative of Isis with the "right" message.

This move was confirmed by US Secretary of State John Kerry, at a meeting with Zahid in Washington. – December 14, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/hardliners-portraying-islam-in-bad-light-says-zahid>