

# Fight militancy

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## Muslims must work to regain dignity and honour of Islam, says PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has urged Muslims to unite to regain Islam's dignity and honour by confronting and discrediting militant teachings.

Suggesting radical changes to the curriculum of religious schools in some countries, he said Muslims must cut the spurious link that has been falsely established between Islam, militancy and the indiscriminate killing of innocent people.

"Terrorism is the moral enemy of Islam, not its consort. The legitimacy of the cause must not be tainted by the illegitimacy of the means," the Prime Minister said in his keynote address at the Asia Pacific Roundtable 2004 held at the Palace of the Golden Horses yesterday.

He said undemocratic forms of government in the Muslim world, poor governance and poverty, wherever they existed, did contribute to unrest, even terrorism, directed at host governments.

Abdullah said factors do not directly contribute to international terrorism targeted at the United States and its coalition partners or Israel but have to be addressed since terrorist groups with a domestic agenda are also sometimes linked to the al-Qaeda network of international terrorism.

"Addressing these will take time, but unless there is political will, parts of the Muslim world will continue to lag behind, and the peace and stability vital for comprehensive development