

SPEECH BY
THE HON. DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
AT THE ARAB, ISLAMIC & US SUMMIT
ON 21 MAY 2017

Bismillahhirahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning to all.

Your Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud,

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques;

His Excellency Donald J. Trump,

President of the United States of America;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Let me start by extending my special thanks to His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for initiating this historic Arab-Islamic-US Summit.

2. Your Majesty, we in Malaysia were delighted and honoured to receive you recently. It was truly a momentous chapter in our bilateral relations. Your visit was a demonstration of the love, warmth, respect and gratitude between our peoples.

Your Majesty,
Excellencies,

3. This summit could not be more timely. The world needs to be reminded that the Muslim nations present today

completely condemn terrorism and violent extremism. The world should have no doubt that we stand collectively with the international community in the fight to eradicate this global menace.

4. We in Malaysia have not flagged in our efforts to combat the spread of radicalism. Towards this end, my government has promoted the concept of 'wasatiyyah' - which is the Quranic injunction towards moderation. I called for the establishment of a Global Movement of Moderation at the United Nations in 2010, and we have set up a foundation to support that in Kuala Lumpur. And our deradicalisation programme has had a remarkable 95 percent success rate in reintegrating former extremists.

5. Malaysia stands ready to share our expertise, just as we have long worked with partners around the world.

6. In 2015, Malaysia and the United States worked to establish the Digital Strategic Communications Division to counter the negative messaging of terrorism.

7. We have worked with Australia to stop the flow of funding for terrorist groups; with New Zealand on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosive Elements; with the UK and France in seven flagship areas, which include cyber-terrorism, as well as youths and the paths to terrorism.

8. Your Majesty, among the major agreements reached during your recent State Visit is the establishment of the King Salman Centre for International Peace in Kuala Lumpur. This Centre, which is a landmark collaboration between our countries in our fight against extremism, will begin operations in June 2017, after its launching by His Highness the Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Your Majesty,
Excellencies.

9. Due to religious and cultural affinity, Malaysians have always felt close to the peoples and countries in this region. Current instability in the region has thus, raised much concern to us all. Unstable regions are fertile grounds for terrorism to flourish.

10. I am aware that there is a widespread belief here that Iran has contributed somewhat to the instability in the region. As a country that enjoys and values good relations with countries in the region including Iran, Malaysia feels that Iran should avoid any action that could be interpreted as interfering in the internal affairs of its neighbours. This is not only for the sake of regional stability but also for the unity of the ummah.

Your Majesty,
Excellencies,

11. The fight against terrorism is not just military: it is also about winning hearts and minds. To do this, a credible narrative needs to be told, in which Islam and modernity are compatible; material progress and religious devotion go hand-in-hand; and religious knowledge and scientific inquiry mutually reinforce one another.

12. In Malaysia and many parts of the Muslim world, this is our reality. We must, however, emphasise and reinforce our stories so that the true Islam is known the world over, while at the same time we coordinate to crush Daesh and their allies wherever their malign presence is felt.

13. Let me conclude by thanking the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for this initiative, which signals to the community of nations that Muslim countries are united in

their desire to eradicate terrorism. Your Majesty, you can rest assured that Malaysia is steadfast and resolute in its support to the Kingdom and your leadership as the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

Thank you.