

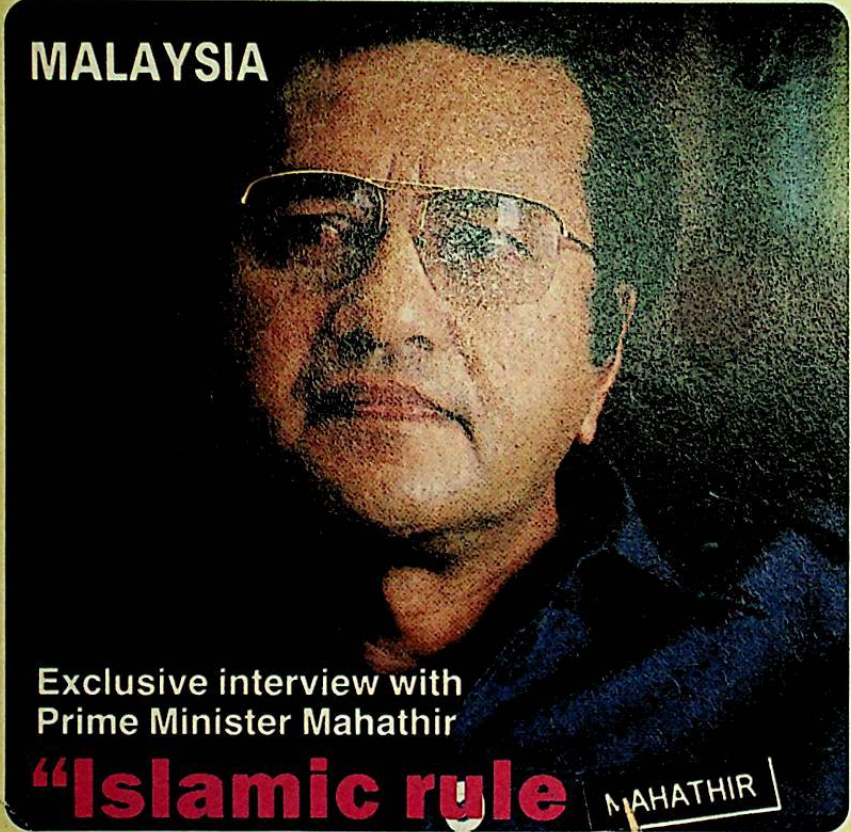
THE BIHARIS
HOME AT LAST

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Arabia

The Islamic World Review

MALAYSIA



Exclusive interview with
Prime Minister Mahathir

"Islamic rule MAHATHIR

without oppression"

ISLAMIC FINANCE

SYRIA

**Economic tactics
for political strategy**

IRAN

**Who wants to
stop the war?**

YUGOSLAVIA

**Muslims' long
struggle for
recognition**

TURKEY

**A new pride in
the Islamic
past**

SOUTH AFRICA

**Exchange of
A-Bomb
favours
with Israel**

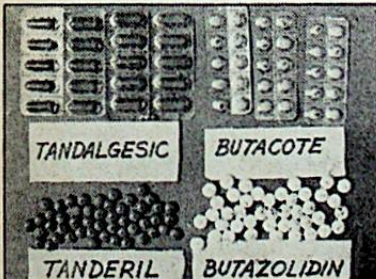
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Letter from the publisher

Arabia has its admirers and its critics, as do all other magazines. Both sides, however, can possibly agree on a number of modest achievements that *Arabia* has made.

To a great extent, the magazine has maintained its independence and safeguarded its freedom. This, to be sure, sounds matter-of-course to any western audience; but it is of great significance to any Muslim society where, admittedly, such an endeavour might jeopardise one's life-style and even put one's life at risk. Most of our governments tolerate the independence of the western media, since it has become a well-established fact, with which they have to live whether they like it or not. From the Muslim media, however, they accept nothing less than conformity.

Arabia has also, to its credit, managed to be a free platform, for anyone who has something of significance to say. This may again sound trivial, but in the turmoil that is sweeping our Muslim societies, it is quite an achievement for a magazine not to identify itself with any political party or movement, and not to carry the label of this or that government.

The plight of the oppressed Muslims in Indonesia, India, the Philippines and Bulgaria, to name only a few, has become more widely known to the international community since being brought into the limelight by *Arabia*. It is not an exaggeration to claim that the sufferings of some Jews in the Soviet Union or a number of Christians anywhere in the world can easily make the headlines of the western media, while the massacre of thousands of Muslims can hardly get a mention. There is, in fact, a real blackout on what Muslims are subjected to, even in a supposedly democratic country like India. Nothing but prejudice can explain such a discriminatory attitude on a matter of basic human rights.

Finally, *Arabia* has introduced a number of young Muslims to modern techniques of mass communication and to international standards of professionalism. Needless to say, such training opportunities are scarce in the Muslim world, for obvious reasons.

Mohammad Salahuddin

Arabia

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