



Malaysia 7

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR RASTAM MOHD ISA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT
THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

**ON
"THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION"**

**NEW YORK
MONDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2004**

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Mr. President,

My Delegation associates itself with the statement that has been delivered earlier by the Delegation of Tunisia on behalf of the Group of Arab States. My delegation considers that the question that is now before the Council bears great importance to the maintenance of peace and security in the Middle East region and the world at large.

2. Malaysia is gravely concerned over the escalation of violence in Gaza over the past few days. The acts of violence and terror against civilians, including women and children, as well as non-combatants are unacceptable and deserve to be condemned by the Council. Similarly, Malaysia believes that the Council should condemn the excessive and indiscriminate use of force and physical destruction arising from the broad military incursion and attacks by the Israeli occupying forces in the area of Northern Gaza Strip, including in and around the Jabiliya refugee camp. We are saddened over the extensive human casualties and destruction which has resulted in the exacerbation of the dire humanitarian situation in the area. These must be stopped immediately. The Security Council must exercise its role and responsibility in this regard.

3. Malaysia urges Members of the Quartet to play a more vigorous role and undertake all necessary measures to reverse such a situation. The Road Map must be resuscitated and both parties should immediately implement their obligations under the Road Map. The international community must prevail upon Israel to desist from continuing with its policy of collective punishment and acts of aggression against the Palestinians. In addition, the international community must render all necessary assistance to the Palestinian Authority to strengthen its security apparatus. Malaysia commends ongoing assistance by several countries towards this end.

Mr. President,

4. Malaysia as Chairman of both the Non-Aligned Movement and the Tenth Islamic Summit Conference will continue to do its part by working with all relevant parties, including the Quartet and the Security Council, to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East. Malaysia remains convinced that an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, would be the best hope for lasting peace in the region, with both Israel and Palestine living peacefully, side by side within secure and recognized borders.

5. Malaysia reiterates its long-standing position that the Security Council must now seriously consider approving the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force or the placement of an international monitoring mechanism in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to oversee the implementation of the Road Map. This would help create an environment of confidence for the speedy resuscitation of the Road Map. Israel must realize that military solution is not the answer to the conflict. Both sides must return to the negotiating table and seek a political solution.

6. The continued plight and suffering of the Palestinian people remains a tragic embodiment of the consequences of non-implementation of resolutions and the non-enforcement of decisions of the Security Council. There are ways in which the Security Council can ensure compliance of its resolutions and decisions by Israel. Malaysia calls upon the Security Council to do so now to ensure that justice and the rule of law will prevail in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Thank you, Mr. President.