



Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALL,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA,
AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON
“THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF
PALESTINE”, 19 JANUARY 2011**

Mr. President,

Let me first congratulate you on your presidency of this Council and secondly, align my delegation with the statements by Egypt and Tajikistan, on behalf of the NAM and the OIC, respectively.

Mr. President,

2. The continued occupation of Palestinian Territory and its ramifications are unacceptable. Illegal Israeli settlements build-up on Palestinian lands, including in East Jerusalem continues unabated. This includes the recent demolition of the historic Shepherd Hotel in order to make way for the construction of more housing for settlers.

3. In continuing to do so, Israel has time and again put itself on the wrong side of history and with impunity. In this connection, we welcomed the EU's Declaration on the Middle East Peace Process of 13 December 2010, which considers Israeli settlements, including in East Jerusalem, illegal under international law and obstacle to peace. In addition, we also welcome the increasing number of countries officially recognizing the State of Palestine. At the very least this development serves as an indication to all Palestinians that the world has not forgotten and forsaken them.

4. It is also a reminder to Israel that it must fulfil its legal obligations, by stopping all illegal settlement activities, construction of the separation wall and demolition of Palestinians-owned buildings and infrastructure, particularly in East Jerusalem. Only by doing so, can the Peace Process's timeline stipulated in September 2010 be adhered to. Only by doing so, can the occupation ends. Only by doing so can we bring stability and peace in the Middle East. Most important of all, we can restore justice and all rights to the Palestinian people.

5. On Gaza, we reiterate our call on Israel to lift the blockade and the imprisonment of more than 1.5 million people, and to normalise the flow of provision of construction materials, and to expedite further approvals of UN projects, including the building of more schools by the UNRWA. Provocative actions such as the shooting of Palestinian civilians including children by Israeli military personnel must stop, as such actions further aggravate the already dire situation in the Strip.

Mr. President,

6. Resolving these issues requires the international community to focus all energy and effort at achieving a comprehensive peace in the region; and restoring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian

people, including their right to an independent State of Palestine. All parties must act truthfully and sincerely towards achieving these objectives. We again urge the Security Council to take the necessary actions by bringing into effect the Council's very own resolutions on Palestine and on the Middle East.

Thank you.