



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**STATEMENT BY MR. SAIFUL AZAM MARTINUS ABDULLAH, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON "THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE", 21 APRIL 2011**

Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia is deeply concerned over the recent disproportionate attacks by the Israeli military forces in the Gaza Strip. The attack had resulted in a number of civilian casualties and if left unchecked, would lead to greater destruction and further loss of lives, especially among the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

3. We, therefore, urge all involved parties to refrain from any provocative act and call on the international community, especially the Security Council and the Middle East Quartet, to act swiftly and decisively to ensure that Israel cease its military operations in the Gaza Strip, to prevent further escalation of violence.

4. My delegation is also concerned by recent articles and comments appearing in the newspaper regarding the so-called Goldstone Report. We are of the view that such comments did not nullify the Report or suggest that the author wanted to retract it. In this regard, my delegation is agreeable with the statement by the three other co-authors of the report, which, in a way, has further bolstered the process of having Israel answering to the world for using disproportionate force, which led to the death of approximately 1,400 Palestinians during the military onslaught, it carried out over two years ago. We would like to state here that the imperatives of peace and justice are mutual and for that, justice for the Palestinians in Gaza cannot be delayed in order to reach peace.

5. In this connection also, we reiterate our call on Israel to completely lift the blockade on Gaza, which is a form of collective punishment that is forbidden by international law and to expedite further approvals of UN projects.

Mr President,

6. Israel must fulfil its legal and international obligations, by stopping all settlement activities, construction of the separation wall and demolition of Palestinian-owned buildings and infrastructure, particularly in East Jerusalem, which are illegal under international law and represents serious impediments that have contributed to the deadlock of the peace talks.

7. 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 necessary measures to effect the Council's very own resolutions on Palestine and on the Middle East, failing which the Council's credibility would be at stake.

Thank you.