



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 64: REPORT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AT THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 5 NOVEMBER 2009

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement by Egypt and Syria, delivered on behalf of the NAM and the OIC, respectively. We would like thank the Human Rights Council and the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict for their reports.

Mr. President,

2. The report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict also known as the Goldstone report has clearly shown the brutality of Israeli action in the execution of Operation Cast Lead unleashed in Gaza for more than three weeks, from 27 December 2008 until 18 January 2009. Therefore, while the purpose of our meeting is ostensibly to discuss and take action on these two reports, its real purpose is much greater. It is to ensure that Israel can no longer shed Palestinian blood with impunity.

3. I say this because the Goldstone report makes a grim reading. This report, which speaks for itself highlighted Israel's record of unbridled barbarity towards the people in Gaza. Due to the paucity of time, I would like to point out just some of its most salient points:

- 3.1 Firstly, this military operation is not an aberration. Rather, it fits into a continuum of policies, based on or results in, violations of international human rights and humanitarian law;
- 3.2 Secondly, Operation Cast Lead was qualitatively different from any previous military action by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory due to its unprecedented severity and its long lasting consequences. The visible destruction of houses, factories, wells, schools, hospitals, police stations and other public buildings, proves that it was the deliberate aim of Israel to inflict as much damage and suffering as possible;
- 3.3 Thirdly, Israeli military actions premised on a deliberate policy of disproportionate force aimed not at a specific enemy but at the "supporting infrastructure". In practice, this meant the civilian population in Gaza;
- 3.4 Fourthly, this operation, which lead to killings and destroying was carefully planned and executed. This further indicated that all aspects of this operation were deliberate. Therefore, all killings must have been conducted in cold blood.

4. However, despite the gruesome situation, we were struck by the courage of the Palestinian people. The assiduous work of Palestinian non-governmental and civil society organizations in

providing support to the population in such extreme circumstances, and in giving voice to the suffering and expectations of victims of violations deserves to be fully acknowledged.

5. We note with interest, that there were also dissenting voices in Israel against the operation, expressed through demonstrations, protests, as well as public reporting on Israel's conduct. These voices understand that Israel cannot purchase peace and security for itself with the blood and suffering of the Palestinian people.

Mr. President,

6. We, the international community have to-date failed to act to ensure the protection of the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Hence, we must break this inertia by undertaking concrete actions in order to ensure that justice for the people of Palestine is neither delayed nor denied.

7. The Goldstone report provided us with two options; either to take actions to achieve justice for the Palestinians or to allow the abhorrent, illegal actions by Israel remains unpunished. In this regard, as a responsible member of the international community, we choose the former and accordingly we urge all Member States to work together in implementing all the recommendations stipulated in the report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.

Thank you, Mr. President.