



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON AGENDA ITEM 16: QUESTION OF PALESTINE AT THE PLENARY OF THE 64TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NEW YORK, 1ST DECEMBER 2009

Mr. President,

My delegation first wishes to align itself with the statement by Egypt and Syria, delivered on behalf of the NAM and the OIC, respectively.

Mr. President,

2. Sixty-two (62) years ago, the United Nations adopted resolution 181 proposing the partitioning of Palestine into two independent States, one Jewish and one Arab. However, to-date, only one State has come into being. It was a situation, which has resulted in the loss of many lives, and whose effect reverberates not only in the Middle East, but worldwide. We must therefore undertake urgent, decisive action to bring order and stability to the region, to restart the peace process leading to a comprehensive and just solution, and in so doing, give effect to what is provided for in resolution 181.

Mr. President,

3. It is apparent that the root cause of this problem is the illegal occupation by Israel of Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian territories. The problems has been compounded throughout the decades by Israel's actions and intransigence in the following areas:

3.1 **One**, Atrocities committed by Israel in Gaza, which contravened the Geneva Conventions;

3.2 **Two**, Lack of political commitment to follow through the successive peace processes;

3.3 **Three**, Continuation and expansion of illegal settlement activities in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, with the recent one being the Israeli Government approval for the construction of nine hundred (900) new settlement-housing units in the settlement of Gilo, which is located at the south of East Jerusalem;

3.4 **Four**, Forced evictions of the Palestinian people, demolition of homes, and confiscation of Palestinian lands including through the building of the Separation Wall, which continues to be built despite the advisory opinion of the ICJ to stop its construction. Such unlawful actions could alter the demographic composition, status and nature of East Jerusalem. It also negatively affect the territorial contiguity as well as the social fabric of the Palestinian people and is in violation of international law; and

3.5 **Five**, Imposition of measures that constitute a form of collective punishment, which is strictly forbidden by international humanitarian law. Such measures include the blockade

policies in Gaza that restricted the passage of essential goods and construction materials to the vulnerable group, and the hundreds of checkpoints, roadblocks, the permit system as well as other obstacles that violated the Palestinians' right to freedom of movement.

4. The attacks on Palestinians by extremist Israeli settlers at the Islamic holy sites of Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque are further manifestation of act of impunity by the Israeli regime in the occupied territories. We are alarmed at the increasing incidents of Israeli illegal settlers' violence and attacks on Palestinians without much action or hindrance by the Israeli authorities to stop its occurrence. Such provocation further worsened the already volatile situation in the occupied territories especially in occupied East Jerusalem.

5. The dehumanization of the Palestinian people through such exploitations is not only illegal and immoral, but is also counter-productive to the aim of achieving genuine and lasting peace. Israel cannot, as it has so often done in the past, try to cloud the eyes of the international community by listing, at the UN and other fora, its actions undertaken to lessen the sufferings of the Palestinians. Israel must recognise itself for what it is – the source of conflict in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

6. It is therefore manifestly clear that peace in the Middle East can only be achieved when the international community is able to make Israel to recognise its wrongdoings and hold it accountable for its policies of deliberate destruction. Israel must improve the situation on the ground including lifting the blockade in Gaza, addressing humanitarian needs, foster economic activities and improving the atmosphere for negotiations.

7. We also need to refocus our energy and effort at returning to the Palestinians its inalienable rights including its right to an independent State of Palestine. In this regard, we urge the Security Council to take the necessary decisive action regarding Israel's violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, thus ending this immoral culture of impunity by the Israeli regime.

Mr. President,

8. Yesterday, we also mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all Palestinians who have suffered in their just struggle to live in freedom and in dignity in a state they can call their own. The people of Palestine can count on Malaysia's unceasing and unwavering support in their efforts to create an independent and sovereign state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Thank you.