



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA, AT THE OPEN DEBATE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON “THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE”, 27 JANUARY 2010

Mr. President,

Let me first of all congratulate you on your presidency of this Council and express how pleased we are at seeing you preside over our meeting today. My delegation aligns itself with the statements by Egypt and Syria, on behalf of the NAM and the OIC, respectively.

Mr. President,

2. Since the last debate in October last year, and despite the so-called “ten-month moratorium”, Israeli authorities continue to announce plans to build hundreds upon hundreds of settlement units in the West Bank, particularly in East Jerusalem. Construction of the separation wall in and around Occupied East Jerusalem has continued unabated despite the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 9 July 2004.

3. Concomitantly illegal land confiscations and countless other unlawful measures such as home demolitions and eviction of Palestinian families continues.

4. Furthermore, the ongoing revocation of the residency rights of Palestinian inhabitants of East Jerusalem has further worsened the situation. In 2008 alone, Israel revoked the residency rights of nearly 5,000 Palestinians, forbidding them from living in the city of their birth. This figure represents the highest number of residency revocations in a one-year period since the occupation began in 1967. Tens of thousands more Palestinian Jerusalemites are under the threat of having their residency rights revoked.

5. All these illegal policies and the affirmation by the Israeli Prime Minister to retain parts of the Occupied West Bank will definitely change the demographic composition, character and

status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and seriously undermine the two-State solution. Such actions are in grave violation of international law, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the relevant United Nations resolutions. Israel must therefore be held accountable.

Mr. President,

6. With regard to Gaza, the humanitarian situation there remains dire. The blockade effectively imprisons the people of Gaza, deprives them of their essential needs including construction materials that are necessary to rebuild thousands of homes and other vital infrastructures destroyed during the Israeli military aggression more than a year ago. This illegal blockade which is a form of collective punishment forbidden by international law must be brought to an end. In this regard, we again urge the Security Council to take action at ending this siege, in accordance with the Council's resolution 1860 (2009).

Mr. President,

7. Resolving these issues requires us to focus our energies and effort at restoring the Palestinians of their inalienable rights including their right to an independent State of Palestine. This in turn requires all parties to act sincerely towards achieving the objective of a just and lasting solution to and action by the Security Council to restore peace and stability in the Middle East. It requires the political will of this Council to bring into effect the Council's very own resolutions.

Thank you, Mr. President.