



# Malaysia

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hussein Haniff,  
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,  
on Agenda Item 37: Report of the Committee on  
the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People,  
New York, 29 November 2012**

Mr. President,

I wish to thank Ambassador Abdou Salam Diallo, Permanent Representative of Senegal, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for his statement. My delegation would also like to thank the Bureau members of the Committee and the Division for Palestinian Rights for the report. Malaysia welcomes and endorses the report of the Committee and its recommendations.

2. Malaysia would also like to align itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. President,

3. Two weeks ago, Israel attacked the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. The attack has caused the deaths of more than 165 Palestinians and injured countless others. The story has been the same, with Israel seeing itself as a victim of numerous rocket attacks launched from Gaza, responding with a massive application of military power, to what it terms as terrorists which included children as well as women and elderly. We are appalled that the international community took 1 week to stop the brutal and aggressive act by Israel. The Parliament of Malaysia on 19 November 2012 passed a resolution to condemn these attacks and stated its unwavering support for the Palestinians. The Parliament also sought for the UN Security Council to fulfil its charter responsibility and that Israel has to be held accountable for the crimes committed against the Palestinians.

4. In this connection, I wish to take this opportunity to express my delegation's sincere condolences to the Palestinian people who have lost their lives in the defence of their home land.

Mr. President,

5. The attack on Gaza was one of many countless acts that Israel has committed in violation of international law and I believe that it will not be the last. Israel's defiance of international law has been well illustrated in the report submitted by the Committee. The report shows that the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has not improved and Israel continues to violate international law, including humanitarian and human rights laws.

6. The Occupying Power has systematically continued to demolish Palestinian homes, displacing the people of the land and intensifying of illegal settlement activity. 589 Palestinian houses and built structures were demolished within the reporting period. In 2011 alone, 110 Palestinian homes were destroyed by the Occupying Power resulting in further displacement of Palestinian people. What is clear is that Israel intends to change the demographics and reality on the ground.

7. The Occupying Power has further revoked the residency status of over 14,000 Palestinians from Jerusalem without reason or recourse. They have been denied entry into Jerusalem, removed of their rights of movement and further caused displacement from their own land. Meanwhile, Israel continues the construction of the Separation Wall that further impinges the Palestinians from freely moving within the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

8. The buck does not stop there. My delegation is appalled with the increasing number of settler violence incidents. It is reported that over 500,000 Israelis are now living in 144 new settlements in the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. More so, this violence includes hit and run incidents, destruction of private property, including agricultural lands. We believe that such practices are methodical efforts aimed at removing Palestinians from their home land.

Mr. President,

9. I have earlier highlighted the recent Israeli attack on Gaza. At the same time, the future of the Gazans continues to be grim, with the blockade entering its sixth year. The socio-economic impact has been devastating; the blockade has rendered 80 per cent of Gazans dependent on humanitarian assistance. Another 44 per cent are food insecure and 13 per cent are experiencing malnutrition, while 39 per cent of the people in Gaza continue to live in poverty. The situation in the Gaza Strip is unsustainable. The lives of 1.6 million Gazans are indeed in jeopardy.

Mr. President,

10. My delegation wishes to express our concern with the findings of the Committee as contained in the report. The people of Palestine have continued to be oppressed by Israel, the Occupying Power. What is more distressing is that it seems that the international community is helpless in stopping this inhumane behaviour of Israel. This is shameful.

11. The international community must bring about changes. Israel's impunity must be put to an end and the rule of law must prevail. The construction of illegal settlements by Israel violates international law, and if Israel is committed to a two state solution, these settlements have to be dismantled and no more new illegal settlements should ever be built again on Palestinian land.

12. Israel must also realise the need to immediately lift the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip and allow the flow of supplies, materials and humanitarian aid to reach the people. Israel must accept that a lasting and just solution to the Question of Palestine not only benefits the Palestinians, but would contribute to Israel's own safety and security in the long run.

13. The international community must continue to support all the recommendations submitted in the report of the Committee in its works for the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, and a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting with the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State and Israel living side-by side in peace and security, based on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as capital of Palestine.

Mr. President,

14. Today is an important day for all of us. We are observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. I would like to take this opportunity to pay Malaysia's utmost respect and tribute to the Palestinian people for their courage and strength in continuing to demonstrate steadfastness despite the immense hardship they face on a daily basis. In solidarity with the people of Palestine, Malaysia reiterate its unwavering support to the aspirations of the Palestinian people for self-determination and independence. In this regard, Malaysia fully supports the Palestinian application to be a member state of the United Nations. We also welcome the adoption of the resolution that has enhanced the status of Palestine to an observer state of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.