



# MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS



CANDIDATE  
to the  
UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL  
for the term 2015-2016

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**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. AMBASSADOR HUSSEIN HANIFF  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,**

**ON AGENDA ITEM 61: PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OF THE  
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY,  
INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AND OF THE ARAB POPULATION IN THE  
OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN, OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES,**

**AT THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE SIXTY-EIGHT SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

**NEW YORK, 30 OCTOBER 2013**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan that was presented under this agenda item.

2. The question of Israel, the occupying Power, and Palestine has been on the international agenda for over 60 years, with more than 220 United Nations resolutions on the Question of Palestine adopted. The overwhelming majority of the international community condemns Israel's continued occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories as a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, human rights law, the United Nations Charter and the many United Nations resolutions. As we discuss this issue in this august committee, Israeli forces continue to act with absolute impunity and in complete contempt of international law.

3. Over the decades, Israel has pursued policies and actions that have directly led to deaths and injuries to civilians, including women and children. The brutality by Israel and the hardship it continues to inflict on the lives of the Palestinians are clearly evident in the statistics provided in the report, which I would like to briefly quote:

“From 30 March 2012 to 29 March 2013, 268 Palestinians were killed and 4,483 others were injured. The vast majority of casualties involved civilians and were inflicted by Israeli security forces. A total of 132 Palestinian injuries were the result of settler attacks. Among the casualties, 42 Palestinian children were killed

and 615 were injured. During the same period, 3 Israeli civilians were killed and 279 were injured, including 3 injured children” end of quote.

4. The statistics indicates that the total number of Palestinians killed during the said period has increased more than double as compared to the same period last year with 122 deaths. While the total number of Palestinians injured during the said period also showed a sharp increase as compared to the same period last year with 2,077 injured. This is very alarming and the international community should come together and step up pressure against Israel, the occupying Power, to put an end to this brutality.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Let me now share with this august Committee of my recent trip to Amman and Cairo on a UN mission as a member of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied territories. Due to the heightened security in the region, the Special Committee did not visit the Gaza Strip. Nonetheless, we had the opportunity to hear extensive testimony of victims and witnesses of Israel’s illegal blockade in flagrant disregard of the Oslo Accords. The blockade of the Gaza Strip, now into its sixth year, continues to cause a decline in the standards of living, unprecedented levels of unemployment, and unrelenting poverty, in addition to amounting to collective punishment of the Palestinian people. Witnesses reported that prospects for economic growth were stifled by severe export restrictions imposed by Israel and that the unemployment rate in Gaza stood at 32.2 per cent with youth unemployment at 60.2 per cent.

6. We also heard extensive testimony on how the lives of fishermen and farmers of Gaza have been seriously disrupted by the blockade. The fishermen used to bring in 4,000 tons of fish a year before a tightened blockade was imposed in 2007. Now, they can bring in only 1,500 tons. The farmers too find themselves in similar fate. They are not able to cultivate their traditional crops due to the near total restriction on exports and enforcement of a buffer zone inside Gaza. We therefore call, for the international community to pressure the Israeli government to allow Palestinians to export their farm products. The blockade has forced 80 per cent of the Palestinians to continue depending on the international community for humanitarian assistance which is part of Israel’s agenda.

7. We also listened to reports of business, including multinational corporations, which are profiting from the Israeli settlement enterprises. We would like to point out, in this regard, that businesses have a responsibility to not be complicit in Israel's policies and practices that openly violate Palestinian rights. As the Committee rightly acknowledge in the report of the Special Committee document A/68/379, it is inconceivable that any business could not be aware of the illegal nature of Israel's settlement activities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and that there is a need for scrupulous due diligence and a clear awareness of the potential legal and reputational consequences for businesses associated with the Israeli settlement enterprise.

Mr. Chairman,

8. Since 1967, Israel has exploited the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Authority, including East Jerusalem and other Arab territories, resulting in an increasingly detrimental impact on the socio-economic fabric of the Palestinian people. The construction of the wall, targeting of water sanitation and hygiene facilities combined with the blockade and Israeli military air strikes, have damaged water resources and exacerbated an already critical sanitation crisis. It has also caused the destruction of important agricultural land and destabilized the delicate ecosystem of the surrounding area, with severe negative consequences for both the environment and the livelihoods of the Palestinian people. In the Occupied Syrian Golan, farmers are at an unequal and disadvantaged position owing to high levels of taxes and restrictions on the use of water.

9. Israel settlers have consistently engaged in violence and harassment towards Palestinians, and invaded, stole from or damaged Palestinian-owned olive groves, deliberately during the olive harvest period.

Mr. Chairman,

10. With the year 2015 around the proverbial corner, the international community has lauded the reduction of poverty rates across the globe. However, poverty rates in the West Bank, Gaza and in particular Jerusalem are alarming, and unemployment continues to be at unacceptably high levels. The reclaiming of the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinians over their natural resources is therefore key in reversing this crisis. However, this issue cannot be approached in isolation. A holistic, just and final resolution to the conflict, which is a two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement, that will put an end to the illegal occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories, is the only way forward. In this regard, Malaysia would like to reaffirm its support for the state of Palestine's bid to become a full member of the United Nations. We join the more than 130 other states that have recognized Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign state, with the shared vision of a final resolution of this conflict.

11. In the interim, we urge the United Nations Development system to strengthen its programmes of assistance to help mitigate the hardship faced by the Palestinians and the population of the Occupied Syrian Golan, through adequate resources and effective operational activities. We call upon member states to ensure that relevant UN agencies such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are provided with adequate and reliable financial resources to facilitate their work in reducing the hardships caused by the infringement of the sovereignty of Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

Mr. Chairman,

12 It is a shame that the international community has failed to provide the Palestinians and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan with the rights over their natural resources, and their right to live in dignity. Our delegation believes that no effort should be spared in ensuring international law is complied with in this regard. We demand that Israel, the occupying Power, stop the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion, and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, in accordance with the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources.

13. Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, by saying that despite the undoubted challenges in the long road ahead, it is Malaysia's hope that the ongoing peace talks will finally pave the way for the beginning of a process of reconciliation, reconstruction, development and ultimately, flourishing of the Palestinian State and people.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.