



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
MR. RAJA REZA RAJA ZAIB SHAH
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON AGENDA ITEM 38: QUESTION OF PALESTINE**

NEW YORK, 23 NOVEMBER 2015

Mr. President,

Malaysia thanks Ambassador Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Vice-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 Secretariat's Division for Palestinian Rights and the other organs within the United Nations system, for their unwavering commitment to working on matters relating to the question of Palestine.

2. Our delegation continues to call on the Secretary-General and the United Nations, to be resolute in their mandate, responsibilities and shared commitment towards a just solution and lasting peace for the question of Palestine. Malaysia would also like to align itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Kuwait on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. President,

3. The Government and the people of Malaysia join the international community today in observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The commemoration of the event is significant, in urging our collective reflection on moving forward and being steadfast in our commitment in supporting the continuous efforts for self-determination, sovereignty and independence by Palestine. Malaysia reaffirms its full support towards the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for a sovereign State of Palestine, living side-by-side, in peace and security with Israel, based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine.

4. As with many others, we recall the momentous adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/320 in September 2015 which led to the historic raising of the Palestinian flag at the United Nations by President Mahmoud Abbas shortly after. It is in this spirit of resolute determination by Palestine, which we ought to strive and break the mould of

being in a state of impasse and urgently work to address the root causes of the decades-long conflict to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Mr. President,

5. Since the beginning of October 2015, more than 1520 Palestinians, 60% of them children have been arrested by Palestinian forces. In East Jerusalem, 110 children were arrested, representing an increase of 56% compared to the previous quarter. We need to immediately de-escalate and stop the current wave of violence to avoid further loss of life, as well as reject violations committed towards the Palestinian people, including violence by Israeli settlers, renewed use of administrative detention, particularly on children, forced displacement of Palestinians, and the exploitation of natural resources in Palestinian lands. Of particularly grave concern to us is the serious humanitarian situation in Gaza. Malaysia continues to demand an immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza, and an end to the illegal and inhumane collective punishment carried out by Israel on the people of Gaza.

6. Meanwhile, as Israel continues to apply indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force, amounting to extrajudicial executions, the disturbing pattern of unlawful and by Israeli forces must not go unnoticed by the international community. My delegation strongly denounce the raids by Israeli forces on schools and hospitals in violation of international humanitarian law and the blatant disregard for the Fourth Geneva Convention on protection and respect of civilian hospitals by Parties to the conflict. We urge for immediate investigation into findings by Amnesty International of the unlawful and deliberate killings, carried out by order of government or military officials which are prohibited and designated as crimes under international law.

7. Malaysia, too condemns, in the strongest terms, all acts of provocations, incitement and violence at the Holy Sites of the Old City of Jerusalem, by all sides, which only serves to fuel tensions and exacerbate the deteriorating security situation on the ground. My delegation is gravely concerned by the attempts to alter the character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, which is a blatant violation of numerous Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions. We strongly urge all parties to exercise restraint and uphold respect for the sanctity of the Holy Sites.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia strongly condemns Israel's continued expansion of illegal settlements and punitive demolitions in Palestinian lands, including in East Jerusalem, an illegal act under international law, further threatening the two-state solution. In this regard, my delegation unequivocally demands for the need to ensure accountability for all sides to the conflict and call on adherence to international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The occurrence of widespread impunity is simply not acceptable.

9. We therefore reiterate support for international protection for Palestine, guided by various precedents, including Resolution 605 in 1987 and the Report of the Secretary-General in January 1988. Provision of international protection warrant urgent

consideration as this would ensure stability and security and instil enablers for both sides to return to the negotiating table. Malaysia urges the international community to demand that Israel immediately cease its illegal settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem, before the possibility of a two-State solution is completely eroded. Responsible member States must also play their part in ensuring that the international accepted parameters of the two-State solution are respected and adhered to by Israel.

Mr. President,

10. As a member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, Malaysia fully endorses the Committee's report and its recommendations. My delegation is also pleased to co-sponsor all resolutions under this important agenda item.

11. Let me conclude by recalling the message of solidarity made by The Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd. Najib Tun Abdul Razak, in conjunction with the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, reiterating that Malaysia stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and is committed to continue working with like-minded countries to address the root causes of the conflict.

Thank you, Mr. President.