



**Permanent Mission of**

# **Malaysia**

**to the United Nations**

*(Please check against delivery)*

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. HAMIDON ALI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE UN,  
AT THE RESUME 10<sup>TH</sup> EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE ILLEGAL ISRAELI ACTIONS  
IN OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM AND THE REST  
OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINE TERRITORY  
15 JANUARY 2009**

Mr. President,

At the outset I wish to express Malaysia's appreciation and gratitude to you for acceding to our request for the reconvening this Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly on the illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestine Territory, in order to address the dire and grave situation in Gaza consequent to the military aggression by Israel. We admire your resolute stand to fight for the plight of the oppressed Palestinian people and the injustices that they faced under Israeli occupation. We stand with you in upholding the rights of the Palestinian people to live in peace, in security and dignity, and in realizing their right to self-determination and independence. Malaysia stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine in their struggle for justice.

Mr. President,

2. The carnage and destructions unleashed by Israeli forces unto Gaza is now entering its fourth week. There has been no letup in violence particularly by the Israelis on the Gazan population and no clear sight when or even if it will end. Lives of innocent children, women and the elderly are lost everyday. Almost 4,000 people have been injured. Even schools, mosques, houses, hospitals, government institutions and other basic infrastructures have been destroyed. After three weeks of constant

daily bombardment, the death toll exceeds 1,000 people; almost a third of whom are children. No justification could support this wanton killing of innocent civilians, children, women and the elderly. It is totally unacceptable and goes beyond common decency that any government would condone this massacre. By our own inaction of ensuring the immediate end to this killing, maiming and destructions, we are in fact doing just that. Worse still are those who provide the support in whatever form, for Israel to continue with its blatant disregard for human lives and violation of international law and the UN Charter. This is the only conflict in world history where civilians are locked-in and prevented from leaving. Clearly this is a war crime, and a crime of enormous proportion against humanity.

3. Security Council resolution 1860 inter alia calls for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire. My delegation has noted various efforts in trying to achieve this goal which we consider as the top priority for now. We are disappointed however that one week since the adoption of this binding resolution, the fighting continues and the Security Council which is entrusted to maintain peace and security, seems to be in a trance as to the next course of action to take towards ensuring the implementation of its resolution. Each passing day, hour and minute, more lives are lost; more infrastructure destroyed; and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza escalates. Yet the Security Council is incapable of discharging its responsibility of stopping these atrocities. Malaysia has always urged for a cessation of hostilities and for the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to take immediate necessary and appropriate action to stop this carnage. The urgency of this matter and the unfortunate slow action by certain quarters to put an immediate stop to this killing and carnage compelled Malaysia to urge the reconvening of this Emergency Special Session to enable the general membership of this august body to take the necessary action to restore peace and security in Gaza.

Mr. President,

4. Our immediate paramount concern is the fate and suffering of the civilian population of Gaza. The bombardments and military actions have to stop immediately. Malaysia demands an immediate cessation of hostilities and a ceasefire. We demand an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, consistent with Security Council resolution 242. An international monitoring / peacekeeping force should

be established by the United Nations and be deployed to ensure the enforcement of the ceasefire and stabilization of the situation. We urge all the conflicting parties to exercise utmost restraint, to stop the atrocities.

5. To alleviate the mounting humanitarian crisis, assistance must be urgently provided. There is an acute shortage of food, fuel, medicine and medical supplies, and other basic necessities including clean water and electricity. The injured are not receiving the attention they deserve because of these shortages. Israeli action in blocking international humanitarian assistance from reaching the victims is deplorable. We demand that Israel immediately lift its siege on Gaza. We also demand Israel to fulfill its obligation under the Fourth Geneva Convention, other international laws and facilitate a safe and unimpeded flow of international humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. On this note, Malaysia on our part will contribute US\$1 million in humanitarian assistance specifically to Gaza. At the same time, the Malaysian Government has also activated the Palestinian Humanitarian Trust Fund in order to garner public donations and contributions. A prominent Malaysian NGO, MERCY Malaysia, has also deployed a team comprising doctors and logistical personnel to Rafah in response to this humanitarian crisis.

Mr. President,

6. Israel's actions over the course of the last three weeks of unleashing its military might over a powerless and defenseless civilian population in Gaza, causing death, injuries and destruction, are a blatant violation of human rights conventions, international humanitarian law, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and of the UN Charter. Increasing civilian casualties bears testimony to the atrocities committed by Israeli forces. It reminds us of similar atrocities committed onto a group of people in recent history. The world's reaction to these atrocities was resolute then, and it should similarly be resolute now. Israel must be made accountable for its crime against the Palestinian people in Gaza. It should also be made accountable for its attacks on UN facilities including schools and aid convoys.

Mr. President,

7. The path to peace is clear; Israel must end its occupation of Palestine. Indeed the present situation is not conducive for durable and lasting peace. Continued occupation, killings, and infliction of pain and

sufferings will only deepen hatred and divisions, and will not contribute to peace and security. Only through political negotiations, leading to a two-state solution of the State of Israel, and the State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, living in peace and secure borders, will bring about a durable and lasting peace for all Israelis and Palestinians and the Middle East. We must stop the violence now. We must stop the bloodshed; and we must prevent the making of another humanitarian catastrophe. We must act now. In this regard, under your authority Malaysia therefore requests that this Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly adopts a comprehensive and all encompassing resolution that inter-alia will lead to:-

- i. a ceasefire (enforced by an international monitoring force) and the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza;
- ii. the ending of the blockade, and the enabling of humanitarian assistance to reach the victims of the conflict;
- iii. it must also call for the establishment of a tribunal to investigate and to prosecute those responsible for the war crimes and crimes against humanity; and
- iv. finally, sanctions must be imposed for non-compliance.

Thank you, Mr. President.