

**Statement by the Ambassador Hsu King Bee
PR of Malaysia on "Implementation of GA
Resolution 60/251" "Human Rights Council"
at the 1st Session of the HRC,
26 June 2006**

Mr. President,

The Malaysian delegation associates itself with the Statement by Pakistan, on behalf of the OIC and supports the Statement made by Tunisia on behalf of the Arab Group. Allow me to highlight Malaysia's positions concerning several issues before us this morning.

2. The first relates to the question of violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine. At a time when the world community strives for effective implementation of various international human rights instruments, the credibility and legitimacy of this Council require that it urgently and effectively address the grave and ever worsening human rights and humanitarian situation of the Palestinians and other Arabs, still living under the prolonged foreign occupation.

3. Let us be reminded that the UN has the permanent responsibility towards the question of Palestine, until it is resolved, in all its aspects on the basis of international law, including a just resolution to the plight of the Palestine refugees. Being a body created by the UN, charged with the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, this Council has an important role to play, to live up to the responsibility towards bringing about the realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination in their own independent and sovereign state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

4. The developments taking place on the ground should be a matter of grave concern to us all. Human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Palestinians are being continuously trampled on, as a result of the unlawful policies and practices of Israel, the Occupying Power. If we are seriously committed to promoting and protecting human rights and ending impunity, we

should undertake genuine efforts to see an immediate end to all those violations.

5. This Council should clearly assert itself that it wants to see an end to the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians due to the use of excessive and indiscriminate force; targeted attacks and extrajudicial executions; destruction of properties, infrastructures and agricultural lands; detention and imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians; and the closures and severe restrictions on their movements and their goods. There should also be an immediate end to confiscation of lands and expansion of colonial settlements, as well as the construction of illegal separation wall. In short, there should be a reversal of all illegal policies and practices that have clearly flouted international law, including the numerous Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

6. More urgently, we call for an end to the economic and financial siege of Occupied Palestinian Territory, following its legislative elections in January. This has only exacerbated the human rights and humanitarian crisis there. We urge countries concerned to resume financial assistance and not subject the Palestinians to collective punishment. We stress that there must be greater commitment and sincerity in the move towards peace and security for all countries in the region. Only an end to the occupation and the realization by the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights to self-determination in their own sovereign, democratic and independent State of Palestine, will this objective be achieved. Until then, this Council must remain seized of this issue.

Mr. President,

7. Turning to the issue of Darfur, my delegation commends the recent positive developments to achieve peace and national reconciliation in the Sudan. The signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in Abuja (on 25 May 2006) represents a significant mile stone towards ending the armed conflict and paving the way for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. We hope the international community and this Council would strongly support the Sudanese Government for successful implementation

of this peace accord, (taking into account the need to fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan). We also commend the African Union for its active engagement in the peace process and the implementation of this crucial peace agreement.

Mr. President,

8. The plurality of the world's citizens, in terms of faith, culture and ethnicity, compels each and every one of us to make every effort to co-exist peacefully with each other. Malaysia is deeply concerned over the growing tendency towards racial and religious hatred in some parts of the world today. Any incitement to racial and religious hatred should stop as it also impinges on human rights of the victims of such actions.

9. We believe this Council has an important role and responsibility to redress this dangerous tendency and take concrete steps to promote racial and religious tolerance and fight against defamation of religions. This can be achieved through promotion of genuine dialogue that will result in enhanced understanding among different civilizations and real action to right the wrongs. Ultimately, this means reviewing any policy which creates inequities among the population at the domestic level, and reviewing one sided actions that inflict injuries upon other peoples and other nations at the global level.

Mr. President,

10. Malaysia appreciates the work being undertaken by individuals and organisations that seek to promote and protect of human rights and fundamental freedoms everywhere. We too would like to consider that every man and woman who speaks up for human rights and human dignity, as we are all doing today, as those who defend human rights. At the same time, we should be mindful that the words we utter and the actions we take should be within the confines of the rule of law.

Thank you.