

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Amran Mohamed Zin**

**Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**General Debate Item 7: Human Rights Situations in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories**

**33rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 13-30 September 2016**

Mr. President,

Malaysia associates itself with the statements of the OIC, NAM, and the LMG States.

1. This Council must effectively address the injustices suffered by the Palestinians. Decades of impunity and systematic de-humanization of Palestinians has culminated in perpetual – and in fact increasing – violations of even their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, increasing violence, and increasing illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

3. The world continues to witness the repressive policies as well as brutal and systematic attempts by Israel to break the spirit of the Palestinians and to make their life in the OPT unbearable. From restrictions on their access and movement, to evictions from their homes, to confiscations of their properties, the list of human rights violations endured by the Palestinians seems endless. It begs a serious question for this Council and all human rights champions : which particular human rights and fundamental freedom that the international community strives to promote and protect worldwide, that is not yet violated by Israel in the OPT ?

4. There have also been alarming instances of violence committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Yet the Palestinians have no recourse to justice and redress.

Mr. President,

5. For generations the Palestinians have been ruthlessly and persistently deprived of not only universally recognized human rights and freedoms, but also from their natural growth and development. Therefore, this Council must continue to highlight the plight of the Palestinians. Turning a blind eye or having even a slightest sense of apathy to the ever worsening situation faced by the Palestinians in the OPT risks this Council losing its credibility, and calls into question the international community’s declared commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights globally.

**Thank you.**

**GENEVA**

**23 September 2016**