



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations



**Message from The Honourable Abdullah Ahmad Badawi
Prime Minister of Malaysia and Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement
on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People on 29 November 2005**

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people I have the honour to extend on behalf of Malaysia and the Non-Aligned Movement, our warmest greetings to His Excellency Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian National Authority, as well as all our Palestinian brothers and sisters and to express our solidarity with them. We are commemorating this Day of Solidarity with the Palestinians, a day that continues to witness their continuing oppression and suffering under Israeli occupation.

On this solemn occasion, the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its continued and unequivocal support for and longstanding solidarity with the Palestinian people and their leadership for their legitimate and courageous struggle in their long-standing quest for the full realization of their inalienable rights, to become masters of their own destiny and to live freely in their own sovereign and independent State of Palestine, within secure and recognised borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Yet, as we observe this International Day of Solidarity, we continue to witness violence, death and suffering inflicted upon the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying power. We remain firm in our condemnation of the harsh policies and practices as well as the disproportionate and excessive use of force by Israel against the Palestinian people, the destruction of Palestinian homes and property and restriction of the freedom of movement of people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We urge Israel to reverse the deterioration of the humanitarian situation and socio-economic condition in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We stress that there must be greater commitment and sincerity in the move towards peace.

The Movement continues to be concerned at the lack of real progress in the implementation of the Road Map more than two years since its adoption. We take note, however, of the recent agreement brokered by the United States to provide access at the border between Gaza and Egypt. We call for its full implementation as quickly as possible. We urge the United States to sustain the momentum of securing full freedom for the Gaza as part of the steps in finding a permanent solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. While we welcome Israel's withdrawal from Gaza, the Movement insists that the measure should be seen as part of the Road Map, not outside of it, and that it should be quickly followed by similar steps in the West Bank.

We would also like to urge the Palestinian leadership to seize the opportunity to build upon the advances made thus far and work to secure more progress in finding solutions to the question of Palestine.

Clearly, there is an urgent need for the international community, in particular the Quartet, to work towards ensuring the early and full implementation of the Road Map, with earnestness and sincerity. It is imperative that renewed efforts by the Quartet to salvage the Road Map be further strengthened in order to ensure its early and full implementation. The Movement remains convinced that the Quartet can and will fulfill its role and responsibility in this regard. Concrete steps towards peace are important in order to give the Palestinian people hope for the future, lest they succumb to despair and despondency, with all its negative ramifications.

The continued construction by Israel of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has only contributed to further exacerbating the peace process, undermining and destroying the very foundations of political dialogue between the two sides that had been painstakingly laid down by the Quartet. In spite of the Advisory Opinion rendered by the International Court of Justice in July 2004, Israel continues to construct the wall and expand its settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as well as the systematic seizure of large tracts of Palestinian lands and housing in East Jerusalem. These provocative actions are certainly not conducive to the peace process and have raised questions about Israel's real intentions. The Non-Aligned Movement urges all Member States, in particular Israel, to take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Advisory Opinion and General Assembly Resolution ES-10/15.

The international community cannot deny that any further deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory would be detrimental to the cause of peace in the whole region. The international community must lend its support to mend the situation, imbued in mistrust and antipathy. The time to act is now.

The Israeli government cannot continue to ignore the agreements, accords and understandings arrived at between the two sides and its internationally recognized mediators. Israel must abandon terror tactics in favour of constructive dialogue and engagement with the Palestinians. Clearly, the international community must do more to manifest its support for a just resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The international community has a collective role to play in finding a solution to the Palestinian question. We must all work together to facilitate the attainment of peace in the region. The Non Aligned Movement and Malaysia as its Chairman have launched several initiatives in its continuing efforts concerning the Question of Palestine. These include the holding of the annual Ministerial Meeting of the NAM Committee on Palestine in New York last September and meetings between the NAM Ministerial Delegation on Palestine and other Members of the Quartet and Permanent Members of the Security Council.

In addition and mindful of the need to promote a people-based global campaign involving civil society in support of Palestine, Malaysian civil society organizations, under the sponsorship of Peace Malaysia, had successfully organized a World Civil Society Conference on "Peace in Palestine" in Putrajaya in March 2005, which was attended by representatives of civil society organisations from many parts of the world, including Israel. The Conference agreed, inter-alia, to establish an International Centre on Palestine

for Civil Society in the South to be situated in Malaysia, to serve as the focal point in the global civil society campaign in support of Palestine. It is our hope that this international campaign will be able to mobilise international public opinion against the continued Israeli occupation and in support of the early realisation of a sovereign State of Palestine.

Finally, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and in Malaysia's capacity as its Chairman, I would like to reiterate on this very important day, our firm commitment towards ensuring that a just, comprehensive and lasting peaceful settlement is achieved on the question of Palestine in its entirety. Rest assured that the Non-Aligned Movement will strongly support all initiatives and efforts to address the Palestinian question; a question which has at all time been high on its agenda. The Non-Aligned Movement will continue to cooperate with the international community towards this end. The United Nations, including the General Assembly and the Security Council, must be seized with the question of Palestine until it is resolved in its entirety on the basis of the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, international law and international humanitarian law. We look forward to the day when the international community would join the Palestinians in celebrating their independence and statehood soon.