

**Statement by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia
H.E. Ambassador Hsu King Bee
“Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”
At the Special Session of the Human Rights Council
Wednesday, 5 July 2006**

Mr. President,

Given the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Malaysia has joined the call for the convening of this Special Session of the Human Rights Council. Malaysia fully associates itself with the statement by Pakistan, on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

2. Malaysia calls upon the Human Rights Council to take urgent and effective measures to live up to its mandate and responsibility. The international community is looking to this Council for its appropriate response to the gross and flagrant violations of human rights of the Palestinian people, which are being systematically executed by Israel, the occupying power, in total disregard to international law, as well as international human rights and humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. These violations have exacerbated the already prolonged and untold hardship and suffering of the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation. The Council should not turn a blind eye to the unfolding human rights emergency in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and put aside the high expectations of the international community for its promises to promote and protect human rights.

3. The ongoing Israeli military aggression including bombardment and wanton destruction of infrastructure, government buildings, water and power plants in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, arbitrary arrests and detention of democratically elected Palestinian Ministers and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, as well as other Palestinian officials and civilians are indeed excessive, disproportionate and certainly deplorable. The collective punishment being wrought upon the Palestinians by Israel is in every sense unjustifiable and it deserves world-wide condemnation.

4. Malaysia therefore strongly urges the Council to make clear and unequivocal pronouncement on this grave situation by calling upon Israel to immediately cease all violations, in particular its military aggression, and release all those that have been arbitrarily detained. This aggression should be reversed before it could escalate into wider conflicts and instability in the region. There should be no attempt to extend the crisis to the other countries in the region. All efforts should aim at finding a peaceful solution through the political and diplomatic channel. In this context, we support the draft resolution that has been tabled for adoption by this Council.

5. We would encourage the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to be actively engaged in the efforts to bring to an end the violations of human rights of the Palestinian people. We therefore support the proposal for ~~to dispatch~~ ^{fact-finding mission} ~~██████████~~ an urgent visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territory and call upon Israel to cooperate with the ~~██████████~~ ^{mission}.

Mr. President,

6. So much has been said about the need to put an end to impunity. This is the time for all of us to really live up to such expectation. Otherwise, it could just be dismissed as mere rhetoric.

Thank you.