



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hamidon Ali,
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations,
at the Special Meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the
Palestinian People to Mark Forty Years of Occupation by Israel of
the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,
New York, 7 June 2007**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all express my delegation's deepest appreciation to you for convening this very important and momentous meeting to mark forty years of occupation by Israel of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Very important because this issue continues to remain the main preoccupation of the international community, which not only affects the Middle East but also to the whole world at large. It is a very important issue because unless it is resolved, it will continue to shape and mould the minds, attitude and perception of our future generations. It is a very important issue because it simply implies that the international community thus far seems to be apathetic towards all the inhumanity, injustice, atrocities, oppression, tyranny and belligerence of one State onto the lives of the Palestinian people.

2. Momentous because it marks forty years of the paralysis and failure of the international community, especially the major powers, to end this occupation. Forty years ago, Palestinian cities and towns were assaulted. The loss of lives was staggering. The lives of those who survived were uprooted, condemned to live in squalid conditions under the Occupation or as refugees in makeshift camps abroad. Forty years on, things have not changed despite the many UN resolutions including Security Council resolutions in particular 242, 338, 425, to cite but just a few. Israel, the occupying power, continues to disregard International Law, Conventions and UN resolutions, and ignoring calls by the international community to stop their atrocities towards the Palestinians. They continue to use violence on the Palestinian civilian population. They destroyed civilian infrastructure and strangle the economic livelihoods of the Palestinians. Israeli military action to arrest or kill Palestinians continues unabated. Palestinians, including their elected officials, are being rounded up and imprisoned and their numbers in incarceration now total in the thousands. Israel continues to construct the illegal separation Wall on the Occupied Palestinian Territory despite the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and international condemnation. At the same time, Israeli illegal settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to be supported and encouraged by the Israeli Government, in total disregard of International law and norms, and of obligations as the occupying power.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The effect of the Occupation on the hearts and minds on the next generation of Palestinians is not hard to imagine. Forty years of being imprisoned in bantustan-like cantons, forty years of being systematically abused, forty years of being let down by the inability of the international community to resolve the question of Palestine, what hopes would the Palestinian people have of their future and for their dreams?

4. My delegation would find it inconceivable and indeed shameful to have to explain to the future generation or even to the present young generation why after forty years when the rest of the world could enjoy freedom of their country, in this so called modern world where occupation of a country is something of the past that we only read in history books, there is still a territory being occupied by another country.

313 East 43rd Street
New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 986 6310
Fax: (212) 490 8576

Malnyun@kln.gov.my
Website: www.un.int/malaysia

Mr. Chairman,

5. It is not for lack of attempts, initiatives or efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to this issue. Unfortunately, there seems to be a lack of political commitment and will, particularly by the major powers in pushing the occupying power to return to the peace process. There also seems to be a lack of political will to push the occupying power to concede and abide to the many UN resolutions including Security Council resolutions to end this occupation. The feeling that the peace process has not been handled in a balanced way and Israel is allowed to ignore the UN resolutions without actions being taken against it, gives the impression that the international community lacks serious commitment to resolve the conflict. It is therefore imperative that Israel be made to respect all UN resolutions and return to the peace process, in order to achieve comprehensive and lasting solution to this Occupation and to achieve peace in the Middle East.

6. The Quartet process including the Arab League Initiative provides a realistic opportunity for a just and comprehensive solution. Israel must return to the peace process and the implementation of the Quartet Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1515. Israel and its allies must understand that lasting peace could not be achieved in the region and beyond, without resolving the Palestinian question including the Occupation. They must also comprehend that peace could only be achieved through dialogue and not through military means. All parties must have the resolve and political will to give justice to the Palestinian people and help to get rid the sense of helplessness, frustrations and disillusionment among them.

7. In the immediate term too, the economic, social and humanitarian conditions afflicting, and are degrading to Palestinians in the Occupied Territories need to be addressed. Israel must cease strangling the economic lifeline of the Palestinians, by releasing the funds rightfully owed to the Palestinian Authorities. Israel must cease military attacks and other human rights violations on the Palestinians. Israel must release all Palestinian prisoners unlawfully imprisoned and arbitrarily detained, including all Palestinian officials. The international community must see to it that Israel honors its obligation to International Law and conventions and in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention.

8. The United Nations including the Security Council must resume its responsibility to compel Israel to respect international law and put an end to Israel's occupation and illegitimate practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Israel must complete its withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank to the pre-1967 borders.

Mr. Chairman,

9. So long as the occupation by Israel on Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem is not resolved, in a just, equitable and comprehensive manner, it will remain a stumbling block for the achievement for peace and stability in the Middle East. It will continue to remain the single most important reason for and catalyst towards feeding conflict, strife and terrorism not only in that region but also the world at large.

10. More importantly, the rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland must be implemented. Palestinian statehood remains the apex of the aspirations for the Palestinian people. The international community has the obligation to see to it that their aspirations are fulfilled.

11. Malaysia reaffirms its commitment to support Palestine towards the establishment of a sovereign and independent Palestinian State.

Thank you.