

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA**

**ITEM 7: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE 2018 PROTESTS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY (OPT)**

**39TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**24 SEPTEMBER 2018**

Mr. President,

Malaysia aligns itself with the statements made by the OIC and we wish to thank the Commission of Inquiry for its oral update.

2. Israel’s brutal policies against the Palestinians continue unabated, with the Palestinians’ every human right being grossly violated and subjected to abuse by the Occupying Power Israel. Malaysia condemns in the strongest terms Israel’s continued aggression against Palestinians involved in the peaceful Great Return March. This aggression has led to more than 150 Palestinians killed and 18,000 injured, including women, children and the elderly. First responders and journalists are also not spared from Israel’s ruthless response. It is imperative that the Commission of Inquiry conduct an independent and transparent investigation to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and held accountable for their heinous crimes. The Commission of Inquiry’s work is all the more urgent considering that Israeli courts have proven to be mere vestiges of Israel’s illegal occupation.

3. Israel continues to violate international human rights and humanitarian law with total impunity. As a steadfast supporter of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, Malaysia calls for the lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip, which amounts to collective punishment and creates untold suffering for innocent Palestinians from all walks in life. Palestinians continue to languish in detention, with as many as 5,900 detained by Israel in 2018 alone, with 300 of them children under the age of 16. Demolition and confiscation of Palestinian land and property continue unabated, while Palestinians in East Jerusalem continue to face restrictions of movement, residency revocation and demolitions. Israel has denied access to medical assistance and supplies, restricted the movement of the Palestinians in the OPT through checkpoints, restricted the amount of electricity supply to four hours a day and denied access of Palestinians to safe drinking water.

4. Malaysia condemns in the strongest terms the adoption of the ‘Jewish nation-state’ law by the Israeli Parliament on 19 July 2018. Malaysia urges the international community to take immediate action to call upon Israel to repeal this racist and oppressive law and policy. The international community, including the UN and OHCHR, must do more to protect the rights of the Palestinian people, including upholding the legitimate right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, which constitutes a core principle of the United Nations.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**GENEVA**

**24 September 2018**