



Permanent Mission of
Malaysia
to the United Nations

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Statement by H.E. Mr. Hamidon Ali
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**on Agenda Item 32: Report of the Special Committee to
Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the
Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories**

**at the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee
(Fourth Committee) of the 61st Session of the General Assembly**

New York, Wednesday, 8 November 2006

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by thanking the Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories, Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam of Sri Lanka, for introducing the Report of the Special Committee (A/61/500) to this Committee two days ago. I fully associate myself, as a Member of the Special Committee, with the statement delivered by Ambassador Kariyawasam. My delegation fully endorse the statements and interventions made under agenda item 32 by the distinguished representatives of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic on 6 and 7 November 2006. My delegation remains committed in supporting the legitimate cause of the peoples in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan in exercising their right to self-determination.

2. The reports of the Special Committee and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967 (A/61/470) provide numerous disturbing accounts, figures and stark realities concerning the severely deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in the occupied territories. Practically, every aspect of the daily life of the peoples in those areas has been severely affected as direct result of the brutal practices and measures imposed by Israel. The reports convey one definitive conclusion: the policies and practices of the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, continues to inflict adverse implications on the humanitarian and human rights situation in the occupied territories at an unprecedented level, and in fact those practices and measures have even further aggravated the situation on the ground.

3. As a Member of the Special Committee, I share the disappointment expressed by the Member States of the United Nations over the persistent refusal of the Government of Israel to cooperate with the Special Committee in the fulfilment of its mandate, which was endorsed by the General Assembly. My delegation once again calls upon Israel to realize that its refusal is counter-productive as it has deprived itself of the opportunity to express directly to the Special Committee its views on the questions being investigated. Israel should provide the Special Committee with access to the occupied territories in order to investigate the situation of human rights in those areas, and thereupon draw its own observation and conclusion. Equally of concern is the refusal by Israel to respond to the requests made by the General Assembly, through the Secretary-General, for information on any steps it had taken or envisaged taking concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 60/105, 60/106 and 60/107. The attitude demonstrated by Israel has further corroborate the suggestion that it intends on purpose to continue to

prevent the international community from having full knowledge of the actual humanitarian and human rights situation of those living in the occupied territories. Therefore, it is simply objectionable for Israel to accuse the Special Committee of being one-sided, considering the meticulous efforts carried out by the Special Committee to ensure the independence, impartiality and accuracy of its work.

4. The ongoing construction of the Separation Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including in and around East Jerusalem, remains another dangerous dimension that has acutely undermined the humanitarian and human rights situation of those living under Israeli occupation. The Wall has impacted and will continue to impact in an adverse manner the social fabric of Palestinian communities and their daily life. The Wall is the most visible signs of the transformation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory into a vast open-air prison, something which is unprecedented in our modern history. The Wall, which has been declared contrary to international law by the International Court of Justice, is a visible and deliberate act of territorial annexation by Israel under the guise of self-defense and security. As demanded by the General Assembly through resolution ES-10/15, Israel must immediately stop the construction of the Wall, dismantle and remove the completed sections of the Wall, and provide reparations to all those affected by the construction of the Wall. Israel must comply with the Advisory Opinion and General Assembly Resolution ES-10/15.

5. The brutal and harsh policies and practices by Israel have gone beyond the appropriate use of means and methods employed in warfare. The intensification of harsh and repressive measures against the Palestinians since the resumption of the *Intifada* in September 2000, including the acts of aggression and military incursions being carried out with impunity in Gaza since last week, have caused further anguish and pain to the already highly deprived and oppressed population. The elaborate system of administrative laws and controls, checkpoints and curfews as well as other restrictive regimes employed by Israel are a clear demonstration of the occupying Power's actual desire to systematically strengthen control and regulate the lives of the people living in the occupied territories and to suppress and overpower them totally to submit to Israel's will. The international community must recognize with a sense of outrage that the wilful killing of Palestinians, including extrajudicial killings; mass arrests and arbitrary detentions; destruction of Palestinian houses, property and agricultural lands; confiscation of Arab lands and other forms of collective punishment; excessive and indiscriminate use of force; as well as Jewish settlement policies and activities have gone on unabated for far too long. Certainly, we must collectively explore all possible ways and means to redress and reverse this situation without delay.

6. The Special Committee continues to play an indispensable role on behalf of the General Assembly in investigating Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories. Its mandate is wide-ranging and challenging. The foundation and conduct of its work are based on human rights standards and obligations as defined under international law and instruments as well as all relevant resolutions of the United Nations. Highlighting and exposing the plight of the people concerned on a sustained basis is the common duty of the international community. We must all be responsible. In this connection, the General Assembly should explore innovative ways in order to fulfil the responsibility of the Special Committee and to provide it with a renewed mandate that is in line with current realities and takes into account the hopes and expectation of those living under severe oppression in the occupied territories.

7. It is imperative that the independent and indispensable Special Committee be allowed to continue with its important mandate. The Special Committee can provide the international community with, inter alia, first-hand information and accounts concerning the humanitarian and human rights situation of those living in the occupied territories. The report has proven conclusively of the necessity for the continuation of the mandate of the Special Committee until such time when the human rights violations of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories committed by Israel have ceased and, equally important, when the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and the Syrian Golan has ended. We are convinced that Member States would continue to deem it fit to extend the mandate of the Special Committee and, in this connection, support the draft resolution on this question, as they had rightfully done so as in the past.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.