

**STATEMENT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA
AT THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Wednesday, 15 November 2006**

Mr. President,

Malaysia associates itself with the statement by Pakistan, on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) ^{and we thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr. John Dugard, for his important report.}

2. This Human Right Council is convening yet another special session – the third in less than six months – to address the grave and systematic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law perpetrated by same country, namely Israel.

3. The General Assembly too has held emergency sessions to deal with the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Nonetheless, the world continues to witness gross injustices and serious human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people with impunity given that the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, has been rendered ineffective time and again due to the exercise of the veto, as we had just witnessed last weekend.

4. What is unfolding in the region only confirms the dreadful record of a state member of international community when it comes to the respect for international law, including human rights and humanitarian law, and the pursuit of just and lasting peace and security. It also reveals the ever readiness of its protectors to condone Israeli actions regardless of how horrendous these are.

Mr. President,

5. We have yet to see the implementation of the resolution adopted by the first special session of this Council. In the meantime, the Palestinian people continue to suffer. As the Special Rapporteur has mentioned in his (earlier) statement, the Israeli military operation in Gaza since last June has resulted in over 300 deaths, mostly civilians, while over a thousand more injured. This de-facto reoccupation of Gaza by Israel has caused large-scale devastations of private homes and vital infrastructures, including public facilities, hospitals, clinics and schools. The Palestinian people are being denied access to adequate electricity, water and food, while their agricultural lands destroyed and their elected representatives and government officials arbitrarily arrested and imprisoned. These violations have continued to exacerbate the already

prolonged and untold hardship and suffering of the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation.

6. And, Mr. President, the world is once again shocked at the horror of the latest targeting and killing of the Palestinian civilians, mostly children and women, in Beit Hanoun while they slept in their homes and as some of them sought refuge from earlier Israeli bombardment. Indeed this is not the first time an Israeli military operation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory has resulted in a high number of civilian casualties. This horrific incident just adds to the series of carnages by the Israeli war machine against innocent Palestinians in what have clearly been manifested as brutal collective punishment, as well as excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by Israel in total disregard to the international human rights and humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949.

7. The victims and their community in particular once again looks to this Council, the principal UN organ charged with the protection and promotion of human rights, as well as those who have been in the forefront in advocating the promotion and protection of human rights for their appropriate response to the serious breaches of those laws. We sincerely hope that this ^{legitimate} expectation is again not misplaced. Accordingly, Malaysia strongly urges the Council not only to adopt but also ensure effective implementation of the draft resolution before us that, *inter-alia*, calls for urgent action to put an immediate end to these violations and for immediate protection of the Palestinian civilians, as well as for the urgent dispatch of a high level fact finding mission to Beit Hanoun.

8. We also strongly encourage the High Commissioner for Human Rights to be actively engaged in the efforts to bring to an end the violations of human rights of the Palestinian people. We fully support her visit ~~and that of the Special Rapporteur to the region in the very near future.~~

Thank you.