

End brutal occupation of Palestine, Israel urged

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By [THARANYAARUMUGAM AND ASHIQIN ARIFFIN](#) - 5 December 2014 @ 8:17 AM

KUALA LUMPUR: MALAYSIA has called on Palestine and Israel to return to the negotiating table for direct peace talks as soon as possible.

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Hamzah Zainuddin said the conflict in Palestine was by far the longest and costliest in our time, and it was fundamental for both parties to engage constructively to negotiate for peace.

The international community, he said, could not go on pumping in money to rebuild what was being continuously destroyed.

"Countless peace building and peacekeeping efforts by the international community has not led to lasting peace.

"There are already signs of fatigue shown by several donor countries.

"For lasting peace, both parties must return to the negotiating table in earnest," he said at the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People here, yesterday.

Hamzah also called on the international community to not only condemn Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, but to exert pressure on the Zionist regime to end its ruthless colonisation and segregation of Palestine within a well-defined timeline.

He said Israel's brutality, disrespect and crimes against humanity, including violation of various international laws, have far too long been left unpunished, especially by the United Nations (UN) and the international community.

In reality, he said, the UN and the international community had the mechanisms and instruments needed to end Israel's occupation and oppression against the people of Palestine.

"In fact, this has been well documented when the world overcame colonialism six decades ago, as well as the rejection of the apartheid regime in South Africa.

"Am I wrong to assume that Israel's continued occupation and ignorance to human rights and international laws is an insult to UN's existence and purpose?"

"Hence, if the UN and the international community are really serious and committed to protecting the sanctity of human lives and combating terrorism in all its various forms, then we must work together to end Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and its hostilities against the people of Palestine."

Hamzah said Israel, on its part, should also recognise the changing tide and work towards peace with the Palestinians.

"It cannot ignore the changing sentiments of the international community, if indeed it is sincere in its quest to finding peace with Palestine.

"We hope to see the realisation of a two-state solution, where an independent, united and sovereign state of Palestine, with east Jerusalem as its capital, existing side by side with Israel, living in peace, harmony and mutual respect."

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Isis) chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, during a panel discussion, said the Palestinian problem was a humanitarian problem.

"It is a problem of national liberation, which transcends issues of race or religion.

"That is why it deserves to be supported by the global community, irrespective of race.

"This is why majority Christian countries in Europe are coming to support the Palestinian cause. So the core is Muslim Arab, but it is actually universal," Jawhar, who is also New Straits Times Press non-executive chairman, said.



(From left) Palestinian ambassador to Malaysia Dr Anwar H. Al-Agha, Isis chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan and Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia vice-president Jufitri Joha at a panel discussion organised to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Adi Safri