



MALAYSIA

LAPORAN PROSIDING

Jumaat, 7 Februari 2020

MESYUARAT

JAWATANKUASA PILIHAN KHAS HUBUNGAN DAN PERDAGANGAN ANTARABANGSA

ISU: Hubungan Dua Hala antara Malaysia dan Palestin

**PENGGAL KETIGA,
PARLIMEN KEEMPAT BELAS**

**MESYUARAT JAWATANKUASA PILIHAN KHAS
PERHUBUNGAN DAN PERDAGANGAN ANTARABANGSA
BILIK MESYUARAT JAWATANKUASA 2, TINGKAT 2 BLOK UTAMA
BANGUNAN PARLIMEN, PARLIMEN MALAYSIA
JUMAAT, 7 FEBRUARI 2020**

AHLI-AHLI JAWATANKUASA

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YB. Puan June Leow Hsiad Hui [Hulu Selangor]
YB. Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew [Sibu]
YBhg. Datuk Roosme binti Hamzah - *Setiausaha*

Tidak Hadir (Dengan Maaf)

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YB. Dato' Dr. Haji Noor Azmi bin Ghazali [Bagan Serai]
YB. Dato' Sri Haji Tajuddin bin Abdul Rahman [Pasir Salak]
YB. Tuan Haji Ahmad Amzad bin Mohamed @ Hashim [Kuala Terengganu]

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Encik Augustine Leonard Anak Jen [Pegawai Penyelidik Seksyen Antarabangsa dan Keselamatan (Bahagian Penyelidikan dan Perpustakaan), Parlimen Malaysia]
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Encik Muhamad Akmal bin Abdul Wahab [Ketua Penolong Setiausaha (Bahagian Asia Barat)]
YBrs. Amb. Shahril Effendi bin Abd Ghany [Ketua Pengarah (Jabatan Perancangan Dasar dan Penyelarasan)]

samb/-

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Hon. Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar [Ahli Parlimen Yemen merangkap President of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds]

Mr. Muslim Imran [Chairman of the Palestinian Cultural Organization Malaysia]

Mr. Abdallah Waleed [Deputy Chairman of Palestinian Cultural Organization Malaysia]

Mr. Syed Mohamad [General Coordinator of Friends of Palestine (Kuala Lumpur)]

Mr. Abdallah Beltagi [Public Relations Officers (Parliamentarians for Al-Quds)]

Mr. Muad Zaki [President of Friends of Malaysia-Palestine]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf [Jurubahasa]

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

David Russel Elders [UNDP *Consultant*]

LAPORAN PROSIDING

MESYUARAT JAWATANKUASA PILIHAN KHAS PERHUBUNGAN DAN PERDAGANGAN ANTARABANGSA

PARLIMEN KEEMPAT BELAS, PENGGAL KEDUA

Jumaat, 7 Februari 2020

Bilik Jawatankuasa 2, Tingkat 2 Blok Utama,Parlimen Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

Mesyuarat dimulakan pada pukul 9.40 pagi

[Yang Berhormat Tuan Wong Chen *mempengerusikan Mesyuarat*]

Tuan Pengerusi: Selamat pagi dan salam sejahtera. Saya ingin mengalu-alukan kehadiran Yang Berhormat Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Perhubungan dan Perdagangan Antarabangsa ke mesyuarat jawatankuasa yang julung kali kita adakan. Yang Berhormat Puan June Leow Hsiad Hui, Ahli Parlimen Hulu Selangor dan Yang Berhormat Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew, Ahli Parlimen SibU. Saya turut ingin mengalu-alukan Yang Berbahagia Datuk Roosme binti Hamzah yang akan bersama kita sebentar lagi iaitu Setiausaha Dewan Rakyat merangkap setiausaha kepada jawatankuasa pilihan khas ini. Wakil-wakil tetap, *ex-officio* dari agensi-agensi kerajaan iaitu dari Kementerian Luar Negeri, Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri, Jabatan Peguam Negara dan Kementerian Kewangan serta urus setia daripada Parlimen Malaysia, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan yang hadir bersama-sama pada hari ini.

Untuk makluman selain daripada saya dan dua orang Yang Berhormat yang hadir bersama pada hari ini, Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Perhubungan dan Perdagangan Antarabangsa ini turut dianggotai oleh Yang Berhormat Dato' Dr. Haji Noor Azmi bin Ghazali, Ahli Parlimen Bagan Serai; Yang Berhormat Tuan P. Prabakaran, Ahli Parlimen Batu; Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Tajuddin bin Abdul Rahman, Ahli Parlimen Pasir Salak; dan Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Ahmad Amzad bin Mohamed @ Hashim, Ahli Parlimen Kuala Terengganu.

Perancangan aktiviti jawatankuasa pilihan khas. Seperti yang saya nyatakan sebentar tadi hari ini merupakan hari bersejarah kerana buat julung kalinya Parlimen Malaysia mempunyai jawatankuasa pilihan khas yang khusus bagi perhubungan dan perdagangan antarabangsa. Sejak Ahli-ahli Parlimen Jawatankuasa dinamakan melalui pembentangan penyata Jawatankuasa Pemilih DR. 15 Tahun 2019 pada 5 Disember 2019 yang lalu, ini merupakan mesyuarat jawatankuasa yang pertama kali diadakan untuk JKPK Perhubungan dan Perdagangan Antarabangsa ini. Sungguhpun, ini tidak bermakna jawatankuasa ini baru

memulakan aktiviti pada hari ini. Saya bersama-sama ahli-ahli jawatankuasa yang lain telah pun melakukan dua kunjungan hormat iaitu ke atas Yang Berhormat Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Menteri Luar Negeri pada 14 Januari 2020 di Wisma Putra, Putrajaya dan Yang Berhormat Datuk Ignatius Dorell Leiking, Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri pada 3 Februari 2020 yang lalu di Menara MITI, Kuala Lumpur.

Terma rujukan jawatankuasa pilihan khas ini antara lain memberi kuasa untuk jawatankuasa meneliti rang undang-undang, menyiasat dan melaporkan apa-apa perkara yang dirujuk kepadanya oleh Dewan atau Menteri termasuk apa-apa cadangan usul, petisyen, laporan dan dokumen-dokumen yang berkaitan dengan hubungan dan perdagangan dengan negara-negara luar serta organisasi antarabangsa yang terlibat. Dalam hal ini, saya ingin jawatankuasa ini untuk turut meneliti pentadbiran, kewangan dan dasar-dasar berkaitan hubungan dan perdagangan antarabangsa. Ini bermakna dua kementerian utama yang akan bekerjasama rapat dengan jawatankuasa ini adalah Kementerian Luar Negeri dan Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri.

Selain dua kementerian ini, saya juga berpandangan bahawa isu yang akan menjadi penelitian jawatankuasa ini boleh merentas kementerian lain atau agensi-agensi seperti isu mengenai minyak sawit, perubahan iklim dan hak asasi manusia. Jawatankuasa ini harus memainkan peranannya tanpa ada rasa *fear or favor* dan bersikap profesional dengan mengetepikan perbezaan ideologi dan kepentingan parti politik pada setiap isu yang diteliti dalam usaha menegakkan Perlembagaan dan memberikan apa yang terbaik untuk negara dan rakyat.

Saya juga berharap agar semua ahli jawatankuasa memberi komitmen dan kerjasama sepenuhnya dengan menghadiri mesyuarat ataupun *hearings* yang diadakan. Kita akan bersikap telus dalam melaporkan rekod kehadiran ahli-ahli. Saya juga berhasrat supaya jawatankuasa melalui penilaian dalaman atau *internal assessment* terhadap prestasi ahli-ahli untuk tempoh setiap enam bulan. Selain itu, saya juga menyasarkan agar *hearings* dan *proceedings* yang dijalankan oleh JKPK ini adalah pendek dan padat, dan tidak terlalu luas skopnya agar jawatankuasa dapat memberikan syor dengan pantas kepada kementerian dan mendapatkan maklum balas daripada mereka dalam masa sekitar tiga bulan.

Saya juga ingin mencadangkan setiap laporan dibentangkan dan dibahaskan di Dewan Rakyat. Saya berhasrat untuk mengadakan *hearings* dengan kekerapan dua kali sebulan ataupun 24 *hearings a year*. Oleh itu kerjasama semua pihak diperlukan untuk menjayakannya. Kita mempunyai tanggungjawab untuk membina budaya *hearings* atau oleh jawatankuasa agar kita boleh menjalankan proses semak dan imbang atau *check and balances* dalam sistem parlimen kita. Kita akan melihat dan meneliti pelbagai isu antaranya termasuklah *Belt and Road Initiative*,

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), AP kenderaan, *Treaty PBB*, perjanjian-perjanjian dagangan bebas (FTAs), isu Rohingya dan juga bajet fiskal Kementerian Luar Negeri dan Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri.

Baik, bagi agenda mesyuarat pada hari ini kita ke agenda seterusnya di mana pada hari ini jawatankuasa akan meneliti isu-isu yang melibatkan hubungan dua hala antara Malaysia dan Palestin. Bagi tujuan ini, pada hari ini kita telah menjemput wakil daripada Kementerian Luar Negeri dan Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri untuk memberi taklimat kepada jawatankuasa mengenai hubungan dua hala kedua-dua negara dan hubungan perdagangan antara Malaysia-Palestin. Dengan adanya juga wakil daripada Kementerian Kewangan, kita mungkin boleh mendapatkan maklumat-maklumat berkaitan dengan seperti cukai dan sebagainya. Sebaik sahaja selesai sesi taklimat oleh dua kementerian yang saya sebutkan tadi, jawatankuasa akan menjemput masuk *Honorable* Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar, Ahli Parlimen Yemen merangkap *President of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds* serta delegasi dan *Palestinian Cultural Organization Malaysia* yang diketuai oleh Pengerusinya Mr. Muslim Imran untuk diadakan sesi konsultasi bersama mereka.

Baik, kita mulakan dengan taklimat daripada Kementerian Luar Negeri. Terima kasih.

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali [Setiausaha Bahagian (Bahagian Asia Barat), Kementerian Luar Negeri]: Terima kasih Yang Berhormat Tuan Pengerusi. Selamat pagi Yang Berhormat Tuan Pengerusi, Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, Yang Berbahagia Datuk, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sekalian. Bagi pihak Kementerian Luar Negeri, saya ingin merakamkan ucapan terima kasih kepada Yang Berhormat-Yang Berhormat sekalian serta wakil-wakil dari kementerian yang mana turut hadir dalam mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pilihan Khas Perhubungan dan Perdagangan Antarabangsa, Bilangan Satu Tahun 2020.

Taklimat saya pada pagi ini terbahagi kepada topik-topik berikut. Latar belakang. Saya akan terus *skip* kepada terus kepada pendirian Malaysia mengenai isu Palestin dan seterusnya hubungan dua hala Malaysia dan Palestin. Yang Berhormat Tuan Pengerusi, izinkan saya memberi taklimat ini dalam dwibahasa iaitu Bahasa Malaysia dan Bahasa Inggeris.

Seterusnya, kita ke latar belakang Palestin. Berikut adalah *map* Palestin sebelum 1967. Peta tersebut adalah seiring dengan pendirian Malaysia dan Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu dalam usaha untuk mencapai penyelesaian dua negara ataupun *the two states solution* dan Baitulmuqaddis Timur atau *East Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine*. Juga, dilihat dalam ini adalah peta individu *the West Bank* iaitu Semenanjung Gaza dan juga Tebing Barat— dan juga Gaza.

Next, please. Peta ini pula adalah peta terkini Palestin di mana *the West Bank* telah dikuasai oleh Israel sejak dari *the 60s war* atau Perang Arab-Israel 1967. Semenjak di *Oslo Accords* pada tahun 1995, dia telah membahagikan *the West Bank* ikut tiga kategori tersebut. Kawasan A di pentadbiran *Palestinian Authority*, Kawasan B adalah *mixed* ataupun *shared authority* Palestin dengan Israel dan Kawasan C iaitu kawasan kelabu adalah di bawah pentadbiran Israel. *[Sambil merujuk kepada slaid]*

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Tebing Barat iaitu *West Bank* terdapat dalam kira-kira 2.5 juta penduduk Palestin mendiami Tebing Barat bersama dengan 275,000 penduduk Israel yang menduduki penempatan haram di *West Bank*. Penempatan Israel dan Palestin sering berada jauh antara satu sama lain dan hubungan antara kedua-dua kumpulan tersebut ialah kurang dan terhad kepada hubungan ekonomi sahaja. Sebanyak 30 peratus daripada penduduk Palestin adalah merupakan penduduk pelarian dari penempatan asal mereka yang kini menjadi tanah atau *property* Israel.

Di Semenanjung Gaza pula terhadap pemastautin dalam dua juta penduduk. Separuh daripada dua juta penduduk tersebut terdiri daripada kanak-kanak. Luas Gaza adalah lebih kurang 365 kilometer persegi dan ini membuatkan Gaza menjadi sebagai salah sebuah tempat yang mempunyai populasi termampat di dunia.

Berikut adalah senarai Kabinet Palestin yang mewakili Palestin. Secara amnya ini adalah Kerajaan Palestin yang sah yang diketuai oleh pihak Fatah ataupun *Palestine National Authority* dan mempunyai hubungan diplomatik dengan negara-negara lain melalui kedutaan, *Consulate General* atau wakil tetap termasuk Malaysia. Kerajaan Palestin adalah diketuai oleh Presiden Mahmoud Abbas. Pada bulan Mac 2019, Presiden Mahmoud Abbas telah melantik Mohammad Shtayyeh sebagai Perdana Menteri yang menggantikan Rami Hamdallah. *Prime Minister* Shtayyeh juga turut memangku jawatan Menteri Dalam Negeri dan Menteri Hal Ehwal Agama. Bagi urusan luar negeri TYT Riad Al Maliki telah dilantik sebagai Menteri Luar Negeri sejak tahun 2007. Secara amnya, Semenanjung Gaza pula ditadbir oleh pihak Hamas. Hamas diketuai oleh Encik Ismail Haniyeh dan mempunyai Menteri-menteri yang berasingan dengan Kerajaan Palestin yang diketuai oleh pihak Fatah.

Situasi- dalam melihat situasi di Palestin, isunya bukan hanya melibatkan situasi di Gaza tetapi terbahagi kepada Tebing Barat dan Gaza. Disebabkan konflik melibatkan serangan udara dan tembakan peluru berpandu di antara Israel dan Gaza, ramai yang lebih memberi fokus terhadap situasi di Gaza berbanding dengan situasi di *West Bank*. Meskipun begitu rakyat Palestin di *West Bank* juga terhimpit oleh sekatan-sekatan yang dilakukan oleh Israel. Masalah di Tebing Barat juga termasuk masalah-masalah berkaitan Masjid Al-Aqsa. Berdasarkan laporan

daripada *Special Community to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People & Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories* atau in short SCIIIP bertarikh 20 September 2019, telah dilaporkan bahawa antara masalah yang dihadapi oleh rakyat Palestin di Tebing Barat termasuklah dibunuh, dcederakan oleh pihak Israel, perluasan penempatan haram Israel di Tebing Barat, pemusnahan dan perampasan harta benda milik rakyat Palestin dan penahanan rakyat Palestin di penjara Israel.

Sementara itu situasi di Gaza pula, akses penghuni Gaza ke dunia luar dan ke wilayah Palestin yang lain adalah sangat terhad disebabkan oleh sekatan pergerakan yang dikenakan oleh Israel semenjak awal 1990-an. Sekatan yang dikekalkan selepas Israel menarik balik penempatannya dari Gaza pada tahun 2005 dan selepas itu Israel telah mengisytiharkan Gaza pada tahun 2007 sebagai wilayah musuh dan telah mengenakan sekatan udara, darat dan laut. Sejak tahun 2015, sekatan Israel telah menjejaskan keluaran dalam negara kasar or *gross domestic product* Gaza ke tahap yang amat buruk yang memerlukan bantuan kemanusiaan. Gaza mempunyai kadar pengangguran tertinggi di dunia iaitu 54 peratus secara keseluruhan dan 68 peratus daripada penduduk Gaza tidak mempunyai makanan yang mencukupi.

Persatuan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu (PBB) dan Jawatankuasa Antarabangsa Palang Merah or *International Community for the Red Cross* (ICRC) telah mendapati bahawa sekatan Israel ini merupakan hukuman secara berkumpulan ataupun *collective punishment*. Pada tahun 2017, PBB memberi amaran bahawa Gaza akan menjadi tempat yang tidak sesuai didiami disebabkan krisis air, elektrik, kesihatan, pendidikan dan makanan yang semakin serius akibat daripada sekatan Israel. Gaza dan Israel juga mengalami konfrontasi yang ganas yang tidak seimbang, *disproportionate*. For example, hampir 1,400 orang Palestin dan 13 orang Israel terbunuh semasa tiga minggu perbalahan from 2008 to 2009.

Semasa operasi *Israel Cast Lead* pada tahun 2012, 174 orang Palestin telah terbunuh dan enam orang Israel telah terbunuh dalam masa satu minggu. Dalam operasi *Protective Edge* pada tahun 2014 sebanyak 2,251 orang rakyat Palestin dan 71 orang Israel telah terbunuh dalam tempoh masa 51 hari. Masalah di Gaza juga adalah dari segi protes *The Great March of Return*. Sehingga 19 Januari 2020, pihak *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*, telah merekodkan bahawa terdapat 213 rakyat Palestin yang meninggal dunia atau terbunuh susulan daripada Demonstrasi *Great March of Return* yang bermula pada 14 Mei 2018. Angka ini akan terus meningkat kerana demonstrasi ini dilaksanakan secara berterusan pada setiap hari Jumaat sehingga hari ini.

Tuan Pengerusi: Encik Fairuz, saya hendak tanya soalan tentang pentadbiran di Gaza ini, *the official government is in the West Bank*, betul tidak?

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Yes.

Tuan Pengerusi: Jadi apakah *diplomatic relation* kita dengan pentadbiran di Gaza?

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Tuan Pengerusi, Kerajaan Malaysia fokus banyak kepada rakyat Palestin. Jadi secara diplomatiknya hubungan sememangnya dengan Kerajaan Palestin di *West Bank*. Namun begitu kita tetap mempunyai *engagement* dengan kerajaan di Gaza. Dari sebab yang pentingnya adalah dari segi *humanitarian assistance* yang diperlukan di Gaza.

Tuan Pengerusi: Jadi maknanya kita pakai NGO untuk menghulurkan bantuan kita kah macam mana?

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Tuan Pengerusi kita menggunakan NGO dan juga kita menerusi organisasi-organisasi antarabangsa juga. Kita salurkan sumbangan ke institusi antarabangsa *and dia orang disburse...*

Saya akan teruskan dengan pendirian Malaysia mengenai isu Palestin. Secara umum diketahui Malaysia lantang mengeluarkan kenyataan-kenyataan yang mengutuk dan mengecam keras tindakan serta perlakuan tidak berperikemanusiaan rejim Israel yang menceroboh Wilayah Palestin serta mengenakan pelbagai bentuk penindasan, kekejaman dan sekatan ke atas rakyat Palestin. Malaysia akan terus menyokong usaha-usaha untuk mencapai pendamaian dan konflik Palestin-Israel yang selari dengan undang-undang antarabangsa dan resolusi-resolusi PBB melalui rundingan.

Malaysia juga teguh dengan pendirian bahawa penyelesaian dua negara *or two-State solution and East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine* adalah jalan terbaik untuk pembentukan Palestin sebagai sebuah negara dan seterusnya menyelesaikan konflik Palestin-Israel. Malaysia menolak sebarang tindakan yang akan menjejaskan usaha untuk mencapai keamanan daripada konflik Palestin-Israel. Malaysia menyeru *committee* antarabangsa untuk membantu menyelesaikan konflik ini. Malaysia akan terus teguh di samping Palestin dan rakyatnya dalam menentang kezaliman demi memperjuangkan hak-hak rakyat Palestin.

Malaysia juga lantang mengeluarkan kenyataan yang mengutuk. Pada tahun 2019 hingga 2020 kenyataan media yang dikeluarkan adalah kenyataan media Kementerian Luar Negeri susulan daripada pengumuman jurucakap Kementerian Luar Negeri Israel yang melabelkan Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri sebagai *anti-Semitic* pada 17 Januari 2019. Kenyataan media Kementerian Luar Negeri mengenai perakuan Amerika Syarikat berhubung kedaulatan Israel di Bukit Golan, Syria, 27 Mac 2019.

Kenyataan media Kementerian Luar Negeri mengenai situasi di Gaza pada 27 Mac 2019. Kenyataan media Kementerian Luar Negeri mengutuk sekeras-kerasnya rancangan Benjamin

Netanyahu untuk mengilhakkan sebahagian Tebing Bara pada 11 September 2019. Kenyataan media Kementerian Luar Negeri untuk mengutuk sekeras-kerasnya serangan udara Israel ke atas Gaza pada 16 November 2019 dan kenyataan media Pejabat Perdana Menteri mengenai pendirian Malaysia mengenai *Deal of Century* pada 31 Januari 2020. Di persada antarabangsa pula, isu Palestin adalah juga salah satu isu yang penting bagi Malaysia untuk memperjuangkan di pelbagai platform antarabangsa terutama di Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu (PBB), Pertubuhan Kerjasama Islam Antarabangsa (OIC) dan Sidang Kemuncak Negara-negara Berkecuali (NAM).

Tuan Pengerusi: Encik Fairuz saya hendak bertanya soalan sedikit tentang isu *anti-Semitic* ini. Bukankah prinsipal kerajaan kita ialah menolak- kita anti Zionis betul tidak, bukannya *anti-Semitic*?

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Betul.

Tuan Pengerusi: *That is the difference between the two.*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Yes.

Tuan Pengerusi: *So allegation or anti-Semitism alleged on our Prime Minister that has to be defended by the government. So, what is the government position on this?*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Yes, we do. Kami telah menyatakan bahawa Malaysia dan Perdana Menteri juga, dia bukannya anti macam Tuan Pengerusi telah bagi tahu, bukannya *anti-Jewish* atau *anti-Semitic* tetapi kita ke arah anti Zionis. Kita tidak menghalang Jews daripada negara-negara lain datang ke Malaysia tetapi kita hanya menghalang daripada Israel kerana Israel mengenakan rejim Zionis.

Tuan Pengerusi: Saya hendak tanya satu lagi ya, dan dia kemungkinan *a little bit sensitive*. Saya difahami di Israel, apabila mereka menghadapi *election* mereka, *not all of them support the Zionist movement. Some of them a bit proportion is still looking for a settlement that is fair for all sides.*

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What are we doing about trying to engage some dialogue on this run? Do we attempt or do we not attempt? Because there are segments in Israel that want to see a peace resolution.

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Razali: *[Berucap tanpa menggunakan pembesar suara]* Izinkan saya untuk teruskan Debat Terbuka Majlis Keselamatan PBB mengenai situasi Timur Tengah mengambil tempat setiap suku tahun. Terkini, penyampaian kenyataan semasa sesi Debat Terbuka Majlis Keselamatan PBB pada 28 Oktober 2019 dan 21 Januari 2020 antara lain Malaysia telah menggesa agar masyarakat antarabangsa tidak berdiam diri dan terus menuntut supaya Israel menghentikan tindakan kejam dan penindasan ke atas rakyat Palestin yang jelas

melanggar resolusi-resolusi PBB dan undang-undang antarabangsa termasuk undang-undang kemanusiaan.

Malaysia juga menekankan bahawa konflik Israel-Palestin bukan sahaja berkisar dengan pertikaian tanah penempatan, malah ia juga melibatkan hak bagi rakyat Palestin untuk menjalin kehidupan yang bermaruah, adil, makmur dan bebas daripada ketakutan. Rakyat Palestin terus hidup di dalam sekatan dan penindasan dan penekanan bahawa keganasan di Gaza dan Tebing Barat adalah telah melemahkan harapan masyarakat antarabangsa untuk mencari penyelesaian terhadap isu Palestin.

Semasa sesi debat umum Perhimpunan Agung PBB pada 24 hingga 30 September 2019 pula di New York, YAB Perdana Menteri menerusi kenyataan negara juga telah menekankan bahawa Malaysia tidak boleh menerima tindakan Israel yang merampas bumi Palestin secara zalim dan terus mendirikan penempatan haram. Semasa menjadi Ahli Tidak Tetap Majlis Keselamatan PBB bagi penggal 2015 sehingga 2019, Malaysia sentiasa lantang mengetengahkan pendirian menyokong aspirasi rakyat Palestin untuk mewujudkan sebuah negara Palestin yang merdeka dan berdaulat.

Walaupun tempoh sebagai Ahli Tidak Tetap Majlis Keselamatan PBB telah berakhir pada 31 Disember 2016, Malaysia akan terus menggesa melalui pelbagai landasan antarabangsa supaya Majlis Keselamatan PBB memainkan peranan yang lebih aktif dan melaksanakan tanggungjawabnya sebagaimana termaktub di dalam piagam PBB bagi mencari penyelesaian konflik yang berkekalan di mana sesebuah negara Palestin wujud bersama-sama Israel dalam keadaan aman dan damai. Malaysia juga akan terus menggesa Majlis Keselamatan PBB untuk menegakkan undang-undang antarabangsa bagi memastikan akauntabiliti ke atas jenayah yang dilakukan oleh Israel.

Malaysia juga sentiasa aktif mengambil bahagian dalam Sidang Kemuncak OIC serta mesyuarat-mesyuarat yang diadakan oleh OIC. Malaysia merupakan Ahli Jawatankuasa Enam OIC Mengenai Palestin (*OIC Committee of Six on Palestine*) dan juga Kumpulan Perhubungan dalam Mempertahankan Perjuangan Palestin dan Al-Quds Al-Sharif. Melalui dua platform ini, Malaysia lantang dalam mengetengahkan permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh Palestin dan rakyatnya termasuk memperjuangkan status Baitul Maqdis sebagai ibu negara Palestin dan memelihara kesucian Masjid Al-Aqsa.

Paling terbaru, OIC telah mengadakan Mesyuarat Tergempar (*Open-Ended Executive Committee*), Pertubuhan Kerjasama OIC peringkat Menteri-menteri Luar Negeri di Jeddah, Arab Saudi pada 3 Februari 2020 bagi membincangkan pendirian OIC terhadap pelan kedamaian Timur Tengah *or the Middle East Peace Plan* yang diumumkan oleh Presiden Amerika Syarikat,

Donald Trump pada 28 Januari 2020. Di akhir mesyuarat tersebut, kesemua negara anggota OIC telah bersetuju untuk menerima pakai satu resolusi OIC yang antara lain mengutuk pelan kedamaian tersebut yang dikemukakan oleh Presiden Amerika Syarikat serta mengulangi pendirian teguh OIC terhadap perjuangan rakyat Palestin.

Secara ringkasnya, kesemua negara OIC yang hadir telah mengutuk dan menolak cadangan pelan kedamaian yang dikemukakan oleh Amerika Syarikat dan menegaskan bahawa penyelesaian dua negara atau *two-state solution* adalah satu-satunya jalan penyelesaian terhadap konflik Palestin-Israel. Semasa mesyuarat tersebut, Yang Berhormat Menteri Luar Negeri telah menyampaikan sokongan penuh Malaysia terhadap perjuangan rakyat Palestin dalam mendirikan sebuah negara yang merdeka.

Berhubung pelan kedamaian yang dibawa oleh Amerika Syarikat, Yang Berhormat Menteri Luar Negeri telah menegaskan bahawa perjanjian tersebut merupakan serangan kepada kedamaian apabila perjanjian tersebut tidak melibatkan Palestin dalam perbincangan serta kandungan perjanjian tersebut yang menguntungkan Israel dan menghukum Palestin.

Tuan Pengerusi, Malaysia juga akan terus memainkan peranan aktif dalam NAM dalam menyokong usaha-usaha menangani krisis politik dan ekonomi Palestin serta membela hak-hak nasib rakyat Palestin bagi mencapai penyelesaian *two-state solution* yang adil dan secara aman.

Semasa Sidang Kemuncak NAM yang berlangsung pada 25 hingga 26 Oktober 2019 di Baku, Azerbaijan, YAB Perdana Menteri juga telah mengumumkan Malaysia akan membuka Kedutaan Malaysia di Palestin yang akan beroperasi di Amman. Saya akan *explain* sedikit kemudian.

Isu Jerusalem. Pada 6 Disember 2017, Amerika Syarikat telah mengumumkan bahawa Amerika Syarikat akan mengiktiraf Jerusalem sebagai ibu kota Israel. Ini diikuti dengan pemindahan Kedutaan Besar Amerika Syarikat ke Baitulmaqdis pada 14 Mei 2018. Malaysia mengutuk pengiktirafan Baitulmaqdis sebagai ibu kota Israel. Malaysia menolak keputusan tersebut memandangkan ianya bertentangan dengan Resolusi-resolusi PBB. Keputusan tersebut akan menjejaskan kestabilan dan keselamatan di Rantau Asia Barat. Malaysia berpandangan bahawa keputusan tersebut akan menjejaskan penyelesaian *two-state solution* yang dicadangkan oleh komiti antarabangsa. Malaysia juga menolak sebarang tindakan yang akan menjejaskan usaha untuk mencapai keamanan daripada konflik Palestin.

Next is the Deal of the Century. Tuan Pengerusi, Presiden Amerika Syarikat, Donald Trump telah mengumumkan cadangan Pelan Damai Asia Barat yang memberikan fokus kepada Palestin dan Israel yang dikenali sebagai *Deal of the Century*. Pelan tersebut mempunyai dua bahagian, melibatkan aspek ekonomi dan aspek politik. Aspek ekonomi pelan tersebut telah

diumumkan pada 25 Jun 2019 manakala aspek politik baru sahaja diumumkan pada 27 Januari 2020 yang lalu. Secara ringkasnya, pelan tersebut bertujuan untuk memperkasakan ekonomi rakyat Palestin, meningkatkan tadbir urus negara Palestin dan memberi kebebasan kepada negara tersebut untuk membentuk sebuah negara yang terhad dan tertakluk kepada syarat-syarat yang dipersetujui oleh Israel.

Kebanyakan negara di rantau Asia Barat menyokong usaha Presiden Trump ke atas mencapai jalan penyelesaian dua negara atau *two-state solution*. Walau bagaimanapun, pelan tersebut dirancang tanpa rundingan Palestin. Amerika Syarikat hanya membuat perbincangan dan mencapai persetujuan dengan Israel semata-mata. Pelan tersebut ditolak oleh Palestin memandangkan pelan tersebut dilihat sebagai berat sebelah. Palestin telah memohon agar OIC mengadakan mesyuarat tergempar bagi membincangkan perkara tersebut. Mesyuarat tersebut telah berlangsung pada 3 Februari 2020 dan dihadiri oleh Yang Berhormat Menteri Luar Negeri.

Sebagai sebuah negara anggota OIC yang konsisten menyokong perjuangan rakyat Palestin untuk mewujudkan negara sendiri, Malaysia telah menyatakan pendirian berhubung Pelan Damai Asia Barat berkenaan. Kementerian Luar Negeri telah merangka draf kenyataan berhubung cadangan pelan damai untuk Israel dan Palestin yang telah diumumkan oleh Presiden Donald Trump. Pada 31 Januari, YAB Perdana Menteri telah mengeluarkan kenyataan media tersebut dan menyatakan pendirian Malaysia mengenai pelan damai yang berkenaan. Kenyataan media berkenaan adalah seperti berikut:

“Malaysia telah mengkaji dengan teliti cadangan pelan damai untuk Israel dan Palestin (Deal of the Century) yang telah diumumkan oleh Presiden Amerika Syarikat pada 28 Januari 2020. Malaysia mendapati bahawa cadangan tersebut tidak boleh diterima sama sekali dan percaya bahawa Palestin mempunyai hak untuk menolaknya.

Palestin sebagai pihak yang teraniaya hasil daripada pendudukan haram Israel sejak sekian lama tidak pernah dilibatkan atau dirujuk dalam rangka cadangan tersebut.

Cadangan tersebut disifatkan sebagai berat sebelah dan memihak kepada Israel semata-mata sebagai pihak yang bertanggungjawab ke atas rampasan wilayah dan penderitaan rakyat Palestin. Adalah jelas bahawa cadangan tersebut tidak berniat untuk memberi keadilan kepada rakyat Palestin dan ia dilihat sebagai satu usaha oleh Israel supaya rakyat Palestin terus ditindas tanpa sebarang jalan penyelesaian yang menyeluruh dan kancah konflik yang telah berterusan sekian lama.

Malaysia berpegang kepada pendirian bahawa penubuhan negara Israel yang merdeka melalui penyelesaian dua negara berdasarkan sempadan sebelum tahun 1967 dengan Baitulmaqdis sebagai ibu negara Palestin adalah satu-satunya penyelesaian kepada konflik Israel-Palestin.

Malaysia akan terus menyokong usaha-usaha kukuh bagi mencari penyelesaian yang berkekalan kepada konflik Israel-Palestin berdasarkan undang-undang antarabangsa dan resolusi-resolusi Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu yang berkaitan melalui rundingan yang melibatkan pihak-pihak yang berkaitan”.

Tuan Pengerusi, saya akan teruskan dengan Hubungan Dua Hala Malaysia-Palestin. Malaysia dan Palestin mempunyai hubungan yang baik dan istimewa. Palestin mula menubuhkan Pejabat Perwakilan di Malaysia pada tahun 1969 dan kemudiannya ia dinaiktarafkan sebagai Kedutaan Besar pada tahun 1983. Manakala pada masa ini Kedutaan Besar di Malaysia di Kaherah, Mesir ditauliahkan serentak ke Palestin.

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Lawatan tertinggi terakhir dari Malaysia dilaksanakan oleh mantan Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri pada 22 Januari 2013 ke Gaza. Manakala lawatan terkini dari Palestin dilaksanakan oleh TYT Dr. Riad Al Malki, Menteri Luar Negeri Palestin pada 14 Januari 2017. TYT Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, Perdana Menteri Palestin telah menyatakan hasrat untuk melawat Malaysia pada tahun 2019. Namun, Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri tidak dapat memenuhi hasrat tersebut dan setakat ini kita tengah berusaha untuk mengadakan lawatan beliau pada tahun ini.

Seterusnya, saya akan terus kepada sumbangan Malaysia kepada Palestin. Kerajaan sentiasa memberi sokongan padu kepada Palestin dan rakyatnya baik dari segi politik, ekonomi, moral dan termasuklah juga bantuan-bantuan berbentuk kemanusiaan, sumbangan kewangan serta sumbangan dan pembangunan infrastruktur asas dan pembangunan kapasiti sama ada secara langsung mahupun melalui pertubuhan antarabangsa dan badan-badan bukan kerajaan. Dari tahun 2010 hingga kini, kerajaan telah menyalurkan lebih daripada RM46 juta bagi membantu meringankan penderitaan rakyat Palestin. Sumbangan ini adalah daripada dana kerajaan yang disalurkan kepada Palestin secara terus serta melalui pertubuhan-pertubuhan antarabangsa seperti PBB dan OIC. Selain itu, kerajaan juga memberikan sumbangan tahunan berjumlah RM282,000 bagi kos operasi Kedutaan Besar Palestin di Malaysia.

Akaun Amanah Kemanusiaan Rakyat Palestin (AAKRP) telah ditubuhkan oleh Kementerian Luar Negeri di bawah subseksyen 9(1) Akta Tatacara Kewangan 1957 [Akta 61]

pada 6 September 2002. Penubuhan akaun ini adalah bertujuan untuk mengumpulkan dan menyelaraskan segala sumbangan kemanusiaan rakyat Malaysia kepada rakyat Palestin, seterusnya menyalurkan sumbangan tersebut melalui kaedah-kaedah yang difikirkan bersesuaian oleh Kementerian Luar Negeri. Satu jawatankuasa di peringkat kementerian telah ditubuhkan dan dipengerusikan oleh Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Luar Negeri.

Tuan Pengerusi: Encik Fairuz, saya hendak tanya. Tentang RM46 juta ini, dia lebih kurang RM4.6 juta setahun, lebih kurang purata *right? Since 2010, so every year you giving about RM4.6 million.* Ini di bawah bidang kuasa MOFA?

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Yes.

Tuan Pengerusi: *Not mean Ministry of Finance? Not MOF?*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Kita ada jawatankuasa di bawah MOFA.

Tuan Pengerusi: Bawah MOFA. Okey, baik. Saya hendak tahu sebab kita tahu banyak sumbangan yang kita beri itu, kita kena ada *check and balance* ataupun memastikan *for every one dollar you know, at least 90 cent must arrive there. Do you do any audit or any review on how much actually ends up helping people in Gaza and also the West Bank?*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Terima kasih Tuan Pengerusi. Bagi wang-wang yang kita salurkan, kita akan membuat *check and balance* dalam jawatankuasa tersebut di mesyuarat yang seterusnya setelah wang itu dikeluarkan. Namun begitu, untuk sumbangan melalui organisasi antarabangsa, kita ada data yang seperti dalam slaid, kita hantar kepada UNRWA. Akan tetapi ini yang kita ada rekod dan seterusnya melalui OIC. Jadi, setiap kali kita membuat tahun itu, mesyuarat itu akan diadakan minimum dua kali setahun. Jadi, *the next meeting* itu kita akan *discuss and check and balance on our contributions.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *So, the monies most keep it to OIC, is it? For distribution.*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: *Most of it through OIC and through the UNRWA.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *I see. What I am saying is this you know, for instance I know that a lot people donate money to say NGO like WWF, right? Only these NGOs have to come out with some sort of accounting that the bulk of the money not spend on administration that they actually goes to down help the environment. So, is there anything that OIC writes about you know, about how this money goes down and how effective is the— How many cents you get for every dollar you spend? They actually go down to help the Palestinian? Is there any mechanism of this?*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Tuan Pengerusi, izinkan saya memberi maklumat tersebut secara berasingan.

Tuan Pengerusi: Boleh.

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Terima kasih Tuan Pengerusi.

Puan Aznifah Isnariah binti Abdul Ghani [Ketua Penolong Setiausaha (Bahagian Politik Pelbagai Hala), Kementerian Luar Negeri]: Selamat pagi Tuan Pengerusi. *Allow me to—* Saya mohon untuk beri sedikit penjelasan *on* bagaimana wang yang— dana yang kita salurkan kepada UNRWA, bagaimana dana tersebut disalurkan kepada Palestin dan *what the money is use for*. Selalunya jumlah dana yang diberikan oleh sesetengah negara anggota PBB yang disalurkan kepada UNRWA, UNRWA *normally* ada macam *annual briefings*. *Various ways* perkara ini dijalankan.

Pertamanya, dia akan membuat *pledging conferences*. Selalunya *pledging conferences* ini di New York. Dia akan maklumkan, dia akan *report*, dia akan beri laporan bagaimana wang *donation* yang telah diberikan oleh negara-negara ahli ataupun pertubuhan-pertubuhan antarabangsa lain ataupun individu, bagaimana dana ini dibelanjakan. *Typically, UNRWA spent the money that they received for its operation on five difference camps across areas where there are Palestinian refugees. So, this is in Jerusalem, in Gaza and the West Bank and two other areas. The money typically goes for education for refugee children and so far, at least 25 million Palestinian refugee children have benefit from the money. Building of infrastructure, food, specific programmes and other necessities including maintenance of infrastructures in the areas where refugees are located.*

So, all these expenditure will be informed to member states during this pledging conferences and they will tell member states how much money they have lost or they have not received as the result of the US decision to withdraw all funds to UNRWA and they have deficit on how much money was supposed to have been given but not given. As a result, they are pleading or they are plead to international community to provide more money to sustain specific programme.

So, UNRWA selalunya tidak dapat hendak maklumkan kepada negara ahli jumlah wang dana yang diterima ke mana *exactly, they would not be able to tell us*. Akan tetapi *collectively they will tell you exactly what the money has been spent on*. So, the *pledging conference* setiap tahun Yang Berhormat, *at the same time* UNRWA dari semasa ke semasa, selalunya setiap suku tahun, *they will do briefings in various cities where UN officers are located. In the most recent one di Geneva dan the acting Commissioner General* bagi penjelasan juga *on how to move forward* dengan dana yang semakin berkurangan, *typically for* tahun 2020.

So, in term of check and balance, this is how member states dapat mendengar and get more detailed views from UNRWA on how their money has been spent over the years.

Tuan Pengerusi: *Thank you.*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: *Thank you* Puan Aznifah. Tuan Pengerusi, saya akan *continue* dengan *capacity building*. Bagi program pembangunan kapasiti, Malaysia menjalankan pelbagai program latihan kepada pegawai kerajaan Palestin di bawah Program Kerjasama Teknikal Malaysia (MTCP). Sehingga kini, terdapat 464 pegawai kerajaan Palestin yang telah mengikuti pelbagai program latihan di Malaysia di bawah MTCP.

Bagi tahun 2019 ialah seperti di slaid di mana Malaysia telah menganjurkan *Islamic Microfinance for Palestine Monetary Authority* anjuran *International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance* (INCEIF) dengan kerjasama *Japan International Cooperation Agency* (JICA). Program kedua adalah *Fokker 50 Simulator Training for Palestinian Pilot* anjuran Akademi Malaysia Airlines Berhad melibatkan tujuh orang juruterbang.

Pada tahun 2020 pula, Malaysia akan menganjurkan dua lagi kursus latihan khusus (*tailor-made*) untuk Palestin iaitu *Cooperative Community Development Through Microfinance for Palestine Course* anjuran Institut Koperasi Malaysia (IKM) pada 24-28 Ogos 2020. Ia akan melibatkan 15 peserta. Juga *Fokker 50 Simulator Training for Palestinian Pilot* yang akan melibatkan tujuh orang juruterbang Palestin. Selain dua *tailor-made* program iaitu kursus latihan tersebut, juga peserta dari Palestin, terdapat 47 kursus latihan MTCP pada tahun 2020 yang boleh disertai oleh peserta dari 144 negara.

Seterusnya, saya teruskan dengan Kedutaan Besar Malaysia ke Palestin yang bermastautin di Amman. Pada 25 Oktober 2019, Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri telah mengumumkan keputusan Kerajaan Malaysia untuk membuka Kedutaan Besar ke Palestin yang bermastautin di Amman, Jordan.

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Keputusan tersebut diumumkan semasa Sidang Kemuncak Pergerakan Negara-negara Berkecuali (NAM) di Baku, Azerbaijan. Cadangan penubuhan Kedutaan Besar Malaysia ke Palestin bermastautin di Amman, Jordan adalah satu pendekatan yang paling praktikal bagi Malaysia memandangkan Malaysia tidak mempunyai hubungan diplomatik dengan Israel. Sekiranya pejabat kedutaan ditempatkan di Ramallah, maka Malaysia perlu berurusan dengan Israel secara rasmi bagi perkara-perkara logistik, pentadbiran dan urusan keluar masuk ke Ramallah.

Inisiatif penubuhan Kedutaan Besar Malaysia ke Palestin merupakan satu langkah yang popular dan disokong oleh majoriti rakyat Malaysia sendiri. Dewan Rakyat telah menyokong keputusan ini secara sebulat suara pada 31 Oktober 2019. Keputusan kerajaan telah disambut baik oleh Palestin dan kebanyakan negara lain yang terus menyokong perjuangan mereka. Walau bagaimanapun, Kerajaan Jordan telah memaklumkan bahawa pihak Jordan tidak bersedia untuk

merealisasikan cadangan Malaysia buat masa ini walaupun pada asalnya mereka *welcome this initiative*.

Selanjutnya, mereka telah menyarankan supaya Malaysia untuk menubuhkan unit khas bagi Palestin di bawah naungan Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di Amman. Lanjutan daripada itu, Kementerian Luar Negeri sekarang ini sedang meneliti cadangan susulan supaya Malaysia mengubah pentauliahian serentak bagi Palestin daripada Mesir ke Jordan sebagai langkah awal supaya Malaysia menubuhkan Unit Hal Ehwal Palestin di bawah naungan Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di Amman, Jordan serta menambah bilangan pegawai dan kakitangan di Kedutaan Besar Malaysia di Amman untuk menguruskan unit tersebut. Malaysia sedang *deliberate* untuk melantik Konsul Kehormat Malaysia di Ramallah dan Gaza bagi membantu urusan-urusan yang berkaitan dengan hubungan dua hala Malaysia – Palestin.

For the future direction also, pada tahun ini Malaysia dijadualkan menjadi tuan rumah kepada penganjuran dua program bertaraf antarabangsa iaitu Persidangan Ketiga Liga Ahli Parlimen untuk Al-Quds (LP4Q) pada *this weekend*, 8 hingga 9 Februari 2020. Persidangan tersebut akan diadakan di One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya yang akan melibatkan 600 orang peserta yang mewakili 70 buah negara dan ia akan dirasmikan oleh Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri.

Seterusnya, Malaysia juga akan menjadi tuan rumah kepada *The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People* (CEIRPP) dengan kerjasama Kerajaan Malaysia dan Perdana Global Peace Foundation Malaysia yang menganjurkan satu persidangan yang bertemakan *Southeast Asian Support for the Rights of the Palestinian People* di Kuala Lumpur pada 28 hingga 29 Januari 2020 nanti. Persidangan antarabangsa ini akan menghimpunkan pakar-pakar dari seluruh dunia bertujuan mengumpulkan sokongan daripada kerajaan dan masyarakat sivil di Asia Tenggara dalam usaha merealisasikan hak-hak rakyat Palestin. Persidangan ini juga bermatlamat untuk menangani kesukaran rakyat Palestin yang hidup di bawah pendudukan haram Israel serta menekankan kepentingan penyelesaian secara menyeluruh dan adil kepada Palestin.

Dengan itu Tuan Pengerusi, sekian sahaja taklimat saya pada pagi ini.

Tuan Pengerusi: Okey terima kasih Encik Fairuz. Encik Fairuz, tadi saya terlupa untuk memperkenalkan *your delegation*. Kalau boleh Encik Fairuz.

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Mohon maaf Tuan Pengerusi. Izinkan saya, saya adalah Fairuz Adli Mohd Rozali daripada Setiausaha Bahagian Asia Barat. *Next* saya adalah Puan Aznifah Isnariah Abdul Ghani daripada *Multilateral Political Division*. *Ambassador* Shahril Effendi Abd Gany adalah Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Polisi dan Perancangan Dasar, Kementerian

Luar Negeri. Juga Encik Shazryll Zahiran daripada Jabatan Perancangan Dasar, Kementerian Luar Negeri.

Tuan Pengerusi: Terima kasih kepada MOFA ya. Kita teruskan dengan taklimat daripada Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri. Saya minta Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Norazman Ayob sebagai Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha. *Maybe Dato' Sri, you can introduce your team. Thank you.*

Dato' Sri Norazman bin Ayob: Terima kasih Tuan Pengerusi dan Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat yang lain. Saya ingin memperkenalkan terlebih dahulu saya sendiri, Norazman Ayob yang kini menjawat jawatan sebagai Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha Industri di Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri. Bersama-sama saya pada pagi ini adalah Puan Nor Hasnah yang baru sebenarnya menyertai MITI pada minggu lepas dan kini beliau memegang jawatan sebagai Pengarah Kanan bagi Hubungan Perdagangan dan Ekonomi Dua Hala. Beliau juga disertai oleh Miss Lim Mei Ying sebagai Pengarah di bahagian yang sama.

Untuk meneruskan Tuan Pengerusi, izinkan saya untuk menjemput Puan Nor Hasnah untuk memberikan pembentangan mengenai status hubungan perdagangan dua hala antara Malaysia dengan Palestin. Terima kasih.

Puan Nor Hasnah binti Badroddin: Terima kasih Yang Berbahagia Dato', Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan. Pembetulan sedikit, saya baru *report duty* hari Isnin ni, bukan minggu lepas.

Izinkan saya Tuan Pengerusi untuk meneruskan taklimat dalam Bahasa Malaysia dan Bahasa Inggeris. Saya akan membentangkan mengenai *Malaysia – Palestine, Trade and Investment Relations*.

Next, okey ini adalah *outline* taklimat saya. Saya akan menyentuh mengenai ekonomi beberapa data mengenai *statistics trade* dan juga *engagement* kita bersama dengan pihak Palestin.

Next, dari segi *trade ranking* seperti yang kita sedia maklum perdagangan kita dengan pihak Palestin tidak begitu signifikan. Pada tahun 2018, Palestin merupakan *trading partner* ranking yang ke-187 dan 179 ranking dari *export destination* dan *138 import source*. Manakala bagi pihak Palestin pula, Malaysia merupakan *35th trading partner, 17th export destination, 36th import source*. Di kalangan negara-negara Asia Barat, Palestin merupakan *our 14th largest trading partner*.

Dari segi *bilateral trade performance*, untuk dekad yang lepas 2010 hingga 2019, Malaysia sentiasa merekodkan lebihan dagangan dengan pihak Palestin. Walau bagaimanapun, terdapat penurunan sedikit daripada tahun 2018 ke 2019. *This is due to the decrease in import actually*

walaupun kita punya eksport itu sebenarnya tidak berapa turun sangat daripada tahun 2018 tetapi dari segi import itu agak menurun *quite a big significant*.

Ini adalah *comparison* dari tahun ke tahun. Kita masih belum dapat *complete figure for 2019*. So, yang kita bandingkan di sini adalah *trade performance* 2017 dan 2018 di mana terdapat peningkatan *total trade 30.5 percent* daripada 2017 ke 2018. *Trade balance* kita adalah *minus 40.6 percent*. *Comparison year to year from period January to November 2018 to January to November 2019, as I mentioned earlier, there's a decrease compared to the previous year* but ini adalah disebabkan oleh pengurangan atau penurunan dari nilai import iaitu daripada RM5.3 juta kepada RM1.8 juta, *quite significant*.

Tuan Pengerusi: *Is that any explanation why the big drop?*

Puan Nor Hasnah binti Badroddin: *We were told that there are some logistic issues and also competition from surrounding countries* sebab import kita kebanyakannya adalah buah kurma, *dried or fresh*. o daripada segi logistik lebih mudah untuk kita beli di negara-negara lain daripada Palestin dan juga dari segi kualiti dan harganyalah Tuan Pengerusi.

Okey next, *this slide shows the major export products dan import products* antara kita dan Palestin. Eksport utama (*major export*) kita ke Palestin adalah *palm oil based manufactured products, palm oil and palm oil based agriculture products, manufactured of plastics, ... products and processed food* dan dia punya *composition* itu seperti yang ditunjukkan di *slide*. Manakala *major import* kita pula seperti yang saya maklumkan tadi, *other agricultures* itu adalah boleh dikatakan 100 peratus adalah *dates* ataupun buah kurma sama ada *dried* ataupun *fresh*. *Other vegetable oil*, ini adalah minyak zaitun (*olive oil*) dan seterusnya *chemical products* dan *palm oil based manufactured products* ini sebenarnya dalam bentuk sabun dan produk-produk lain daripada asas *palm oil*.

Seterusnya, dari segi *investment*. Sebenarnya *there is no investment recorded* sama ada oleh Malaysia ke Palestin ataupun daripada Palestin ke Malaysia setakat ini.

Next, trade with Palestine. Seperti selaras dengan dasar yang ditetapkan oleh negara dan juga yang telah dimaklumkan oleh Wisma Putra sebentar tadi, kita punya aktiviti perdagangan Malaysia dengan Palestin adalah untuk *support the development of Palestine economy*. So, ini disebabkan oleh beberapa sekatan oleh Israel terutamanya untuk kemasukan barang-barang ke Palestin.

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The only entrance kita boleh masuk adalah melalui *Egyptian-Gaza Strip border*. Akan tetapi, setakat ini cuma dibenarkan *for humanitarian aid, medicine and food* sahaja.

Setakat ini, pihak MITI kita memang mempunyai beberapa *engagement* dengan pihak Palestin. Antaranya adalah *there was a proposal from the Palestinian side for us to have a Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the two governments*. So, apa yang dicadangkan di dalam MoU itu adalah untuk memfokuskan kerjasama dalam *in the area of goods and services, investment, energy, ICT, healthcare and tourism in order to increase bilateral trade engagement between Palestine and Malaysia*.

Akan tetapi dari kita juga telah membuat perbincangan dengan pihak *Embassy* Palestin di Malaysia berhubung dengan MOU ini dan kita telah memberikan kita punya maklum balas sebab skop kolaborasi yang dicadangkan itu terlalu luas melebihi daripada apa yang di bawah—melebihi daripada *trade and investment*. Jadi, kalau memang kita hendak meneruskan MoU ini, kita perlu mendapatkan pandangan daripada *Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health* dan sebagainya Yang Berhormat.

So, kita telah mengemukakan pandangan kita kepada *Embassy* Palestin di Malaysia dan kita masih menunggu maklum balas daripada pihak berkenaan.

Seterusnya, kita juga menerima cadangan untuk mengadakan *Agreement on the Establishment of the Palestinian-Malaysia Business Council*. Ini adalah antara pihak *Chambers* di Malaysia dan *business community* di Palestin. So, cadangan ini juga daripada pihak Palestin dan kami telah mengemukakan cadangan draf *agreement* itu kepada pihak *National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia* untuk pertimbangan dan maklum balas daripada pihak NCCIM, mereka memaklumkan bahawa mereka cuma akan *engage* ataupun mengadakan perhubungan dengan- sekiranya pihak di Palestin itu adalah *counter part* yang sama taraf dengan pihak NCCIM.

So, mereka telah mencadangkan *Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce Industry and Agriculture instead of Palestinian Federation of Business Association* yang dicadangkan di dalam *agreement* yang dikemukakan oleh pihak Palestin. So, kita juga telah memaklumkan maklum balas ini kepada pihak Palestin melalui *embassy* di sini dan kita masih lagi menunggu maklum balas daripada pihak Palestin untuk tindakan seterusnya.

Seterusnya, antara lain pihak Palestin juga turut terlibat dalam beberapa program yang kita laksanakan di bawah MITI. Contohnya, seperti MIHAS. MIHAS ini *Malaysia International Halal Showcase* di program di bawah MATRADE iaitu agensi MITI. Sepanjang daripada 2015 hingga 2019, pihak Palestin memang turut serta. Syarikat-syarikat di Palestin memang turut serta dalam program itu yang kita adakan di Malaysia. Cuma, tahun 2017 sahaja yang mereka tidak turut serta dan untuk tahun ini kita akan mengadakan program MIHAS dalam bulan April, yakni awal bulan April. Setakat ini kita masih belum menerima maklum balas daripada pihak Palestin

sama ada syarikat-syarikat daripada Palestin akan turut serta dalam program MIHAS ini bagi tahun 2020.

Okey, itu sahaja Yang Berhormat. Terima kasih.

Tuan Pengerusi: Okey, *thank you*. Kita ada— *I have a few questions and I will invite my Members of Parliament to join me if they have any questions on this. But as a general basis, what is MITI's view on how to improve trade? I know you have to live with market forces. Kalau kurma dia kurang berkualiti berbanding dengan Morocco kah apa itu, we know market forces take precedent. But what can we do? Because these peoples are ready under occupation. They have logistical problem. Surely, we must make special consideration to these issues. Not just purely market driven. Is there any suggestion from MITI on how to improve this— you know at least the importation of Palestinian goods.*

Dato' Sri Norazman bin Ayob: Yang Berhormat. *As presented by my colleague just now Puan Nor Hasnah. First is on the MoU. As far as the economic and trade cooperation is concern and then is of course on the establishment of the Malaysian Palestine Business Council. Now, this two I would say platform would allow us to explore further trade and investment opportunities with the Palestinian side. Then, that is foremost our priority at the moment.*

Now, secondly as far as trade is concern, we also have to look apart from the market forces in terms of logistics. At the moment, even when it comes to importation or exportation that designated ports as far as the export from Malaysia say to Palestine is concern. One is of course the Ashdod Port control by the Israelis and the other one is of course through Egyptian side to the Rafah Borders of which even Egypt impose us a certain conditions as far as what kind of products that can be transported through that particular border crossing and this is basically confine to humanitarian aid, food and medical supplies.

So, based on these two factors, we will actually have to access as far as what are things that we can do. Now, the third element is of course as far as the readiness of our industries to trade with the Palestinian side. As we know because our industries are also very much cautious when it comes to dealing with the Palestinian side for fear of backlash. Say by the Israelis or even by the Americans. The other factor is of course we also have what we called as a Strategic Trade Act. Where we have strategic trade controller. Where the purpose of this Strategic Trade Act is to regulate importation and exportation of what we called as dual used products.

So, for example say if we are exporting certain parts and components for E&E sector to Palestine. Now, we also have to ensure that this so-called parts and components will not be used for any other purpose apart from industrial purposes. Because this parts and components can also be used to arm the Palestinian for reuse as weapons.

Now, if this happen and then of course this will be a cause of concern and of course then we will also invite retaliatory measures. One of course, we will be called upon to explain at the United Nations because this act is of course governed by United Nations and of course we also have to deal with our major trading partner in a form of United States of America.

So, based on this, on these four factors we will have to explore first to how we can actually enhance our trade and investment with the Palestinian side. Thank you.

Tuan Pengerusi: *Okey, thank you. I understand the Ministry of Finance is here, as well right? So, one of the suggestions I had a meeting with the Palestinian which brings up to this hearing is that they requesting for a waiver on import tax, Malaysian import tax for Palestinian goods coming in. What's the status on that? What kind of import tax we impose? What rate? And is it possible to get a waiver on this issue?*

Puan Siti Norazlina binti Seni [Ketua Seksyen Bahagian Cukai (Cukai Tidak Langsung)]: *Terima kasih Yang Berhormat. Saya Siti Norazlina daripada indirect tax section under Tax Division MOF. My colleague is Encik Saravana. He is from Multilateral Section in Tax Division. So far, kita tiada apa-apa di peringkat Jabatan Kastam dan juga Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri. Kita tidak ada apa-apa agreement directly or indirectly dengan pihak Palestin. So, kita treat Palestin sebagai sama macam negara-negara lain yang tidak ada apa-apa perdagangan bebas dengan kita. So, any imputation from Palestine is taxable and macam isu yang dibangkitkan tadi mengenai dates, so far, we— kita tidak pernah imposed duti import ke atas kurma. So, is free duty actually for dates. A fresh or dried date. So, import duty zero. SST juga zero.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *Okay, but are you aware of any other goods that the Palestinian are selling to us other than dates that you imposed a tax one and what tax rate are you looking at?*

Puan Siti Norazlina binti Seni: *Sorry Yang Berhormat. Saya tidak bawa apa-apa data mengenai barang yang kita import daripada Palestin. Maybe kita akan semak secara berasingan dengan pihak kastam apa barang yang kita import, then kita akan semak berapa cukai yang dikenakan.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *What I'm saying is well we don't have a tax treaty or any trade document with Palestine. The Ministry of Finance still have the power to waive certain things, right?*

Puan Siti Norazlina binti Seni: *Ya. For import duty, excise duty, export duty and SST, the Minister has power to waive or reduce the tax.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *So, do me a favor. Get me a list of— if you can get the data. Get me a list Palestinian goods other than dates or other than those that have zero tax that comes in and see whether we can get a waiver for them.*

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Because I think the number is extremely small. It's not going to hurt us any bit as well ya, because a trade volume is 1.3 million, I think it's a very-very small amount.

Puan Siti Norazlina binti Seni: *We will check with customs. Okay.*

Puan June Leow Hsiad Hui [Hulu Selangor]: Terima kasih Tuan Pengerusi dan juga Ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa. Soalan saya cuma hanya hendak menekankan daripada segi Kementerian Luar Negeri melihatkan kekejaman Israel terhadap rakyat di Palestin. Apakah tindakan daripada isu keselamatan rakyat dan tindakan yang diambil oleh kerajaan kita? Oleh sebab walaupun taklimat yang diberikan adalah memang kita mengutuk tetapi pada tapak pada dasar itu, kan. Apa yang kita fokuskan, macam mana kita hendak bantu rakyat di Palestin. Itu yang penting.

Begitu juga sekatan ataupun langkah apa yang kita boleh ambil terhadap Israel dengan kekejamannya. Adakah isu ini dibincangkan di pihak PBB untuk tindakan dengan keseluruhannya sebab kita nampak isu ini sudah berlarutan dan berpanjangan. Akan tetapi setakat ini dengan keseluruhannya tindakan untuk membantu rakyat ataupun kanak-kanak di Palestin nampaknya tidak ada penyelesaian walaupun kita sudah memberikan sumbangan berlarutan sebanyak RM46 juta. Itu yang saya rasa kita perlu fokuskan. Terima kasih Tuan Pengerusi.

Tuan Pengerusi: Susulan daripada soalan tersebut, saya hendak tanya sama ada *donation* sebanyak RM4.6 juta puratanya setahun, *is that sufficient? Shouldn't we be doing a bit more or is there a formula by or the OIC countries that we have to adhere to? You know, I am sure the Saudi will be paying a lot more than us but on what basis is this number calculated?*

Encik Fairuz Adli bin Mohd Rozali: Terima kasih Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat sekalian. *We duly take note of the comments made by Ahli-ahli Yang Berhormat. On what we can do more, we can always do more but there is also limitations to what we can do considering that it we don't have any relations with Israel. As what MITI had mention also we have also to take into consideration other aspects and effectors that involved when dealing with Palestine as much as we give 110 percent support to the Palestine.*

In terms of that our fight also goes on to at the PBB and the OIC. I think we also cosponsor resolutions to criticize Israel. The best ability that we can through diplomacy. On the contributions as I mentioned tadi Tuan Pengerusi, that possible I will provide a list separately to Tuan Pengerusi on the contributions provided and whether we can do more, we have to study that, sir.

Tuan Pengerusi: *My last comment before invited the our guest in to testify, is that it's quite clear that don't have a geographical border with Palestine, right. So there is a lot of limitations to what we can do nor do we have enough soft power or real power to make effect a*

real change. What we do have Palestinian living in Malaysia and we do have an obligation to treat them as our brothers and sisters and to do a bit more when they are in exile in our country to do a bit more to improve trade. If there is an import duty tax to wave, let's wave that. If there is a council that we need to do as Dato' Sri has mention, then we let's do the business council.

So, other than that I just want to thank everybody for your input and we will be making recommendation and we do expect both ministries to give us a reply within three month as mandated by the new parliamentary culture-lah so to speak, you know to get feedback from all recommendations that we do. So with that, I would like to thank everybody. Thank you so much.

We have five minutes break to rearrange the chairs, thank you.

[Mesyuarat ditempokkan pada pukul 10.44 pagi]

[Mesyuarat bersambung semula pada pukul 10.55 pagi]

[Delegasi daripada Ahli Parlimen Palestine (Al-Quds) dan Palestinian Cultural Organisation Malaysia mengambil tempat di depan Jawatankuasa]

Tuan Pengerusi: *Well, Honourable Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar, I hope I pronounced it correctly. Welcome to Malaysia and welcome to Malaysian Parliament. I hope that you are given a good tour and see our facilities. We will try to open up the main hall for you later. So that you can at least get the sense of the Parliament itself. Perhaps we can have Mr. Muslim Imran, maybe you want to introduced some of your friends here and also Sheikh can also introduce your people. Thank you.*

Mr. Muslim Imran [Chairman of the Palestinian Cultural Organisation Malaysia]: *Assalamualaikum and very good morning to you all. Thank you YB Wong Chen and the rest of the friends here. My name is Muslim Imran. I am the CEO of the Palestinian Cultural Organization Malaysia, a Palestinian NGO, based in Kuala Lumpur. Along with me today are some good friends from different places. On top of them is Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar, the Chairman of the League of Parliamentarian for Al-Quds of Jerusalem who happens to be a Yameni MP as well, an active politician and businessman.*

Next to him is our good friend as well Dr. Ahmed Alnajjar. He will be translating Sheikh Hamid's speech. Next is Mr. Abdallah Beltagi from the League of Parliamentarian for Al-Quds, next is Mr Abdallah Waleed, my Deputy, the Palestinian Cultural Organization and on the right side is Mr. Muad Zaki. He is a Maldivian politician and businessman and he is heading the Friends of Palestine group in the Maldives. Next is Dr. Syed Mohamad he is the head of Friends of Palestine Network in Malaysia. That's all.

Tuan Pengerusi: *Thank you. So, I will like to ask Sheikh to start his testimony or hearing. Thank you.*

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Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar [Ahli Parlimen Yemen Merangkap President of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds]: *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. Thank you very much for allowing me and giving me this chance to make a brief introduction about what is going on in the ground of Palestine and the Al-Quds. I have my Dr. Alnajjar, doing the translating. I will try to start in English, then we continue in Arabic and he will be translating. In fact, what is going on in the ground today can be followed easily by the media. But it is really very serious.*

It has a lot of headlines today, the Palestinian struggle, what the so-called the Israelis are doing in the ground is just trying to empty Jerusalem from Al-Quds, from the owner of that city to change the reality, to change the history, to enforce new reality which is related to the what was happening in that Jerusalem. The life of the Palestinian and Al-Quds is miserable in all aspects. They are expense from their houses, they are prevented to build the new houses, they are very poor, they have no means of life, they struggle a lot to go from one place to the other, they can be killed at any time without a reason, and they have a lot of difficulties in their daily life.

I can start what I have already prepared in Arabic and Dr. Alnajjar will do the translating. Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim. [Berucap dalam bahasa Arab] I will try to read it in English. So, it will save some of your time. The Palestinian cause is going through one of its most crucial stages. One which is as serious as the stage that led to the establishment of the “State of Israel” after a series of massacres committed by Zionist gangs against the Palestinians, their lands and villages. Today, Israel continues with its crimes seeking to Judaize Occupied Palestine while taking advantage of circumstances in the region and the world. The exhausting wars in different Arab countries— You know that a lot of Arab countries are today very busy with their internal issues and some other Arab countries of today really trying to bridge some good friendship between the Israelis and who pays the bill is Palestine, unfortunately.

There are some figures which we can talk about it. Palestinian today number more than 13 million around the world. Half of this numbers, 6.587 million live in Historic Palestine. More than 340,000 are in Al-Quds, in the eastern part of the Occupied Jerusalem, making up 38 percent of the total number of Jerusalem population. Christians, who constituted 10 percent of the population in Palestine before 1948, are today almost to one percent only of the population of Al-Quds.

70 years into the declaration of the establishment of the ‘State of Israel’, the Occupation Authorities have continued to kill, oppress and displace Palestinians and seize their land. In Gaza,

Israel launched more than four major wars since it has imposed the siege in 2007, killing and wounding thousands of Gaza people. Today, it seems to be preparing for a new war on the Strip under security pretext with no intention whatsoever to lift the siege.

In the West Bank, Israel spares no effort to storm Palestinian towns, arrest and even kill Palestinians there, not to mention its settlements that are planted throughout the West Bank and keep expanding at the expense of Palestinian land. The main aim Israelis are aiming to change the reality in Al-Quds which had happened. Now, just 38 percent Arab lives there and there are Israelis.

One of the tools they used to do this is to make the life of the Palestinian very miserable. They have no means of life and they have big taxes. They take these taxes for nothing. They finance their own plans to build yaani a new block for Israelis. Just maybe five percent of these taxes are spend on the Palestinians and 95 percent of it would be spent in their own plans. Again, to Palestinians who are you take their money and you didn't spend it on them. It makes their life very miserable. They have a lot of plans to empty the Al-Quds from the Palestinian. They have withdrawn their identity cards and the number of identity cards withdrawn have been grown rapidly especially since Netanyahu is in place since 2009. All these things are really talking about today had been increased since Netanyahu came but even increase more since Trump came. The presence of the Netanyahu himself, they are— all what Netanyahu was doing was even getting worst by Trump and place in the White House. It is very clear.

In the other hand, settlements. It didn't stop and they will not stop making— Available data indicates that settlements have been encouraging on the West Bank, including the eastern part of Jerusalem. In the West Bank, Israel has established more than 130 settlements, in addition to outposts established by settlers and retrospectively legitimized by the Occupation Authorities.

Today, more than 400,000 settlers live in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, compared to 198,000 in 2000. Settlement is a constant in the Zionist ideology, the pace of which may be influenced by international condition and atmosphere, yet no to be abandoned under any circumstances. In figures, approval of settlement units in east Al-Quds has increased by nearly 33 percent since Netanyahu took over as Prime Minister as I already stated and this number of new settlements has been increased as well since Trump had been in the White House.

The next point what they are doing is home demolitions and construction bans. They make their own laws regardless of how right are this laws or not right. They implement the only Palestinians. They take this laws as the reason to demolish lots of properties of the Palestinians. They will enforce you a good citizen to demolish your own house. Otherwise, you will be penalty by big penalty which is more than what you will spend in demolishing your own house.

■1110

So, not just taking you out of your house, they will enforce you to demolish it yourself. At the same time, they make their plans— urban plans for Jerusalem. The area which is located for the Palestinian is less than eight percent of the city plan. Less than two percent is for the public needs of this Palestinian and this plan, this very small percentage had never been approved by the authorities. Even though with a very few percentages are located for the Palestinian, very-very few of it for their public need is even not approved by the authorities.

Then, if you would like to have an extension in your own house, it is a very big process. Almost impossible to do it, very expensive. To get a license to expand or renew your own house, you will need to spend more than you will spend in building a new house just to keep up your house maintain. It is just another way of telling them to go away, don't stay here. You will be taken out from your house, you will be forced to demolish and destroy your house yourself, otherwise you will pay a lot of money and if you continue to live in your house, there are no services around you, there is no public services building to serve you and it is very difficult for you to maintain this small house which you live in. This is the summary of how miserable you would face your life would be if you are Palestinian Al-Quds today.

Tuan Pengerusi: *Sheikh, can I ask you one question?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Yes.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *In Al-Quds surely there must be property law, right. I mean there must be land laws, people are giving the title and if they put all this in position, if they make life miserable for the Palestinian, are the Palestinian selling their house away or what is happening?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Well, they try not to sell and of course they have gone through all this process. People home they can push them to sell, already had sold. We are talking about the people who refuse to leave their city or refuse to sell their land. If you are Palestinian in Al-Quds, you will have a very attractive offer for your piece of land. You will be offered millions of dollars for some pieces of land. Even though this poor people are refusing to sell their land, refusing to sell their small houses, there will be willing to stay. If you are a Palestinian Al-Quds, you can expect that the gangster would come to your small house at any time, claiming that this house is his house. If you have two rooms in your house, you will stay in one room and you can't take him out without going to the court.*

Going to the court means spending lots of money, spending two or three years just to prove that he has no rights to share your house with you, while he has already sharing your house with you. This is what is going on there. These gangsters are protected by the Israelis and they do what they want.

To reply to your question, the biggest majority of the remaining Palestinian Al-Quds are refusing to sell their land and it is very difficult for them to buy new land, very-very difficult. They will not be allowed to buy. The new laws will not allow the Palestinian to buy and force them to sell and not allowing them to buy.

We go to the next issue which is targeting Masjidil Al-Aqsa itself and trying to enforce plotting over Masjidil Aqsa. Time wise and place wise, it has been rapidly growing the number of attacks to Masjidil Aqsa itself by the Israelis in the last year. We have already— all of us had followed up the Israelis act to prevent Muslim to go to the Masjidil Aqsa and pray, to close some of the gates of Masjidil Aqsa, to take out the prayers from the Masjidil Aqsa. Talking about what is going on underneath Masjidil Aqsa is another thing, they are trying to make a false history. They haven't proven anything that they have rights underneath Masjidil Aqsa.

They have been digging and working underneath Masjidil Aqsa for years. If they have proven anything, they will come to you and come to the whole world say this is our right, this is what we found. They cannot do it because there is nothing there, they cannot claim any historical rights but in reality they are making a false history down there with the support of Americans. This is underneath, over the land as well preventing the prayers to go there.

We are following this week; prayers will go out at fajr, very early morning to pray. After they finish praying, hundreds of soldiers will enter into Masjidil Aqsa expelling them outside. Muslim believed I have the right to stay at my mosque to read Quran, to make iktikaf, to spend as much time as they want in this house of the God. This is the any Muslim believe of the yaani mosque mission, the mosque is not for just to pray five minutes and go out. I need to spend more time with my God, that's the place al masjid. They are prevented of staying at their own masjid, while outside of the Masjidil Aqsa, they have their freedom to stay day and night in what they called [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab] They call it [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab].

Dr. Ahmed A.A. Alnajjar Afaf [Jurubahasa]: *Willing wall.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Willing wall. We call it [Berucap dalam bahasa Arab]. Today, they bring Israelis tourists into our Masjidil Aqsa preventing the Muslim prayers to go to their own mosque. Here, I have a chart will show you the increase number of attacks from the Israelis against the Masjidil Aqsa itself which had reached yaani big number, 29,000 times.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *Sheikh, they attack in what shape and form? Are they like police raiding or they beat up people or what do they do?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *They do all of it. They will empty the Masjidil Aqsa from everybody even the masjid keepers, the cleaners over Masjidil Aqsa and they will kill people inside Masjidil Aqsa which had happened yesterday.*

Dr. Ahmed A.A. Alnajjar Afaf: *No, no, yesterday outside. I mean in the— Yesterday, the killed the Palestinian outside the court of Masjidil Aqsa, in one road that is leading to the Masjidil Aqsa. Previously they have committed several massacres and in one massacre, 25 people were killed inside the Masjidil Aqsa, shooting inside the Haram, inside the place where the Imam leads prayers happen several times. It is very frequent that the attack at Masjidil Aqsa Mubarak almost in daily basis.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Last month they have had the resolution that Sheikh Alhumamah Sabri. Sheikh Alhumamah Sabri is a grad university of Al-Quds and that is his place. He is banned, he cannot go to the mosque himself for several months yaani the students inside the Masjidil Aqsa. Masjidil Aqsa just has the normal rules of any masjid in Muslim territory. It is a mosque, it's a place where you learn Quran, you have students inside there and they are banned, they cannot go to continue their study.*

So, this is one of the sides what the Israelis are doing. They are trying to change the demography over Al-Quds by spilling the owner of that city, minimizing the number of Palestinian inside the Al-Quds to reach 58 percent. They are not satisfied with the 58 percent, they will like to make it even less and this 58 percent population yaani Palestinian population are living very miserable times. They are very poor, they are suffering very big taxes which they are not benefiting all of it and they have very miserable time there. Even with their own freedom of worshipping inside the Masjidil Aqsa they are banned, even the religious leaders are banned to enter and they can be even killed with no reason. No real reason.

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Tuan Pengerusi: *Sheikh, can I ask one question? In 1967 before the war, what was the percentage of Palestinian Arab— well, Palestinian Muslim living in Al-Quds?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Majority would be more than 80 percent, I think. [Disampuk] More than 90 percent. More than 90 percent. [Disampuk] In the Ottoman era, everybody was welcome to live. So, there is a percentage of Jewish. We have no problem with Jewish. What our problem is Zionist. The Jewish believers they were welcome living in peace under the rule of the Ottoman for centuries. The Christian as well.*

Today... [Disampuk] In Islam Allah SWT instructed us that the people who are not fighting us, we have no means to fight them and they have their own beliefs. One more issue happening in Al-Quds Jerusalem is what is going on against Christian's properties. More than 80 percent had been taken by the Jewish. As the church, cathedral, as the properties, they have already been taken it. I remember in two or three months ago, they have even blocked the electricity and water from one the main church inside of Al-Quds. Just to make people to leave their properties.

Tuan Pengerusi: *My colleagues is a staunch Christian. [Ketawa] [Bercakap tanpa menggunakan pembesar suara]*

Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew [Sibu]: *[Ketawa] How many Christian before 1967?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *10 percent.*

Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew: *Two percent?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *10 percent.*

Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew: *10 percent.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Today, one percent.*

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: *1.7. [Bercakap tanpa menggunakan pembesar suara]*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Today is not more than 1.7, while they were 10 percent.*

Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew: *Oh, so getting less.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *10 of the percentage of that time. Almost 10.*

Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew: *Okay.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *So...*

Tuan Oscar Ling Chai Yew: *Okay. Getting less than before.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Yes. Much, much less. So, for the Christian holy sites, another target of the Occupation. Christian holy sites are also targeted by the Occupation where aggression is carried out by official authorities and by settlers who enjoy official protection that makes them evade punishment. Aggression includes price tag attacks and writing graffiti on the walls of churches and monasteries, insulting the Christ and his mother as well as the Christian religion. You know by Islam, we should respect all prophets including Isa, Musa— all of them and in Islam we have a lot of big dignity to Mariam. This is part of our belief of course and attacking any prophet is just like attacking Prophet Muhammad, in our beliefs.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *So, Sheikh you are saying that the Christian also suffered the same? Same treatment as the Palestinian?*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Yes.*

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: *One very famous priest called Hannah Atallah, he was poisoned a month ago. More than a month ago and he was shown on TV accusing that Zionist Occupation of poisoning him. Trying to kill him. It was found in YouTube.*

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *One more thing happening there is for the education. Until today the education for the Palestinian is controlled by the Palestinian through the Jordanian to a certain extent which will protect them from changing the reality in their minds. Raising up the children and the correct way they think they should be raise up to— today the Israelis are trying to control the education system in the Al-Quds including the Palestinian where they will import in*

these little heads what they want. Changing the reality. Just like what they are trying to create a false history. They would like to transfer this false history to the new generation. I would be raising my kids with different reality in house and in school. They hear something. They hear the reality here in my house but when they go to school, they hear different story. The story is built up by Israelis, enforce in their head without giving me the right to really protect my child of enforcing a false information in their head.

We go to the next issues which is the wall. The Separation Wall was started in 2002, Israelis started to build the Separation Wall around the West Bank including East Jerusalem— 700 kilometers. Dr. Ahmed have that, reminding me. Under security pretext. About 85 percent of the route of the wall passes in the 1967 Occupied Territories while Israelis confiscated thousands of dunums of Palestinian land to built it. It's not just taking the Palestinian land, it's separating the different part of the West Bank from each other and today to move from one village to the other, which is maybe 30 kilometers, you need four hours to go from one place to the other and you will be passing through a lot of check points. In these check points, you should aspect all kind of humiliation. When you stop there, lady or a man— there is no respect for anybody— child or elderly. You would be in a big danger and you will spend a lot of time to go from one place to the other in the West Bank because of this Separation Wall.

To protect this illegal Separation Wall, they will demolish some of the Palestinian properties. Considering that this building, historical buildings is putting the wall— the illegal wall in danger. The security of the illegal wall in danger. So, they should be destroyed.

In summary, the conclusion the Palestinian issue and specially Jerusalem is today at a big danger. As Israel is dedicating huge efforts to resolve the future of the city for its interest and according to its narrative and vision. This is so amidst grave American support and disintegrating position of some Arab regimes inclined towards normalization at the expense of the Palestinian issue, the Palestinians and their rights.

To face this very bad reality for our Palestinian brothers, we need to have stronger position, protecting them and their rights. It's a humanitarian issue at the beginning and then, it is of course a right for all Palestinian, a right for all Christian and Muslim. As well to protect some of their mosque, holy places in this earth.

Malaysia, alhamdulillah is doing well and it's a good support for all this fair right of the Palestinian. I would highlight some of what another country is doing which is Turkey. So, you can compare and benefit. In Turkey, I can feel— I'm heading this League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds which is based in Istanbul. The last four years we have been very close to the Turkish

authorities, follow up on lots of matters. We have clearly seen that the Palestinian struggle very important issue to the Turkish state.

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Turkey believes that they are responsible for Palestine. Regardless what the others would do. Even if everybody will do or do not do, they believe that it is their responsibility. We respect what is going on here and we think that Malaysia should continue and even put more effort on this. In Turkey, as we are now and I am trying to highlight the Turkish position towards the Palestinian struggle. Everybody is caring out the Palestine issue. From President Erdoğan to the Prime Minister— when there was a Prime Minister— to all the Ministers to the Parliament. Here, we are very proud that this is ascertain into good extent happening in Malaysia, insya-Allah it will continue.

Another issue I have notice in Turkey. In Turkey, it just like some any other democratic country between party it would find big fights. But when it comes to the Palestine issue, they are all united. They have sign last week, yaani one piece of paper, all of them, there are five groups. In the Parliament, there is five Parliamentarian groups for the first time. In the last five to six years for the first time that they sign one yaani, yes agreement which is that they are standing together, family against anything happening to the Palestinian in Al-Quds refusing what so-called the century deal refusing yaani Trump's willingness to change the place of their Embassy to Al-Quds and protecting the rights of the Palestinian.

In Turkey, what we found as well as there are a lot of charities in Turkey. Serving the Turkish people needs but all these charities would have somehow of some of activities inside Palestine. So, they want who are taking care of the orphan, would have some orphan in Palestine. They want who are taking care the health system, would be having some healthcare programme in Palestine. The charities who are specialized in the educational system, would be yaani adopting a lot of activities inside Palestine supporting the Palestinian. I wish insya-Allah to see a growing interest and present of the Malaysian charities inside Palestine.

They can use the background of the Turkish charities to facilitate their entries into the Palestine reality. That, of course working according to the international community yaani. [Berucap dalam bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf : According to their criteria.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: Yes, according to this criteria, international criteria and the UN criteria. So, everything is very clear but this support is very important for the people all over Al-Quds. It will keep them alive; it will give them another reason of live. They are very poor; they need a support to stay in their land. So, insya-Allah we can see more of this. In the Turkish

Parliament, the Palestinian committee is very important committee. Headed by yaani a very permanent Members of Parliament. We have followed up this establishment of the committee here and the Malaysia Parliament, which we thank you very much for it and we are looking for more active roles for this committee to discover support the Palestinian struggle as Parliament here, insya-Allah.

We as well should talk about what is going on in Gaza. Gaza needs this support. This siege in Gaza which has mean their formula in previous, has no reason to continue and the Gaza people are living under very miserable condition. Insya-Allah we should yaani collectively to what we should to stop this siege and to open to those for Gaza people to the world. There is no reason to keep this around two million Palestinian siege and that very small piece of land, 365 kilometers. This is Gaza. Two million population. No men of lives. No electricity, no clean water, no port and no airport. The only way to go to the well is Egypt and this is yaani close maybe 250 days and the air or even more. Is open once every week.

There is no mean of pertaining two million people in present with no reason. Is a punishment without a reason. Of course, we should yaani encourage our Malaysian brothers and friends to continue their air force. [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: To boycott is administrative.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: And not accept any kind normalization with the Israeli.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: And to each you a resolution or decision...

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: Allow...

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: ...To allow, to criminalize normalization with the Israeli entity.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: Issuing a law on these regards is the thing that guarantee that nobody will violate such a thing and go to have normalization with the...

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: This thing is implementing than the different country.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: [Berucap dalam Bahasa Arab]

Dr. Ahmed A. A. Alnajjar Afaf: This is one way to praise our solidarity with the Palestine and people and the world support to them.

Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar: *Thank you all for giving with me the chance to give you some highlights some about what is going on in Al-Quds and Gaza. It's changing some idea about how can we really continue supporting the Palestine-Israeli. Thank you.*

Tuan Pengerusi: *Thank you Sheikh Hamid. First, we are- I think I can speak on behalf of my Members of Parliament here that we are very touched by your stories. We are having a better understanding after your explanation, what is really going on. We understand now you know at least directly from you the suffering of the people in Gaza and also in the West Bank. For our part, I can speak on behalf of all the Parliamentarian here, in Malaysia here, that I don't see any political party out there that is pro-Israel on this issue or pro Zionist.*

Most of us are either from human rights background we are- I am a Buddhist, He is Christian, she is Buddhist too you know, we are not Muslims but we understand human issues and we are for human rights, so we will support and do our best. So, we will write a recommendation based on your testimony on how to move forward and one of them is to try to get all the Parliamentarians to maybe sign a simple pledge to be united on the Palestinian issue.

Second thing, we quite interested in your suggestion to work with the Turkish charities because we did before your testimony we had the hearing from our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also from the international trade of our government that you know they do go through the OIC and UNGA to do their charity work but we can open up maybe and extension to work with Turkish charity's directly, so that something that we can also recommend.

Now, I am going to invite Mr. Muslim, my good friend, to talk about you know the Palestinian who are living in Malaysia, their experience here and see how we can help them. Now, we fully understand Sheikh Hamid that Malaysia is not near Palestine and that we do have international trade issues and I am aware of the Israeli you know. Some of the goods are arriving in Malaysia indirectly and some of goods go outside, ends up there indirectly through other third party as well. So, we were trying to consider the boycott issue a bit more seriously. That is one of our recommendation but proudly you know as people say we can do what we can do. [Ketawa]

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So, the thing we can really do is our friends are here in exile in Malaysia. So, I would like to invite Mr. Muslim to ask if you have any request to make the Palestinian life here in Malaysia much better. So, thank you. Please.

Mr. Muslim Imran: *Thank you very much Yang Berhormat Subang and the rest of the panelist. I wish to congratulate you for holding this hearing and for the development that I see in Malaysian Parliament have been following developments in Malaysian political context and I see*

that the Parliament is taking up important roles now. I really hope this will continue and it would be for the best interest of the Malaysian people and their friend worldwide.

My friend here, Sheikh Hamid has presented the situation in Palestine in Jerusalem. He has portrayed the human damage and of all struggles and I wish to touch on a bit on the recent political development. Then dwell into Malaysia role in Palestine and what our expectation as Palestinian and as Palestinian living in Malaysia are. I will conclude the proposal, a brief proposal.

We all know that Israel has been created as a result of shifting the international balance of power. It was very unfortunate for the Palestinian and the people of West Asia and North Africa. In general, at the end of World War I and later on at the end of World War II, we were the receiving end and the Israeli settlers malicious were able to take over the state of Palestine or the land of Palestine and created their own Zionist entity in Palestine. This work facility by the complicity of certain European super power of the time especially the United Kingdom.

I start with this to highlight the impact of the international political power play is very important when it comes to small states like Palestine. Changes in the international political system will have tremendous effect on small country like ours. The end of the cold war and the demise of the Soviet Union has cornered the Palestinian in the 1990s and resulted in the Palestinian political leadership accepting an unfair political settlement in the name of the Oslo Accords which would supposedly result in the establishment of Palestinian state over 22 percent of historic Palestine.

25 years later, we see that has never materialized. Israeli government sense the departure of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Until today, continue to avoid delivering the commitments and the Oslo Accords, and they have been haunting the two-state solution which they pretended to accept and the Palestinian state which were supposed to materialize within few years, did not see the light of day until today.

As we speak, this very proposal that was supposed to end the conflict in Palestine has been— I would say under Israeli attack for so many years and it was declared dead by President Trump of the United States. Linking again with the influence of the international political system, when President Trump announced a few weeks ago on the 28th of January, his “peace plan” or the Deal of the Century, it was very clear that the Palestinian are going to face yet another [Tidak jelas] over the rights and their very existence.

When President Trump came to power in the United States, his vengeance for peace in the Middle East towards unfortunately crafted by his white supremacist advisors and especially by his son-in-law, his unqualified and incompetent advisor Jared Kushner who after months of deliberation and the discussion, came out with a proposal that would make— would ridicule and

make mockery of any peace initiative that have taken place over the last century. The Zionist Kushner vengeance for peace in the Middle East ignores one century of conflict and ignores all multilateral efforts that have taken places over the years.

This vengeance proposed by President Trump is not only ignoring the existence of the Palestinian. The Palestinian was not consulted in this peace plan and they were not present when this Deal of the Century was announced. It not only ignores the existence of Palestine but it also tries to undermined the rights and it ignores the root cause of the problem which is Israeli occupation and Israeli domination of over Palestinian.

In the round up this announcement by President Trump, the United States administration under President Trump has wait a [Tidak jelas] against the Palestinian national rights. It undermined the right of return of many Palestinian refugees by weakening the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that's way before announcing the Deal of the Century. It undermined the identity of city of the Jerusalem by American announcement to move embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and recognized Jerusalem as capital of the Israel occupation. It undermined Palestinian right to resist. A right which is [Tidak jelas] international laws and the norms through financial war against Palestinian political institution and Palestinian political affection and through pushing for the criminalization of Palestinian resistance and United Nations general assembly two years ago. This fail of course and the current American administration has as we mentioned earlier disregarded any multilateral efforts over the years to resolve the conflict. It completely ignored dozens of United Nations security council resolutions pertaining the struggle in Palestine.

All these efforts will end in vain. The Israel occupation, no matter how strong the backing it gets from certain international power will not break the will of the Palestinian to resist. They will resist and they will eventually get the freedom just like any other nation in this free world.

However, there is the real danger on the Palestinian identity. On the Palestinian land, we talking about danger on the Palestinian identity in the form of the transformations of the identity of the city of Jerusalem which is the capital and the central of the Palestinian identity. The Palestinian identity has been formed over the city of Jerusalem for centuries and now Israeli is attempting to Judaize it with an American cover. There is danger over the Palestine identity with ethnic cleansing plan that will articulated in Trump's peace plan. They are talking about forcing out hundred of thousand of Palestinian living in Israel today out of the Israeli political system to become citizen of this new Palestinian entity. There is also danger over the Palestinian right of return. So Palestinian identity is being threatened and Palestinian people, their existence are

being threatened. Their physical existence are being threatened on daily basis and of course with the American plan, this become more eminent.

The Palestinian people in Gaza are going through terrible humanitarian crisis as mention and address by my colleague Sheikh Hamid for the last 12 or 13 years. Palestinian in Gaza has been denied everything. The Palestinian people in the West Bank are living under real life, real time apartheid-like system where they are mistreated and treated as second or third or fourth class citizen. The Palestinian in 1948, land are facing the same and Palestinian are continuing to faced extra judicial arbitrary and sometime deliberate killings, just like what happen yesterday and the day before, and the day before.

In addition to massacre that takes place in Gaza and the rest of Palestine every now and then and the thousand of Palestinian detainees' in Israeli jail which are— who are being denied their basic human rights in contradiction and violation of the Geneva Conventions.

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This was a brief— probably not very brief introduction about the current political situation. The background in which we are trying to do something and which we are trying to encourage Malaysia to play a role towards the Palestinians struggle.

Let me touch on the second point in my presentation which is with regards Malaysia status and standing in international affairs is a very good one. Its foreign policies towards Palestine is also very consistent. I will say that although most Malaysia decision maker continue to emphasis that Malaysia is a small state, Malaysia is probably geographically smaller than some of its neighbours, but over the last years, Malaysia has proved that it has the potential and aspiration of a middle power. A middle power a concept defined by politician with the attention to the country's roles in international politics. Malaysia continues to play important and active role regionally and internationally. We can count in some examples; Malaysia has an active peacekeeping force worldwide. Malaysia has continues to provide aids to different nations albeit limited in amount. Malaysia assumed the role of mediator in many of regional conflicts and has successfully help aid in the resolution of some conflict like the one in Philippines. Malaysia leads other like-minded nations in several respect like what we have seen very recently in the KL Summit and Malaysia continues enjoy a tremendous amount of support which probably mean people within Malaysia might not feel or notice, but people in the rest of the OIC member states feel Malaysia provides some sort of role model for the rest of the OIC states in term of its political development and in term of its economic development.

With regards to Palestine, the country has maintained a strong Pro Palestine foreign policy since the year of the late Tunku Abdul Rahman. It was amongst the first country to recognize the

state of Palestine after the 1988 declaration of independence. It was quick to open an embassy for the state of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Organization office was boosted into an embassy status before many other countries, following. Malaysia and Pakistan were the first two countries to do so and it continue to actually sponsored this very Palestinian embassy here in Kuala Lumpur. The country also has over the years welcome Palestinians people, Palestinians through visa on arrival system, something that Palestinian unfortunately don't get in many other states. Its host thousand of Palestinians student. Some of them have scholarship in universities here and it has a growing humanitarian sector which contribute a lot to Palestinian especially in Gaza and Jerusalem.

In fact, I had to miss another event this morning, the launching of ambulances for Gaza programme, not far from here due to this hearing and the afternoon, there will be as I learned there will be a protest against the American Deal of the Century in Kuala Lumpur as well called by several NGOs and political parties. This Saturday will witness the 3rd International Conference of Parliamentarian for Al-Quds of Jerusalem, chair by my friend Sheikh Hamid. The Palestine Friendship Committee which has just been formed in the Malaysian Parliament this year, another example. You name it, there are many examples. All this show Malaysia's commitment towards Palestine.

As a Palestinian, I thank Malaysia for that. I think the Malaysian people, the Malaysian Parliamentarian, the Malaysian Government and I thank them especially for their strong no normalization with Israel policy and I hope this will continue. It gives a huge moral support to the Palestinian at the time of backstabbing from some of our traditional allies in West Asia and the North Africa. I also thank Malaysia for rejecting the Deal of the Century and for its solidarity with Palestinians. But having said so, I think we have to have some substantial measures to strengthen the amount and the intensity of Malaysia support for Palestine.

Palestinian struggle has many friends internationally. But not all of them have the means, capability and commitment that Malaysia does have. How can Malaysia-Palestine? I will try to sum it up in point form in four points. One, on the political level. Two, on the economic level. Three, on the humanitarian level. Four, on the education, cultural and capacity building level.

On the political level, I hope— I won't say Malaysia should, but I try to use more soft term. I hope Malaysia will maintain a no normalization policy with Israel. I hope Malaysia will continue to support the Palestinian and the Palestinian struggle in all international platform like it has done over the years, like Resolution 2334 which was co-sponsored by Malaysia should happen more frequently. I remember speaking with some friends in Wisma Putra after this resolution was co-sponsored by Malaysia, they were worried that if Malaysia sponsors such resolution, some Arab

nations might not like it, but I think Malaysia shouldn't worry much about what other West Asian countries would think of their standing. What matters more is what Malaysia people think of this policy and what the Palestinian, the receiving side think of this policy and both sides are very happy about Malaysia playing active and proactive role towards Palestine.

I hope Malaysia will also continue to rally other nations in supporting the Palestinian struggle like Turkey does in the Middle East. I hope Malaysia will play an active role in other Asian region, the Southeast Asian region and East Asia in general, especially on the Parliamentary level. If they play an active role in engaging Parliamentarian from other countries with regard of Palestine that [Tidak jelas] success.

I would suggest also number four, that Malaysia continue to emphasize on term like apartheid, ethnic cleansing et cetera and its foreign policy discourse. Some of this term which describe exactly what is happening in Palestine has been used by His Excellency the Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in some statement. I hope Wisma Putra will adopt this terminology in some of its statements because that will encourage other nations to follow suit.

I hope also number five, that the Malaysian foreign service will give huge resources to the upcoming Malaysian Embassy in Palestine which is intended to be open in Amman. I hope the team will be sufficient and the current Palestine Desk in Wisma Putra will also be given the needed resources to continue their good work they have been doing.

Finally, on the political level, I do suggest that Malaysia engage all major Palestinian political factions and civil society groups through an open dialog to better understand what the Palestinian needs and want and to exchange experiences in the near future.

On the economic level, a lot can be done. We do have some statistic here, not very pleasant statistic, but it is the reality. I hope a free trade agreement of some sort will be signed with Palestine or at least we could start with unilateral Malaysia move to wave any taxes or tariffs on any Palestinian products coming to Malaysia. The figures in 2018 say that the amount of Palestinian export to Malaysia was USD1.53 million a year which is very insignificant. But it means a lot to Palestinian. Export were mainly fruits, dates and some other primary industry products. I really hope that Malaysia will consider, MITI will consider bringing in more Palestinian products and probably exporting some Malaysian products as well to Palestine.

Number two, I suggest that Malaysian public and private sectors invest in Palestine. This is something that is not spoken about much. People knew little about humanitarian aid or charity towards the Palestine and the Palestine people are very business-minded people. They are very active. The industries although under occupation, but are still flourishing.

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I really hope that Malaysia will invest in Palestine especially in the Gaza Strip in order to provide jobs to the unemployed Palestinian. We are talking about over 70 percent unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip. A few million dollars is investment, one [Tidak jelas] Malaysia— yes there is might be high but it one [Tidak jelas] Malaysia economy, it will mean a lot to the Palestinian.

Number three, I suggest Malaysia contribute in helping the Palestinian in technology transfer in different forms, in different fields especially in helping our primary industries in Palestine through training programme, et cetera.

Four, I suggest that Malaysia provide job opportunities to some Palestinian. You can start with the Palestinian that you have here in the country and I will extent more in the proposal that I have in the conclusion. This will be beneficial to both sides, the Malaysian economy will benefit and some Palestinian who are denied opportunity in many countries due to their passport actually, they will have a better opportunity.

Finally, in the economic level, I suggest that Malaysia reduce to start with, reduce bilateral trade whatever bilateral trade that exist between Malaysia and Israel and unfortunately figures are shocking in the year 2013. The amount of total trade between Malaysia and Israel reached USD1.529 billion, about RM4.9 billion at that time in 2013. I don't think this number has gone down much, it's mainly in the electronics sector. There are alternative in East Asia, much better than what Israel does provide. I know sometimes investors will request certain components to be purchased from there but I would say that if the political will is there, I hope that Malaysia will reduce this bilateral trade which is really an eventually completely ended and I hope that the Parliament here will push for the endorsement of BDS especially of the economic level. (Boycott, divestment and sanction).

On the humanitarian level, I'm trying to go through the points to save time on the humanitarian level. I think Malaysia has been playing a good role especially it civil society groups in adding Palestinian, Malaysian charity has contributed to a lot in Gaza and Jerusalem and the rest of the Palestine but I really hope that more financial and material aid will be committed by the government, I will illustrate more. The focus should be on health sector and education sector in Palestine, health and education. We don't have the needed hospital in Gaza for instance. In some cities which gather for hundreds or thousands of people that are not in hospital at all, big clinic and hundreds of thousand people and you can imagine at the time of crisis when a war start and you don't have a place to hospitalize people, you don't have access to the world to send your patients, it is catastrophic at certain times.

So, it is our hope that Malaysia will give attention to the health sector in Palestine and to education as well. We have good talented student's literacy rate in Palestine is 99.7 which compares very well, compare to the rest of the Middle East but the institution is always undermined by Israeli occupation. The Islamic investors of Gaza has been bombarded on different occasion by the Israeli military. The academic institution in the West Bank has been denied, all kind of facilities and so on. So, my hope is that the Malaysia Government on the humanitarian level will help into respects.

- (i) Help Malaysia humanitarian groups in all ways possible, one through publicity, two through logistic help. A lot of time is Malaysian NGOs want to go to Palestine, to Gaza for instance but they are unable due to logistic... I know Wisma Putra has been helping a lot but I hope more help will be according to this active NGOs; and
- (ii) I really hope that Malaysia Government will increase its annual financial commitment to Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian people. I don't have exact figures of the contribution that the government has but if I may suggest, the number increase and go to maybe USD2 to USD3 million a year that can be spent not only on project inside Palestine but also on Palestinian who come to Malaysia here through capacity building programme, education, scholarship etc.

On the level of education culture and capacity building, I would suggest that more scholarship be offered to the Palestinian, the private sectors in Malaysia has contributed tremendously last year. About 11 Malaysian universities, private academic institutions offered about USD3 million of scholarship to the Palestinian students. We are aware and fortunate and the Palestinian cultural organization to handle this programme which was organized by His Excellency the Prime Minister during our annual dinner but we hope that the public university will contribute in this regard. Some public universities offer Malaysian rate so Palestinian students would have to pay Malaysian rate. This is a very good start. I really hope that this is extended to the rest of the Malaysian public academic institution. The perspective or the idea in Palestine is that Malaysian public investors are better than private universities. So, I really hope that the public investors here will give general contribution to our students.

Two, I hope Malaysia will contribute more and training Palestinian human resources. I'm sure institution like IDFR and others have contributed in the past but I hope more projects will be pledged in and this project will help the Palestinian no matter where they come from, Gaza, West Bank, Palestinian in 1948 land or Palestinian in this— During the previous visit of the former Prime

Minister, Dato' Sri Najib to Gaza, some projects were pledged and were achieved. They said the stone to launch a vocational school in Gaza for instance but this project does not been completed. I really hope that the government will look back at the previous pledges by the different Malaysian Government with regards to Palestine and try to complete those projects.

Three, I look forward to see the Malaysia Government in particular, enhancing cultural exchange between the two nations. There is a lot the Palestinian can learn from the Malaysian side, the different flourishing cultures that we see here in Malaysia, will probably provide an important input to the Palestinian and their struggle. I believe the Malaysian will also benefit from exposure to the Palestinian cultural and Palestinian resilient in the phase of Israeli [Tidak jelas].

Finally, on the level of the education cultural in capacity building, I believe that there is a big growth for Malaysia to play in helping to protect the identity and the cultural of the Palestinian people. When our organization was launched in 2011 by His Excellency Tun Dr. Mahathir, he mentioned in the launching ceremony in his speech that, "it is my hope that this institution will help in protecting the cultural of the Palestinian people". Our cultural is in danger although we continue to fight back but we are facing tremendous pressure. We used to face pressure from the Israeli side, we now face pressure from the Israeli sides and from the right-wing white supremacy in the United States now.

These are some of the level of work that we could discuss and work together on and we will be very open to discuss in further details with the respective institution, Wisma Putra, MITI or any other Malaysian government agency. We have a proposal to conclude with, the proposal is for Malaysia to be a base for Palestinian diaspora. One of the major bases for Palestinian diaspora.

That will be materialized if there are programme to educate, train Palestinian and nature the Palestinian human resources, there are programme to help and developing Palestinian political institution, something that we need a lot. Palestinian when they try to talk about the reconciliation and the resolving the internal political problems, they go to neighboring Arab countries which don't have much to offer. You don't improve your democratic system by learning from non-democratic states. I really hope that Malaysia will contribute in this regard to political develop in the Palestinian context.

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I believe that Malaysia can play a big role if it contributes economically to the Palestinian through as I mentioned earlier investment and utilization of Palestinian human resources. Many Palestinian are leaving as we speak, are leaving some gulf countries due to social political changes within this gulf countries without mentioning names. Many Palestinian are leaving Gaza

due to war and restriction. We all will be maintained the right to come back anytime but they are looking for opportunity elsewhere. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had to leave Syria after the war started years ago and hundreds of thousands Palestinian are now leaving Lebanon due to the restrictions and economics situation over there.

So, we are talking about a big number of people relocating. They maintain the right to return to Palestine whenever opportunity arises but these people are a pool of human resources. The biggest beneficiary so far are Turkey and European Union states and the— I believe that these people are not a burden. These people are an asset if they are welcome and utilize, they can offer an added advantage for the receiving nation. If possible that Malaysia could set some sort of comprehensive program to work with the Palestinian diaspora. We'll be very happy to talk about the details and work with you on this regard.

This was my not very brief presentation about what we hope and expect from Malaysia. The struggle the Palestinian will continue. They have been facing and struggling against occupation for over a century by now, but just like any other nation which resisted occupation and continue to be [Tidak jelas], we will eventually get our freedom, insya-Allah. The support that we have received over the years from our Arab neighbors, from our Muslim friends and from our other friends all over the world will always be remembered.

You go to Bosnia now after the war and see how much respected Malaysia is and how much soft power Malaysia has within the context of Bosnia. This will happen in Palestine if one day we see our freedom coming true. Malaysia will always be a strong friend and a close friend to the Palestinian. I really hope that for this friendship to prosper, more substantial support will come soon. Thank you so much.

Tuan Pengerusi: Thank you very much Mr. Muslim. I expected you to speak at length and passionately and you have delivered that. You have a very long lists of what you ask from us and for the sake of Sheikh Hamid, we are a committee of foreign affairs. So, we do all the foreign affairs and we try our best to make recommendation to our ministries. So, be making— our recommendation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also Ministry of International Trade.

Now, regarding your request for some sort of preferential tariff for goods coming in from Palestine or try to invest— for us to invest in Palestine and all that, we need to really work quickly on getting a bilateral trade agreement done. Because we do have rules we have to apply. We can't give you an exemption until we have a trade agreement, then we can put you under preferential treatment. Because the volume is so small. I don't see much resistance on that. Now, you are one of the primary recommendations will be making as a committee.

Now, I'm also very interested in your cultural story and I think— you know as Sheikh Hamid said, there is a seems to be a move to eliminate or replace you culture in Al-Quds, in Jerusalem, in the whole territories of— the Palestinian territories. So, we could request the government to funds some of this project. So, can have it as oral history or exchange on cultural, music, dances or whatever it is. It is important to maintain these cultures even though many Palestinian are in so called exile and also under occupation. So, we could help in those aspects as well.

As for funding, we'll be making recommendation to increase the fund. We are spending— Malaysian Government contributing about RM4.6 million a year. So that is slightly more than USD1 million. I think that should be improve more. So, of course we make recommendation, I can't guarantee they'll will give you the money. [Ketawa]

Now, all other things no normalization we will pursue that. I think that's how standard things and there will be a push to at least reduce indirect trade with Israel. We have indirect trade— indirectly through components and stuffs like that. I think we can explore options to do something more. But at the same times of course you must understand that Malaysia is a free trade country. We depend highly on trading, international trade. So, if we cannot deliver that to your satisfaction, to very least is we can make invest in your country more.

I think despite the politics of the old government under Prime Minister Najib, I have no issue with him on the personal level. But his promise to do that vocational school, we will bring it up as a recommendation, at least to complete it. Because politics, you know people come and go. But the most important in Malaysia as I express to Sheikh Hamid earlier, I think the country whichever political party in this country, are more less united on humanitarian and human right issues. So, that we will if the vocational school was promise and that we can investigate this further and see which department falls under and then look at the budget. I think the very least is that we should build capacity more in Gaza and also in occupied territories of the West Bank. That is more important. So, whatever information you can give us later on this vocational school, we should do that.

Now, for the lastly let me address the issue about being a based for Palestinian diaspora. I think Malaysia have multiracial situation, you can see Malay, Chinese, Indian and all living together. So, I don't see— and we had 10,000 Bosnian living here during the Bosnian war. We understand, you know. I'm sure we can find a space to bring in brothers and sisters to make this even more diverse and more strong— more diversity, strengthen diversity for the country. It is important because we view this issue politically important to us but also very important for us economically as a trajectory to show that we are part of this global world that we are involve in

human right issues and that we should use this to batter our trade and also batter our soft power at presence in the Middle East area.

So, with that I want to thank all my Members of Parliament and also Datuk Roosme for being here. All of my esteem visitors and I wish you all the very best for your meeting this weekend. I will be joining you all for the Al-Quds meeting and thank you again. Thank you so much.

[Mesyuarat ditangguhkan pada pukul 12.18 tengah hari]