

**Statement by Ambassador Hsu King Bee, the PR of Malaysia  
at the Second Special Session of the HRC concerning  
"Gross Human Rights Violations by Israel in Lebanon"  
Friday, 11 August 2006**

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Mr. President,

Malaysia fully associates itself with the statement by Pakistan, on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

2. As one of the countries that joined the OIC and other concerned countries in requesting the immediate convening of this Special Session of the Human Rights Council, Malaysia underlines the expectations of the international community, especially the victims of human rights violations, that this Council must live up to its mandate in addressing situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations of human rights, and making recommendations thereon.
3. For more than four weeks now the people of Lebanon has been subjected to brutal military aggression by Israel. The loss of lives, suffering as well as massive destruction of civilian infrastructure, public and private properties have been horrendous, to say the least. International condemnation and numerous calls for an immediate end to the disproportionate and callous military force unleashed unto Lebanon and its people have been ignored and forcefully rejected.
4. Instead we are witnessing daily, increase in the human misery, in particular those of children, women and the elderly in what has turned out as an all out war against a country where attacks on and massacre of innocent civilians are considered fair game. Larger and larger parts of Lebanon are being rampantly destroyed as Israel continues its relentless assault and bombardments of civilian properties, facilities and infrastructure. The Israeli war machine once again has arrogantly displayed its capacity and readiness to exact excessive and disproportionate force on defenceless civilian population. Even United Nations observers have not been spared.
5. Gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by Israel in Lebanon have thus continued unabated, with no sign to their end. On the contrary, the situation is rapidly deteriorating as the aggressor is intent on expanding its military offensive. Plainly this is yet another testimony to the brutality of a State which remains blind to even the most basic principles of human rights, including the right to life, food, shelter and health as well as humanitarian laws, including those of the Geneva Conventions.

6. We have heard repeated warnings by United Nations relief agencies and other NGOs over the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country. They have alerted us that the on-going bombardments in Lebanon are hindering access to emergency relief supplies and to services for the thousands who are trapped in the conflict and those who have had to leave their homes. This situation is clearly unacceptable and must be immediately readdressed. Humanitarian access to those in need must be facilitated, <sup>indeed</sup> if not ensure.

7. We should not forget that the people of Lebanon had once been subjected to the military invasion and occupation by Israel before. Today they are subject to this again. Similarly the international community should also not forget the ongoing Israeli atrocities which continue unabated in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. We take this opportunity to reaffirm our solidarity with them.

Mr. President.

8. The excessive and disproportionate use of force against Lebanon cannot be justified on whatever grounds. What is happening in Lebanon today constitutes gross and systematic violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. The international community, in particular members of this Council have the duty and moral responsibility to ensure Israel is held accountable and not allowed to continue to get away with impunity for the atrocities committed.

9. It is incumbent upon the Human Rights Council, the principal body within the UN system created as a strengthened UN human rights machinery and which so many of us have placed such high expectations, to make clear and unequivocal pronouncement on this unacceptable situation. We in the Council must condemn the grave violation of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in Lebanon perpetuated by Israel. We must remind Israel to abide by its obligations under human rights law and to immediately cease military operations against civilian populations and objects as this inevitably result in death, destruction and serious violations of human rights. We must despatch a high-level Inquiry Commission to Lebanon as proposed in the draft resolution presented by the OIC as this represents a concrete measure to address the ongoing violations of human rights and humanitarian law by Israel in Lebanon. Together with the international community, we must provide urgently humanitarian and financial assistance to Lebanon in dealing with this devastation inflicted on it. Action by the Council in this direction will be a true test to our own humanity, our own conscience and our commitment to protect and promote human rights by putting a stop to this ~~gross and systematic~~ <sup>gross and systematic</sup> violation of human rights in Lebanon.

Thank you.