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**General Assembly
Thirty-second plenary
meeting
The Tenth Emergency
Special Session
(resumed)**

**Statement by
H.E. Dr. R.M. Marty M. Natalegawa
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations**

**Agenda Item:
"Illegal Israeli Actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the occupied Palestinian Territory"**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
325 East 38th Street, New York, NY 10016 • Tel. (212) 972-8333 • Fax. (212) 972-9780
www.indonesiamission-ny.org email: ptri@indonesiamission-ny.org

Mr. President,

It is, of course, customary to begin by expressing appreciation for the convening of a meeting; in the present instance, this resumed Tenth Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly.

Indeed, Indonesia has been amongst its chief proponent and therefore is solidly behind its convening.

Yet, we are deeply saddened by the circumstance which requires such emergency session, namely the worsening plight of innocent Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip brought by Israel's military actions and its continued stubborn refusal to heed international calls to bring the military operations to an end.

Indeed, the international community's total rejection of the violence now permeating in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli actions, must be made loud and clear through all appropriate avenues within the United Nations system.

Not least by our General Assembly.

For some three weeks now, the Israeli military operations against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have rightly preoccupied the Security Council, as the organ entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Indeed, after some delay, the Security Council took action by adopting resolution 1860 on 8 January 2009. We draw some encouragement from that decision; mindful at all times, however, of the need to ensure that it would be swiftly implemented.

Alas, one week on, the carnage continues.

Indeed, only earlier today, the UNRWA compound was shelled, thus adding to the catalogue of atrocities committed by Israel.

Mr. President,

Indonesia is outraged by the horrific consequences of Israeli actions.

Indonesia once again, condemns in the strongest manner possible, Israeli military attacks against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, in contravention of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Our august Assembly is mandated by the Charter to bring to attention situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security. Nowhere is this more true than on the situation in the Middle East, with the question of Palestine at its heart.

Today offers the opportunity for the wider membership of the United Nations to express its view on the grave situation in the Gaza Strip.

We must not allow silence on the part of the General Assembly to be wrongly construed as being acquiescence to the on-going carnage caused by Israel.

The international community can not and, indeed, must not, stand idly by as hundreds of innocent civilians- women and children fall victims to Israeli atrocities.

As the death toll mounts; it is clear that every moment counts.

There must be urgent efforts to ensure the protection and safety of innocent civilians.

We must also not forget those who have perished.

The perpetrators of such heinous crimes, in violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, must be held accountable. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Indonesia thus welcomes the adoption by the Council of its resolution on 12 January 2009 deciding, inter alia, for the dispatch of an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate all violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by Israel as the occupying power.

Mr. President,

The continuing violence in the Gaza Strip has greatly worsened the already dire humanitarian situation caused by the more than 18 months of Israeli closures.

Combined with the incessant military attacks, this policy of illegal blockade and closures of the Gaza Strip constitutes nothing less than a collective punishment of an entire people. The number of children victims: more than three hundred killed and in excess of 1500 injured - is harrowing.

Innocent civilians are trapped. Unable to flee the fighting and find refuge.

Israel must immediately and permanently lift the closure and ensure the unhindered and safe access of humanitarian aid and other essential supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

It must also ensure the safe passage of civilian persons and humanitarian personnel into and from the Gaza Strip in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Worse still, Israel has continued its callous practice targeting humanitarian convoys. The shelling of the UNRWA compound illustrates that, despite repeated assurances, Israel has continued to display utter disregard of humanitarian principles.

Indonesia would like to pay tribute to the dedication and sacrifices of the humanitarian personnel. We must extend the fullest support to their courageous efforts.

Mr. President,

For every passing day we bear witness to yet more deaths and destruction.

The price of delay is immeasurable.

Our Assembly must urgently issue a clarion call: end the fighting; reject the logic of force; and promote dialogue and negotiations as the only path towards a just and sustainable peace.

In this connection, Indonesia deems it important that the General Assembly asserts its role, not least as the conscience of the international community; and to add value to the various on-going diplomatic efforts to bring the fighting to an end.

We believe that the Assembly's focus should be to push for a prompt and immediate action.

Again, to bring the fighting to an end.

In this connection, Indonesia would like to pay tribute, in particular, to the strong efforts by the Secretary-General, as well as those of the countries in the region, individually or collectively through the League of Arab States.

Mr. President,

The Charter of the United Nations clearly outlines that maintaining peace and security is one of the purposes of the Organization.

Our General Assembly has a historic responsibility on the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East.

My delegation, therefore, welcomes the intention of the President of the General Assembly to facilitate a formal outcome to our present deliberation.

Of course, we must reiterate the importance of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1860. However, we must do more.

We must build on the said resolution in line with the various concerns expressed during this present Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly.

From Indonesia's perspective, at least two issues stand out, first, the need to urge the international community, including countries in the region, to redouble their efforts to ensure the full implementation of resolution 1860, and second, a request to the Secretary-General to carry out an immediate investigation into the human rights violations and the destruction of the Palestinian infra-structure caused by the Israeli military actions.

At this critical juncture, it is incumbent that the Assembly responds collectively and with urgency to bring the fighting to an end; to realize a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East based on all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002) and 1515 (2003), the Madrid terms of reference, and the principle of land for peace.

Indonesia is committed to work earnestly in achieving such objective.

Thank you, **Mr. President.**