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# Dr M calls for unity to stop the cruelty

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The world must unite and strive to create a coalition for peace to expose and stop Israel from its continuous illegal occupation of the West Bank.

Perdana Global Peace Organisation (PGPO) chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not mince his words yesterday when he described Israel as "a brutal regime that has no respect for international law... wages war through deception and lies".

In his keynote address at the "Breaking the Siege: In the Spirit of Rachel Corrie and Mavi Marmara" conference, the former prime minister said attacks on the two ships, which were part of a flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza a month ago, were just some of the many atrocities committed by the Zionist regime.

"Just as Israel denied using white phosphorus and other banned weapons on the civilians of Gaza in the barbaric invasion in 2008, and the massacre of civilians in Jenin in 2003 until exposed by the Robert Goldstone Report and independent observers, respectively, Israel is denying again and hopes that this time, the war crimes will be lost with the passage of time," he said.

Hundreds spent their Sunday listening to Dr Mahathir as well as other speakers, including the people on MV *Mavi Marmara*, in the forum at the Putra World Trade Centre.

"We are gathered here not only to honour the Turkish martyrs who were brutally slaughtered by Israeli commandos on the MV *Mavi Marmara*, but to counter the lies and



propaganda by Israel and the Zionist-controlled international mass media that the passengers, specifically the martyrs, were terrorists and the killings were justified," he said.

It was also a show of unity for those present to send a message of hope to the Palestinians.

Among them were the prime minister's wife, Datin Sen Rosmah Mansor. Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Turkish Ambassador to Malaysia Serap Ataay, Iran embassy Deputy Head of Mission Dr M.S. Dolatabadi and Palestine Head of Committee of War Crimes Documentation Justice Dialdeen S. Madhoun.

Dr Mahathir, who outlined the atrocities committed by Israel since the 1940s, said the Zionist regime would not stop because its allies, the United States and the United Kingdom, condoned its actions.

Dr Mahathir was also dismissive of any notions that peace would prevail in the Middle East soon.

"On the contrary, war preparations are in place. The same lies have been repeated.

"Have we not heard the same refrain that Israel's very existence is

threatened by her neighbours?

"We must pursue with greater vigour our efforts to criminalise war. War is mass killing, is massacre and must be made a crime.

"In these circumstances, we must strive to create a broad coalition for peace to expose and resist the grand designs of these warmongers. The *Rachel Corrie* and *Mavi Marmara* have shown the way," he said.

Later, when closing the conference, Muhyiddin said Malaysia would urge the United Nations to reconvene the 10th emergency special session of the general assembly if calls by the international community for the UN Security Council to investigate the Israeli attack fell on deaf ears.

Muhyiddin said through the emergency special session, Malaysia would propose the adoption of a resolution for the general assembly to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice.

He said Malaysia was in the process of consulting other UN members, especially members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and Non-Aligned Movement to support its call for the special session.