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'Do your bit for the Palestinians'

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EMERGENCY FUND: Dr Mahathir asks Malaysians to donate generously to help those displaced by war

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AS the violence in Gaza escalates, Malaysia has decided to lend a helping hand by launching an emergency fund, organised by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF).

Speaking at the 'Malaysians condemn unjust war in Gaza' event at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday, PGPF president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged Malaysians to donate generously to the Palestinians.

"As I speak here today (yesterday), the death toll has surpassed 100 Palestinians but the numbers will keep rising. These are not soldiers, but civilians comprising both young and old men, women and children."

He said the world was in a sad state and condemned Israel for its blatant disregard of the suffering in Gaza.

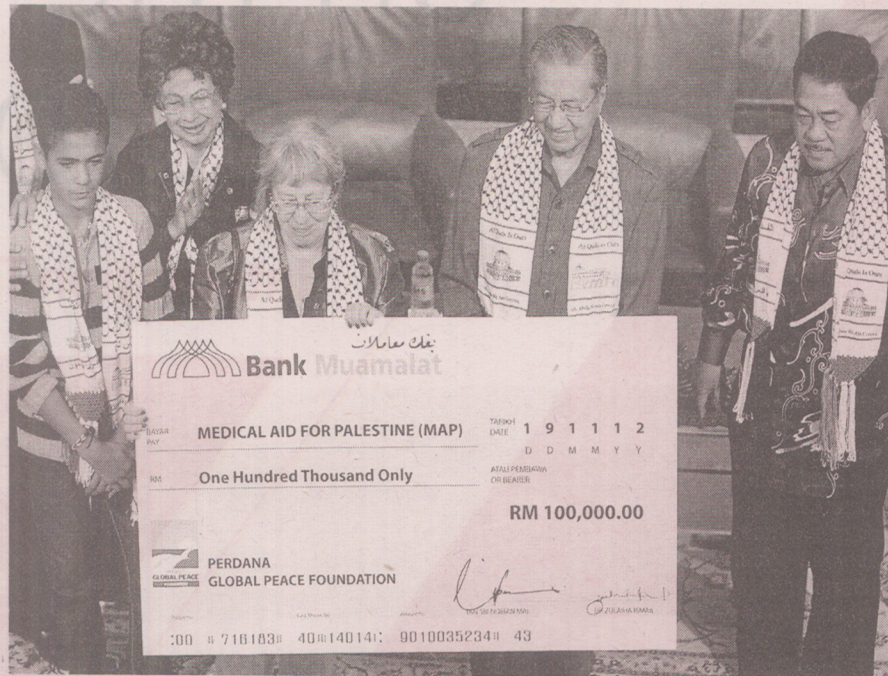
"They (Israelis) have broken every law possible and shown no remorse over the innocent lives of civilians that have perished in this war. The people in the Middle East are now more threatened and terrified than anyone else."

Dr Mahathir said the Palestinians were living in dire conditions with their homes reduced to rubble. They were forced to live in tents and makeshift shelters exposed to the cold weather, he added.

"The Israelis are not only killing innocent people but the repercussions of the war have also forced many Palestinians to die of starvation. Hence, I would like Malaysians to donate something, be it cash, food or clothing, and sympathise with the unfortunate people of Gaza."

At the event, Dr Mahathir presented a cheque for RM100,000 from PGPF to Prof Paola Manduca, who received it on behalf of the Medical Aid of Palestine, a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

Other NGOs, private companies and the public also made donations yesterday.



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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad presenting a mock **cheque for RM100,000** to Medical Aid of Palestine representative **Prof Paola Manduca** at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday. With them are Perdana Global Peace Foundation chairman **Tan Sri Norian Mai** (right) and Dr Mahathir's wife, **Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali**. Pic by Chan Wai Yew