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# 'Sanctions can end atrocities'

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**SPEAKING OUT:** Israeli journalist says Israelis are taught to think of Palestinians as non-humans

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**G**LOBAL sanctions are the key to bring Israel to its knees and pay for its brutality and crime against Palestine, an Israeli journalist said yesterday.

"Israel cannot survive without support. Hence, the global community should cut the support.

"The reason the Israelis are oblivious to the fact that their actions are wrong is that they have never directly paid for the occupation of Palestine," said Gideon Levy.

Levy was a panelist at the "International Conference on Global Peace Effort: What went wrong & tribunal findings — what's next?" organised by the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF).

He said the global community should also eliminate any hope that Israel would realise on its own what it had been doing to the Palestinians.

"We have been brainwashed by our education system and free me-

*"What I saw was heartbreaking... the place where the Palestinian refugees were living was worse than a dumpsite. Then, I started to wonder. What gives us the right to treat other human beings worse than we treat garbage?"*

**Gideon Levy**  
Israeli journalist



Former prime minister and PGPF president **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** greeting guests at the **Perdana Global Peace Conference** at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Yazit Razali

dia that what has been done by Zionists to the Palestinians is just and needs to be done.

"The Israeli government also has the guts to undermine international laws because we think that our race is superior and better than the rest of the world... we are the 'chosen ones' and we have suffered before

(the Holocaust), which gives us the right to act the way we do now. To us, the rule is the rest of the world follows our rule."

Levy said he finally came to realise what had been instilled in him since

birth was wrong when he had the opportunity to visit the Gaza Strip for work purposes in the late 1980s.

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Levy began to speak out against Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians, and soon became the most hated man in Israel.

He said Israelis were trained not to regard the Palestinians as human beings.

"That took the guilt away from us... but in reality, all of us (in Israel) have blood on our hands as

we refuse to care and find out the real truth behind the occupation.

"That is why I say global sanctions are the way to go if we want to stop the cruelty against the Palestinians."

Levy said if the global community imposed sanctions against Israel, he would be able to hold his head up again as an Israeli.

In his keynote address, PGPF president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the threats to use weapons of mass destruction (WMD) came not only from powerful countries but also even smaller ones.

Dr Mahathir said WMD were not only restricted to nuclear weapons but also chemical and biological

weapons which could kill thousands of people in mere seconds.

The rapid development of WMD had hindered the global peace movement's efforts to obtain world peace, he said.

"The world has studied the effect of WMD, particularly the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but that did not prevent some quarters, who want to make money, from creating more formidable weapons."

Present were Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, PGPF chairman Tan Sri Norian Mai and foreign delegates.

International Movement for a Just World president Dr Chandra Muzaffar said it was time to hold another forum like the Bandung Forum, which was held in 1955.

He said it was necessary for Asian countries, which had witnessed numerous internal conflicts, to sit and discuss the possibility of a conflict "being arranged by foreign hands".

"I think it's time we had a forum to bring together the rest of Asia to contain and resolve conflicts outside the hegemonic power."

The conference saw the presence of several notable speakers such as Johan Galtung, dubbed the "father of peace" for his deep knowledge of peace studies; Professor Niloufer Bhagwat, who is an expert in comparative law; former Jerusalem affairs minister, Hind Khoury; and, Mother Superior Agnes Mariam, representing the Melkite Catholic Church of Homs, Syria.

Also present were Dr Maung Zarni, who is a visiting senior fellow at Universiti Malaya; activist and orthopaedic surgeon Dr Ang Swee Chai; award-winning author Professor Michel Chossudovsky; former US congresswoman Cynthia McKinney; and, Centre of Excellence for Biodiversity Law director Prof Gurdial Singh Nijar.