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# Dr M: Israeli raids illegal

**'UNTOUCHABLE':**  
Zionist state thinks it is superior to others, says ex-PM

**FAZLEENA AZIZ**  
KUALA LUMPUR  
fazleena@nst.com.my

ISRAEL has violated many international laws as it continues to unleash military airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, says former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Israel had deemed itself to be superior to others and added that it thought of itself as an un-touchable entity as it had the backing of the United States.

"Israel thinks it can continue to strike Gaza and innocent people to defend itself. But if other people did the same things to Israel, these people would be persecuted.

"They have taken over Palestinian settlements and land, and this has created resentment and anger among the people," Dr Mahathir said after representing the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) to receive a contribution of RM575,000 from the Media Prima Berhad Palestine Humanitarian Fund.

Media Prima Berhad corporate social responsibility group adviser Datuk Ahmad A. Talib presented the contribution to Dr Mahathir, who is also PGPF president.

Dr Mahathir said Palestinians were unable to retaliate against the recent Israeli attacks, which killed more than 100 Gazans as of yesterday.

"Gaza has limited resources to unleash attacks compared with Israel, which has state-of-the-art military equipment, to kill civilians."

When asked about neighbouring Arab countries that had yet to



Media Prima Berhad corporate social responsibility group adviser **Datuk Ahmad A. Talib** (left) presenting a mock cheque for RM575,000 to former prime minister and Perdana Global Peace Foundation president **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Rosela Ismail

come forward with aid and support for the Palestinians, Dr Mahathir said some of these countries were safeguarding their own interests with Israel.

"It's puzzling and annoying at the same time because with the amount of wealth these Arab countries have, they are not forthcoming with the support they should be giving to Palestinians."

On the unity among political factions Fatah and Hamas in Palestine, seen as a threat to Israel, Dr Mahathir said Israel's strategy had always been to pit these two factions against each other.

He said Israel's attempt to create divisions among the Palestinians was akin to the divide-and-conquer strategy used by colonialists in Malaya.

On humanitarian aid to Gaza, Dr

Mahathir said the PGPF would continue with its previous initiatives, but it would be concentrating on providing medical supplies and surgical equipment this time around. He hoped that Egypt would allow them to channel the supplies via Rafah, which is on Egypt's eastern border with the Gaza strip.

So far, Egypt has opened the Rafah crossing with Gaza but travel is restricted to medical patients and those wounded by Israeli airstrikes.

Media Prima has reactivated its Palestine Humanitarian Fund, which is a collaboration with Mercy Malaysia and PGPF.

Contributions for the fund can be made via Maybank account number 5642-7651-0331 under Tabung Kemanusiaan Palestin Media Prima Berhad or through fund

transfer via [www.Maybank2u.com.my](http://www.Maybank2u.com.my), Maybank automated teller machines and phone banking KawanKu, Maybank cash and cheque deposit machines.

Cheques can also be sent to Media Prima Group Corporate Communications Department, Level 1, Anjung Riong, Balai Berita, 31, Jalan Riong, 59100 Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur. For more information, call 03-27248959/8957.

**Page 1 pix:** A Palestinian child standing behind the gate of Rafah crossing cries as he tries to cross into Egypt with his family, in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday. (Below) A man performing 'solat hajat' for Palestinians in Gaza, after prayers at Masjid Negara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

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