

**Palestinian Conflict : Malaysia Should Flex More Political Muscles - Norwegian Activist
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia should flex more political muscles on the Palestine-Israel conflict, including by pressuring the government of Israel on the international stages, says a Norwegian medical doctor and humanitarian activist.

Dr Mads Gilbert, 68, who has broad experience in international humanitarian work including in Palestine, believed that by capitalizing on Malaysia's position in United Nations Security Council and ASEAN, such pressures including action towards the Israeli government could be fruitful.

"Malaysia has a lot of political power but it needs to flex its muscles. I listen to your Prime Minister's speech in United Nations yesterday where he was saying about the importance of Palestine.

"I wish that the government of Malaysia would capitalize the membership in Security Council and the leader role in ASEAN and Asia," he told reporters when met at the Bukit Bandaraya Community Centre here today.

The outspoken doctor and activist is in town at the invitation of Viva Palestina Malaysia to share his experiences in being a doctor in Gaza in addition to continuing his call for Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) against Israel to end the siege of Gaza and the occupation of Palestine.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York recently was reported as saying that courage was needed to permanently address the injustice that the Palestinians had been suffering since 1948.

Najib also condemned Tel Aviv for its aggression in the occupied territories, and called for a permanent end to injustice against the Palestinians.

Dr Gilbert, who has indefinitely been banned from entering Gaza for "security reasons", said Malaysia must urged and took concrete pressure on the state and the government of Israel to lift the siege of Gaza, deemed as a man made disaster, immediately.

The doctor, who has been actively involved with helping the Palestinians since 1970, also suggested that Malaysia should make sanction and political boycott towards the state of Israel until the latter lift the siege of Gaza.

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