

**Malaysia Jointly Organised UNSC Meeting on Palestine
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia, together with Egypt, Angola, Senegal and Venezuela, jointly organised a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Arria-formula meeting on Palestine on Friday in New York, United States.

The meeting entitled, 'Protection of the Palestinian Civilian Population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem' was very well received and saw a big turnout, with over 100 participants from UN member states and NGOs (non-governmental organisations), said a statement released by the Foreign Ministry here Sunday.

It said the meeting was held to provide an opportunity for UNSC members and UN member states to exchange views with legal and human rights experts on the call for international protection for Palestinians living under Israel's repressive military occupation.

"The legal and human rights experts consists of a legal scholar at Cambridge University, Ardi Imseis, a Human Rights Watch representative and a representative from an Israeli human rights organisation, Yesh Din," it added.

Meanwhile, Malaysia's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Siti Hajjar Adnin said the three speakers delivered very compelling arguments in support of the call for international protection for Palestinians, in line with international humanitarian law.

"They (the speakers) also stressed the need for the international community to end Israel's impunity in violating international humanitarian law, international human rights law and United Nations Security Council Resolutions," she said in a statement here Sunday.

An Arria-formula meeting is an informal and confidential gathering of the UNSC, whereby Security Council (SC) members would have the procedural flexibility to have a frank and private exchange of views with non-UN briefers.

The meeting on the protection for Palestinians was the second initiative from Malaysia after the country became a non-permanent member of the SC.

The first initiative, also an Arria-formula meeting on Gaza, was held in July last year.

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