



**Badan Peguam Malaysia
Malaysian Bar**

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**Resolution Adopted at the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Malaysian Bar
(Held on 14 March 2026)**

Resolution on Upholding International Law and the Protection of Civilian Populations

Whereas:

1. Section 42(1)(a) of the Legal Profession Act 1976 provides that the purpose of the Malaysian Bar is to uphold the cause of justice without regard to its own interests or that of its members, uninfluenced by fear or favour;
2. The rule of law and respect for international law, including the Charter of the United Nations in particular Articles 1(1), 2(3), and 2(4) concerning the maintenance of international peace and security, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the prohibition against the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, as well as the framework governing the right of self-defence under Article 51, together with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, are fundamental principles governing relations between States and the protection of civilian populations;
3. The Malaysian Bar has on previous occasions expressed concern over violations of international law and humanitarian crises affecting civilian populations, including through press statements issued by Presidents of the Malaysian Bar, such as:
 - (a) “The Malaysian Bar Condemns Global Sumud Flotilla Interception, Welcomes the Planned Release of Malaysian Nationals, and Urges Urgent Action” (3 Oct 2025);
 - (b) “End the Violence Among the Israelis and Palestinians” (21 May 2021);
 - (c) “State Terrorism by Israel Must End” (1 June 2010); and
 - (d) “The Malaysian Bar Strongly Urges Immediate Ratification of the Rome Statute in Adherence to International Laws” (1 Nov 2023);
4. The Malaysian Bar has also demonstrated concern for humanitarian consequences arising from armed conflict through initiatives such as the establishment of a humanitarian fund for Palestinians affected by the conflict, as communicated in Circular No 156/2014 (17 July 2014);

5. Recent armed conflicts and military actions in various parts of the world, including in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the wider Middle East, have resulted in serious humanitarian consequences, including civilian casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and displacement of populations;
6. The protection of civilian populations and accountability for violations of international law are fundamental principles recognised under international humanitarian law¹ and international human rights law².

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Malaysian Bar reaffirms its commitment to the rule of law, which includes international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and calls upon all States and all parties involved in armed conflict or military action, including in Gaza, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the wider Middle East, to comply strictly with these bodies of law; to respect the sovereignty of States and the right of peoples to self-determination; to ensure the protection of civilian populations and civilian infrastructure; and to support lawful, impartial, and effective measures for the investigation of alleged violations and for accountability in accordance with international law.

¹ The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949) and Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977

² Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966