the victims of the Israeli Zionist who usurped their lands illegally and oppression, brutality and injustices. The tragedy of Palestinians, especially the problem of Palestinian refugees, is a paramount concern of the Malays. Fully aware of the concept of Islamic brotherhood, the Malays are persuaded to support the cause of their brothers assertively. The Malays realize that the Palestinian issue is neither Palestinian nor Arab, but it is rather an issue of Islam, which required the concern, and support of all.

From the above discussion one may infer that the sensitivity of the Malays towards the issue of Palestine, like that of their fellow Muslims, is actually embedded in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood. That definitely and uncompromisingly support the Palestinian Muslims. This reality guides the policy of successive Malaysian governments towards all issue affecting the Palestinians. They are bound to sympathize with them, and are sometimes pressurized to do so.

Since the Palestinian issue is not merely a religious issue but humanitarians as well, the Malaysian government could not neglect its vitality. The party in power, UMNO, being Malay-dominated, is highly sensitive to the issue, which is crucial for the maintenance of its legitimacy among the masses as the protector of Islam and the Malay community. Any attitude and policies that contradict the Malay-Muslims’ stand will inevitably provoke reactions from the community. I venture to argue that the role of the Malaysian government in Palestinian issue was largely motivated by pragmatic considerations resulting from an interplay between various factors; political, economic, religious and humanitarian.

In Malaysian context, ‘Islamism’ has also come to be seen as a catalyst that could pressurize the government to be more sensitive and responsive to the Palestinian issue, since its claim to uphold democracy dictated due attention and consideration to public opinion in any policy formulation. Though many claim that Islam has never been an overriding factor in Malaysia’s support of the Islamic issue, its role in this respect is indeed, highly commendable. It is hoped that in the near future Malaysia will engage more constructively in the Islamic issue, especially by giving its religious dimension top priority. This aspect of religiosity should, no