The Chairman of Advisory Council of GNPF Ulama or the [conservative] National Movement to Save Ulema’s Edicts, Habib Rizieq Shihab (HRS), has stated Sunday (on 17 December) from his temporary home in Mecca that it is about time for Indonesia to do the bigger and more concrete actions in making sure that the people of Palestine gain their independence (from Israel).

According to him, the US should recognise and confirm that Baitul Maqdis or [East] Jerusalem as Palestine’s capital. Otherwise, Indonesia ulama would make sure that the US learn the hard lessons.

Explaining that it would mean cutting off all economic and diplomatic relationship with the US, the Al-Habib [descendant of Prophet Muhammad] said that America did need Indonesia and not the other way around.

In front of thousands of demonstrators in Jakarta National Monument (Monas), through a long distance call, he said that it was only a historical fact that the people of Israel had no country. Israel was not a country.