

UNCLASSIFIED  
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B1

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Follow up resolution to the report of the Independent International Fact Finding Mission

The Human Rights Council,

*Guided* by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Considering* that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter and the other instruments and rules of international laws is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

*Taking into consideration* the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War of 12 August 1949,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety and well being of all civilians including humanitarian personnel,

*Recalling* its resolution A/HRC/14/1 of 2 June 2010, in which the Council decided to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

1. Welcomes the report of the Independent International fact finding Mission,
2. Deeply regrets the non-cooperation by the occupying power, Israel, with the independent international fact-finding mission,
3. Endorses the conclusions contained in the report of the Independent International fact finding mission, and calls upon all concerned parties to ensure their immediate implementation,
4. Recommends the General Assembly to consider the report of the Independent International fact finding mission,
5. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the 16th Human Rights Council's session of March 2011, a report on the status of implementation of paragraph 3 of this resolution.
6. Decides to follow up the implementation of the present resolution at its 16th Session of March 2011.

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83

DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONGRESSIONAL  
CORRESPONDENCE TASKER



IPS CONTROL# H2010 1025-010 ACTION BUREAU: NEA

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

IPS:

SUBSTANTIVE \_\_\_\_\_ CONSTITUENT  
 IMAGE ENTIRE DOCUMENT \_\_\_\_\_ IMAGE ONLY FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

BUREAU:

BUREAU ACTION REQUESTED: RESPOND TO CCU 2 DAYS FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY Richard R. Verma, ASSISTANT SECRETARY,  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

\_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS ENVELOPE TO DISTRICT OFFICE

\_\_\_\_\_ DIRECT REPLY TO CONSTITUENT BY OFFICE DIRECTOR WITH COPY TO  
CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE. PHONE 7-1608 WHEN COMPLETED

\_\_\_\_\_ FYI ONLY/NO RESPONSE NECESSARY

\_\_\_\_\_ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE DIRECTLY BY BUREAU

OTHER ACTION: White House Referred # 1040362

FOR GUIDANCE/INFORMATION ON FORMATTING CONGRESSIONALS SEE:  
[http://diplomedia.state.gov/index.php?title=Bureau\\_of\\_Legislative\\_Affairs\\_Reference\\_Documents#Yellow\\_Border](http://diplomedia.state.gov/index.php?title=Bureau_of_Legislative_Affairs_Reference_Documents#Yellow_Border)

Due Date 10/27/10

\*\*\*BUREAUS MUST MAKE TRANSFERS OF ACTION DIRECTLY WITH RECEIVING BUREAU'S FRONT  
OFFICE. The CCU has a listing of contacts. PLEASE NOTIFY CCU 7-1608 OF ALL TRANSFERS OF  
ACTION\*\*\*

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B3A

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FROM: Richard R. Verma (H)

**Recommendation**

\_\_\_\_\_ For the Secretary's  
signature to the \_\_\_\_\_ bureau

✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Tasked to the NEA bureau  
for signature by Richard R. Verma  
Assistant Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Provide copy of H signed  
response

COMMENTS: *WH referral*

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DARRELL E. ISSA  
49TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

*Leg. Affairs*

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2347 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3905  
FAX: (202) 225-3303

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1800 TIREGO ROAD, SUITE 310  
VISTA, CA 92081  
(760) 695-5000  
FAX: (760) 695-1178  
SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
(951) 693-2447  
www.issa.house.gov



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0549

10/21/10  
0082/104036  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT /  
GOVERNMENT REFORM  
RANKED MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIAL  
SYSTEMS  
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE  
COURTS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE  
COMMISSION ON SECURITY &  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

*B3B*

August 31, 2010

201017931

2010 Oct 20 F 12:34

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I write today to ask that you affirm Israel's right to interdict ships at sea and that you direct the United States military to work with the Israeli military to implement tactics and procedures to improve interdiction practices in the future.

As you are aware, on May 31, 2010, Israeli Navy Special Forces intercepted the MV Mavi Marmara, a ship owned by the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (FHH) that set sail for the Gaza Strip with the intention of delivering aid and materials and to break the Israeli blockade. While the loss of life and harm that occurred on both sides was tragic, what is clear from the IDF's statements on the Eiland Report is that alternative methods of maritime interdiction could have been employed in order to possibly avoid the violent altercation that took place.

Israel faces challenges to its national security on many fronts, particularly from Iran and Iranian-backed terrorist organizations. Iranian-backed agents have previously used maritime corridors to smuggle weapons and ammunition to terrorist groups seeking Israel's destruction. As Israel's strongest ally and partner it is in our national interest to support Israel's right to interdict ships at sea to prevent weapons and other dangerous materials from reaching those seeking to cause harm. Just as the U.S. Navy acted outside of its maritime border in 2003 when it interdicted a Libya-bound vessel carrying centrifuge technology, the U.S. should affirm that Israel has the same right to act when facing similar extraordinary circumstances.

I understand the difficult challenges surrounding Israel's naval blockade of Gaza. While on one hand the blockade has helped to significantly reduce the number of rocket attacks on Israel from Hamas terrorists in Gaza, it has also placed immense hardship on innocent civilians living within the area. I request that you work with the Israeli government to explore opportunities to better direct humanitarian aid to innocent civilians in Gaza and improve their freedom of movement.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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I appreciate your efforts in these matters and hope that you will continue to put the full weight of the United States behind negotiations to achieve a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

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B5

Classification



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT RELEASED IN FULL  
TRANSMITTAL

S/ES: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR: Mr. Nathan D. Tibbits  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Staff

REFERENCE:

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Referral Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Referral ID# (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A draft reply is attached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A translation is attached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No response is necessary for the reason cited below.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (see remarks.)

REMARKS:

Office of the  
Executive Secretary

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B5A

Other USG Agency Correspondence



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Classification / Downgrader

ACTION

Assigned To: **NEA**

Date: 7/15/11

DATE DUE **RELEASED IN FULL**

in S/ES: 7/20/11

S/ES #: 201112497

X-Ref: 201112410  
(if any)

**ACTION REQUESTED:**

**HIGH PRIORITY**

FORMAL STATE-to-\_\_\_\_\_ MEMO

STATE-to-NSS TRANSMITTAL (attached)

WITH DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY \_\_\_\_\_

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

WITH A RECOMMENDATION

FOR APPROPRIATE HANDLING

**ALTERNATIVE:**

IF NO REPLY IS NECESSARY, RETURN THE ORIGINAL RED BORDER PACKAGE, UNDER COVER OF A STATE-to-NSS TRANSMITTAL (attached), AND PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION IN "REMARKS."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FORWARD TO S/ES-CR AN INFORMATION COPY OF A SIGNED// DATED DIRECT REPLY ON BEHALF OF POTUS, TOGETHER WITH THE ORIGINAL RED BORDER PACKAGE, UNDER COVER OF A STATE-to-NSS TRANSMITTAL (attached).

**REMARKS / SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

CLEAR WITH: CA

COPIES TO:	<input type="checkbox"/> S/ES	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> W/DGHR	<input type="checkbox"/> PRM	<input type="checkbox"/> S/CPR
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> S/ES-EX	<input type="checkbox"/> CA	<input type="checkbox"/> M/WHL	<input type="checkbox"/> VCI	<input type="checkbox"/> S/CT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D(N)	<input type="checkbox"/> S/ES-IRM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DRL	<input type="checkbox"/> MED	<input type="checkbox"/> USUNW	<input type="checkbox"/> S/OCR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P	<input type="checkbox"/> S/ES-O	<input type="checkbox"/> DS	<input type="checkbox"/> NP	<input type="checkbox"/> USOAS	<input type="checkbox"/> S/OF
<input type="checkbox"/> E	<input type="checkbox"/> S/ES-S	<input type="checkbox"/> EEB	<input type="checkbox"/> OBO	<input type="checkbox"/> USAID	<input type="checkbox"/> S/P
<input type="checkbox"/> T	<input type="checkbox"/> S/ES-S(IA)	<input type="checkbox"/> ECA	<input type="checkbox"/> OES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> S/WCI
<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> AF	<input type="checkbox"/> H	<input type="checkbox"/> OIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> S/SECC
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<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> SCA	<input type="checkbox"/> INR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> NEA	<input type="checkbox"/> ISN	<input type="checkbox"/> L	<b>FROM: Natalie Chagnon</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> WHA	<input type="checkbox"/> IRM		<b>EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT</b>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> IO		<b>EXT: 7-0140</b>	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REV

DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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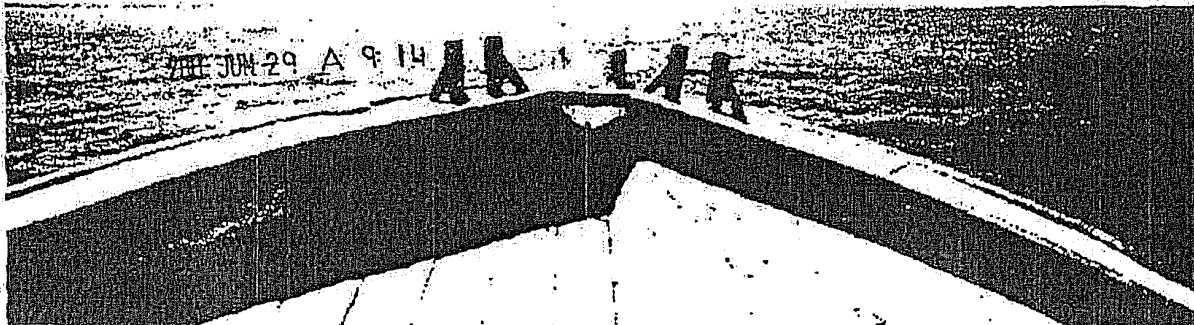
UNCLASSIFIED

B5C

# U.S. BOAT TO GAZA

## THE AUDACITY OF HOPE

3993



14 June 2011

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Obama:

We are writing to inform you that 50 unarmed Americans will soon be sailing in a U.S. flagged ship called *The Audacity of Hope* as part of an international flotilla to Gaza.

Our peaceful demonstration will challenge Israel's blockade of Gaza, which has effectively imprisoned 1.6 million civilians, almost half of whom are under the age of 16. The blockade has impoverished the people of Gaza, deprived them of needed materials and supplies to rebuild their lives after the Israeli attack of late 2008 – early 2009, impeded those who are ill or infirm from seeking outside medical aid, and prevented students from seeking education outside of Gaza. 45% of the working age population is unemployed.

In addition to 36 passengers, 4 crew, and 10 members of the press, our boat will carry thousands of letters of support and friendship from people throughout the U.S. to the women, children and men of Gaza. There will be no weapons of any sort on board. We will carry no goods of any kind for delivery in Gaza. Our mission is from American civil society to the civil society of Gaza. We do not serve the agenda of any political leadership, government or group. We are engaged solely in non-violent action in support of the Palestinian people and their human rights.

In our country's great tradition of citizen activists taking nonviolent action to stand up to

U.S. Boat to Gaza, Box 158, 119 West 72nd Street., New York, New York 10023  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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injustice, we sail in the hope that our voyage will show the people in Gaza that they are not alone, and that it will call attention to the morally and legally indefensible collective punishment of a population of civilians.

Mr. President, you have noted the unsustainability of the Gaza blockade. And your administration has spoken boldly in support of peaceful demonstrations throughout this "Arab Spring."

As U.S. citizens we expect our country and its leaders to help ensure the Flotilla's safe passage to Gaza - as our country should support our humanitarian demand that the Gaza blockade be lifted. This should begin by notifying the Israeli government in clear and certain terms that it may not physically interfere with the upcoming Flotilla of which the U.S. boat —*The Audacity of Hope*— is part. We—authors, builders, firefighters, lawyers, social workers, retirees, Holocaust survivors, former government employees and more—expect no less from our President and your administration.

Our boat will sail from the eastern Mediterranean in the last week of June. We shall be grateful to you for acting promptly and decisively to uphold the rights of civilians to safe passage on the seas.

Sincerely,

The passengers of *The Audacity of Hope*

Nic Abramson	Johnny Barber	Medea Benjamin	Greta Berlin
Hagit Borer	Regina Carey	Gale Courey Toensing	Erin DeRamus
Linda Durham	Debra Ellis	Hedy Epstein	Steve Fake
Ridgely Fuller	Megan Horan	Kathy Kelly	Kit Kittredge
Libor Koznar	Melissa Lane	G. Kaleo Larson	Richard Levy
Richard Lopez	Ken Mayers	Ray McGovern	Gail Miller
Carol Murry	Robert Naiman	Henry Norr	Ann Petter
Gabe Schivone	Kathy Sheetz	Max Suchan	Brad Taylor
Len Tsou	Alice Walker	Paki Wieland	Ann Wright

cc:

The Honorable Ban Ki-moon, U.N. Secretary General  
The Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State

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The Honorable Jeffrey Feltman, Assistant Secretary of State  
The Honorable Susan E. Rice, Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations  
The Honorable James B. Cunningham, U.S. Ambassador to Israel  
The Honorable John F. Kerry, Chairman U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
The Honorable Richard G. Lugar, Ranking Member U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
The Honorable Robert P. Casey, Chairman Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs  
The Honorable James E. Rish, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs  
The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chairman U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
The Honorable Howard L. Berman, Ranking Member U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
The Honorable Steve Chabot, Chairman Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia  
The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia

U.S. Boat to Gaza, Box 158, 119 West 72nd Street., New York, New York 10023

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B6A

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**From:** Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 06, 2010 8:15 AM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Cc:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Hoey, Alexandra (DRL); Stanfield, Emily  
**Subject:** RE: A/S Posner's BCL - Meeting with Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Wafaa Bassim and Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights Laila Bahaa El-Din on Friday

Thanks.

---

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 10:49 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)  
**Cc:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Hoey, Alexandra (DRL); Stanfield, Emily  
**Subject:** RE: A/S Posner's BCL - Meeting with Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Wafaa Bassim and Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights Laila Bahaa El-Din on Friday

Thank you. I just got your message sorry for delay. DAS Fitzpatrick cleared this earlier today as well with changes. Alex and Jessica had a copy as well, and I believe it got into A/S Posner's briefing materials before he left this afternoon.

Best,  
Sarah

---

**From:** Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 9:06 PM  
**To:** Posner, Michael H; Stanfield, Emily  
**Cc:** DRL Staff Assistants; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** A/S Posner's BCL - Meeting with Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Wafaa Bassim and Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights Laila Bahaa El-Din on Friday

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Assistant Secretary Posner Meeting with Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Wafaa Bassim and Deputy Assistant Minister for Human Rights Laila Bahaa El-Din

CONTEXT

This is a reference paper on multilateral issues.

POINTS TO RAISE

1.

NR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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2.

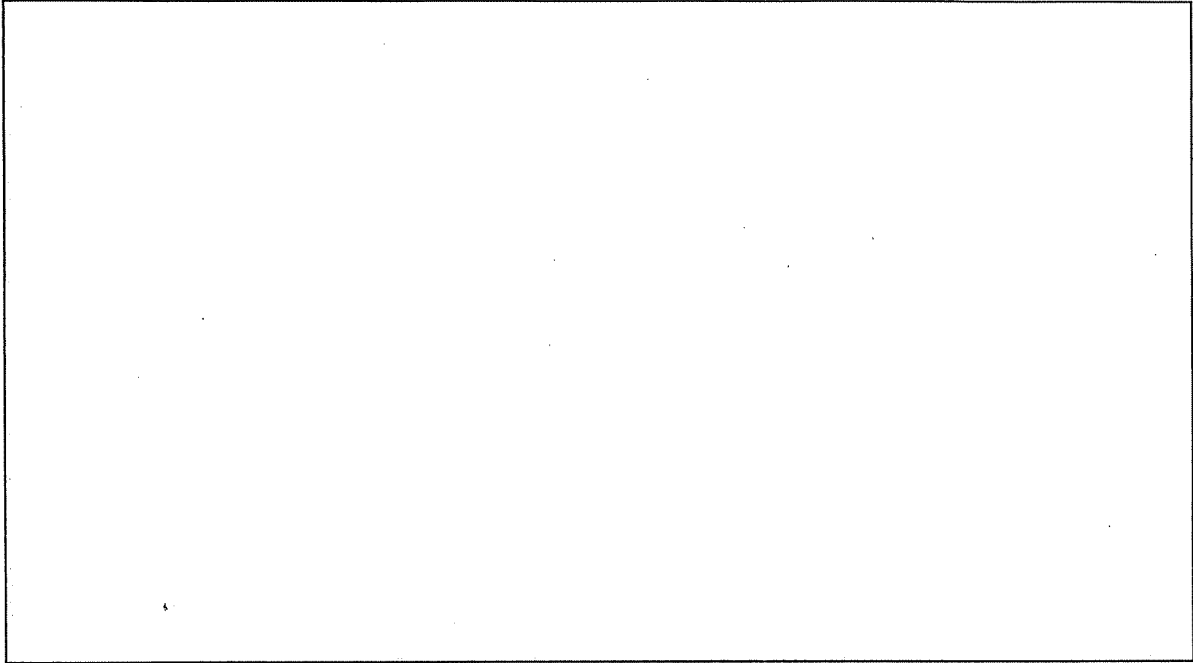
3.

**BACKGROUND: HRC 15<sup>th</sup> Session**

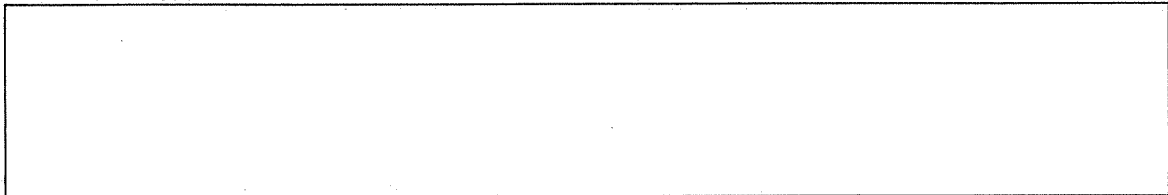
**Israel Related Issues:** The Human Rights Council recently passed two resolutions endorsing the report of the HRC Fact-Finding Mission into the flotilla incident and the Tomuschat committee report. Further HRC action on these issues will continue in the March session. The U.S. was isolated in our opposition to the resolutions. Egypt joined the OIC and offered statements on their behalf and on behalf of the NAM in support of further HRC reports and actions on flotilla and Goldstone follow-up.

**If Raised Talking Points:**

o



- **Flotilla:** The U.S. takes the issue seriously and read the Fact-Finding Mission report very carefully. We note that the Fact-Finding Mission referred to ongoing domestic investigations and the Secretary General's panel and did not recommend further UN action.
- Immediately following the May 31 incident, we noted the importance of a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into these tragic events. We will not prejudge the conclusions without the opportunity for a full examination of the facts and perspectives from all sides. We will seriously consider the results of the domestic investigations and the UNSYG panel findings. The United States believes that the UNSYG panel, which includes the participation of both Israel and Turkey, offers a balanced and credible channel to address these very serious issues. We hope that the SYG's process and direct discussions between Ankara and Tel Aviv could facilitate an acceptable way forward and stand ready to help longstanding friends move ahead. The United States hopes the parties will find a way to address this incident while repairing relations.



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Approved: DRL/MLGA Office Director Joe Cassidy  
Drafted: DRL/MLGA – Lynn Sicade, Sarah Johnston-Gardner, Melike Yetken  
Cleared: DRL/NEA J Lieberman  
DRL/MLGA: K McGeeney OK  
IO/HR M Andris/L Gambone OK  
L/HRR G Brancato Info  
Mission Geneva: AMansfield Info

---

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2010 12:30 PM  
**To:** DRL Staff Assistants  
**Cc:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Hoey, Alexandra (DRL); Hutchings, Jill  
**Subject:** MLGA insert for A/S Posner Egypt trip

Hello,

In a trip preparation meeting with Posner on Friday MLGA agreed to provide multilat points for A/S Posner's meeting with the Egyptian MFA. These have been cleared with Joe. As DAS Melia is out today I am not sure who in the FO needs to clear these before going into the briefing materials, perhaps DAS Fitzpatrick? I understand they depart for the trip at 4pm today so trying to move this quickly. Will bring up a hard copy now as well.

Best,  
Sarah

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

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128

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

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**From:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 8:07 PM  
**To:** Walker-Johnson, Lynda W (DRL); Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Cc:** DRL Staff Assistants  
**Subject:** RE: TPs for Amb. Donahoe w/Turkey on Flotilla  
**Attachments:** Talking Points for Amb D on flotilla.doc

**Importance:** High

RELEASED IN FULL

Lynda, This is version sent to Tom for clearance, I believe. Sarah, can you confirm? Thanks, Joe

---

**From:** Walker-Johnson, Lynda W (DRL)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 7:31 PM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Cc:** DRL Staff Assistants  
**Subject:** TPs for Amb. Donahoe w/Turkey on Flotilla

We do not have an electronic copy, this was passed to us from Roland marked time sensitive. Please send the electrons.

DAS Melia has approved as is. Lynda

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B10

**Coleman, Charmaine D (DRL)**

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**From:** Melia, Thomas O  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 6:13 PM  
**To:** Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Cc:** DRL Staff Assistants-DL; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** RE: Flash clearance please: HRC point for P

fine

RELEASED IN PART  
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---

**From:** Sicade, Lynn M (DRL)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Melia, Thomas O  
**Cc:** DRL Staff Assistants-DL; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** FW: Flash clearance please: HRC point for P  
**Importance:** High

Going to clear this unless you both have an issue with it.

Lynn M. Sicade,  
Senior Policy Advisor  
DRL/MLGA  
7-2362

---

**From:** Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 4:17 PM  
**To:** DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** Flash clearance please: HRC point for P  
**Importance:** High

Colleagues,  
I understand Sarah Johnston-Gardner is off-line from 4-5. Can anyone take a quick look at the highlighted point below? IO cleared while NEA made comments. Note EUR.DAS Kaidanow has already cleared. The meeting is at 8:30 tomorrow morning.

Thanks,  
Meghan

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 4:11 PM  
**To:** Gregonis, Meghan E; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Andris, Matthew R  
**Cc:** Honigstein, Michael D; Mokhtarzada, Homeyra N; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar  
**Subject:** RE: Flash clearance please: HRC point for P  
**Importance:** High

Meghan,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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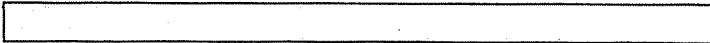
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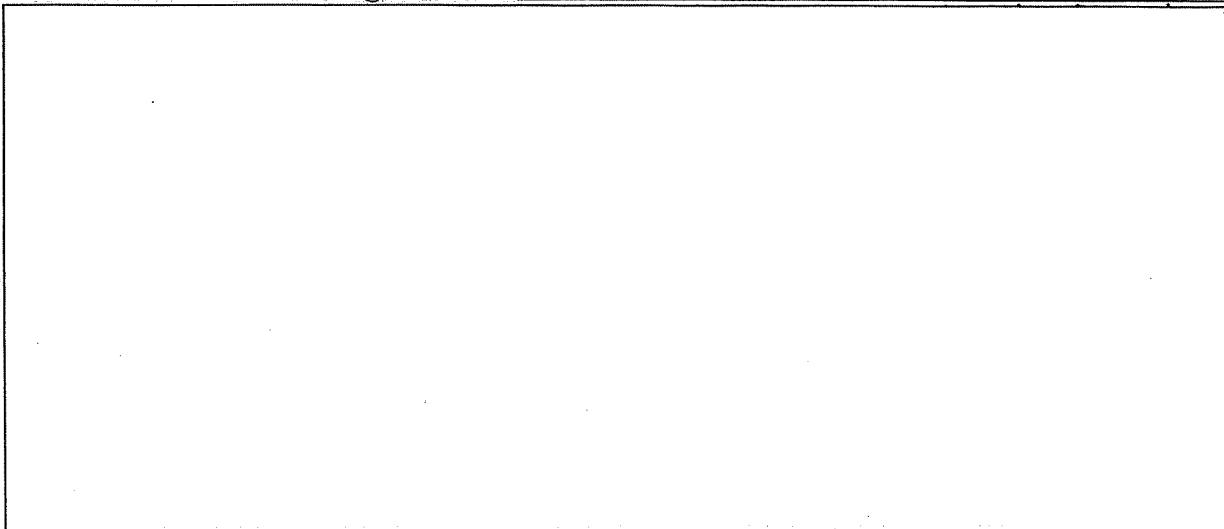
This doesn't change the substance any, so should not contravene your DAS' clearance. It does take the impact on peace efforts out of the laundry list of impacts and highlight it on its own - a point of great importance to NEA and SEMEP.

Let me know if you have any questions.

HRC Flotilla Fact-Finding Mission:



B5



Sensitive

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Gregonis, Meghan E

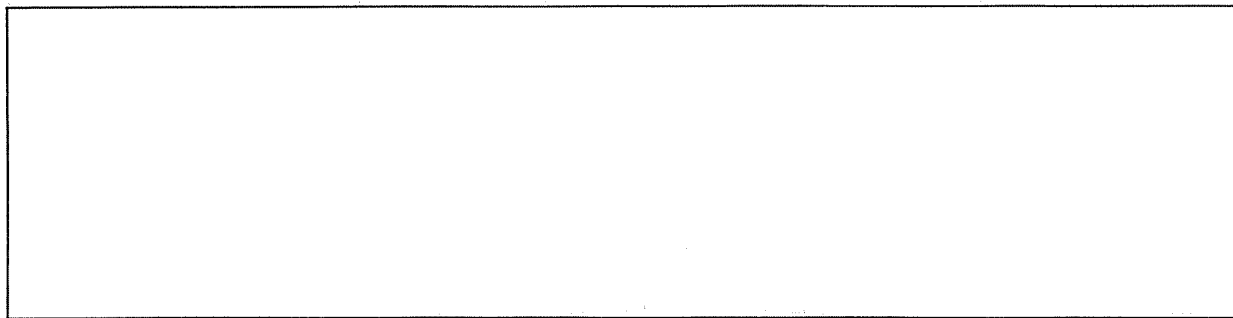
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2010 3:35 PM

**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Andris, Matthew R; Doutrich, Jack T

**Cc:** Honigstein, Michael D; Mokhtarzada, Homeyra N

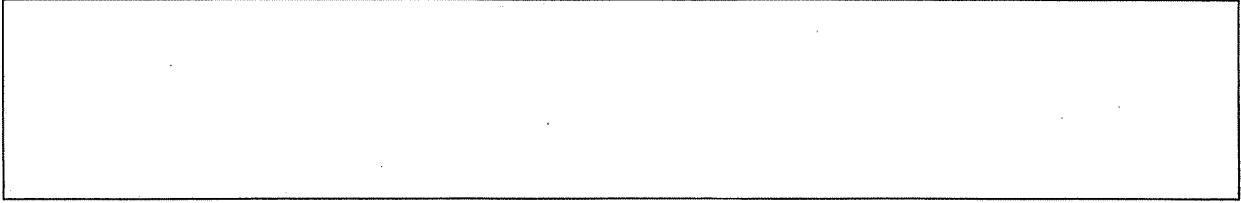
**Subject:** Flash clearance please: HRC point for P

I hope to get this back to my front office no later than 4pm. Note we'll re-order the P BCL to make this the top point. Many thanks!



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<sup>3</sup>  
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B12

A/HRC/RES/14/1

## Advance Edited Version

Distr.: General  
23 June 2010

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**  
Fourteenth session  
Agenda item 1  
Organizational and procedural matters

### Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

#### 14/1 The grave attacks by Israeli forces against the humanitarian boat convoy

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Taking into consideration the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949,*

*Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, including humanitarian personnel,*

*Expressing grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in occupied Gaza,*

*Emphasizing the need to ensure the sustained and regular flow of goods and people into occupied Gaza, and welcoming the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid,*

- 1. Condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous attack by the Israeli forces against the humanitarian flotilla of ships, which resulted in the killing and injuring of many innocent civilians from different countries;*
- 2. Deeply deplores the loss of life of innocent civilians, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families;*

The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its fourteenth session (A/HRC/14/37), chap. I.

GE.10-

Please recycle 

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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A/HRC/RES/14/1

3. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of detained and injured persons;
4. *Demands* that the occupying Power, Israel, immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands;
5. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to immediately lift the siege on occupied Gaza and other occupied territories;
6. *Also calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to ensure the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment, to the occupied Gaza Strip;
7. *Welcomes* the statements made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks;
8. *Decides* to dispatch an independent, international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance;
9. *Also decides* to authorize the President of the Council to appoint members to the above-mentioned fact-finding mission, who should report on their findings to the Council at its fifteenth session;
10. *Further decides* to remain seized of this matter.

10<sup>th</sup> meeting  
2 June 2010

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 to 3, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Uruguay;

*Against:*

Italy, Netherlands, United States of America;

*Abstaining:*

Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.]

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RELEASED IN PART <sup>B17</sup>

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B6

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:31 PM  
**To:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Mann, Winston E (DRL)  
**Subject:** Fw: Turkel Report

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2011 12:33 PM  
**To:** Bass, Warren; Khanna, Melanie J; Andris, Matthew R; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Reisser, Wesley J; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Subject:** Fw: Turkel Report

1 of 3 emails on today's Turkel Report release.

---

**From:** Silverman, Robert J  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2011 11:21 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; 'Kumar, Prem G.' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Walles, Jacob  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Eussen, Matthew  
**Subject:** FW: Turkel Report

As Jan accurately predicted (see email below), the Turkel Commission met today and ruled that the Israeli navy and IDF were in full accordance with international law in interdicting the Mavi Marmara, furthermore, the conduct on board the ship involved self-defense.

We'll have a full report tomorrow.

Bob

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Levin, Jan  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2011 12:07 PM  
**To:** Cunningham, James B  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Tel Aviv POL Section  
**Subject:** Turkel Report

Mr. Ambassador: The first half of the Turkel Committee report will be released in a public ceremony on Sunday (which we will cover). The MFA has confirmed that the leaks that have appeared in the press are accurate -- the report will conclude that Israel and the IDF had the legal right to take over the Mavi Marmara and the other ships of the flotilla and that their conduct once on-board was appropriate under the circumstances. According to [redacted] all seven members (including the international members) of the committee voted unanimously on these points. The committee is also expected to render an opinion on the legality of the maritime closure overall. The committee's deferential questioning of government figures -- Netanyahu, Barak, Ashkenazi, Livni -- and hostile questioning of civil society representatives leads me to assume that the Report will also conclude that the maritime closure is legitimate.

B6

The second part of the Committee's report, in line with the Committee's mandate, will examine the question of whether the mechanism for examining and investigating complaints and claims raised in relation to violations of the laws of armed  
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conflict, as conducted in Israel generally, and as implemented with regard to the Mavi Marmara incident, conform with Israel's obligations under IHL. We understand that the Committee is accepting submissions expressing views on this question until the end of January, which suggests that the second half of the report would not be released until late February at the earliest.

Israel's critics will certainly claim that the report is a whitewash, and the press will likely be full of such stories early next week.

Understand that the Palmer Panel will be meeting in New York middle of next week.

Jan

*Jan Levin*  
*Deputy Political Counselor*  
*U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv*  
*972-3-519-7565*

SBU  
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UNCLASSIFIED

1218

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 2:30 PM  
To: Cassidy, Joseph P; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Mann, Winston E (DRL)  
Subject: Fw: Turkel English documents

RELEASED IN FULL

Here is one of three emails from NEA on Turkel findings. Will probably need to radar and do an Info memo for the FO tmrw.

----- Original Message -----

From: Doutrich, Jack T  
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 01:13 PM  
To: Bass, Warren; Andris, Matthew R; Khanna, Melanie J; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Reisser, Wesley J; Zurcher, Kenneth M  
Subject: Fw: Turkel English documents

----- Original Message -----

From: Hoyer, Kurt J  
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 01:08 PM  
To: NEA-Press-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
Subject: Fw: Turkel English documents

----- Original Message -----

From: Landau, Avida  
To: Hoyer, Kurt J; Ellis, Roya M; Feldboy, Yael  
Sent: Sun Jan 23 18:32:40 2011  
Subject: Turkel English documents

Below are the links to the English Turkel documents in pdf format.

The website:

<http://www.turkel-committee.gov.il>

The report summary

<http://www.turkel-committee.gov.il/files/wordocs/7896summary-eng.PDF> - the report summary

The Observers' letter:

<http://www.turkel-committee.gov.il/files/wordocs/4229observers-eng.pdf>

The report part I

<http://www.turkel-committee.gov.il/files/wordocs/8808report-eng.pdf>

Avida Landau  
Media specialist  
Press section

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
Fax: 972-3-5103828  
Mobile: 972-57-420-6829  
E-mail: landauax@state.gov

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B19

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 1:58 PM  
**To:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Subject:** FW: Radar items

**RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED**

FYI doing radars on both per Joe's request **NR**

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2011 1:55 PM  
**To:** Galindo, David R  
**Subject:** Radar items

**(SBU) Israeli Turkel Committee Report** - Mission Geneva has heard from Amb. Yaar that the Israeli Turkel Committee will likely release their findings as early as this Sunday, Jan. 23. The report will include their conclusions of Israeli government conduct during the May 31 flotilla incident, it will not include the greater questions about the Israeli judicial/military system and compliance with international standards as articulated in Art. 5 of their mandate. Mission Geneva predicts that the Turkel report, which will also be sent to NY to the UNSYG Palmer panel, will not silence calls for further UN follow-up on flotilla which nearly guarantees another resolution in the March HRC session. MLGA- SJohnston-Gardner.

**(SBU) Update on Possible Hosts for the New OIC Human Rights Commission-**

[Redacted]

**NR**

[Large Redacted Area]

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

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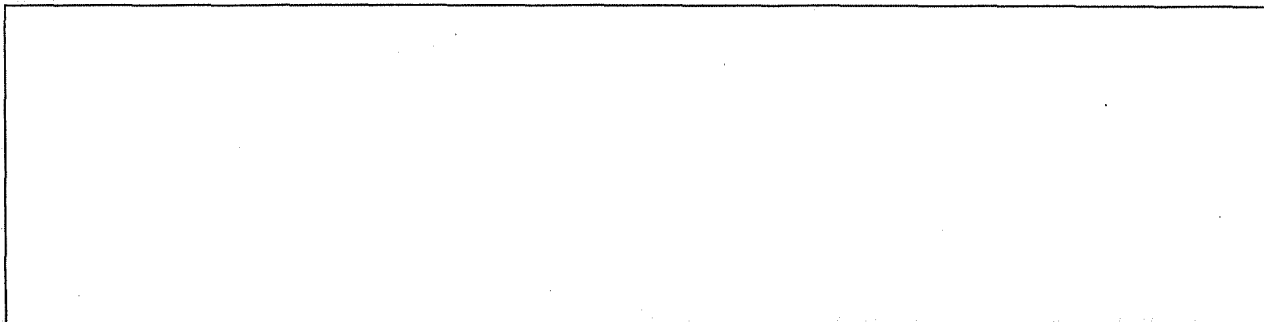
B21

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2010 3:23 PM  
**To:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Yetken, Melike A (DRL); Galindo, David R  
**Cc:** Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Subject:** Re: Report of the Human Rights Council

RELEASED IN PART

B5



B5

Thank you  
Sarah

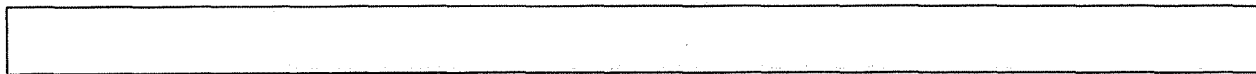
---

**From:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2010 02:03 PM  
**To:** Yetken, Melike A (DRL); Galindo, David R; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Cc:** Sicade, Lynn M (DRL)  
**Subject:** FW: Report of the Human Rights Council

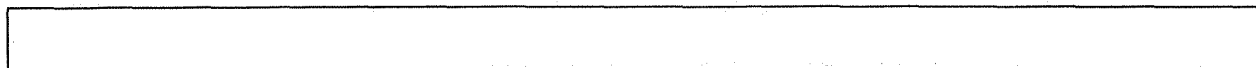
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**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2010 12:36 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Millar, McKenzie; Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Cook, Akunna E; Haldeman, William E (P); Powell, Catherine; Richardson, Eric N; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Brancato, Gilda M; Sullivan, David B; Jacobson, Linda; Cassidy, Joseph P; Bass, Warren; Cassayre, Mark J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; 'mark\_a.\_abdo@nss.eop.gov'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Buzbee, John R; Razzouk, Kelly L  
**Subject:** Report of the Human Rights Council

Wes and all,



Among other things, the Flotilla FFM report found, among other things, that Israel's blockade of Gaza was against intl law.



Thanks,  
JD.

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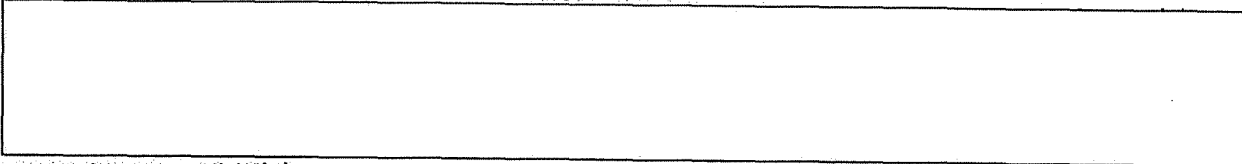
SBU

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 09, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Zurcher, Kenneth M; Cook, Akunna E; Haldeman, William E (P); Powell, Catherine; Richardson, Eric N; Doutrich, Jack T; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Brancato, Gilda M; Sullivan, David B; Jacobson, Linda; Cassidy, Joseph P; Bass, Warren; Cassayre, Mark J; 'scott\_w\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; 'mark\_a\_abdo@nss.eop.gov'  
**Cc:** Millar, McKenzie; Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** Pls CLEAR by 3PM - Report of the Human Rights Council  
**Importance:** High

All – The attached resolution takes note of the recent Report of the Human Rights Council and acknowledges the recommendations contained within it. It will be voted on in the UNGA 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee on Thursday. Israel has informed us that they will call a vote and vote no, as the HRC recommendations include those on the Gaza Flotilla and Goldstone.



B5

Thanks for your quick help!

Wes

***Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.***

Foreign Affairs Officer  
IO/HR - Office of Human Rights  
202-647-3902 (phone)  
202-647-4628 (fax)

SBU

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B5

B22

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010 8:57 AM  
**To:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Cassidy, Joseph P; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Yetken, Melike A (DRL); McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL)  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla-ICC PG  
**Attachments:** -flotilla\_war\_crimes\_ICC\_Press\_guidance L.DOC; PG 10-14-10 ICC Flotilla Complaint MLGA.doc

Thank you.

B5

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

---

**From:** Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010 8:52 AM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Cassidy, Joseph P; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Yetken, Melike A (DRL); McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL)  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla-ICC PG

YES. We can raise in directors?

---

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2010 8:51 AM  
**To:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Yetken, Melike A (DRL); McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla-ICC PG

I've learned that

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

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**From:** Honigstein, Michael D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 7:28 PM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla-ICC PG

I just spoke to IO/PAO and they said that [REDACTED]

B5

Mike

**Michael Honigstein**  
**Human Rights Section Chief**  
**Office of Human Rights, Humanitarian, and Social Affairs (IO/HR)**  
**Bureau of International Organizations**

SBU  
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---

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 5:53 PM  
**To:** Honigstein, Michael D  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla-ICC PG

Hi Michael,

Wanted to follow-up on our conversation about the flotilla ICC petition press guidance. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Many thanks,  
Sarah

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

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**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 9:48 AM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla-ICC PG

Here is the PG on that issue.

---

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 9:20 AM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla-ICC PG

Hello,

Hope you are all doing well. Thought I'd check in to see if you are all working on the ICC/Flotilla PG. IO said that

B5

Best,  
Sarah

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

---

**From:** Cooper, Kurtis A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 9:17 AM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** Re: Flotilla-ICC PG

When I have a clear indication of what they want to say, I'll make sure everyone sees it.

---

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**To:** Cooper, Kurtis A  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 19 09:08:56 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla-ICC PG

Ok, could you keep us in the loop on this? Or should I ask L, NSC and D(S) staff?

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

---

**From:** Cooper, Kurtis A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 9:07 AM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Subject:** Re: Flotilla-ICC PG

No: The deputy wanted

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**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**To:** Cooper, Kurtis A  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 19 08:48:51 2010  
**Subject:** Flotilla-ICC PG

Hi Kurtis,

Was the PG ever finalized on the flotilla ICC issue?

Thanks,  
Sarah

Sarah Johnston-Gardner  
Foreign Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)  
Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs (MLGA)  
202-647-2286

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B24

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Pelton, Erin  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 12:44 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Haaretz: Israel to appoint state panel to investigate Gaza Flotilla

RELEASED IN FULL

HAARETZ.com

## Israel to appoint state panel to investigate Gaza flotilla raid

**Senior government source says committee to comprise top justices, as well as two international observers.**

By Barak Ravid Tags: Israel news Gaza flotilla

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was expected to announce on Monday or Tuesday the creation of a state panel of inquiry to investigate the Israel Navy's deadly raid of a humanitarian aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip last week.

A senior source in Jerusalem said the panel would comprise top justices experienced in matters of international and marine law. Two international justices -- at least one of them American - would be invited to participate as observers, said the source.

In addition to investigating the circumstances surrounding the Israel Navy's seizure of the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara, the committee will also be charged with looking into the legality of Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip and its naval blockade.

Netanyahu's forum of top seven ministers decided to create the internal investigative panel on Monday, after days of deliberation. An official announcement on the matter was awaiting approval from the attorney general, to ensure that there were no conflicts of interest among the potential members of the committee.

The forum of seven ruled in its decision that the panel would not be allowed to interrogate soldiers or officers who took part in the commando raid, which left nine Turkish activists dead and several people wounded. It was not yet clear whether senior Israel Defense Forces officials -- including IDF Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi and Israel Navy Commander Eliezer "Chiney" Marom.

The ministers' decision comes on the heels of a United Nations proposal to establish an international committee comprising representatives of Israel, the U.S. and Turkey to investigate the incident.

Despite growing international pressure, Netanyahu had balked at the proposal, claiming Israel has the right to investigate itself.

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Erin Pelton | Deputy Spokesperson for Foreign Media | Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs | US Department of State  
t: (202) 647-4148 | bb: (202) 664-3968 | Email: [ErinE@state.gov](mailto:ErinE@state.gov)

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B25

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: McFeeters, Brian D  
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 6:44 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Cc: Bischof, Daniel R  
Subject: FW: Protest Letter 12  
Attachments: Document.pdf

RELEASED IN FULL

Colleagues, Another letter faxed to US Embassy KL today, Brian

-----Original Message-----

From: Rauland, Frances N  
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 6:17 PM  
To: Rauland, Frances N; McFeeters, Brian D  
Subject: Protest Letter 12

-----  
Please open the attached document. This document was digitally sent to you using an HP Digital Sending device.

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

<sup>1</sup>  
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03/06 2010 21:21 FAX 0391732759

MAJLIS BELIA MALAYSIA

001/001



**MAJLIS BELIA MALAYSIA**  
(MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL)

PENALING / PATRON: **RELEASED IN FULL**  
Perdana Menteri Malaysia / Prime Minister of Malaysia

Wisma MBM No. 1, Jalan Tasik Permaisuri 2, Bandar Tun Razak, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
Tel: (+603) 9173 2761/63. Fax: (+603) 9173 2759. Email: mbm@bella.org.my Website: http://www.bella.org.my  
Pusat Surat 10871, 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**BELIA BERTINDAK UNTUK KEHENDAK Keadilan**

Ref: (42) in MYC 01-7.0.0/10 Vol. 1

Date: 3rd Jun 2010

*pol*

His Excellency Ambassador,  
Embassy of the United States of America  
376 Jalan Tun Razak,  
50400 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03 2168 5000, Fax: 03 2148 5801

Dear Sir,

**RE: PROTEST AGAINST THE ISRAELI RAID OF A PRO-PALESTANIAN FLOTILLA OF GAZA-BOUND AID SHIPS.**

I representing Malaysian Youth Council and all the youth in Malaysia am writing to express our utmost frustration and condemnation towards the outright inhuman embargo on Gaza. This was demonstrated by the Israeli regime attacked on a convoy of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza which resulted to a number of people casualties and demised.

Hence, we consider that the attack on innocent unarmed volunteers to be no other than an act of terrorism, uncivilized as well as against humanity by the Israeli. This incident further displayed that the Israeli has zero respect or regard towards the norm of universal humanity and International law.

Thus we strongly urge the United Nations together with the United States to immediately intervene in this issue in order to cease this rampant brutal violence and to provide the appropriate redress towards damage caused by the Zionist regime. We believe a more aggressive and proactive approach in dealing with the Zionist regime is necessary to ultimately address the Israeli military action against the convoy of humanitarian aid mission. I appeal to you, to act with speed.

Thank you.

**MENGGERAK BELIA MALAYSIA**  
**1 BELIA : 1 MALAYSIA**

Sincerely,

**MOHAMED MALIKI MOHAMED RAPIEE**  
President  
Malaysian Youth Council

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/ASL ID: 03 APR 2013 20100476

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1325B.  
RELEASED IN FULL

2010-6-7 Gaza Reaction Continues.txt

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PROG 06/07/10  
CDA: MMATTHEWS  
POL: BMCFEETERS  
NONE  
POL

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO ASEAN COLLECTIVE

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ, MY  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: Malaysia: Parliamentary Motion on Gaza Flotilla

1. (SBU) Summary and Comment: The Malaysian Parliament on June 7 passed a motion sponsored by Prime Minister Najib Razak's office condemning Israel's action against the Mavi Marmara and calling for Israel to be referred to the UN General Assembly and International Criminal Court (ICC). PM Najib said Malaysia's condemnation of Israel's "state-sponsored terrorism" would not end with the motion. Meanwhile, Malaysians, including a Member of Parliament, who had been aboard the Mavi Marmara and the Rachel Corrie, returned to Kuala Lumpur to a heroes' welcome on June 5-6. PM Najib said their efforts had been "written into history" and called Israel's May 31 boarding of the Mavi Marmara a "blatant act of aggression and terrorism." A Malaysian doctor who was aboard the Mavi Marmara when Israeli forces boarded it told the media he had treated two Israeli soldiers with gunshot wounds, while another activist claimed, sensationally and without showing evidence, that activists had found a "hit list" with the names of activists who were to be killed on the Mavi Marmara. End Summary.

2. (SBU) Comment: Even in the absence of a Gaza flotilla incident, the Israel-Palestine issue resonates with the Malaysian public on a daily basis like no other foreign policy issue, and it is inevitably portrayed as an example of Muslims being oppressed. The May 31 deaths of activists aboard the Mavi Marmara are seen as further proof of Israel's evil intentions. The emotional reaction toward Israel affects public sentiment toward the U.S., which Malaysians view as enabling Israel. However, PM Najib did not criticize the U.S. in otherwise strident statements, an approach that the political opposition found fault with. End Comment.

Special motion tabled in Parliament on GAZA  
-----

3. (U) PM Najib Razak tabled a 15-point motion at the Parliament on June 7, condemning Israel's attack on the vessel Mavi Marmara on May 31. The motion, seconded by Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin, called on the world to bring a resolution to the UN General Assembly and refer Israel's atrocities to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It said the "Zionist regime's attack" was a violation of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations. The motion also proposed Turkey to consider taking action under the Rome Statute of the ICC. The motion strongly condemned Benjamin Netanyahu for allowing the Israel's military forces to act beyond the bounds of humanitarian norms against the people involved in the aid mission. The motion states that Malaysia was dismayed with the inability of the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council, to strongly protest Israel's violent acts.

Reactions  
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Page 1

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2010-6-7 Gaza Reaction Continues.txt

4. (SBU) The opposition party Pakatan Rakyat (PR) unanimously supported PM Najib's special motion and urged the PM to condemn the United States. The PR leaders argued that the Zionist would not be allowed to attack the flotilla without the consent of the United States.

5. (SBU) At a homecoming reception held at PM Najib's residence for the twelve Malaysians who returned on June 6, PM Najib described the attack as a "blatant act of aggression and terrorism" and added that the Israeli regime should offer an apology and compensation payments to the families of the nine who were killed during the attack. Najib lauded the activists, saying that their efforts had been "written into the country's historical annals" and that what they went through opened "the eyes of the world to the cruelty of the Zionist regime towards Palestinians." He added that most Malaysians had only seen the "atrocities of Israel on television, but now at least 12 Malaysians can say they have viewed Israel's cruelty firsthand." Najib said Malaysia would raise USD 5,000 for the families of each of the activists killed aboard the Mavi Marmara.

6. (SBU) Explicit criticism of the USG came from Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Mukhriz Mahathir, former PM Mahathir's son and Perdana Global Peace Organization (which helped fund the flotilla) advisor, who said the mission organizers will not be deceived by Vice President Biden's promise that Israel will hand over the aid to Gaza, and added that U.S. policy toward Israel was a failure.

7. (SBU) "Utusan," the leading Malay-language newspaper owned by the government-leading United Malays National Organization (UMNO), argued in a June 7 editorial that the ship boardings clearly showed to the world the true picture of "Jewish Israel being stubborn, arrogant and lacking humanity," noting condemnation by numerous countries including the U.S. and suggested that future volunteers and NGOs receive "self defense and weapons training."

8. (SBU) On June 5, a statement from Foreign Minister Anifah Aman demanded safe passage and rapid repatriation of the Malaysian citizens aboard the Rachel Corrie. The weekend return to Malaysia of the group, and the non-violent nature of the boarding, helped cool rhetoric. For example, Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin was quoted on June 6 saying that he had word that the Malaysians aboard the vessel were being safely transported home through Jordan; he avoided further negative comments about Israel.

9. (SBU) Earlier, on June 4, 1,500-2,000 peaceful demonstrators chanted slogans such as "destroy Israel" in front of the U.S. Embassy after Friday prayers. Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim and the heads of the other opposition parties led one of the demonstrations. In a brief meeting inside the Embassy, Anwar told the CDA that Israel's unacceptable intransigence occurs only because of USG tolerance, and conveyed a letter to President Obama (shared with Monitoring Group).

MATTHEWS

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June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
09:00

# IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



דובר צה"ל  
IDF Spokesperson

B27A

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Israel Navy Communicates Radio Message to 7<sup>th</sup> Flotilla Ship

The Israel Navy conveyed the following message to the 7<sup>th</sup> flotilla ship a few moments ago via radio transmission:

"This is the Israeli Navy. You are approaching an area of hostilities which is under a naval blockade. The Gaza area, coastal region and Gaza Harbor are closed to all maritime traffic. The Israeli government supports delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and invites you to enter the Ashdod port. Delivery of the supplies in accordance with the authorities' regulations will be done via the formal land crossings and under your observation, after which you can return to your home ports aboard the vessels on which you arrived."

The ship organizers chose to ignore the invitation to dock at the Ashdod port where the cargo could be unloaded and transferred to the Gaza Strip upon inspection.

### IDF Spokesperson Unit - Foreign Press Branch

News Desk:	+972-3-6080245/8	Arabic Media Desk:	+972-2-5485802
European & Pacific Media Desk:	+972-2-5485800	Russian Media Desk:	+972-2-5485808
North American Media Desk:	+972-2-5485807	Official IDF Website:	idf.il/English
Spain, Turkey & Africa Media Desk:	+972-2-5485801	IDF Spokesperson Blog:	idfspokesperson.com

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B28

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Withers, Anne M  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 06, 2010 10:18 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01 - (AP) U.S. Senator Brown of Mass.: Israel no liability to United States

RELEASED IN FULL

Senator Brown (R-MA) spoke at a dinner tonight and the full AP article on his remarks is pasted below for consideration of inclusion in tomorrow's sitrep.

**(AP) U.S. Senator Brown of Mass.: Israel no liability to United States**

BOSTON (AP) - U.S. Senator Scott Brown of Massachusetts says Americans should stand together in "unwavering commitment" to Israel in the wake of a deadly commando raid on ships taking aid to the Gaza Strip.

The Republican Brown was the keynote speaker Sunday night at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee leadership dinner in Boston.

He says he was disappointed that so many condemned Israel after the raid without considering Israel is at war with Gaza. He says Israel is one of the United States' greatest allies against jihad and says Israel is not a liability to America.

Israel raided an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip last week. Eight Turks and an American were killed in the fighting.

President Barack Obama has called the raid "tragic" but stopped short of condemning the actions of Israeli forces.

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B30

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Rathod, Rona R  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 06, 2010 10:19 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Israel will reject int'l panel to study raid -ambassador

RELEASED IN FULL

Israel will reject int'l panel to study raid -ambassador

WASHINGTON (Reuters)- Israel's ambassador to the United States Michael Oren said Sunday that Jerusalem will reject the idea of an international commission to study its commando raid on a Gaza-bound aid ship in which nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed.

"We are rejecting an international commission. We are discussing with the Obama administration a way in which our inquiry will take place," Oren said on "Fox News Sunday."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has proposed a multinational investigation of the raid, an Israeli official said earlier Sunday.

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B32

**From:** Carle, Lisa M  
**To:** Smith, James B; Ziadch, Susan L; Treiber, Laird D (NEA/I-ASSIST)  
**CC:** Mathur, Amit; Leff, Adam J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Hill, Jeffrey M (Jeddah); Madyuni, Munir M (Jeddah)  
**Subject:** FW: Iranian FM Arrives in Saudi Arabia for OIC Urgent Meeting  
**Sent:** 6/6/2010 7:04:11 AM  
 Colleagues,

FYI, see below. Jeddah is working on getting a readout of the meeting (and an indication whether Mottaki has any bilateral meetings with Saudis) with the intention of getting a report out by OOB Washington time tomorrow.

LMC

*Lisa M. Carle*  
 Counselor for Political Affairs

*Embassy of the United States of America*  
 P.O. Box 94309  
 Riyadh 11693  
 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

*Telephone: +966-1-488-3800 x 4422*  
*Mobile: +966-55-355-2145*

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**From:** OSCINFO@rccb.osis.gov [mailto:OSCINFO@rccb.osis.gov]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 06, 2010 11:00 AM  
**Subject:** OSC: Iranian FM Arrives in Saudi Arabia for OIC Urgent Meeting

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 (DRL)

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## Iranian FM Arrives in Saudi Arabia for OIC Urgent Meeting

IAP20100606950017 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 06 Jun 10

Jeddah, June 6, IRNA -- Foreign Minister of Iran Manouchehr Mottaki arrived here on Sunday to attend the emergency Executive Committee meeting of the ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Zionists' crimes in Gaza.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Mottaki is in Saudi Arabia to elaborate on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands on the attack of the Israeli forces on the aid flotilla to the Gaza Strip.

Mottaki has already held talks with a number of world leaders, including OIC Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, on the latest developments in Gaza, the Monday raid on the aid convoy to Gaza in particular.

Mottaki in his talks has called on the Islamic leaders to adopt a similar stance against the Zionist regime.

The OIC has 57 members.

According to media reports, early Monday morning in international waters, Israeli forces intercepted and took control of the six-ship aid convoy, which was carrying 10,000 tons of aid and hundreds of activists from several countries. At least 10 people were killed in the serious violence on one or more of the vessels.

The six-ship flotilla had 682 passengers from 42 countries.

Across the world, tens of thousands of people protested on the streets and several countries summoned Israel's ambassadors.

The international community has called for an impartial inquiry into the Israeli assault.

[Description of Source: Tehran IRNA in English -- Official state-run online news agency, headed as of January 2010 by Ali Akbar Javanfekr, former media adviser to President Ahmadinezhad.  
URL: <http://www.irna.ir>]

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<b>Source Name</b>	IRNA
<b>Source Medium(s)</b>	News Agencies
<b>Source City</b>	Tehran
<b>Source Country</b>	Iran
<b>Source Start Date</b>	6/6/2010 - 0720 GMT
<b>Source End Date</b>	6/6/2010
<b>Source Language(s)</b>	English
<b>Article Metadata</b>	
<b>Product ID</b>	IAP20100606950017
<b>Version</b>	1
<b>Content Type</b>	Translation/Transcription
<b>Processing Indicator</b>	OSC Transcribed Text
<b>Precedence</b>	Priority
<b>Topic Country(s)</b>	Iran, Saudi Arabia
<b>Topic Region(s)</b>	Middle East
<b>Topic Subregion(s)</b>	Middle East
<b>Event(s)</b>	
<b>International Organization(s)</b>	OIC
<b>Topic(s)</b>	INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER
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<b>Program Title(s)</b>	
<b>Program Type(s)</b>	
<b>Speaker(s)</b>	

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B33  
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From: Usama Najeeb [redacted] B6 B6  
 Sent: Sunday, June 06, 2010 1:13 AM  
 To: 'Usama Najeeb'; 'Nesreen Hamimi'; Najeeb, Usama M; 'Leslie Adkins'; Allen, Katherine E; Scobey, Margaret; Brooks, Lynne A; Carper, David W (NEA/ELA); Gregonis, Meghan E; Irwin, Matthew T; Lawson, Christine M; Monz, Allison M; Able, Jason A; Pina, Aaron D; Waters, John R; richardriley [redacted]; Riley, Richard H; Brown, Christopher J; Knopf, Payton L; Struwe, Rebecca L; 'Noah I Siegel'; Shampaine, Nicole D; 'Julia M Santucci'; Abdeldayem, May M; Aly, Nashwa H; Awadallah, Karim S; Berns, David B; Cutrona, Almee; Gressel, Sika D; Hamimi, Nesreen H; Heidelberg, Breck D; LoGerfo, Gregory D; Morse, Monica L; O'Dowd, Stephen; Speaks, John T; Watkins, Todd J; White, Edward A; Cline, Melissa R; Blome, Donald A; Hamroush, Hany A; Turner, India R; Greenan, Robert J; AguirreSL@state.gov; Farbeann, Joseph R; 'Usama M Najeeb'; [redacted] Perry, Laura M; Lenert, Adam J; Shea, Peter T; Edward, Marie N; [redacted] Iskandar, Nabil G; [redacted] Selima, Sameh A; Addis, Casey L; Duchak, John T; Soliman, Reham M; Rezkalla [redacted] AbdelHafez, Hend A; Williams, Eric C; Delaney, Tom (Cairo/DIR); Sergio L. Aguirre@nsc.eop.gov; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Ofobike, Nnenna N; Sindle, James M; Kosa, Lauren S; Maxwell, Raymond D; Patel, Gayatri A; 'Jeffrey G. Giauque'; Grimm, Brian M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Pelton, Erin; Ismail, Amirah T; Dawson, Catherine N; Djerassi, Alexander M; Fleming, John T; Ratney, Michael A; Safty, Sameh; Sayles, Ambrose G; Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); Stukes, Roberta L (NEA/FO); Sullivan, John L; Vasquez, Edgar J; CottrelBD@state.gov; Ford, Robert S; Heinzer, Clifford D; Nemr, Christina R; Cofsky, Warren A (DRL); Doyle, Robert F; Kelly, Mark T; Nicolaidis, Constantinos C; Shaunfield, Jill R; Whitmire, Morgan G

Subject: Cairo External News Summary 06-06-2010

**Good Morning****Cairo External Affairs News 06-06-2010****Summary:**

- Egypt keeps an American ship in Suez because it cut internet cables canal.
- US DOS: Mitchell completed a constructive negotiations session.
- Israeli troops seized Irish ship bound to Gaza.
- FM Aboul Gheit sends letters to EU foreign ministers on Flotilla.
- Hamdy Khalifa files case at ICC against Israelis involved in flotilla attack.
- OIC holds emergency ministerial today on flotilla attack.
- 3,700 crossed through Rafah Crossing during first 4 days of operation.
- Court approves citizenship rule when married to Israeli women.
- GOSS: Egypt has to recognize other countries' rights in water.

**News:**

**US Ship in Suez:** Port Said prosecution ordered the keeping of the American Ship Liberty Agile because it cut the internet cables in Suez Canal when it went off its sailing track in Suez Canal. The ship was carrying flour to Djibouti and was crossing through Suez when its sailing system broke (RAY).

**Palestinian Israeli Negotiations:** US Department of State said the US Envoy to the Middle East completed a news session of indirect negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis. Abbas said

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Palestinian Authority faces many difficulties in the negotiations. Crowley said discussions were constructive and both the sides reiterated their commitment to reach the joint goal of achieving comprehensive peace in the region. Separately, Spanish FM said he will present a plan from the EU to the EU Foreign Affairs Meeting to be sent to the IQ to lift the siege imposed on Gaza by sending an EU monitoring delegation for crossings between Israel and Egypt and spread European naval forces on Gaza shores (Al Ahram).

**Gaza Flotilla:** Israeli troops seized the Irish owned ship bound to Gaza, boarding the Rachel 35 miles out in the Mediterranean. Israeli troops boarded the ship without any violent confrontation and they escorted it towards Ashdod's port (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). FM Aboul Gheit sent letters to his European counterparts and permanent UNSC members and the UN Secretary General expressing Egypt's dismay from countries that voted against the Human Rights Council resolution condemning the Israeli crime of attacking the aid flotilla (Al Gomhuria, RAY). Head of the Egyptian Bar Association and president of the Arab Lawyers' Union Hamdy Khalifah announced a case will be filed at the ICC against Israelis involved in the attack on the Gaza Flotilla (Al Gomhuria). Ambassador Mohamed Sobeih demanded going to the ICC to sue Israel for its crimes. He added yesterday that Turkey is going in this direction (Al Gomhuria). The OIC will hold an emergency meeting today in Jeddah to discuss the developments of the attack on the flotilla. Turkish FM Oglu announced yesterday he will attend the OIC meeting (Al Gomhuria).

**Rafah Crossing:** 3,700 Palestinians crossed through Rafah in the first 4 days of operation most of them carrying residencies in other countries and Palestinians with humanitarian reasons. Egyptian employees at the crossing work 14 hours per day (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria and RAY).

**Tunnels:** A small landslide in front of the police station in Al Qambaz police station in Rafah revealed a tunnel used for smuggling between Egypt and Gaza. The hole created in the street was 4 meters deep, 6 meters long, and 3 meters wide. The area is currently being scanned for other tunnels. Security officials said 3 tunnels were found in Salah Eddin and Barahma area close to the international border (RAY).

**Egyptian Citizenship:** The High Administrative Court supported the first degree rule to withdraw the Egyptian citizenship off men who get married to Israeli women. The court said each case has to be proposed by the Egyptian ministry of interior independently to the cabinet. Arabs of 1948 married to Palestinian women will be excluded from this rule because they are under occupation and their case is different from those married to Israeli Jewish women (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria).

**Nile Water:** Vice president of the GOSS in Egypt said in a lecture that Egypt has to recognize others' rights in Nile water. He added that this recognition will dissolve any problems between Nile Basin countries and lead these countries to recognize Egypt's water rights. He added that Egypt has to transform from defense and protest to cooperation with Nile basin countries (Al Gomhuria). Ugandan minister of energy says the Nile water issue is not technical but rather political. He added that his country recognizes water agreements signed earlier (RAY).

**Egypt - Lebanon:** The Egyptian Lebanese high committee meeting in Beirut on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June lead by the prime ministers of both countries will discuss marketing products between the two countries, expanding financial cooperation, Lebanese needs of Egyptian natural gas, electricity network, and overcoming problems facing Egyptian workers in Lebanon. A preparatory meeting will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June lead by Faiza Aboul Naga and her Lebanese counterpart (Al Gomhuria).

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**Libya:** Libyan authorities granted foreign workers in Libya, including Egyptians, a 60-day grace period to fix their status by getting approved working contracts and have a residency. Undisclosed Libyan official sources said after this grace period labor violating country rules will be stopped and deported (Al Ahram).

**Doha Talks:** A new peace negotiations session between Darfurian groups and the Sudanese government will be held in Doha today. JEM continues to refuse to return to negotiations. Separately, government of south Sudan considered any request to delay the referendum a call for war (Al Ahram).

**UAE Amnesty:** Sheikh Khalifah Bin Zayed issued an amnesty for 33 Egyptian prisoners in the country. Egyptian embassy in the UAE will quickly complete their travel procedures for them to return to Egypt (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). This constitutes about half the number of Egyptians in UAE prisons (RAY).

**Arab League:** Beheira Governorate signed a cooperation protocol with the Arab Economic Unity Council at the Arab League. The protocol includes youth training in some specialized economic fields including international trade agreements, money markets, stock exchanges, etc. Dr. Gowell said the protocol opens new horizons for development in Beheira. Beheira Governor Mohamed Shaarawi said protocol includes holding scientific conferences and joint discussion sessions of issues of joint concern (Al Ahram).

Thank You

Usama Najeeb  
Political Specialist on External and Military Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Cairo

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Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5175 (20100605)

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The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

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B34

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

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**From:** Lewis, Robert B  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 10:32 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MV Rachel Corrie  
**Attachments:** MV Corrie port of Ashdod.jpg; MV Corrie Port of Ashdod 3.jpg; MV Corrie Boarding1.jpg; MV Corrie Boarding 2.jpg

RELEASED IN FULL

FYI: Possible channel 16 radio broadcast between IDF and MV Rachel Corrie.

<http://www.nowpublic.com/world/gaza-flotilla-mv-rachel-corrie-live-feed-updates-and-resouces>

<http://www.vnetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3899386,00.html>

<http://www.coastalsailing.net/Cruising/Seamanship/Radio/RadioBasics.html>

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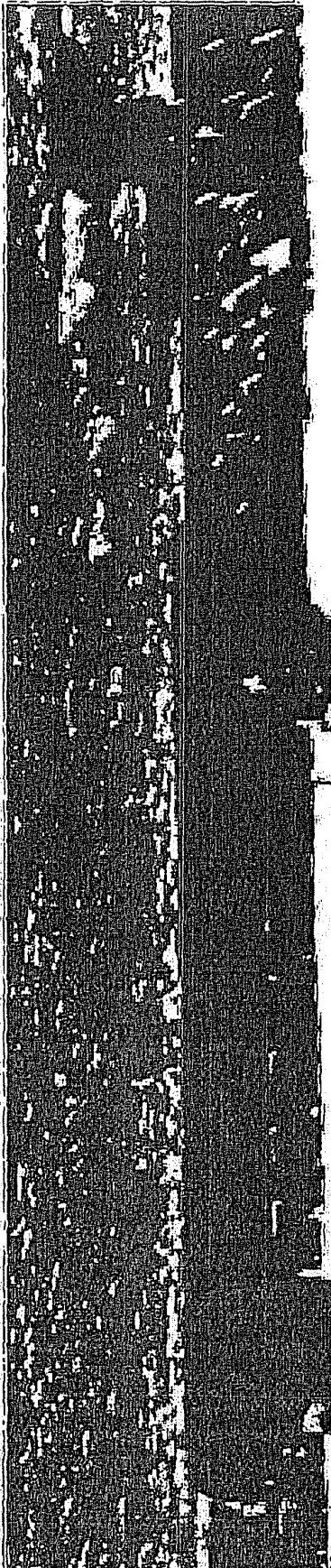
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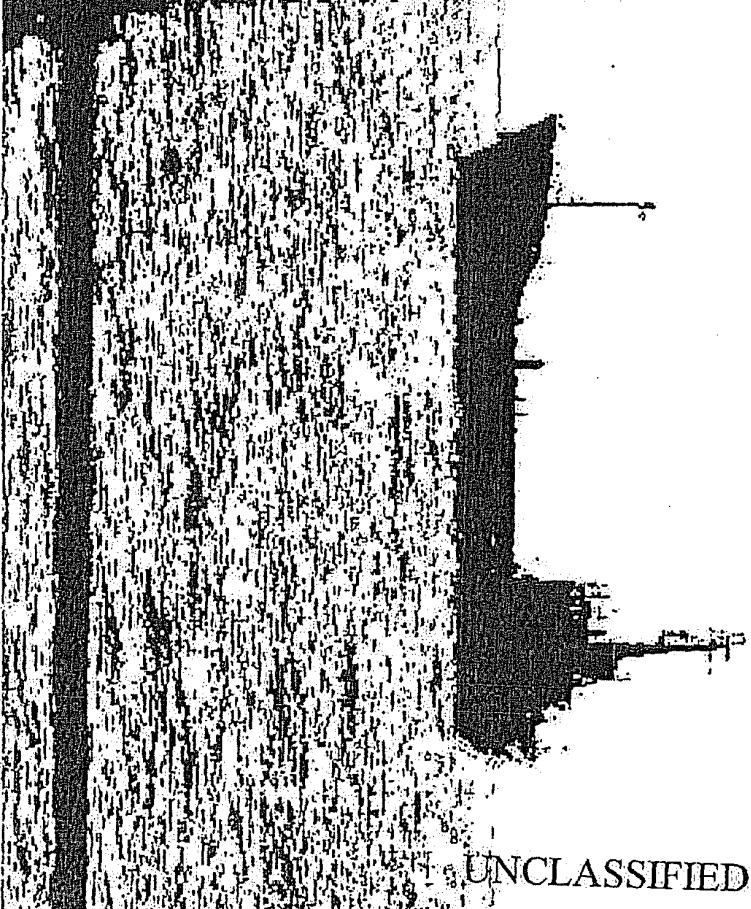
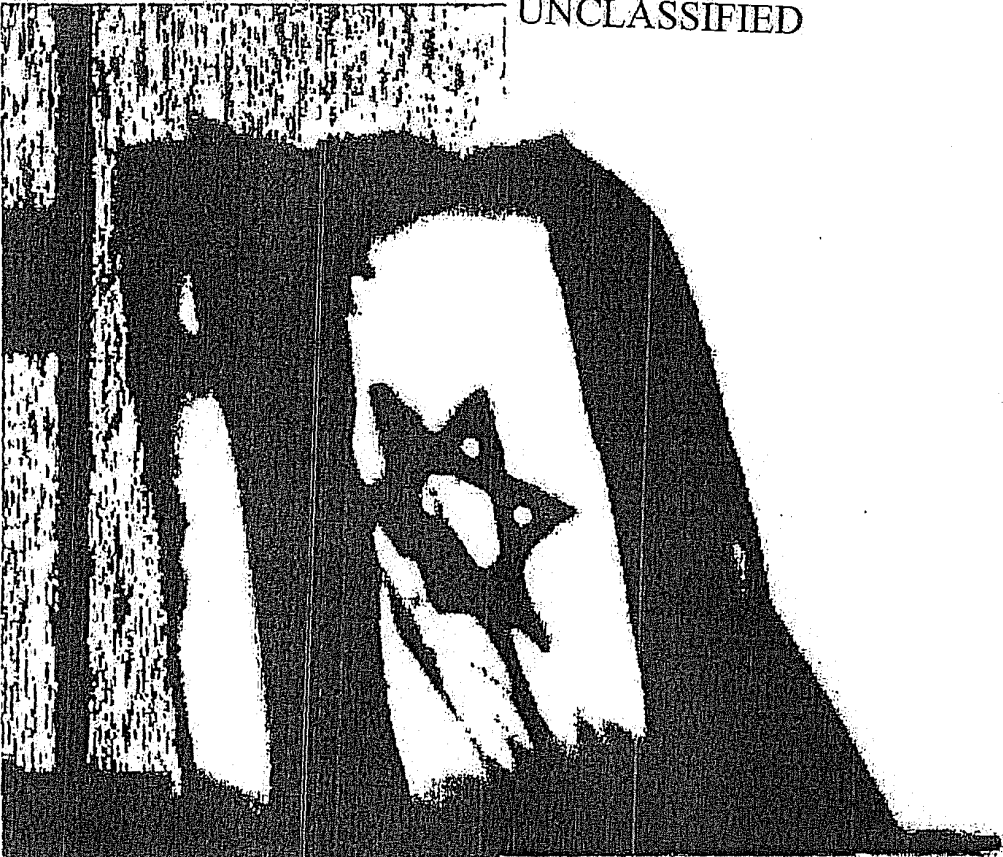
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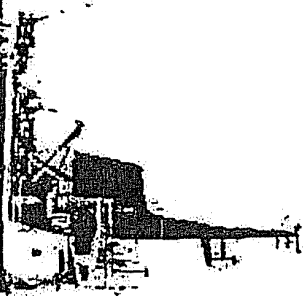
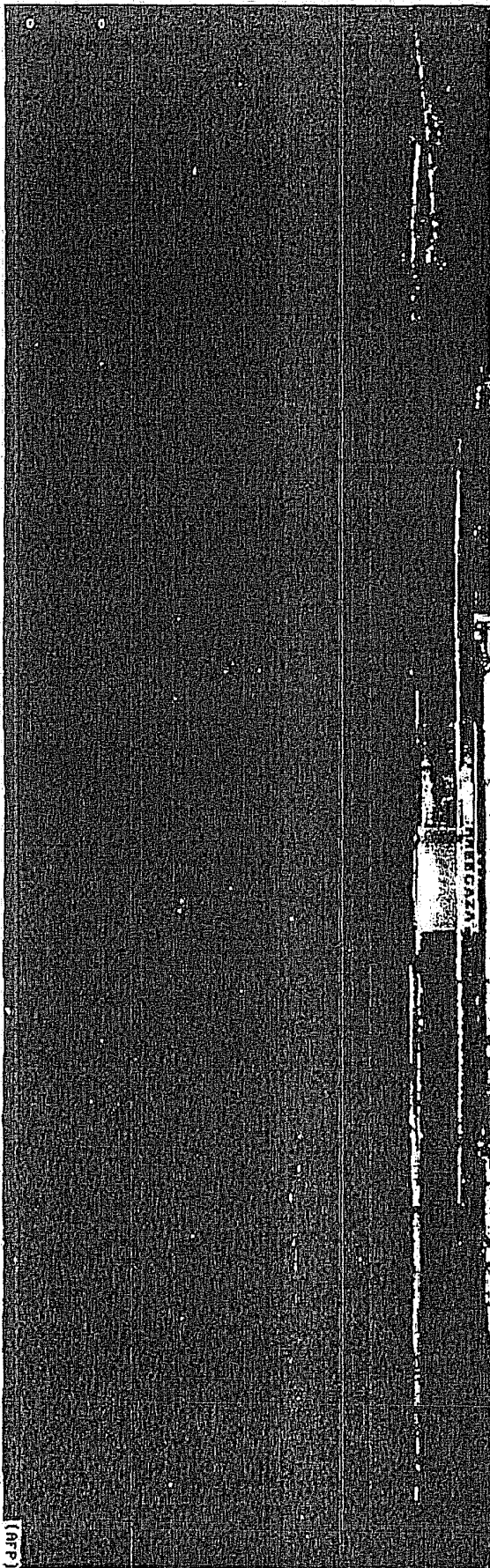
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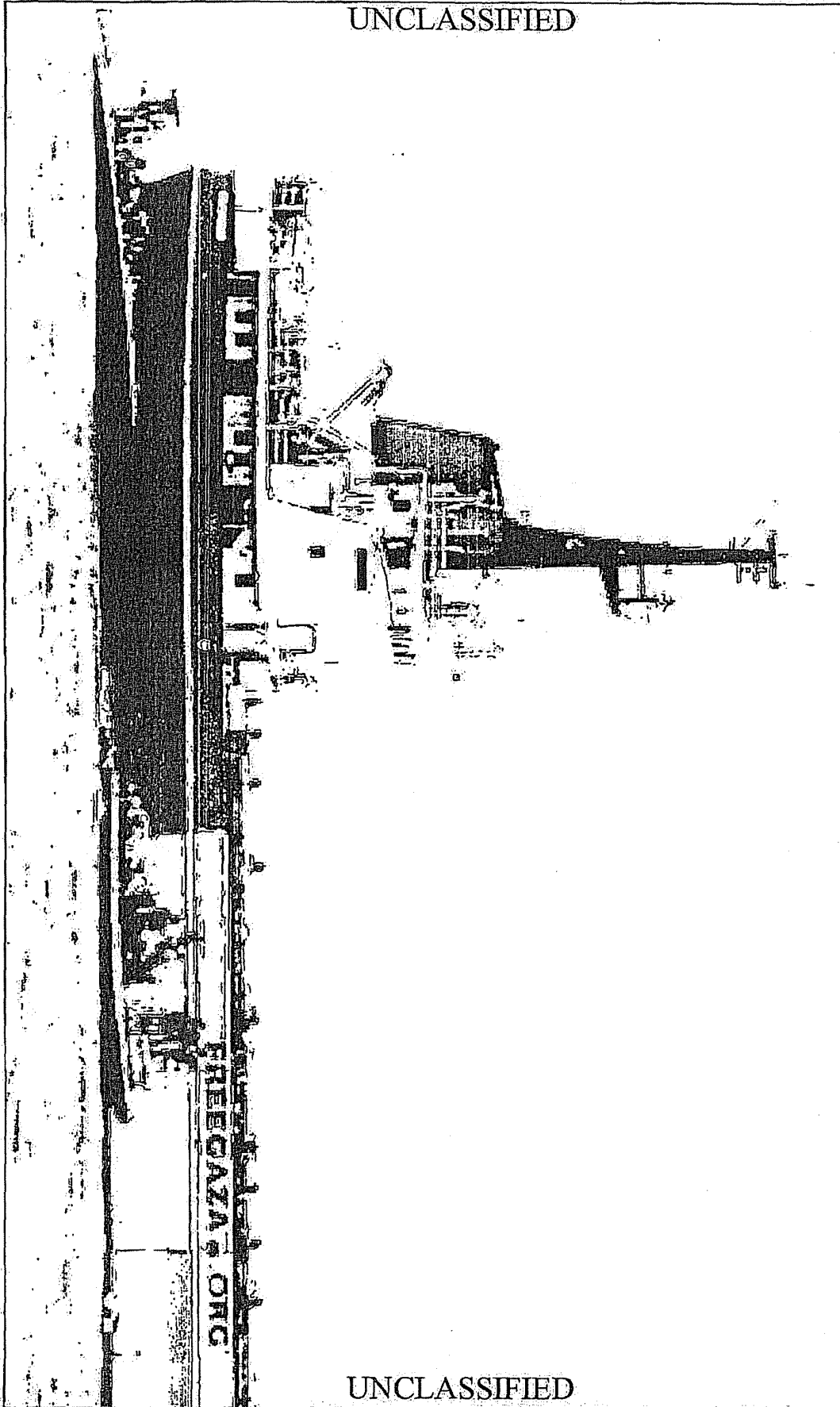
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(AFP)

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Featured Tags: Afghanistan Crime India Iraq Japan Earthquake Libya Protests Muammar Gaddafi F



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# Gaza Flotilla: MV Rachel Corrie Live Feed, Updates, and Resources

by Josh Arizona | June 4, 2010 at 08:25 pm

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### Videos

Radio Exchange Between Israeli Navy and 7th Flotilla Ship Regarding Transfer of Aid to Gaza

sourced by Josh Arizona

see larger video



Update: MV Rachel Corrie Boarded By IDF; Diverted To Ashdod, No One Hurt

Twitter Feed Here!

Live Stream Here!

Al Jazeera English Live News Coverage

PressTV Live News Coverage

As of 7:20 AM Gaza Time: MV Rachel Corrie is 25 miles from Gazan waters, shadowed by two Israeli warships, but has not been boarded. Jamming of radios has been reported.

Expected to arrive in Gaza around 10:00 AM Gaza Time

7:25 AM: MV Rachel Corrie 20 miles of shore, visible from Gaza shore.

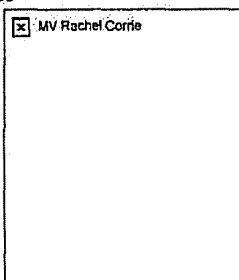
7:27 AM: It looks like she might make it!

7:33 AM: 19 minutes ago the Free Gaza Movement said they were not able to contact the ship, unknown if communications has been reestablished. Earlier jamming of radios was reported.

7:37 AM: Reports of MV Rachel Corrie being boarded and diverted to Ashdod! Not sure if this is confirmed. There were earlier false reports of a boarding, this could just be a late breaking dud.

7:43 AM: No confirmation that Corrie has been boarded, she may very well be under way

### Photos



still.

7:47 AM: I am being told that she has not been boarded, but I haven't received any update in quite a few minutes. Standing by, ready to post more info as soon as possible.

7:51 AM: "We have been trying every two minutes to contact passengers. No answer. #Flotilla" from the Free Gaza Movement Twitter feed, they still are no able to make contact, Jamming of communications may still be active.

7:56 AM: IDF Twitter claiming Corrie has not been boarded. Not sure if this is actually official IDF twitter page, still working to bring you up to date info.

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<http://www.nowpublic.com/world/gaza-flotilla-mv-rachel-corrie-live-feed-updates-and-res...> 12/7/2011

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8:02 AM: "Haaretz says Rachel Corrie ship closing in on Gaza shore. Posted this information to their page 20 minutes ago. #Flotilla" Free Gaza Movement's Twitter is reporting that Haaretz confirms Rachel Corrie is still underway and headed for Gaza.

8:10 AM: Still waiting for more info about MV Rachel Corrie's status, she is currently underway towards Gaza and jamming of communications is continuing.

8:13 AM: CNN's Ben Wedeman reports, Corrie can be seen with smaller vessels around her through binoculars. Smaller vessels are probably IDF patrol boats mentioned earlier.

8:18 AM: IDF naval activity in port reported to be more intense than usual.

8:22 AM: jvplive@twitter is reporting, "Phone ringing, no answer. But #Rachel Corrie is speeding towards Gaza. #flotilla" MV Rachel Corrie is still under way!

8:25 AM: Ma'an News Agency confirms, that MV Rachel Corrie is being shadowed by Israeli naval vessels and the ship's radar and communications are being jammed.

8:30 AM: Free Gaza reports via twitter, "Al Jazeera reports that the Navy is insisting they go to Ashdod. Passengers say 'no'. Navy says they will drag boat to Ashdod. Not possible"

8:38 AM: Not much info coming in right now, but I will post fresh information as soon as possible.

8:45 AM: IDFSpokesperson@twitter (supposed to be IDF's official twitter) reports, "Update: Rachel Corrie now ~40 miles from shore, IDF made initial request for ID, ship not boarded". MV Rachel Corrie still underway.

8:48 AM: Free Gaza Twitter reports, "From the BBC: IOF issued initial request to ship to identify. No warning to the ship. Not boarding ship yet. No contact for hour and a half." Further confirmation the ship is still en route to Gaza and has not been boarded.

8:55 AM: Information is scarce, but I will continue updating as often as possible. MV Rachel Corrie's status appears to be the same as last reported. Still underway, shadowed by naval vessels, radar and communications still being jammed.

9:00 AM: IDF twitter says, "IDF Navy began transmission to crew of Rachel Corrie telling them to dock @ Ashdod; aid will be transferred via land xings to Gaza"

9:05 AM: Ma'an News Agency says, "Army source: Aid ship will not reach Gaza <http://ping.fm/nlj9S>".

9:14 AM: **BREAKING!** Free Gaza's Twitter reports: "According to the IOF, the boat was stopped in international waters six minutes ago and that it is legal. #Flotilla". It appears she is possibly being stopped after she rejected a second call to divert to Ashdod.

9:24 AM: Ma'an News Agency reports, "BREAKING Israel orders MV Rachel Corrie to change course <http://ping.fm/Mplvg>" No further confirmation yet that Corrie has been stopped.

9:27 AM: Free Gaza Movement says, "Engine expert. "They may be apprehensive to use helicopters this time. If you want to drag the Rachel, you must first break his engine." 3 minutes ago via web" MV Rachel Corrie is due in port within an hour, not sure how far from the coast she is.

9:32 AM: Free Gaza reports, "Sky News now: RC refused a second call to go to Ashdod. Not sure of the source for this. #Flotilla" Once again there has not been any further mentions of the ship being stopped.

9:40 AM: Breaking News@twitter says, "Update: Israelis tell aid ship it won't reach Gaza, ask it to change course <http://bit.ly/dnMyYp>"

9:47 AM: Mondoweis@Twitter, "RT @JamalDajani: According to Al Jazeera #Israel navy trying to force the Rachel Corrie ship to

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Ashdod"

9:53 AM: Not much information coming in at this time, But I will continue to post it as it comes. Ma'an News Agency confirms that IDF has ordered MV Rachel Corrie to change her course again. "BREAKING Israel orders MV Rachel Corrie to change course <http://ping.fm/Mplvg>".

MV Rachel Corrie was expected in port around 10:00 AM, not sure if this estimate is still accurate.

10:00 AM: No reports yet of arrival, and information is not forthcoming, I'm posting info as soon as it comes in.

10:04 AM: Live news reports by Al Jazeera English and PressTV. PressTV is reporting that the IDF is preparing to board the ship inside Gazan territorial waters!

10:11 AM: on Al Jazeera English, Israeli official Mary Eisen says they will stop the Rachel Corrie, and is being followed by two IDF naval vessels.

10:18 AM: Ben Wedeman of CNN reports, "Everything gone quiet in #Gaza port: everyone waiting for #rachelcorrie." The calm before the storm, everyone is waiting to see what going to happen. Once again Al Jazeera and PressTV have confirmed via live coverage that the IDF has two boats trailing MV Rachel Corrie, and appear to be staging themselves.

10:25 AM: Just in from Free Gaza's Twitter, "From Vik: The 6 gunboats disappeared on the horizon south-west just about a half hour ago. #Flotilla" It appears that there may be as many as 6 IDF patrol boats near the Rachel Corrie.

10:33 AM: IDFSpokesperson@twitter: "Update: Rachel Corrie has rejected IDF Navy request to dock at Ashdod Port for 3rd time" It appears that the IDF has not yet tried to stop the boat, but there seems to be a dialogue between them and the Rachel Corrie.

10:44 AM: It looks like the situation is at a stand still.

But, Free Gaza is reporting this at their Twitter feed, "Israeli army: Ship has to directly handle all she carries to the Israeli army in Ashdod Port or we will use force (from source listening), Israeli spokesperson confirms they had three contacts to contact the RC to take it to Ashdod, the RC said they refuse to go to Ashdod, About cutting the communications, he said that israel has different methods to reach their objectives and they will use them, Israeli spokesperson said they hope not to be forced to use violence, but they will use all means to stop the RC. #Flotilla".

The IDF is telling them to divert again, and if they don't they will use any means they deem necessary.

10:50 AM: Almost an hour after MV Rachel Corrie was originally supposed to arrive in port, Ben Wedeman of CNN says, "Waiting in port for #RachelCorrie, getting hot, drinking tea. No sign of ship."

10:55 AM: IDFSpokesperson@twitter says, "Update: The Rachel Corrie is now ~28 miles from shore, have rejected 3 requests from IDF navy to dock @ Ashdod Port" and Free Gaza reports, "So far, peace activists have refused to go to Ashdod. Israeli navy preparing to violently stop them if necessary. #Flotilla"

11:00 AM: It's now 11AM in Gaza and 1AM in Arizona. But no matter how tired I get, I will remain ever-vigilant and continue to bring you up to date information. No new info coming in right now, well no real relevant info. But, as soon as I can I will post new information.

11:08 AM: PressTV has just said that they can neither confirm that anything has happened, nor confirm anything hasn't happened. How helpful.....

11:15 AM: Al Jazeera English just interviewed someone from the Malaysian group involved with the MV Rachel Corrie (not on ship), She confirms that their radar and communications are still being blocked, and that Israel is continuing to tell them they will be stopped if they do not comply. Last contact with the Rachel Corrie was over 3 hours ago.

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11:25 AM: Situation still at a stand still, no new information. But, apparently The United States has urged the aid ship to change its course, the San Francisco Gate writes.

11:35 AM: Nothing has changed yet. The Rachel Corrie's crew is still standing their ground, and the IDF is still rattling their saber. CNN's Ben Wedeman says, "Isn't an offer by its nature optional? Israel is giving #RachelCorrie an ultimatum. We are waiting in #Gaza."

11:45 AM: Mr. Wedeman gives us more insight into the current situation at the port of Gaza, "Reports re #RachelCorrie conflicting for all. When I see her enter #Gaza port, then I'll believe it." Believe me sir, I am just as bored as you. and IDFSpokesperson@twitter shows us, that the IDF's record must be broken, "Update the Rachel Corrie has now rejected 4th request by IDF Navy to dock @ Ashdod Port, transfer aid by land. Ship not boarded."

11:55 AM: Sad news everybody, It appears that MV Rachel Corrie has been seized by the IDF and is being towed into Ashdod. Thankfully all on board are safe and sound, but regrettably they are probably going to be arrested like those onboard MV Mavi Marmara and the other five ships.

Free Gaza reports, "The Rachel Corrie has been forcibly seized by the Israeli navy and is being towed to Ashdod. All on board are reported safe. From Perdana" and "Eyewitnesses in Gaza say they can see the boat."

12:06 PM: Free Gaza reports, "IDF denies they have boarded, but they are going to post 'their' video tape soon. Eyewitnesses can see the boat from the shore" Video Here.

12:18 PM: Ma'an News has a chronological list of some of the events here. They also say, "Israeli army says navy gearing for possible forceful takeover of ship" here.

12:30 PM: That's all the information I can get at this time, I will report later when there is confirmation.

12:45 PM: Jerusalem Post confirms, the Rachel Corrie has been boarded, IDFSpokesperson@twitter confirms also, "The crew of the Rachel Corrie has permitted IDF soldiers to board", "IDF soldiers boarded the Rachel Corrie with permission by sea, no helicopters used", "The Rachel Corrie will be brought to the Ashdod Port where goods will be inspected + transferred to Gaza via land xings" and an Israeli official has now admitted on Al Jazeera English that the Rachel Corrie is under the control of the IDF.

12:50 PM: Apparently an agreement was reached, the crew of the Rachel Corrie agreed to be towed into Ashdod on the conditions that the cargo would be inspected by UN officials in Ashdod and would be escorted in its entirety to Gaza, with two MV Rachel Corrie crewman, Irish and UN officials. Hopefully the IDF will live up to their end of the bargain. source: Al Jazeera English

Update: MV Rachel Corrie Boarded By IDF, Diverted To Ashdod, No One Hurt

Twitter Feed Here!

Live Stream Here!

Al Jazeera English Live News Coverage

PressTV Live News Coverage

Photos Of IDF Boarding MV Rachel Corrie.

Photos Of MV Rachel Corrie's Arrival In Ashdod

IDF Spokesperson's Unit Youtube

White House Statement

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[Israel Troops](#)      [Israeli Forces](#)

[Israel Defense Forces](#)      [Collective Punishment](#)

[Israel Air Force](#)      [Rachel Corrie](#)

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 [nader paul kucinich gravel mckinney](#) (not verified)  
at 03:24 on June 5th, 2010

MV Rachel Corrie \*\*\*Irish-Americans\*\*Italian-Americans \*We are with you Rachel

This story was created over 3 months ago, the comment thread is now closed.

in Israel, Gaza, World, Obama, US Politics, Rachel Corrie, flotilla, UK Politics, Canadian Politics

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B34D.  
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## Official: Detained foreign activists civilized, polite

Irish Nobel peace laureate eats dinner with Israeli inspectors, who laud civilized conduct of activists detained on board Rachel Corrie ship

Yael Branovsky

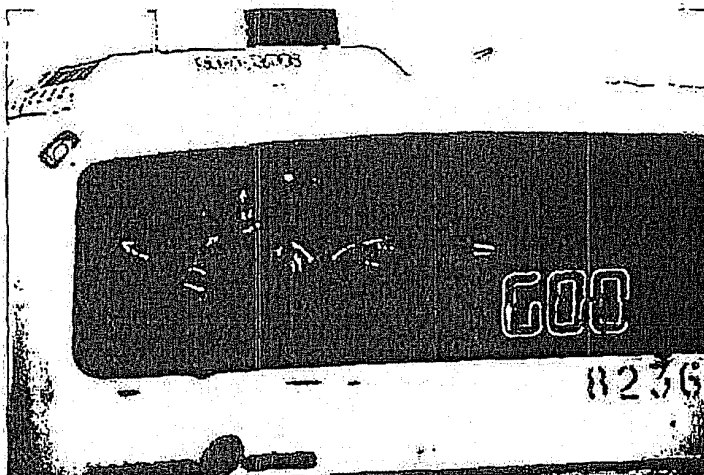
Latest Update: 06.06.10, 00:27 / [Israel News](#)

Tweet

The 19 foreign activists on board the seized Rachel Corrie ship were taken Saturday evening for an interrogation at an Immigration Authority facility in Holon, just south of Tel Aviv.

The activists underwent an interrogation in an effort to clarify their citizenship. All 19 of them have agreed to be expelled from Israel Sunday.

One of the activists, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mairead Maguire, ate her dinner along with Immigration officials. Following her interrogation she was smiling and recalled memories of her previous sail to Israel, about 10 months ago.



Activists en route to interrogation (Photo: Dudu Azoulay)

Immigration Authority officials said the activists are "very quiet and are cooperating."

Immigration official Yossi Edelstein told Ynet that the activists in the latest ship were much friendlier and cooperative than previous activists. However, he said it was clear they too arrived

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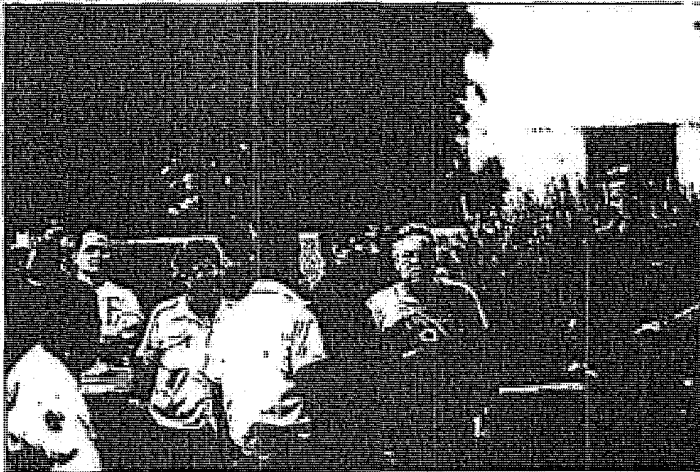
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in order to create a provocation, and said nothing about the humanitarian aid they were bringing in during their interrogation."

"Today it was much easier. People were much more polite and did not attempt any violent provocations," he said. "Some of them, like the Filipinos who were part of the crew, didn't really understand why they're here."

"They came off the boat and arrived to us in a civilized manner, did not riot, and did not swear at our inspectors or looked at them with hatred in their eyes," the official said. "Compared to the previous people they were very calm."



Activists praised by officials (Photo: Dudu Azoulay)

Following the interrogations, which are expected to end Sunday, the activists will be expelled back to their countries of origin.

In the previous Gaza-bound flotilla, 16 of the roughly 700 activists on board the Marmara were not identified. Three activists who took part in the previous sail, an Indonesian and two Uzbekistan nationals, are also expected to leave Israel tomorrow.

The Rachel Corrie ship entered the Ashdod Port Saturday afternoon accompanied by Navy ships. Earlier Saturday, Navy commandoes raided the commandeered the ship in a peaceful operation and without any injuries. A senior IDF official said that activists on the ship displayed no resistance and even offered a ladder to the soldiers.

**Amnon Meranda contributed to the story**

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3899386,00.html>

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B36

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

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**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 4:29 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** RE: NEA Final Guidance on Gaza Flotilla - Update  
**Attachments:** 060410-Israeli-Palestinians - UPDATE on Free Gaza Flotilla.docx  
**Importance:** High

RELEASED IN FULL

Please see the attached UPDATED/REVISED version of the press guidance, given today's most recent events.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

---

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 12:28 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** NEA Final Guidance on Gaza Flotilla - Update

Attached is yesterday's "Free Gaza" Flotilla updated press guidance as cleared through Deputy Steinberg.

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART <sup>B-37</sup>

**From:** Bartels, Katharine V  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 1:21 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Rachel Corrie Boarding

B6

FYI...

---

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 1:13 PM  
**To:** Levin, Jan; Bartels, Katharine V; Sievers, Marc J  
**Cc:** Burnett, David R; Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** Re: Rachel Corrie Boarding

The Irish consul is with the 19 from the ship at a facility in Holon near TLV. At 10 pm they will go to Ben Gurion detention facility. Those who accept will be repatriated ASAP. They have 72 hours to appeal their deportation. Those who take the three days to think about that will most likely be repatriated at the end of the 72 hours, ie use the time to make their point. No Amcits, but one Cuban. He also told me that a participant in the first wave of boats, [redacted] was Irish but also Amcit, former US Marine, who had tried at some point to relinquish US citiz.

B6

---

**From:** Levin, Jan  
**To:** Bartels, Katharine V; Sievers, Marc J  
**Cc:** Parker, Andrew C; Burnett, David R  
**Sent:** Sat Jun 05 19:36:07 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Rachel Corrie Boarding

I don't have anything new, Katherine, but pls see my colleague Dave Burnett's msg re distro of goods. CG Andy Parker may be able to answer your question as to where the activists are being held and how long they might expect to stay in Israel.

---

**From:** Bartels, Katharine V  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan  
**Sent:** Sat Jun 05 19:20:04 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Rachel Corrie Boarding

Hi Jan/Marc,

I'm drafting the SitRep for NEA this afternoon and wanted to check in to see if there were any additional developments regarding the Rachel Corrie since Marc's last email below.

Specifically:

1. Do we have any further information on the delivery of goods? Or are things on hold as it's a Saturday?
2. Any other information regarding the ship's cargo?
3. Where are the activists being held? Are they likely to be released or will they remain in Israel for some time?

Many thanks,  
Kit Bartels  
NEA Duty Officer

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 10:35 AM  
**To:** Levin, Jan; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Re: Rachel Corrie Boarding

In addition, Israel Radio at 5 pm local reported 500 tons of cement on board. MOD officials reportedly were looking into whether it could be delivered to UN so that Hamas would not be able to use it.

**From:** Levin, Jan  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Sent:** Sat Jun 05 17:12:10 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Rachel Corrie Boarding

Fyi

**From:** Burgess, Richard J  
**To:** Cunningham, James B  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B; Schlereth, Frank G; Palm, Robert H  
**Sent:** Sat Jun 05 16:55:13 2010  
**Subject:** Rachel Corrie Boarding

Sir,

Rachel Corrie boarding as reported by YNET:

**Takeover ended in 5 minutes**

Ron Ben-Yishai reports from the field: Five days after bloody raid on Marmara, Navy stages peaceful takeover at sea; female combat soldiers take part in quick raid on Rachel Corrie; fighters board ship using rope ladders.

Ron Ben-Yishai

Published: 06.05.10, 18:35 / **Israel News**

**Just five minutes – this is the estimated time it took Israel's Navy to commandeer the Rachel Corrie Ship en route to the Gaza Strip.**

The raid got underway with the vessel roughly 23 miles west of the Gaza shore, right on the boundary of the naval blockade imposed on the strip. Navy Chief Major General Eliezer Marom received the chief of staff's approval before proceeding. The top military officials were also in touch with Defense Minister Ehud Barak during the operation.

The overall operation was headed by the commander of Israel's missile boat fleet, while the actual raid on the ship was led by the commander of the Flotilla 13 commando unit, Colonel A.

The decision to take over the vessel was taken roughly at 12 pm, when it became clear that the ship had no intention of complying with the Navy's messages and turn to the Ashdod port for an inspection.

The vessel's captain was informed that Navy soldiers will board the ship in line with international law and without using force, and that the IDF expected personnel on the ship to behave similarly.

**4 female fighters**

The captain made it clear to the forces he had no intention to offer violent resistance. He gathered the 11 passengers and crewmembers on the ship's deck, where they peacefully waited for the Navy's boats. The Navy dispatched three missile boats to the area, as well as several patrol vessels which have been accompanying the Rachel Corrie since Friday. Additional missile boats were deployed in case the operation turned violent.

Shortly before 12:30, two missile boats reached the Rachel Corrie carrying about 20 combat soldiers, including four female fighters belonging to the Navy's special security unit, in charge of securing ports and vessels. The females were brought in so that they personally handle the females on board, including Nobel Prize Laureate Mairead Maguire.

The Navy commander was on board a nearby missile boat along with Flotilla 13's commander during the operation. The fighters boarded the ship using rope ladders without facing any resistance, explained their demands to the captain, and ensured they were being met.

The operation took about five minutes, with activists on board the ship yelling slogans at Navy troops but refraining from any violence. The incident highlighted the difference between passengers on Board the Marmara, who planned a violent and lethal clash in order to smear Israel, and Rachel Corrie activists. The Navy said the latter activists were part of a "provocative sail", but made do with conveying their political message, thereby averting any kind of violent clash.

Richard J. "Moses" Burgess, Col, USAF  
US Senior Defense Official, Defense and Air Attache to Israel  
US Defense Attache Office  
71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel, 63903  
Work: +972-3-519-7333  
Cell:

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B38A

UPDATED NEA Press Guidance  
June 4, 2010

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**Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Free Gaza Flotilla**

**Key Message:**

- We deeply regret the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships earlier this week.
- We remain deeply concerned by the situation in Gaza, including the humanitarian situation. We will continue to engage the Israelis on a daily basis to expand the scope and type of goods allowed into Gaza to address the full range of the population's humanitarian and recovery needs.
- Hamas' interference with international assistance shipments and work of nongovernmental organizations, and its use and endorsement of violence complicate efforts in Gaza. Mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by governments and groups that wish to do so. These mechanisms should be expanded to allow in all humanitarian items and be used by those organizations wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the innocent people of Gaza.
- We expect the Israeli government to conduct a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards that gets to all the facts surrounding this tragic incident. We are open to different ways of assuring a credible investigation, including international participation. We will continue to discuss these ideas with the Israelis and our international partners in the days ahead.
- This recent incident involving the "Free Gaza" flotilla underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region and ultimately address issues such as the situation in Gaza.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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Q: Does the U.S. have any information or comment on the Irish ship on the way to face the blockade tomorrow? What action is the U.S. taking?

- We engaged with the Israelis, and continue to do so, on a daily basis and in a variety of contacts about the flotilla. We continue to engage them regarding any ships – including the M/V RACHEL CORRIE – that are still on their way.
- We call on all parties to avoid any actions that could further complicate the situation and obstruct our ability to move towards a lasting solution.

Q: What discussions is the U.S. having with the Israelis on their actions to stop this ship? Did the U.S. talk to the Israelis before the flotilla arrived earlier this week?

- We had extensive contact with the Israeli and Turkish governments in the weeks leading up to the flotilla sailing to Gaza in an effort to avoid a situation such as the one that took place earlier this week.
- We expressed to the Israelis in a variety of contacts, in Israel and Washington, the need for caution and restraint in dealing with civilians, including American citizens. Israel was well aware of our concerns, which they shared.
- We are continuing to engage them regarding the two ships that are still on their way.

Q: What ways are we recommending to Israel to address the Gaza blockade?

- As Secretary Clinton said, the status quo in Gaza is unsustainable and unacceptable. Israel's legitimate security needs must be met, just as the Palestinians' legitimate needs for sustained humanitarian assistance and regular access for reconstruction materials must also be assured.
- We will work with Israel, along with those in the international community who have direct interest in what happens in Gaza, to find ways to increase the amount of assistance entering Gaza, while also protecting Israel's security interests.

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- **This conflict can be solved only through an agreement based on a two-state solution negotiated between the parties. This incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region and ultimately address issues such as the situation in Gaza.**

**Q: Can you confirm if there are any Americans onboard the M/V RACHEL CORRIE?**

- **The "Free Gaza" Movement in Washington has informed us that there are no Americans presently onboard. We are working diligently to confirm this information.**

**Q: Are Turkish warships accompanying the ship?**

- **Embassy Ankara has informed us that the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs firmly denies press reports that Turkish frigates are escorting the M/V RACHEL CORRIE.**

**Q: What is the latest on the overall investigation? Has it started? Who is involved?**

- **As the President said, we are calling for an effective investigation to determine the facts.**
- **This is a very difficult situation that requires careful, thoughtful responses from all concerned.**
- **We expect the Israeli government to conduct a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards gets to all the facts surrounding this tragic incident. We are open to different ways of assuring a credible investigation, including international participation. We will continue to discuss these ideas with the Israelis and our international partners in the days ahead.**

**Q: What happened at the emergency meeting at the UN earlier this week in regards to the above incident? What specific proposal did Turkey put forward? Will the U.S. support any action against Israel?**

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- **The UN Security Council Presidential Statement – which was adopted by consensus – regretted loss of life, took note of the Secretary General’s call for an investigation, called for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards, noted the situation in Gaza is unsustainable, and underscored the need to realize a two state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.**

Q: **What is the current status of U.S. citizens involved in the “Free Gaza” flotilla?**

- **Furkan Dogan’s remains were repatriated to Turkey and we will be engaging the Israeli government on the circumstances surrounding his death.**
- **All other identified U.S. citizens have been deported to either Greece or Turkey. Embassy officials are providing consular assistance as appropriate to all U.S. citizens involved with the flotilla.**
- **We refer individuals to our Travel Warning for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza in which we urge U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip.**

Q: **What is the U.S. response to the presence of high profile Americans (former U.S. government officials, etc.) in the “Free Gaza” flotilla?**

- **American participants in the “Free Gaza” flotilla are private citizens, not representatives of the U.S. government.**

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**Background:**

*Text of PRST:*

**SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE RECENT  
INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

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The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, could bring peace to the region.

The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region.

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Drafted by: NEA/PPD: A Sayles, 74184

Approved by:	D(S): J Steinberg	ok
	NEA/FO: R Schlicher	ok
	EUR/FO: T Kaidanow	ok
	Emb Tel Aviv: J Cunningham	ok
	PA/FO: J Prince	ok
	S: J Sullivan	ok

Cleared by:	NEA/IPA: T Goldberger	ok
	NEA/PPD: E Vasquez	ok
	SEMEP: P Knopf	ok
	CA/P: R McCray	ok
	EUR/PPD: B Ellis	ok
	L/AN: L Jacobson	ok
	PRM: R Wills	ok
	DRL: J Lieberman	ok
	P: E Catalano	info
	S/P: D Rand	ok
	D(S): G Rana	ok
	CG Jerusalem: A Reynolds	ok
	IO/PAO: K Cooper	ok
	NSC: T Vietor	ok
	NSC: P Kumar	ok

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B41

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Doner, Susan L  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 9:04 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Inquiry from the Ops Center: Rachel Corrie questions

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**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 8:41 AM  
**To:** Goldberg, Joshua W; Schlereth, Frank G  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry from the Ops Center: Rachel Corrie questions

Correction, I will answer. The original GOI offer to deliver the goods and to include an NGO or UN rep in the process was part of a package that included voluntary delivery of cargo to Ashdod, an offer that the ship refused. That said, they moved the supplies off the previous flotilla and to the Gaza crossing within a day. Saturday the GOI is closed, with only emergency services operating, so I assume not much will happen until tomorrow.

---

**From:** Goldberg, Joshua W  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Schlereth, Frank G  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Sent:** Sat Jun 05 15:01:06 2010  
**Subject:** Inquiry from the Ops Center: Rachel Corrie questions

Mr. Sievers and Commander Schlereth – Good afternoon.

We have a few questions regarding the status of the Rachel Corrie we wanted to ask of you both:

1. Do you have a timeline for when the Israelis will begin inspecting the ship's cargo – when this search will happen, and how long it is expected to take?
2. Once the inspection is complete, will an international organization become involved in transporting the ship's goods from the port into Gaza?

We appreciate any information you can provide on these two questions, and any further updates on the overall situation.

I am happy to call either of you to discuss the situation.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Josh Goldberg  
Watch Officer  
Department of State Operations Center  
[goldbergjw@state.gov](mailto:goldbergjw@state.gov), (202) 647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Doner, Susan L  
Sent: Saturday, June 05, 2010 7:03 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: Situation Report No. 11 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU)

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From: OpsAlert  
Sent: Saturday, June 05, 2010 6:02 AM  
Subject: Situation Report No. 11 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU)

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## **SITUATION REPORT No. 11**

**Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01**

Saturday, June 5, 2010  
0600 EDT

### **STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS**

(U) Autopsies revealed the nine dead Turkish activists had been shot a total of 30 times, mostly at close range, and five were killed by gunshot wounds to the head. *(UK Guardian)*

### **SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA**

- (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv reports RACHEL CORRIE was boarded by IDF without resistance or injuries and will arrive in Ashdod in two hours. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (U) Three Israeli naval ships had tailed RACHEL CORRIE for several hours and made four demands for the ship to change course. The vessel refused to comply. *(Xinhua)*

### **INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS**

- (U) Turkey: Prosecutors are considering indictments against senior Israeli figures for the MAVI MARMARA deaths. *(Jerusalem Post)*
- (U) Malta: On June 4, approximately 200 people protested peacefully in Valletta against the Israeli use of force on the Gaza flotilla. *(Times of Malta)*

Additional updates are available through our unclassified Intellipedia portal at  
[http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza\\_Flotilla\\_2010](http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Drafted: HMRamsay  
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS, DNI

Approved: RWThomas

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B48

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Lewis, Robert B  
Sent: Saturday, June 05, 2010 1:51 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Information June 5th Early AM

RELEASED IN FULL

FYI

<http://www.ipost.com/Home/Article.aspx?id=177526>

Please look at the information displayed in the teleprompter/breaking news section:

<http://www.debka.com/search/tag/Rachel%20Corrie/>

International newspapers: <http://www.kidon.com/media-link/index.php> 19K+ newspapers and magazines.

Language Translation tools:

[http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=en](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en) Entire webpage's can be translated with this site

<http://babelfish.yahoo.com/>

I sent out information on the Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Groups SIPRNET site yesterday. Have a great day.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 6:52 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Statement on the Gaza Flotilla by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2010

**Statement on the Gaza Flotilla by National Security Council Spokesman Mike Hammer**

The Government of Israel has stated its desire to avoid a confrontation and a repeat of Monday's tragic events on the *Mavi Marmara*. It remains a U.S. priority to provide assistance to the people of Gaza. In the interest of the safety of all involved, and the safe transmission of assistance to the people of Gaza, we strongly encourage those on board the *Rachel Corrie* and other vessels to sail to Ashdod to deliver their materials to Gaza.

We are working urgently with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and other international partners to develop new procedures for delivering more goods and assistance to Gaza, while also increasing opportunity for the people of Gaza and preventing the importation of weapons. The current arrangements are unsustainable and must be changed. For now, we call on all parties to join us in encouraging responsible decisions by all sides to avoid any unnecessary confrontations and to ensure the safety of all involved.

###

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B53

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**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus  
**Sent:** 6/4/2010 5:33:54 PM

To reduce confusion, please note the following information based on reporting from Embassy Nicosia and USCG contacts with Cypriot port authorities:

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger II has suffered extensive damages and is on the ground in Limassol. It arrived in Cyprus after showing ingress of water and will remain out of the water for at least a month.

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger III (formerly, the Greek-flagged Dimitris K) is in the water at Limassol new port, but without crew or passengers and is chained to the pier by port and marine police.

--Both vessels are U.S.-flagged. The Challenger II had previously been Greek-owned, flagged in Honduras and known as the Nitta II. The Challenger III, had previously been the Cyprus-flagged and owned Dimitris K.

--Cypriot port authorities in Limassol have told Embassy Nicosia they do not intend to let any vessel depart to participate in the flotilla.

*Terry Netos*  
Cyprus Desk Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of European Affairs/Office of Southern Europe  
Tel.: +1-202-647-6760  
Fax: +1-202-647-5087

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B54

## RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Irish FM Statement from today on Rachel Corrie  
**Sent:** 6/4/2010 4:59:09 PM

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**From:** Hackworth, Jason K  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 3:39 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Dwyer, Stuart A; Cormack, Maureen E  
**Subject:** Irish FM Statement from today on Rachel Corrie

**Statement by Minister Martin on the Rachel Corrie**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D. has issued the following statement:

"The Government has made clear that it believes that the Rachel Corrie should be allowed to proceed to Gaza and to unload its humanitarian cargo. Those on board the Rachel Corrie have indicated that they are ready to accept inspection of their cargo at sea, prior to docking in Gaza. However, the Israeli government has stated that it is not willing to allow any breach of their naval blockade of Gaza.

As the Rachel Corrie continues to approach Gaza, the Government's primary concern is the safety of Irish citizens and others on board. We are also conscious of the urgent need to address the humanitarian concerns of the people of Gaza, the desirability of reducing international tensions following the violent storming of humanitarian supply vessels by Israeli commandos earlier this week, and the obligation of States to respect the right to peaceful protest.

Acting on these considerations, I sought through various contacts to secure an agreement which would ensure the safety of those on board the Rachel Corrie, allow them to make their protest, and provide for the delivery to Gaza of the Rachel Corrie's full cargo.

On Friday morning, an understanding was reached with the Israeli government whereby the Rachel Corrie would have approached the Israeli exclusion zone before accepting diversion to

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the Israeli port of Ashdod. At Ashdod, the cargo would have been unloaded and inspected under the supervision of UN and officials from the Irish Aid Division of my Department. The entire cargo, including what is understood to be 550 tonnes of cement, would then have been transported to Gaza. Two persons from the Rachel Corrie would have been permitted to accompany the cargo to the Israeli border crossing into Gaza at Erez.

In my view, such an arrangement would have offered a useful precedent for future humanitarian shipments, pending the complete lifting of the blockade.

This proposal was put to those on board the Rachel Corrie who, on Friday afternoon, after careful consideration and having thanked the Government for its efforts, declined to accept it. I fully respect their right to do so and to continue their protest action by seeking to sail to Gaza.

*If, as is their stated intention, the Israeli government intercepts the Rachel Corrie, the Government demands that it demonstrate every restraint. Those on board the Rachel Corrie have made clear their peaceful intentions and have stated that they will offer no resistance to Israeli forces. Based on these assurances, there can be no justification for the use of force against any person on board the Rachel Corrie.*

The Government also urges the Israeli Government to ensure the transfer to Gaza of the entire cargo of the Rachel Corrie, including cement which is urgently needed for the reconstruction of Gaza. The Government continues to call on Israel to lift its blockade of Gaza. Pending that, Israel should immediately facilitate the import into Gaza of all goods, other than weapons."

**ENDS**

**04 June 2010**

---

Jason K. Hackworth  
Desk Officer for Ireland and Northern Ireland  
(202) 647-6585 phone  
(202) 647-3459 fax  
[hackworthjk@state.gov](mailto:hackworthjk@state.gov)

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Blelo

**From:** Frowick, George H  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Greek FM States GoG positions on Flotilla and Peace Process  
**Sent:** 6/4/2010 11:08:15 AM  
**A/FM Droutsas in Greek Parliament yesterday:**

**Full transcript of the speech (translation):**

(opening reply)

Mr. Speaker,

Ladies and Gentlemen MPs,

Late last night – or, rather, in the early hours of this morning – we welcomed, with you, Mr. Dritsas, and representatives of the parties, the Greek citizens returning to Greece on a special Air Force flight from Israel. Personnel from our Embassy saw them off at Tel Aviv airport. Throughout this crisis, the Foreign Ministry's crisis management unit operated non-stop, keeping relatives informed responsibly. At every juncture, the Ministry's service structure functioned as it should.

This is the reality of the situation. So before I get into my answer, I need, I want to congratulate and thank the Foreign Ministry personnel, at the Central and Foreign Services, for their conscientiousness, their proficiency in carrying out their duties, their resolve and effectiveness. They carried out their duties in the extreme.

And now to the substance of the matter:

For months now, the Foreign Ministry has been monitoring preparations for the carrying out of an international humanitarian mission carrying aid to the Palestinian population of Gaza. And this was not the first time such an operation had been organized.

Our main point of reference for our moves and actions was to take care that the safety of the Greek citizens participating was not jeopardized. For this reason, as you well know, the Foreign Ministry's services in Greece and Israel – as well as I, personally – made the appropriate representations in a timely manner.

There is, for us, a position of principle here. A position that we have stated repeatedly throughout the crisis: any NGO activity must be allowed to proceed unhindered, on the condition that it is within the law. Beyond that, we informed the organizers of this initiative in a timely manner regarding the dangers involved in their endeavor.

There is no doubt, ladies and gentlemen MPs, that the military operation carried out in international waters by the Israeli navy is condemnable – and not just because it had the tragic results we are all aware of. This was made clear in our earliest statements and actions, with clarity and in a categorical manner – not with PR blustering, but with substance and resolve. The cancellation of the joint military exercise of our two air forces and the postponement of the visit to Greece of the head of the Israeli Air Force leave no room for doubt as to the clarity of our stance from the very outset.

I must say that throughout this crisis, all of us, including the Prime Minister himself, acted in a timely manner. Indicatively, I point to our communication with the Israeli Foreign Minister, the Turkish Prime Minister, the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr. Amr Moussa – all of the key players in the region.

Finally, all of our actions, on all levels, were coordinated with our European partners, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Ashton, and the Spanish Presidency.

(rejoinder)

Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be brief. You know that I am not an adherent of foreign policy that is exercised on public relations terms. Our actions are guided by substance, and principally Greece's interests.

So I want to say this with regard to the ongoing crisis in the Gaza Strip. I remind you that Greece has insisted from the very outset on the need for Israel to establish humanitarian corridors. Moreover, our country is contributing officially to the reconstruction of Gaza with significant humanitarian and economic aid that is managed via the Palestinian Authority and the mechanisms of international organizations.

We have worked systematically – and we are still working systematically – both on the EU level and bilaterally, for a successful outcome for the peace process, which was recently reactivated in the form of proximity talks. Our ultimate goal is the finding of a comprehensive, just and viable solution to the Palestinian problem, based on the principle of two states, with the creation of a viable future Palestinian state that will coexist with Israel in conditions of peace and security.

George H. Frowick  
Political Counselor  
U.S. Embassy  
Athens, Greece  
(30) 210-720-2381

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Page 3 of 3

George. H. Frowick  
Political Counselor  
U.S. Embassy  
Athens, Greece  
(30) 210-720-2381

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**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

B69

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J.  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:45 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest  
**Attachments:** PASSENGERS ON THE MV RACHEL CORRIE.DOC

RELEASED IN PART

B6

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:39 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** RE: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

I ran the names but some are very generic – there were only a few names – so hard to say if any are Amcits. I checked with the Free Gaza Movement here in DC and they said none on this list were Amcits.

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 5:46 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Richter, Kim B  
**Cc:** Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** FW: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

FYI – none of us in CONS TLV are on the distro list of the Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group. We have not seen the manifest, but would appreciate a copy. If you get word that  is on-board please let us know. B6

Thanks,  
 Andy

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:04 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Parker, Andrew C  
**Subject:** RE: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

Confirming that  is indeed an Amcit.

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
 Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel  
 Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.  
 Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: [greene@state.gov](mailto:greene@state.gov)

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 8:32 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** FW: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
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CA has run the names. Some are common ones, but Kim called Free Gaza to deconflict. As of now, we aware of no Amcits on the list.

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

I asked the Free Gaza Movement rep her to confirm if anybody on the list that you got from the Rebuilding Alliance was an Amcit – she said they weren't. I checked PIERS but for some – such as [redacted] – there were a lot of entries.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:41 AM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

They are what we have from the Rebuilding Alliance. There may be others, but none that I am aware of. Note, she mentions [redacted] may join (who I believe is in Cyprus right now, 88 y/o Holocaust survivor). However, we don't know the boat's course as of right now.

---

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** RE: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

These are some or all of the pax?

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:36 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

Emb Tel Aviv or CA/OCS – Please check the manifest against PIERS. All others, FYI on the Rachel Corrie from the NGO community.  
Wes

---

**From:** dbaranskiw [redacted] [mailto:dbaranskiw@redacted] On Behalf Of Donna Baranski-Walker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:32 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** niamh moloughney  
**Subject:** Re: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

Dear Wesley,

Thank you for calling me back yesterday. As discussed, and with the permission of Niamh Moloughney of Free Gaza Movement - Ireland, I am forwarding the list of passengers and the manifest for the MV Rachel Corrie. There is an international crew. You asked specifically if any Americans will be on board. Although none are currently registered, American [redacted] is weighing the possibility of going.

I am copying Niamh on this message.

My goal is to help to assure maximum transparency and safety for voyage of the MV Rachel Corrie and any boats who may join them, in part because these are my friends are the organizers and in part because the Rebuilding Alliance put chocolates and school supplies, sports equipment and wheelchairs, and cement to build a kindergarten on that boat. Your suggestions on behalf of the State Department would be sincerely appreciated.

The Rebuilding Alliance and the Free Gaza Movement are ramping up to tell the stories of the NGO projects that will receive the humanitarian aid and to publish the passenger list and manifest as well. Please note the request I sent via UN Special Rapporteur Richard Falk to the Quartet in April, requesting temporary "UN Certification Team" status and support to go to Gaza to assure transparency for this all-NGO transport and project installment -- there was no reply from the Quartet. Can you raise the proposal now at the Quartet level? Please note: My team and I are uniquely qualified to assume this role in Gaza and hold an invitation from UNRWA and good welcome from the Palestinian NGO Network, and Gaza Community Mental Health Programme. President Carter can press a message to the H government to assure that the NGOs have full approval to receive the materials and install them with streamlined building permits. I am well-positioned to form a team in Gaza to certify use of construction materials by the NGO's -- and these are your best allies.

Please note there are no plans to bring the MV Rachel Corrie or other boats to Turkey nor are they requesting military escort. They do not expect to leave for Gaza until early next week.

You can also reach Niamh by phone at the following numbers:

Phone 353 (085) 774-7257  
Name Ms. Niamh Moloughney  
Account Name Irish Free Gaza Movement Mobile  B6

Sincerely,  
Donna  
Mobile:

P.S. I am copying Rebuilding Alliance Operations Manager, Penina Eilberg-Schwartz on this message. If you are having difficulty reaching me please give Penina a call at

Donna Baranski-Walker, Executive Director  
The Rebuilding Alliance  
178 South Boulevard, San Mateo CA U.S.A.  
phone: 650 325-4663 . fax: 650 325-4667  
email: [dbw@RebuildingAlliance.org](mailto:dbw@RebuildingAlliance.org)  
web: [www.RebuildingAlliance.org](http://www.RebuildingAlliance.org)

"Rebuilding War-Torn Communities, Making Them Safe"  
The Rebuilding Alliance is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization, EIN 56-2392452. Donation checks may be made out to "The Rebuilding Alliance" or visit our website to donate online.

On Thu, Jun 3, 2010 at 7:35 AM, Reisser, Wesley J <[ReisserWJ@state.gov](mailto:ReisserWJ@state.gov)> wrote:

Donna -- Do you have the manifest as we discussed yesterday? Any info you have is exceptionally helpful so that our consular personnel in Tel Aviv can be ready to assist Americans as necessary.

C18749681

NO CLASSIFICATION MARKED  
UNCLASSIFIED

Wes

***Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.***

Desk Officer - NEA/PA

Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs

Phone (202) 647-2647

Fax (202) 736-4461

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NO CLASSIFICATION MARKED

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B7D

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Goodman, Ilan A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 6:29 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Fw: "Unsubstantiated Reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza"

Embassy Ankara reports that Turkish MFA firmly denies press reports that Turkish frigates are escorting the Rachel Corrie.

Apparently this was reported in a small Turkish press outlet, but I'm not sure if the report will be picked up elsewhere or not.

-Ilan

---

**From:** Witmer, Kami A  
**To:** Goodman, Ilan A  
**Sent:** Fri Jun 04 05:45:35 2010  
**Subject:** FW: "Unsubstantiated Reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza"

FYI.

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**From:** Witmer, Kami A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:30 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Catalano, Peter R; Schneider, Charles J; Freeman, Lloyd D  
**Cc:** Godfrey, Anthony F; Lee, Robert D  
**Subject:** FW: "Unsubstantiated Reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza"

MFA confirmed no Turkish escort. Ops notified.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Lee, Robert D  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:28 AM  
**To:** 'Haldun Teknedi'  
**Cc:** Çagatay Erciyas; Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A; Kiel, Stephanie  
**Subject:** RE: "Unsubstantiated Reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza"

Thanks, Haldun. Useful to get this clear response. We'll get this back to Washington immediately.

Rob



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Robert Lee  
Office of Political and Military Affairs  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara  
tel: +90-312-457-7177  
e-mail: [leerd@state.gov](mailto:leerd@state.gov)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Haldun Tekneci [<mailto:haldun.tekneci@mfa.gov.tr>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:21 AM  
**To:** Lee, Robert D  
**Cc:** Çağatay Erciyes  
**Subject:** RE: "Unsubstantiated Reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza"

Hi Robert: You should dismiss that hoax right away. There are no Turkish frigates escorting "Rachel Corrie" which was about some 60 nm North of Alexandria last night according to NATO AIS. It is especially important now not to get wound up easily about unsubstantiated press reports.

Take care and I too hope that I will be able to attend

Best,  
Haldun

---

**From:** Lee, Robert D [<mailto:LeeRD@state.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 10:44 AM  
**To:** Haldun Tekneci  
**Subject:** "Unsubstantiated Reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza"

Hi Haldun – Link to the report from "hamsayeh.net" and the key text below. Not exactly the New York Times, so we're inclined to dismiss it outright. But given the nature of the claim, we thought it would be useful to get an informed response from you so that people back in Washington don't get too spun up about this report. It would be very helpful to get a reaction by noon as we would be able to get the information to Washington as the key policy makers are waking up.

Many thanks, and I hope to see you on June 16.

Best,  
Rob

There are unsubstantiated reports that Turkish warships are now escorting Rachel Corrie as it approaches Gaza. Confrontational Israelis have vowed to even challenge Turkish warships despite Turkey being a member of North Atlantic Treaty (NATO). Ankara has called for immediate lifting of Gaza blockade and an international investigation into Israeli act of piracy in international waters.

[http://www.hamsayeh.net/hamsayehnet\\_iran-international%20news1309.htm](http://www.hamsayeh.net/hamsayehnet_iran-international%20news1309.htm)

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StateDept01448

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Robert Lee  
Office of Political and Military Affairs  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara  
tel: +90-312-457-7177  
e-mail: [leerd@state.gov](mailto:leerd@state.gov)

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B71

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Macris, Gregory P  
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 6:04 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Situation Report No. 9 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU Version)

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## **SITUATION REPORT No. 9**

**Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01**

Friday, June 4, 2010  
0600 EDT

### **STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS**

- (SBU) All participants in the Gaza Flotilla, except for seven still hospitalized in Israel, are back in their countries of origin or are en route there. *(Tel Aviv 1240)*

### **OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA**

- (U) Media report RACHEL CORRIE has no plans to stop until reaching port in Gaza and does not intend to resist, should Israeli forces attempt to board. The vessel is equipped with video and satellite devices to stream live events over the internet. *(CNN)*
- (U) Former UN Assistant Secretary General Denis Halliday, Northern Irish Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, and an Irish lawmaker are a part of the 11-passenger manifest of RACHEL CORRIE. *(CNN, The Guardian)*

### **INTERNATIONAL REACTION**

- (U) A spokesman for a group of Malaysian NGOs, accompanied by approximately 1000 peaceful protesters, assembled outside Embassy Kuala Lumpur and denounced the Israeli operation. *(Reuters)*
- (U) Malaysian FM Aman said Israeli authorities should ensure safe passage for RACHEL CORRIE to deliver its humanitarian cargo to Gaza. *(Bernama)*
- (U) Turkish President Gul stated "Turkey's ties with Israel will never be the same again." Thousands thronged an Istanbul funeral for eight activists who died in the raid. *(Reuters)*
- (U) Turkey's health ministry dispatched two ambulance planes to Israel to bring home the remaining five Turkish activists who were wounded during the raid. *(Associated Press)*

### **ISRAELI RESPONSE**

- (U) Israeli PM Netanyahu vowed Israel would not permit RACHEL CORRIE to reach Gaza but would consider some form of international role in enforcing an arms embargo there. He added civilian goods would be allowed to reach Gaza, but declined to elaborate. *(CNN)*
- (U) Nearly 1000 Israelis protested outside the Turkish embassy in Tel Aviv, denouncing Turkey's leaders. Israeli television showed one protester waving a doctored photograph that depicted Turkish PM Tayyip Erdogan as Hitler. *(CNN)*
- (U) Israeli Ambassador to the United States Oren said Israel and the U.S. are holding initial talks over a dialogue to address civilian needs in Gaza, but the discussion will not involve an end to the Israeli blockade. *(CNN)*

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Additional updates are available through our unclassified Intellipedia portal at  
[http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza\\_Flotilla\\_2010](http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Drafted: ANorris

Approved: GPMacris

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS, DNI

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B72

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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From: Valdez, Pablo M  
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 6:00 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: MGGZ01: (Reuters) Turkey may reduce ties with Israel to a "minimum"

RELEASED IN FULL

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Arinc said Turkey may reduce its relations with Israel to "a minimum" after Israeli marines stormed a Turkish aid ship bound for Gaza.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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StateDept01452

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B73

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Valdez, Pablo M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:38 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; NEWS-Iran  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (AP) Ahmadinejad warns opposition, blasts Israeli raid

RELEASED IN FULL

TEHRAN (AP) – President Ahmadinejad warned the country's opposition against straying from the path of the founder of the Islamic Revolution and slammed Israel for a deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla. Ahmadinejad spoke before tens of thousands gathered at the shrine of Ayatollah Khomeini for a ceremony marking the 21st anniversary of his death. The speech comes days ahead of the opposition's mass rally planned on the anniversary of last June's disputed presidential election. Ahmadinejad also said the Israeli commando raid on the international flotilla off Gaza's shores was "barbaric" and called for dismantling the Zionist regime.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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StateDept01453

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B74

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Valdez, Pablo M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:09 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (AP) Cargo ship trying to breach Gaza blockade could reach 20-mile limit by late June 4

RELEASED IN FULL

Pablo Valdez  
*Watch Officer*  
*Operations Center*  
*Department of State*  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B75

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Valdez, Pablo M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 1:14 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (AP) Turkey sends 2 ambulance planes to Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

ISTANBUL (AP) - Turkey's health ministry says it has dispatched two ambulance planes to Israel to bring home the last five Turkish activists who were wounded by Israeli soldiers in a raid on an aid ship.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B7C

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Martone, Stephanie L  
 Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:37 PM  
 To: DRL-Users-DL  
 Subject: Fw: On the Record, Off-Camera Daily Press Briefing, 06-03-10, PJ Crowley, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

RELEASED IN FULL

From: State Department Press Office <Press@state.gov>  
 To: State Department Press Office  
 Sent: Thu Jun 03 21:32:44 2010  
 Subject: On the Record, Off-Camera Daily Press Briefing, 06-03-10, PJ Crowley, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs

For Immediate Release and Posting

On the Record, Off-Camera Daily Press Briefing Index  
 Thursday, June 3, 2010  
 12:35 p.m.

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- ^^ EU Council of Ministers Adoption of Counter Terrorism Law
- ^^ UN Special Rapporteur's Report Under Review
- ^^ Turkish American Citizen's Death
- ^^ Injury to American Citizen Emily Henochowicz

~ISRAEL/FREE GAZA FLOTILLA~

- ^^ U.S. Takes Responsibility for U.S. Citizens Abroad Seriously/ Flotilla Larger with Greater Potential of Confrontation/ Consular Officials in Contact with U.S. Citizens/ Looking into the Cause of Death/ Multiple Contacts with Israel and Turkey Prior to the Incident/ US in Contact with Multiple Contacts Regarding Ships on Their Way to Gaza/ Israel Has Legitimate Security Concerns/ U.S. Confident Investigation Will Take Place/ U.S. Evaluating How to Expand its Assistance to Gaza/ Current Gaza Status Quo Not Sustainable/ Amb. Oren: Israel Has Received Over 10,000 Rockets from Gaza/ Israel Has a Legitimate Interest in Inspecting Supplies Entering Gaza/ U.S. Mindful of Humanitarian Plight of Gaza/ U.S. and Israel Interest in Isolating Hamas/ Ways to Assist Gaza Without Hamas/ Variety of U.S. Officials Involved in Investigation/ Furkan Dogan Born in Troy, New York/ Aged 19

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~IRAN~

- ^^ No Update on Sanctions Timeline/ Will Check on Musavian Request for Asylum/ Work Continues on Sanctions/ Secretary Spoke with Foreign Minister Lavrov/ Conference Call Among P-5+1

~PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY/HAMAS~

- ^^ Ongoing Efforts for Reconciliation/ Importance of a Government Willing to Pursue Peace

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- ^^ Turkey Expressed Importance of Returning Citizens/ U.S. Conveyed Those Concerns to Israel

~INDIA~

- ^^ U.S. and India Discussing Counter-Terrorism Issues

~EGYPT~

^^ U.S. Supports Free and Fair Elections/ Concerned About Reports of Fraud  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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~~-RWANDA-~~

^^ Peter Erlinder Remains in the Hospital/ U.S. Remains in Touch with the Rwandan Government/ No Knowledge of Meeting with Family

~~-BURMA-~~

^^ Senator Webb Trip/ U.S. Concerned with Burma's Relationship with North Korea

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^^ No Readout of UN Meeting

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

DPB # 86

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010  
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED/OFF CAMERA)

12:35 p.m. EDT

**MR. CROWLEY:** Obviously today, the Secretary and External Affairs Minister Krishna have opened our *high-level interagency discussions* here at the State Department. Senior delegations from across the government are discussing a range of issues including agriculture, energy, climate change, education, trade, intellectual property enforcement, fighting illicit network crime, especially related to counterfeit pharmaceuticals and counterterrorism. We look forward to having the President here later on this afternoon for a reception as part of this and you'll hear from the Secretary – what about an hour from now. And have a statement from us this afternoon welcoming the European Union Council of Ministers' adoption of the joint U.S.-EU Statement on Counterterrorism. We and our partners in the EU are committed to working together to combat the threat of terrorism, bring to that effort our common values of freedom, democracy, our respect for international law, the rule of law, human rights.

We – just one left over from yesterday. We do have the report of Special Rapporteur Alston and – as one of several reports, being provided today within the Human Rights Council. We continue to review it and we note that it is difficult for states to meaningfully engage in an interactive dialogue if reports are not released with sufficient time for review. But we are firmly committed to the rule of law. As Legal Adviser Harold Koh said back in March, we are committed to complying with all applicable law, including international humanitarian law, in all aspects of ongoing armed conflicts. While the United States cannot comment on specific activities, we work hard to ensure that our activities are subject to scrupulous oversight, comport with domestic and international law.

Finally, clearly the subject of greatest interest, we can confirm that a U.S.-Turkish national – dual national was among those killed in the raid on the Free Gaza flotilla. Our mission in Turkey has been in contact with his family and is providing consular assistance. This morning, our consular officer met with the father and offered our heartfelt condolences to his family. His name is Furkan Dogan, D-o-g-a-n.

**QUESTION:** Can you spell the first name, please?

**MR. CROWLEY:** F-u-r-k-a-n. The last name is spelled -- anglicized D-o-g-a-n, pronounced Dogan. And our Ambassador Jim Jeffrey will also be reaching out to the family soon. Clearly, we have obviously just learned about this. We are gathering information about what happened on the ship. We are also mindful that our citizen, Emily Henochowicz, has sustained a serious injury. She was involved in a West Bank protest. She is still in the hospital receiving proper treatment. We are aware that one additional American citizen had some injuries on board one of the ships and we are looking out for him as well.

We are in contact with the Israeli Government to obtain more information. We have made no decisions at this point on specific actions the United States Government will take. But as we've already stated, we expect the Israeli Government to conduct a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation that conforms to international standards and gets to all the facts surrounding this tragic incident.

We – as the Secretary has said, we are open to different ways of assuring a credible investigation, including international participation, and we continue to talk about these ideas with the Israelis and others. And

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meanwhile, we continue to evaluate how, together with the international community, we can expand the amount of assistance to the people of Gaza, and that is something we are looking into with our international partners.

**QUESTION:** What are the range of options that you can take related to this guy's death?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, we take the health and welfare of American citizens anywhere in the world seriously. It's our fundamental responsibility as a government. We will carefully evaluate all the information that we can gather about the circumstances of his death. And those facts will lead us wherever they lead to.

**QUESTION:** Do you have any information --

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible). Does the fact that an American was killed in this affect or change what you would like to see done in this case whether -- regarding the investigation and how that's carried out or otherwise?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I mean, we have taken this seriously from the moment that the -- we understood that this flotilla was being organized and that we understood both its ramifications for regional security and the fact that American citizens would be on board these vessels. We've had a number of conversations both with the Israeli Government and with others. In the weeks leading up to this, we have been very conscious of the ever-present danger of miscalculation when these kinds of situations and confrontations take place. So we have taken this seriously from the outset.

That said, the fact that -- and we've understood for a couple days that there were American citizens that had sustained injuries. But obviously, now that we understand that there has been the death of an American citizen, this will be something that we will evaluate carefully -- we take seriously given it is one of our fundamental responsibilities as a government.

**QUESTION:** Would you ask the Turks --

**QUESTION:** P.J. --

**QUESTION:** Would you ask the Turks --

**QUESTION:** Since 2005 -- the Israelis say since 2005 there have -- they have dealt with nine flotillas. This was the first time they had violence. Now, in the -- with the United States, did you also raise issues about previous flotillas? Was this one particularly flagged because you thought there were going to be Americans? What made you talk so seriously with the Israelis about this one flotilla?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I think we had an understanding that this was larger than previous efforts to bring humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. So we -- I think we understood that the -- there was a greater potential for a confrontation.

**QUESTION:** But you also talked about the presence of Americans. I think you just mentioned that in passing. Was that something that the United States was aware of, that there were going to be Americans? And if so, how did you know that?

**MR. CROWLEY:** A fair -- I don't know the answer to the second question. But I mean, we have a broader geopolitical interest in this issue and, obviously, we were conscious as we got closer to the launching of the flotilla that there would be American citizens involved as well.

**QUESTION:** P.J., would you ask the U.S. Embassy in -- or does the Embassy in Turkey -- why wouldn't they ask the Turks for the autopsy reports? I mean, the nine dead are all there, including the American.

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**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, from the outset, we've had consular officials in Israel in contact with Israeli authorities visiting hospitals. Our consular officials also visited the morgue, because we were looking to see -- ascertain, knowing that there were U.S. citizens on board these ships, if any American citizens were injured or killed in this incident. So -- and so we've been doing that from the outset. And we made contact with the family as soon as we learned today that one of those killed was a dual citizen.

**QUESTION:** P.J. --

**QUESTION:** What do we know about the cause of death?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Hmm?

**QUESTION:** What do we know about the cause of death of the American citizen?

**MR. CROWLEY:** The individual sustained -- I mean, I -- the injured -- our American citizen sustained gunshot wounds during this incident.

**QUESTION:** To the head?

**QUESTION:** To the head? Four shots to the head?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I --

**QUESTION:** He wasn't the one with the four to the head, was he?

**QUESTION:** Well, that's the reports, P.J., that he was four to the head and one to the body. Can you tell us what that tells you about the nature of the force that was used in --

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm not -- we are looking into this. We are in conversation with the Israelis to get more information. As we've said all along, we're going to let facts govern our response. As we have said many, many times, we're going to be very cautious and prudent in how we approach this. So I'm not going to prejudge. We are aggressively trying to understand precisely what happened on that ship. And once we have more information, then we'll take appropriate steps based on that information.

**QUESTION:** Have you established as fact that this man sustained four bullet wounds to the head and one to the body?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm -- I've said all I'm going to say on that.

**QUESTION:** Was his family all in Turkey? Even though he is an American citizen, were the contacts -- consular contacts with his family in Turkey?

**MR. CROWLEY:** We had contact with his father today and he is a Turkish citizen. I can't make a broad statement about the rest of the family.

**QUESTION:** But the contacts so far have been in Turkey?

**MR. CROWLEY:** In Turkey.

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**QUESTION:** Did you at any point warn Turkish Government about the possible clash in the Mediterranean with this flotilla?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Again, all I'll say is that we had multiple contacts through multiple channels with the Israeli Government in the weeks leading up to the flotilla.

**QUESTION:** That was a question about the Turkish Government.

**QUESTION:** The Turkish Government.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Oh.

**QUESTION:** Did you inform Turkish Government about the possible clash?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I believe the answer is yes. I'm - I'll - yes.

**QUESTION:** Can you just confirm the comments that you made on the record to the *Post* about urging caution and restraint?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I think I just - I basically have said that already. (Laughter.) We had multiple contacts with the Israeli Government in the weeks leading up to the flotilla. Understanding that civilians would be on those ships, including American citizens, we urged caution and restraint. And in fact, in previous episodes, that's precisely what Israel has done.

**QUESTION:** What about the flotilla that's on the way? The *Rachel Corrie*, I believe, is the name of the ship. What is - what do you understand about it? Do you understand any Americans to be on board? And what contacts - what steps are you taking to try and prevent a repeat --

**MR. CROWLEY:** We are in contact with multiple governments about vessels that may still be making their way towards Gaza.

**QUESTION:** Does that include the Irish?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** And what have you told the Irish?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, everybody has the same concern given what happened earlier this week. And as we have said all along, we are - everyone wants to avoid a repetition of this tragic incident.

**QUESTION:** So is your advice to the Israelis the same now as it was apparently in the previous weeks to urge caution and restraint when responding to this one?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Yes.

**QUESTION:** It worked so well --

**QUESTION:** Are you prescribing any sort of other action since they didn't do that last time?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Again, Kirit, it's a fair question, but to what - to some extent, it prejudices what we will all learn as we go through and ascertain more facts about precisely what happened. Clearly, there was a tragic

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confrontation on the high seas, and we deeply regret what's happened. We're looking into the circumstances. We all want to find a way to provide greater support to the people of Gaza, meet Israel's legitimate security interest, and avoid further loss of civilian life.

**QUESTION:** What I'm trying to understand is that given what's happened last time, how specific are you being with your advice to the Israelis this time?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, ultimately, governments are sovereign. Israel has very legitimate security concerns. They have their own policies in dealing with those security concerns. As a friend of Israel, we are providing them our perspective on how to best do this. But ultimately, these are decisions made by the Israeli Government. Only they can determine what they feel is best for their own security. We understand that.

**QUESTION:** Given the importance of this and the ease of which you can see whether Dogan's got four bullet wounds in the head, is it reasonable to assume the U.S. will be able to establish whether those reports are true or not in the next few hours?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm not sure I understand the question.

**QUESTION:** It seems to be important whether this person was shot four times in the head, which is clearly not a restrained way of dealing with anyone. Is -- it's quite easy to establish whether someone's been shot four times in the head.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, again, we expect Israel to conduct a credible, prompt, transparent investigation of what happened on that ship. And we ourselves, in talking to Israel, are trying to gain greater information and perspective on what happened on the ship. And I'm not going to prejudge what information that is provided, what we learn ourselves, and what we do based on that information.

**QUESTION:** Do you want it to be international? I mean, you suggested -- you kind of hinted at it -- that you wanted an international component to the investigation.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Yeah, I mean, on the broader aspect, as we've said in the last couple of days, there are many, many countries that had citizens involved in this flotilla. We obviously are one of them. Everyone wants to understand what happened on that ship. Everyone wants to make sure -- do everything possible to try to avoid this tragedy happening again. In trying to understand what happened on the ship, the investigation has to be credible. And we're open to a variety of ways of making that as credible as possible. Possible international involvement in the investigation is one way to accomplish that.

**QUESTION:** The Israelis still haven't announced an investigation despite the U.S. (inaudible) and in the UN Security Council over recent days. Are you disappointed by that? (Inaudible.)

**MR. CROWLEY:** I think we are confident that an investigation will take place.

**QUESTION:** The Turks themselves have been one of the countries that has asked to head an international investigation, while the Israelis, of course, are rejecting it. P.J., do you think the Israelis independently can conduct -- can alleviate international concerns over the incident by conducting their own investigation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, can Israel, as a vibrant democracy, with strong institutions of government, conduct a fair, credible, transparent investigation? The answer is yes. It is fully capable of doing that.

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**QUESTION:** P.J., the Secretary has said that the situation in Gaza is really unsustainable. What is the United States, looking forward, going to propose or what does the United States think should be the next step? If it is, in the U.S. opinion, unsustainable, what should be done? And how are you --

**MR. CROWLEY:** That's a process that we already have underway to evaluate how we can, working with Israel and other countries, expand the amount of and type of international assistance. In various meetings that we've had with world leaders, this has come up on a regular basis. The Secretary has commented on it on a regular basis. We have particular concern about and interest in construction materials that not only can help the people of Gaza sustain life, but actually improve their life on the ground.

We understand the security concerns that Israel has and we are going to be working with them, just as we have been pressing them for weeks and months to find a way to expand the amount of assistance that's provided on a regular basis to the people of Gaza. So we're going to redouble our efforts and see if there are other things that we can do and other things collectively the international community can do to increase that support while respecting and protecting Israel's legitimate security interests.

**QUESTION:** Should we interpret --

**QUESTION:** So when the Secretary -- I just want to make sure I understand. So when the Secretary talks about unsustainable, she's talking in a more direction fashion -- supplies, what people get in the situation in Gaza. She's not talking about a broader issue like what do you do with Gaza, should it remain part of Israel. I mean, some people in Israel say just put up a wall and make it separate.

**MR. CROWLEY:** I think what the Secretary is saying is that the current status quo is not sustainable. We don't think it's in Israel's long-term security interest to maintain the status quo. And we will be working with Israel and seeing if we can, together with the international community, others who have direct interest in what happens in Gaza, find ways to increase the amount of assistance while also protecting Israel's security interest.

**QUESTION:** Just to follow up on that, I want to make sure I understand this correctly. Should one interpret --

**MR. CROWLEY:** I've got to go in a couple of minutes.

**STAFF:** You're actually okay.

**MR. CROWLEY:** All right.

**QUESTION:** Should one interpret your comment that the current situation is not sustainable and that you believe it's not in Israel's interest to maintain the status quo -- should one interpret that to mean that you indeed have concluded that the blockade of Gaza simply isn't a good policy and you need another one? I mean, finding a way to get more goods in could mean that the blockade stays established -- you just get more stuff in there. So I want to make sure that we're -- is the blockade a bad policy?

**MR. CROWLEY:** It's a good question, Arshad. I -- Ambassador Michael Oren had an interesting piece today in *The New York Times*. And he mentioned in it that Israel has been victimized by more than 10,000 rockets that have been fired from Gaza into Israel, fired indiscriminately, and has threatened and killed Israeli citizens. Given that history and that reality, Israel has a very legitimate interest in being able to inspect and, to some extent, control the flow of materials into Gaza to make sure that that doesn't include further rockets, missiles, arms that pose a real threat to Israeli citizens. Israel feels that the blockade is the most effective way of doing that. We understand that.

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We also are very mindful of the humanitarian plight of the people of Gaza. And it is certainly possible that one can maintain the ability to control the flow of goods into Gaza so that Israel can be assured that the flow of goods does not include weapons that can threaten Israel directly, while expanding the amount of assistance, particularly construction materials, so that together the international community can help improve the lives of the average citizen of Gaza. We're also conscious of the legitimate interests that Israel has and the United States shares in isolating Hamas, which is a terrorist organization that has chosen not to join the peace process, has chosen not to recognize Israel, has chosen to fire rockets that jeopardize Israel's security, have chosen not to respect international agreements with respect to the peace process. Hamas has a choice it could make if it wanted to play a more constructive role in the region. It has chosen not to do that.

So it is quite a legitimate policy to find ways to improve the lives of the citizens of Gaza while isolating Hamas and protecting Israel's security. We're going to look with Israel to find out if there are improvements that can be made in the current practices so that more goods flow to the people of Gaza and fewer weapons.

As to how we're going to do that, those are the kinds of conversations we expect to have with Israel and with other interested countries in the coming days and weeks.

**QUESTION:** How does this incident affect the proximity talks? What's happening to them right now? I mean, George Mitchell is there.

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm sorry, I'm stunned -- (laughter).

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) talking about the length.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Oh. I'm far more coherent than the late senior senator from South Carolina.

**QUESTION:** How is the incident and the fallout affecting the proximity talks? George Mitchell is in the region.

**MR. CROWLEY:** George is in the region. I haven't been up to speed on his current activities today. We -- his activities are continuing. I think we still see ultimately this is the best route to avoid these kinds of confrontations in the future. Ultimately, direct negotiations are the only way to end the conflict. And so we would hope, and we've seen no evidence at this point, that the tragedy this week has affected proximity talks.

**QUESTION:** Has it --

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) proximity talks, the Palestinians aren't really engaging on the issues because of this incident; isn't that right?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Actually, it's not right. We have had meetings already this week with Palestinian officials, including President Abbas. Now, the meeting with President Abbas was more about the Palestinian -- Palestine Investment Conference, but we would expect to have more meetings before -- this week before George comes back. And so as far as we're concerned, the proximity talks continue to move forward, and we think that is the right decision for Israel, the Palestinians, and other countries in the region to take.

**QUESTION:** Has it affected the timeline of UN debate on Iran?

**MR. CROWLEY:** No.

**QUESTION:** One more thing on the *Rachel Corrie* -- the next flotilla coming. Do you have any understanding about Americans on board that ship or others that may be accompanying it?

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MR. CROWLEY: I do not.

QUESTION: P.J., has anyone from the Embassy seen this guy's body?

MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

QUESTION: Yes? And who was that in the Embassy? Was it a consular person or was it an FBI liaison or DS?

MR. CROWLEY: I believe it's -- I'll take that question, but I think it was -- they were consular officials. Now, we went to the morgue in Israel, so as it turned out, we -- the first time we saw his body it was there at the -- at that time, we just did not know that he was a dual citizen.

QUESTION: Well --

QUESTION: P.J. --

QUESTION: -- so if you've seen the body then at least twice, why are you not able to say what kind of wounds --

MR. CROWLEY: I'm not going to characterize --

QUESTION: Are those the first time or the only time?

MR. CROWLEY: I know -- as it turned out, we saw the -- those who were killed on the ship in Israel. What we didn't know at the time was that it turned out one of them was a dual citizen.

QUESTION: Right. And subsequently, have you seen him?

MR. CROWLEY: Since he's been back in Turkey? I can't say. I don't think so.

QUESTION: And where is that body now?

MR. CROWLEY: I believe the family has the body and they are -- he's being shipped to their home town for burial.

QUESTION: Do you have any reason why --

QUESTION: (Inaudible.)

QUESTION: (Inaudible) to ease the flow of goods necessarily require agreement from Hamas, and doesn't that look like a kind of remote possibility now?

MR. CROWLEY: I think we have ways of channeling goods through the Palestinian Authority, through NGOs, and also with the assistance of Israel and Egypt. So there are ways of getting assistance. I mean, I think we have projects underway in Gaza and we're going to evaluate if we -- if there's more that we can do.

QUESTION: Given the nature of these wounds could determine whether this person was killed in self-defense or (inaudible) execution?

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MR. CROWLEY: Again, we're trying to --

QUESTION: Is there some reason why you --

MR. CROWLEY: Again, I'm -- we're -- we will look into the circumstances of the death of an American citizen, as we would do anywhere in the world at all times. Let us try to determine as best we can what happened, and then once we have information, we'll evaluate what an appropriate course of action is.

QUESTION: Who from the American side is doing that? Who is doing the investigation on the U.S. side?

MR. CROWLEY: Right now, we're trying to ascertain facts. And then we have officials at a variety of levels here and in Israel are in contact with Israeli officials. We're finding out more information. We've had officials who have talked to the family.

QUESTION: Is the FBI involved?

MR. CROWLEY: At this point, no.

QUESTION: Have they done an autopsy?

MR. CROWLEY: I can't say. I don't -- I don't know what the Israelis did before they released the bodies back to Turkey.

QUESTION: I wanted to ask you -- Mahmoud Abbas recently sent a delegation to Gaza to talk to Hamas about a reconciliation between the PA and Hamas. Could you comment?

MR. CROWLEY: I mean, there are longstanding efforts led by Egypt to try to effect a reconciliation with Hamas. Among other things, the Palestinians are overdue for elections. They were supposed to take place early this year and they had to be rescheduled or delayed because Hamas has declined to participate in the electoral process. So we're not -- we certainly encourage efforts so that you can -- you have a unified government that is committed to the peace process. That has always been something that we think is beneficial.

QUESTION: Even though you've designated them as a terrorist group, you think it's --

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I'm not saying what the composition of that unified government would be. We have the red lines that the Quartet have laid out for quite some time about the rules under which we think people should be engaged in this process and we're open to any group that is willing to meet those conditions. But we recognize the importance and value of having a unified government that's willing to aggressively pursue peace. That -- and that's why we believe that government should be led by the Palestinian Authority. But like I say, there is a reconciliation process that we've had underway -- that has been underway for some time to see if -- and we would hope that that would strengthen the hand of the Palestinian Authority.

QUESTION: P.J., you said at this point now, the FBI is not involved. Under what circumstances would they get involved?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, again, let's let -- we're gathering facts about this case where a dual citizen has died during this incident. And based on those facts, we'll evaluate whether any further investigation is necessary.

QUESTION: P.J., can I ask --

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**QUESTION:** By who? By you, you mean? I mean, (inaudible) specifically said the FBI, and you said at this point no, suggesting that at some point they could be involved. And I'm wondering what it is that would trigger them --

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, as to that judgment, you're welcome to talk to the FBI. But any time an American is killed overseas, we have the option of evaluating the circumstances and if we think a crime has been committed, then working with the host government we have the option of our own investigation. Let's not jump to any conclusions at this point. We're evaluating the facts as we can best ascertain them. And based on that evaluation of the information that's available, we have a variety of options that are available to us.

**QUESTION:** P.J., can I ask about the Secretary Clinton and Foreign Minister Davutoglu's meeting? Did at any point Turks give an ultimatum to the U.S. side about the freeing of the activists?

**MR. CROWLEY:** About the?

**QUESTION:** Freeing of the activists from the flotilla. Freeing of the --

**MR. CROWLEY:** As we've said, during the course of the meeting, Foreign Minister Davutoglu expressed the importance that Turkey attached to a return of its citizens, including those killed and injured. We understood fully that -- that concern. We conveyed that concern on Turkey's behalf to Israel, and Israel responded.

**QUESTION:** But what was the tone of Davutoglu? Was it an ultimatum? Was it friendly atmosphere? How was the interaction?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I mean, it just was --

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. CROWLEY:** This was a conversation among allies and friends. The foreign minister expressed very forcefully the importance that Turkey attached to resolving this quickly. He asked that we convey that to Israel. We did so. And we're gratified that Israel responded rapidly to those Turkish concerns.

**QUESTION:** Do you have an age and place of birth of the dual citizen?

**MR. CROWLEY:** He was born in New York.

**QUESTION:** New York City?

**MR. CROWLEY:** New York state. My understanding is he was 19 years old.

**QUESTION:** And where was he living? To your knowledge, was he living in Turkey?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Yes. I think he -- he was born in Troy, New York.

**QUESTION:** Can we change the topic?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Sure.

**QUESTION:** Okay, two quick things. One, did you ever get a comment on my question yesterday about the detained Kuwaiti blogger?

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MR. CROWLEY: Not yet. I --

QUESTION: Okay. And then --

MR. CROWLEY: I meant to bring that with me. (Inaudible) arrived before I came in.

QUESTION: And one other quick one. There's a report picked up by the BBC saying that a former aide to the chief of Iran's nuclear program, a man named Hossein Musavian, has asked for asylum in the United States. Is that true, or can you check on that?

MR. CROWLEY: I'll check on that.

QUESTION: Thank you.

QUESTION: On India, will the United States grant the foreign minister's request this morning to get access to the American who was (inaudible) the Mumbai attacks?

MR. CROWLEY: It is an issue that we are discussing with India. During the course of our discussions here, counterterrorism cooperation is a significant priority for us. We are and have been working very closely with Indian authorities on our common threat. But as to that specific question, I'll defer to the Department of Justice.

QUESTION: Egyptian upper house elections yesterday -- the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights along with monitors from other groups have reported widespread irregularities. There's cases of vote buying. One candidate was apparently shot in the leg, yet the official electoral body, the High Elections Commission, announced that the vote went smoothly. What information do you have on the elections yesterday?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, we certainly support free and fair elections as a universal standard. We are concerned about reports of fraud and interference with the ability of some Egyptians to vote freely. We expect the Egyptian Government to take action to remedy any problems along with providing measures to ensure parliamentary elections next fall are free from similar problems. And we also have an interest in making sure that there is -- that the Egyptian Government facilitate credible monitoring of future elections.

QUESTION: Well, the high court said everything went smoothly. What steps do you foresee them taking? What steps do you see the government taking to ensure more effective elections?

MR. CROWLEY: I mean, there are some practical measures that can be taken. There were problems with access to polling stations both for voters, for election monitors. So the Egyptian Government has it within its power to improve on these clear challenges. As we've said many times, we -- there are practical issues regarding the execution of a particular election and there are broader issues on just opening up a political process to allow more candidates and more competitive elections. And these are issues that we continue to discuss on a regular basis with the Government of Egypt.

QUESTION: What time is the Secretary's press availability and how much time do we have to file or we get taken upstairs?

MR. CROWLEY: Yeah, I'm supposed to go up here --

STAFF: She's running a little bit late.

QUESTION: I was just thinking it's time we got out of here.

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**QUESTION:** Just one quick question on the Iran sanctions vote because there was a lot of expectations that it would be held as early as this week, but that's not happening. How close are you and how close are you to finishing the annexes?

**MR. CROWLEY:** We have work that is continuing. The Secretary had a conversation a short -- right before the Strategic Dialogue with India opened, the Secretary had a conversation with Foreign Minister Lavrov on this issue. Yesterday, Under Secretary Bill Burns had one of his regular conference calls with political directors among the P-5+1. So we continue to work very hard on this and we expect to meet the President's objective of concluding this by the end of spring, which I guess is June 21<sup>st</sup>.

**QUESTION:** Has the Secretary spoken to anybody -- back on the Israeli issue -- any senior Israeli officials in the last 24 or 36 hours?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Not to my knowledge.

**QUESTION:** Do you have any update on this lawyer in Rwanda?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Stand by. He's still in the hospital. I'm just looking --

**QUESTION:** Sorry. Who's this?

**MR. CROWLEY:** This is Peter Erlinder. We -- he's still in the hospital. We are still in touch with the Rwandan Government. We want to be sure that he is accorded all of his rights. We are in touch with him. His legal representatives are in touch with him. But we are pressing the Rwandan Government to resolve this case quickly and we would like to see him released on compassionate grounds.

**QUESTION:** Thank you.

**QUESTION:** His family was seeking a meeting here today. Do you know if they got one?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'll take that question. I don't know. We are obviously concerned about this and we are in direct conversation with the Rwandan Government to try to resolve this as quickly as possible.

**QUESTION:** P.J. --

**QUESTION:** Do you know -- is it correct that he tried to kill himself?

**MR. CROWLEY:** He is in a hospital. Beyond that, I'm not comfortable talking about the details.

**QUESTION:** P.J., do you have any comment on Senator Webb's cancellation of trip to Myanmar (inaudible)?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Obviously, we're aware that he chose not to go to Burma, but we'll defer to his office for comment.

**QUESTION:** How about the press allegations on Myanmar's nuclear connection to North Korea?

**MR. CROWLEY:** What?

**QUESTION:** Press allegation.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Of?

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**QUESTION:** Nuclear cooperation between Burma and North Korea.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, we are -- we have been concerned about Burma's relationship with North Korea, the transactions that occur between Burma and North Korea. We are very conscious that North Korea is a serial proliferator of dangerous materials and weapons, and this is something that we have expressed directly to Burma and that continues to be a major concern of ours.

**QUESTION:** Did you hear anything from Ambassador Susan Rice after her meeting with Mr. (inaudible) from South Korea regarding *Cheonan* issue and when they are bringing this issue --

**MR. CROWLEY:** If you call my colleague, Mark Kornblau, I'm sure he can give you a readout. I don't have one.

**QUESTION:** Thank you.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Thanks.

(The briefing was concluded at 2:18 p.m.)

###

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B77

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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From: Lewis, Robert B  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:24 PM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Telephone Numbers for Merchant Vessels  
Attachments: CARGO MANIFEST img090.jpg

RELEASED IN FULL

Most vessels equipped with INMARSAT terminals can be contacted via landlines, INMARSAT or Skype. Please review the following website:

[http://www.inmarsat.com/Services/Maritime/Ships\\_Directory/default.aspx](http://www.inmarsat.com/Services/Maritime/Ships_Directory/default.aspx)

[http://www.inmarsat.com/Services/Maritime/Ships\\_Directory/default.aspx?ShipName=rachel%20corrie](http://www.inmarsat.com/Services/Maritime/Ships_Directory/default.aspx?ShipName=rachel%20corrie)

insert the name of any merchant vessel and the particulars should come up. The MV Rachel Corrie should be able to accept faxes and emails that do not contain attachments. Thanks for listening and have a great day.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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Austin Mathews Shipping Services Ltd  
Dundalk  
Ireland

Phone: +353 (0)42 93 38169  
Fax: +353 (0)42 93 32400  
[amssifd@eircom.net](mailto:amssifd@eircom.net)

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CARGO MANIFEST

M.V. RACHEL CORRIE		Flag: CAMBODIA		Loading Port: DUNDALK		
				Discharge Port: GAZA CITY		
Bill of Lading	Shippers	Cosignees	custom status	remarks	Description Of Cargo	Weight KGS
1	FG Human Rights Projects LTD	FG Human Rights Projects LTD 9 Priory Road Harolds Cross Dublin 6 Ireland			Bagged Cement	550.000
					Printing Paper	20.000
					School Supplies/Books	25.000
					Toys	12.000
					Medical Equipment	150.000
					TOTAL LOADED	757.000

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Austin Mathews Shipping Service  
17 MOURNE VALE  
AVENUE ROAD, DUNDALK  
042 9338169

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E. AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B7E

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Goldberg, Joshua W  
 Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:12 PM  
 To: SES-O  
 Cc: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
 Subject: Situation Report No.8 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU Version)  
 Attachments: oledata.mso

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
Operations Center

**SITUATION REPORT No. 8**  
**Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01**  
 Thursday, June 3, 2010  
 1800 EDT

**STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**

- (SBU) A family member confirmed that 19 year-old Turkish-American citizen, Furkan Dogan, was among those killed on the MAVI MARMARA. (MGGZ01/Embassy Ankara e-mail)
- (SBU) Embassy officials located previously unaccounted for Israeli-American citizen, [redacted] in Ramallah. Eight American citizens departed from Tel Aviv to Istanbul, another to Athens, and two to Jordan. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

B6

**STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS**

- (U) The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced three activists from Ireland, Australia, and Italy remain in Israel for "technical reasons," without providing any further information. Seven additional activists are still hospitalized in Israel. (Israel Radio News)
- (SBU) Israel turned over 120 detainees from Muslim and Arab countries to Jordan. (Amman 1231)

**OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA**

(U) Media report the Israeli Navy intends to board the RACHEL CORRIE if necessary, but released no additional specifics. (Ma'ariv)

**STATUS OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS**

(SBU) Truckloads of goods arrived in Kerem Shalom but have not entered Gaza. UNRWA and ICRC are waiting for permission from Turkey to secure the items. Hamas is disallowing any further entry of goods into the area. (MGGZ01/Special Envoy for Middle East Peace e-mail)

**ISRAELI RESPONSE**

(U) Media report Israel decided to release flotilla detainees immediately in order to help the United States garner support for UN sanctions against Iran. (ynetnews.com)

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### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- (SBU) Arab League: Foreign ministers agreed to ask the UN Security Council to urge an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza.  
(MGGZ01/Embassy Riyadh e-mail)
- (U) UN: Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, condemned Hamas for raiding NGO offices in Gaza City and the Rafah crossing.  
(MGGZ01/Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process e-mail)
- (SBU) A June 3 International Maritime Organization (IMO) meeting was interrupted by Cuba, Indonesia, Syria, and Venezuela condemning Israeli actions. Turkey is expected to push for official IMO condemnation of Israel at the June 7 meeting.  
(MGGZ01/Bureau of International Organization Affairs e-mail)

### INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- (U) Turkey: PM Erdogan said full restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel was contingent upon ending Israel's blockade of Gaza. (*nytimes.com*)
- (U) South Africa: The ambassador to Israel was recalled June 3. (*ynetnews.com*)
- (U) Ecuador: The ambassador to Israel was recalled June 3. (*washingtonpost.com*)
- (U) EU: The European Jewish Congress called on the EU to ban the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) and other "terrorist front organizations" (*European Jewish Congress press release*)
- (U) Saudi Arabia: Flotilla discussions interrupted meetings between a U.S. Congressional delegation and members of the Saudi business community at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on June 2.  
(*Saudi Gazette, Al-Watan, Shams*)
- (U) UK: Former FS Miliband restated the British call for an end to the blockade as the only way to limit Hamas' control over the region.  
(MGGZ01/Embassy of the United Kingdom to the United States e-mail)
- (SBU) Australia: PM Rudd called for an independent inquiry and an easing of the blockade.  
(MGGZ01/Embassy of Australia to the United States e-mail)

Additional updates on the Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group are available through our classified website at <http://ses.state.gov.gov>

Drafted: KFrelich/JGroeblicher  
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS, DNI

Approved: RWThomas

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**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**CC:** Cohen, Jonathan R; EUR-SE-DAR-DL; Kaidanow, Tina S  
**Subject:** Report from Embassy Nicosia on Challenger II and III  
**Sent:** 6/3/2010 3:52:58 PM

I just got off the phone with Embassy Nicosia, which we asked to check into the reports a ship may have departed Limassol, Cyprus possibly en route Gaza. Embassy spoke directly with Cypriot Marine Police, which reported the following:

- Challenger III remains in Limassol, is seriously damaged and will take an estimated month to repair. There are currently no captain, crew or passengers aboard the ship. As they have stated previously, Cypriots have no intention of allowing ship depart for Gaza.
- Challenger II, a different ship, is damaged and anchored in the Med outside of Cypriot territorial waters. Cypriot marine police do not believe it is seaworthy.
- Previously, upon learning of the Challenger III's potential for involvement with the Gaza Flotilla, Embassy Consular Officers asked Cypriot authorities for a briefing on the ship's status, crew and passengers to protect any Americans potentially aboard. It was then that the Cypriots informed Embassy that there were no Americans on board and the GoC had no intention of allowing the ship to depart for Gaza. Embassy officers of course agreed with the GoC's course of action and thanked them for the briefing.

Robert J. Riley  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-5120  
rileyri@state.gov

SBU  
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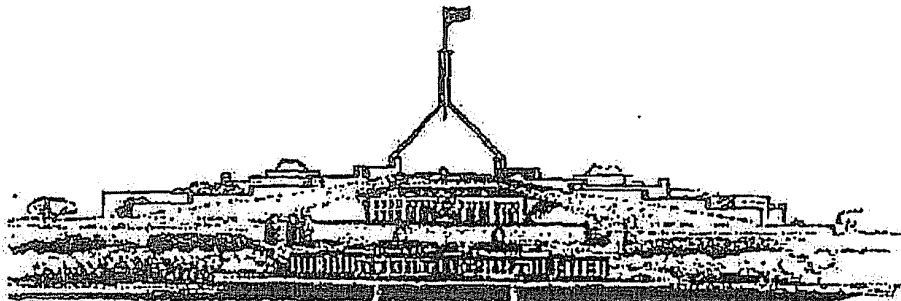
382A



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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Middle East

QUESTION

Tuesday, 1 June 2010

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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## QUESTION

Date: Tuesday, 1 June 2010  
 Page 3  
 Questioner Vamvakinou, Maria, MP  
 Speaker

Source House  
 Proof Yes  
 Responder Smith, Stephen, MP  
 Question No.

## Middle East

Ms. VAMVAKINO (Calwell) (2.19 pm)—My question is to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Will the minister advise the House of the Australian government's response to the incident yesterday between the Israeli navy and a flotilla of vessels attempting to make its way to Gaza?

Mr STEPHEN SMITH (Perth—Minister for Foreign Affairs)—I thank the member for her question, and I know that all members of the House will be both interested and concerned about this matter. This is a terrible and shocking incident, a terrible and shocking event, and I think many Australians will be shocked by it. I will deal firstly with the safety and welfare of Australian citizens and an Australian permanent resident who have been caught up in this matter. I deal firstly with the *Sydney Morning Herald* photographer and journalist, Kate Geraghty and Paul McGeough. Kate Geraghty is an Australian citizen; Paul McGeough is a permanent resident of Australia but is understood to be an Irish citizen and travelling on an Irish passport. I make that point, which I would not normally make public, because it is important as it goes to contra assistance and access.

I indicate that both Ms Geraghty and Mr McGeough are to be transferred from the city of Ashdod to the Beersheba detention centre. Australian officials have been advised that, in the case of Ms Geraghty, consular access will be granted in the course of today, Tel Aviv time. In the case of Mr McGeough, Australian officials have been advised that Irish officials will be granted the same consular access. Australian officials have taken the opportunity, as you would expect, of underlining with Irish officials our very keen interest in the wellbeing of this Australian permanent resident, who would be, as he is to me, well known to many members of the House. So we expect that in the case of Ms Geraghty, so far as Australian officials are concerned, and the case of Mr McGeough, so far as Irish officials are concerned, consular access will be given in the course of the day, Tel Aviv time. In the meantime, I am advised that the welfare of Ms Geraghty and Mr McGeough has been confirmed.

I made public this morning that there is an Australian citizen, an Australian man, who has been injured through a gunshot wound to the leg. He has undergone

surgery and is currently in hospital. He has been visited by Australian officials in hospital, and Australian officials will continue to provide consular assistance to him. I can advise the House that two Australian women, who were also on board one of the flotilla vessels, are being detained at the Beersheba detention centre. As is the case with detained Australian nationals, Australian officials will be granted consular access to these two women in the course of today, Tel Aviv time.

I indicate to the House that Australian officials are working assiduously with Israeli officials in Canberra, Tel Aviv and New York—working assiduously not just on the matter generally but also to seek to ascertain whether there are any other Australians who have been caught up in this incident. I can advise the House that to date Australian officials have received no information or evidence which would suggest that any other Australians have been killed or injured in this terrible matter. Our officials continue to work very closely with Israeli officials in that respect.

That deals with consular matters. Can I make some remarks in the House so far as this terrible and shocking event is concerned. The Australian government very strongly believes that the onus is now on Israel to conduct a credible and transparent investigation into this matter. That investigation should of course be subject to the scrutiny of the international community. The Security Council, as we speak, is dealing with this matter and may well later in the night, New York time, issue a statement in respect of these matters. What is required is a transparent and credible investigation by Israel which will be the subject of, obviously, the international community's scrutiny and which, in Australia's view, should appropriately be the subject of Security Council consideration.

The Australian government's policy position on the blockade of aid or humanitarian assistance to Gaza is well known. We believe there should be an easing of the blockade to enable aid and humanitarian assistance to be delivered to Gaza. We have made that point both to Israel and also in the most recent open session of the Security Council on this matter in October of last year. Australian officials will continue to work closely with Israeli officials on consular matters. We will of course continue to put our view to Israel at officials

CHAMBER

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Tuesday, 1 June 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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level in Canberra, Tel Aviv and New York. We await the deliberations of the Security Council.

While it may well be the case that an easing of the blockade would help prevent such terrible events occurring in the future, I think all members of the House would have the view that the only long-term, enduring solution to such matters is a long-term, enduring peace in the Middle-East. Such a peace can only be based, can only be predicated, on a two-state solution. That is why not just this Australian government but Australian governments of both political persuasions consistently have been very strong supporters of the peace process and very strong supporters of a two-state solution, and the Australia government urges all of the parties to engage as quickly as possible in the proposed proximity talks.

The **SPEAKER**—I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, on a brief indulgence.

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MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
STEPHEN SMITH, MP

3 June 2010

TRANSCRIPTION: PROOF COPY E & OE

**Transcript:** Interview by Ashleigh Gillon with Foreign Minister Stephen Smith, Lunchtime Agenda, Sky New Australia

**Main Topic:** Gaza flotilla incident, Australian women in Yemen, US President Obama's visit, Fiji, deportation of Sheikh Monsour Leghaei, federal election, shooting in Britain

**ASHLEIGH GILLON:** Some of the Australians who were caught up in the Gaza flotilla crisis have now been deported from Israel to Istanbul. It comes as another boat threatens to break Israel's Gaza blockade.

*I spoke with the Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith, a short time ago.*

*Minister, thank you for your time.*

**STEPHEN SMITH:** Pleasure.

**ASHLEIGH GILLON:** Four Australians caught up in that Gaza flotilla crisis have now been deported from Israel to Istanbul. What's the next step? Are they due back in Australia soon?

**STEPHEN SMITH:** In the last hour or so, the two Sydney Morning Herald employees - Paul McGeough, the journalist, and Kate Geraghty, the photographer - have arrived in Istanbul. They were met there by our Consul-General. I'm advised that they're safe and well and it'll now be a matter for them as to when they return to Australia but they're now in the company of Australian officials.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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Mr Talib, who is suffering from the gunshot wound, remains in hospital. It's expected that he'll be in hospital for several days but once he's fit to travel he will also leave Israel.

One of the Australian women has chosen to remain in the detention centre until he is fit to travel. There's obviously a relationship between those two.

The second Australian woman, we expect to arrive in Istanbul in the course of today and we have an official at the airport awaiting her arrival.

**ASHLEIGH GILLON:** The Prime Minister said he requested that Mr Netanyahu closely observe the process involving Australians. Has that happened? Are you pleased with the way Australians have been handled post-this crisis?

**STEPHEN SMITH:** To date we've got nothing to express concern about. We just want to wait until we've got all of the Australians safely at hand, so to speak, and then we'll have a careful review of the consular arrangements.

We were pleased, of course, that we were given consular access, including whilst there was no legal or diplomatic obligation, including to Mr McGeough who is a permanent resident rather than an Australian citizen. We'll have a close look at that after the event. For the moment we're now awaiting the arrival of an Australian woman at Istanbul airport and, on her arrival she'll be met by one of our officials, and the other two will remain in Israel pending Mr Talib being in a fit state to travel.

**REPORTER:** Another ship crewed by activists is now apparently on its way to try to break that blockade. How would you hope the Israeli authorities deal with that case?

**STEPHEN SMITH:** We would hope that given the terrible events of the last couple of days that all parties exercise commonsense and restraint. The last thing we want to see is a repetition of the shocking events of the last couple of days. So we would hope that everyone in the area - everyone - exercises restraint and approaches these matters in a calm way.

**REPORTER:** Were you disappointed that Israel has played down calls for the need for an internal inquiry?

**STEPHEN SMITH:** Our position, the Australian position, has not changed and our position has been reflected by the Security Council statement. We continue to believe, as I've said publicly, as the Prime Minister has said publicly, and as was the subject of a conversation between him and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, that Israel now needs to conduct a credible and transparent investigation so that the facts are there for all to see and for that to be subject to the scrutiny of the international community.

That's in Israel's interests as well as the international community's interests.

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REPORTER: On another matter, an Australian woman has been taken into custody in Yemen over alleged links to Al-Qaeda. What information do you have about this and is the Government doing anything to help her?

STEPHEN SMITH: There are two aspects to it. Firstly, as was indicated in Senate Estimates yesterday, on the advice of the Director-General of ASIO, I cancelled her passport a couple of weeks ago. That was on security grounds and I'm not, for all of the obvious reasons, proposing to go further than that.

She has two young children, we don't have an Embassy in the Yemen, but we've sent an officer from Saudi Arabia, from Riyadh, to render consular assistance.

We have put the view to the Yemen authorities that the wishes of the mother in respect of the children should be followed. And her wish is for the children to be cared for by family friends or for the children to return to Australia, and we're urging that upon the Yemeni authorities.

We believe the best outcome is for the children to be given their passports, they have their own passports, and for them to return to Australia and we're urging that upon the Yemeni authorities.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: Did Australia give the Yemeni authorities any information about this woman that could have led to her arrest?

STEPHEN SMITH: I'm not proposing to go into any of the matters that would go to the security information or arrangements in place. I have been happy to confirm on the public record that, as was indicated in Senate Estimates by officials, that on the advice of the Director-General of ASIO I cancelled her passport.

We are concerned to make sure that everything we can do to have her wishes respected so far as her young children are concerned are met and we're working very hard with the Yemeni authorities on that point. We've made it clear to them that we frankly see no reason why the children should not be allowed to return on their own passports to Australia.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: The US President is, of course, dealing with the BP oil spill. Is there a risk that President Obama's visit to Australia later this month will be cancelled?

STEPHEN SMITH: We, of course, want him to come. We understood the reasons for his deferral on the previous occasion but in these matters we always await the official advice of the White House as to the detailed arrangements for any trip. So...

ASHLEIGH GILLON: But how likely is it, do you think, that he won't be coming?

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STEPHEN SMITH: I'm not going to get into a guessing game. In all of these matters any visit by the United States President is a matter for the White House to announce the details of that. We've made it clear that whenever the President wants to visit Australia of course he will be welcomed not just by the Government but by the Parliament and the Australian people.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: A much more fraught relationship is with Fiji. You held meetings this week with several of your Pacific counterparts about the ongoing problems with that country. As Foreign Minister, have you managed to make any progress at all in convincing Fiji to hold democratic elections?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well the meeting in Auckland, was a meeting of the Fiji Ministerial Contact Group which is chaired by Tonga, chaired by the Tongan Prime Minister who is also the Foreign Minister, and had representatives either Foreign Ministers or Ministers from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tuvalu.

We received a report from the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, and that essentially detailed what I'd said publicly which was, if anything, since the last time the Contact Group met things had gone backwards in Fiji in an economic sense, in a political sense, in a freedom of speech sense.

So we continue to be very concerned. We very much want to continue a dialogue with Fiji to try and bring Fiji to democracy.

Since the meeting, Commodore Bainimarama has said that neither Australia nor New Zealand is welcome. There are two points about that. Firstly, that's very disappointing and deeply regrettable. Secondly, this is not about Australia, this is about the Pacific Islands Forum establishing a Ministerial Contact Group chaired by Tonga, with broad representation from the Forum, wanting to engage in a dialogue. The problem is we can't force a dialogue upon Commodore Bainimarama or Fiji. A dialogue has got to be two-way, it can't be one-way.

But we continue to want to engage with Fiji because it's not in Fiji's interests, either economically or socially, to continue to be under the rule of a military regime. It's important to Fiji, important to the Pacific Islands Forum, important to our region that Fiji return to democracy.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: Outside Parliament House today, bus loads of people are arriving to protest the deportation of Sheikh Monsour. What is your message to those people out there today?

STEPHEN SMITH: They are perfectly entitled, obviously, to express their point of view. One of the things we pride ourselves on in Australia is the right to freedom of expression and the right to do that in a peaceful and peaceable way. So they're perfectly entitled to put their point of view.

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The Minister for Immigration, Senator Evans, has indicated publicly that he's proposing to effect his deportation on security grounds. I understand that there is cooperation between him [Sheikh Monsour] and the Commonwealth on this point. People are perfectly entitled to put a view about a Government decision but Senator Evans has made a decision on security grounds to deport him.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: So when the UN wrote to the Immigration Minister requesting that he not be deported, the UN was wrong?

STEPHEN SMITH: The UN is entitled to express its point of view. It's not a point of view which binds Australia legally in any way. Obviously we always give consideration to what a United Nations point of view might be. But, in the end, Senator Evans has made it clear that he is proposing to deport him on security grounds. And we are always, as we should be, as we have to be, very diligent, very conscientious and very vigilant about our security requirements and our security needs.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: Several retiring MPs are delivering their valedictory speeches today in parliament. Should we see that as a hint that the election will be called before Parliament is due to resume in August?

STEPHEN SMITH: This is the standard practice that about this time when there is a prospect of an election that the valedictories occur in the course of the...

ASHLEIGH GILLON: Do you think an election will be called before parliament resumes in August?

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, there's only one person who knows that, and it's not me. But what we do want to make sure from a Parliamentary point of view is that those retiring members don't miss their chance, and that's why the opportunity is afforded to them in the course of the Budget session to make their valedictory remarks.

What we do know is the election will be in the course of the second half of this year and...

ASHLEIGH GILLON: And you're not going to tell us more than that.

STEPHEN SMITH: Well, if I knew, I wouldn't tell you.

There's only one person who might know and I suspect he hasn't made a judgement about that.

What we do know is that we're going to have an election in the course of this year and at some point in the cycle the starter's gun will be fired and the community after four weeks will make their judgement.

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ASHLEIGH GILLON: Just finally on a much sadder note, has Australia expressed its condolences to Britain over the shootings overnight?

STEPHEN SMITH: I haven't had the opportunity of doing that personally with Foreign Secretary William Hague but at opening of business our High Commissioner will express, on Australia's behalf, our condolences to the British people. It's a terrible tragic event. We have been on the receiving end in Australia of comparable terrible tragedies, and so our thoughts and our hearts go out to them and to the families and friends and loved ones of the people who have been killed.

So it's a terrible day for the United Kingdom. We have great historical and people-to-people links. There are so many of us who have travelled or studied or worked there, and there are many of us who have been to the areas where the atrocities occurred. So it's a bad day for the United Kingdom, for the British people, and our hearts and our thoughts are with them.

ASHLEIGH GILLON: Foreign Minister, thanks for your time.

STEPHEN SMITH: Thanks very much.

END

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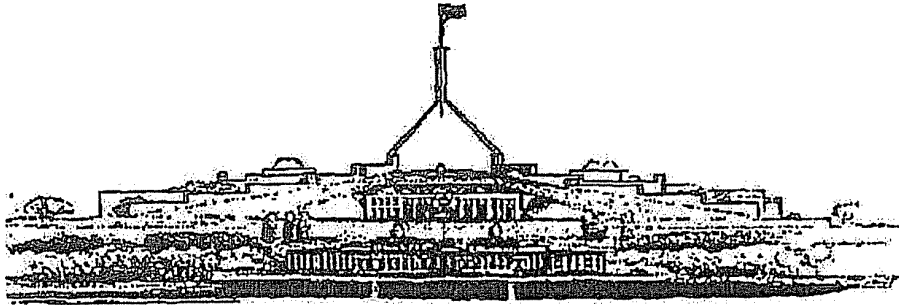
B82C

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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PROOF

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Middle East

QUESTION

Wednesday, 2 June 2010

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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QUESTION

Date Wednesday, 2 June 2010  
Page 48  
Questioner Bevis, Arch, MP  
Speaker

Source House  
Proof Yes  
Responder Rudd, Kevin, MP  
Question No.

Middle East

Mr BEVIS (Brisbane) (2.03 pm)—My question is to the Prime Minister. Will the Prime Minister update the House in relation to the incident yesterday between the Israeli navy and a flotilla of vessels attempting to make its way to Gaza?

Mr RUDD (Griffith—Prime Minister)—I thank the member for Brisbane for his question. Last night I spoke to the Prime Minister of Israel, Prime Minister Netanyahu. He had just returned from his visit to Canada and was about to go into a cabinet meeting to discuss the incident that the honourable member's question refers to. I set out the framework in which Australia views this tragedy in my discussion with the Prime Minister, and reflected Australia's deep concerns over the recent military operation off Gaza.

Consistent with the public remarks made both by myself and by the foreign minister yesterday, I indicated that the Australian government was deeply concerned at the loss of life and injuries that had occurred as part of the IDF operation; furthermore, that deaths in these circumstances are deeply disturbing and of deep concern to the Australian people; and, furthermore, that Israel should mount an independent inquiry into the incident so that all the facts can be established and an informed judgment made about the events surrounding the incident of Monday. Furthermore, I reiterated that the Australian government's position was that more needs to be done to ensure a reasonable continuing supply of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. Australia recognises the unique security challenges that the government of Israel faces from the government of Iran, the state of Iran, and the terrorist organisations which the Iranians support. Australia remains sensitive to the security concerns of Israel. Australia is nonetheless deeply concerned by the loss of life in this most recent military action off Gaza.

The government gives the highest priority to the welfare of Australians caught up in this incident. The Australian embassy in Israel has been in close contact with Israeli authorities concerning the welfare and safety of the Australians who have been involved. I can advise the House that Australian officials have been granted access to all known Australians from vessels in the flotilla and that officials have provided

consular assistance to those Australians. Yesterday embassy officials visited the three Australians and one permanent resident currently at the Beersheba detention centre, where people on the flotilla have been taken. Also yesterday an Australian embassy official made a second consular visit to an injured Australian man in an Israeli hospital. We have been advised that consular access will be provided again to the Australians at the Beersheba detention centre today, 2 June. We have also been advised that all those detained can request access to lawyers.

Our embassy officials are working with detained Australians and Israeli authorities on the appropriate way forward for each Australian given their specific circumstances. We continue to seek confirmation that no other Australians were on board. Furthermore, I requested of Prime Minister Netanyahu last night that he personally engage on the matter concerning the wellbeing of these Australians and these Australian permanent residents. The Prime Minister indicated he would do so.

The events of Monday have generated protests in a number of countries around the world. Australia has been no exception. Australia has a deep commitment to the right of Australians to protest and to express their views on subjects of their choice. Whatever the issue Australians have that right. That protest, however, needs to be undertaken peacefully and in a manner which does not incite or provoke violence or lead any community to feel under threat within our country, Australia. At times like this, when passions are aroused, it is important that our communities understand that protest activity needs to be peaceful and undertaken in a way that does not fray the threads that make our society the strong fabric that it is. This is Australia. All protest activity must be undertaken peacefully, and in relation to individual communities within Australia none of those communities should be left feeling under threat.

Australia has a very strong relationship with Israel, a relationship that goes back to the founding of the Israeli state and Australia's vote at the United Nations in 1947, which was the first cast in support of the establishment of the state of Israel, under the Chifley Labor government. We are friends. At times, however, the role of friends is to speak plainly, and that is what

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Wednesday, 2 June 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Australia has done on this occasion in relation to this matter.

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1386

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:35 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Status of U.S. Citizens with Gaza Flotilla

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

From ACS Tel Aviv. Please note that Embassy Ankara has confirmed the death of Furkan Dogan, the 19-year old dual national, via his family in Turkey. Post has been in contact with Dogan's father, who identified his son's remains following their repatriation to Turkey. Embassy Tel Aviv had been trying to locate Dogan among the detainees since being notified of his participation in the flotilla. Dogan's father has released his son's name to the media.

Tel Aviv -

1. Very early this morning, CONS confirmed through MFA the departure of eight Amcits to Istanbul and one Amcit to Athens. The nine left from Ben Gurion Airport on aircraft sent by the Greek and Turkish governments. Consular access was not permitted at BGA. Onward transportation was to be the responsibility of each traveler. Many inquiries were received concerning [redacted] an activist who has been arrested previously in Israel. He showed signs of bruising all over his body when visited by Conoff on June 2. He alleges mistreatment and has publicized his condition to Physicians for Human Rights and to the media.

B6

2. Post learned this afternoon that one of the deceased whose remains were returned to Turkey at the same time was that of Furkan Dogan, a 19-year old Turkish American who we had been trying to locate for several days. He is listed on the manifest of the Mavi Marmara as a Turkish citizen. Post does not know of any American citizens who participated in the flotilla who remain in detention. We have no information on three possible Amcits [redacted] None of them are listed on the Mavi Marmara manifest.

3. CONS has requested that MFA provide guidance on how American citizens can seek to reclaim property confiscated by the GOI. One Amcit reported his suitcase was left on board the vessel he jump from; others had property confiscated at processing and they were given numbers to assist in reclaiming. We will provide guidance when available and will contact the Amcits directly.

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DATE/CASE ID: 03/ APR 2012 201004163

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# The Free Gaza Movement

Breaking the Siege of Gaza

F. G. Human Rights Projects, Ltd  
Registered Charity #HE 246993  
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2571 Nisou, Nicosia, Cyprus  
Tel: +357 99 081 767  
Email: friends@freegaza.org

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- Amjed Shawa



Sunday, 25 April 2010

1387

Professor Richard Falk  
UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in  
The Occupied Palestinian Territory

Dear Professor Falk,

Greetings from the Occupied Palestinian Territory. I hope this note finds you well. I am writing to update you on the plans of the Free Gaza Movement to launch an international Flotilla to Gaza and to request your assistance.

Since we launched our two small fishing boats to challenge Israel's near hermetic closure of the Gaza Strip in August 2008, the idea of challenging Israel's illegal blockade via the sea has grown. Next month the Free Gaza Movement, in collaboration with four other organizations from the UK, Turkey, Greece and Sweden will launch an eight-vessel flotilla to Gaza that will include three cargo ships carrying building materials and educational supplies, as well as medical equipment, water filtration materials and more. We will be joined by 600 parliamentarians, artists, journalists and human rights campaigners from around the world.

Professor Falk, in order to increase support of international bodies for this mission and to preempt arguments that our supplies will be used by Hamas to attack Israel, we would like to ask your office to create a certification team to assure transparency for delivery of the Flotilla cargo and its use.

Donna Baranski-Walker, Executive Director of the Rebuilding Alliance, is uniquely qualified to lead such a team. We have already received invitations from UNRWA to facilitate Donna's entry into Gaza from Rafah, and from the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, the Palestinian Network of NGOs for collaboration. We also have contact with the government's coordinating committee for reconstruction.

The UN certification team that we are requesting would undertake to:

- Receive clear bills of lading, inspected and certified at ports of departure;
- Put in place a good plan for unloading the cargo ship and insuring secure storage upon arrival in Gaza port;
- Liaise with the government to ensure understanding and respect for the planned use of the rebuilding equipment;
- Have an inspection process to certify that materials were used as stated.

We believe this level of transparency will maximize support for the Flotilla, as well as encourage a diplomatic push to end the strangulating blockade on Gaza. The creation of a UN certification team will also enhance the Flotilla's stature in the diplomatic community and make it all the safer for everyone involved.

Sincerely Yours,  
*Huwaida Arraf*

Huwaida Arraf, Chairperson  
[huwaida@freegaza.org](mailto:huwaida@freegaza.org)

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1289

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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**From:** Casteel, Ezra A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:10 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Aid ship sailing towards Gaza, prefers UN escort

RELEASED IN FULL

DUBLIN (Reuters) - The aid ship MV Rachel Corrie expects to arrive in Gaza by the morning of June 5 if given clear passage by Israel, just days after another aid vessel was boarded by Israeli commandos who killed nine people. It is carrying 15 activists including a northern Irish Nobel Peace laureate and is 280 miles away from Gaza. Israel offered to escort the vessel and deliver the civilian aid for it and said Egypt was prepared to do the same. Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said Israel would not allow its Gaza blockade to be breached.

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Ezra Casteel  
S/ES-O Operations Specialist  
202.647.1512

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B92

**From:** Carle, Lisa M  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**CC:** Berndt, Jeremy R; Ziadeh, Susan L; Smith, James B; Treiber, Laird D (NEA/I-ASSIST)  
**Subject:** Saudi Special Media Reaction to Gaza Flotilla incident .docx  
**Sent:** 6/3/2010 10:08:02 AM  
**Attachments:** Second Special Media Reaction to Gaza Flotilla incident .docx [Second Special Media Reaction to Gaza Flotilla incident .docx]  
FYI, more Saudi media reaction.

*Lisa M. Carle  
Counselor for Political Affairs*

*Embassy of the United States of America  
P.O. Box 94309  
Riyadh 11693  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

*Telephone: +966-1-488-3800 x4422  
Mobile: +966-55-355-2145*

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Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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*2<sup>nd</sup> Special Media Reaction to Gaza Flotilla Incident on May 31, 2010*

**SUMMARY:** Several papers, television, and radio continued to devote prominent coverage to reaction to the Gaza Flotilla incident. Saudi officials continued to denounce the attacks and newspaper commentaries expressed skepticism about seeing an appropriate response from the U.S. and the international community as a whole. Bloggers made negative comments about local reaction, expressed skepticism that any significant action would be taken in regard to the incident, and criticized officials for neglecting internal matters while focusing on Israel. END SUMMARY.

Sample Headlines:

"Another Aid Ship to Challenge Israel"- *Arab News*, June 2; "Outrage" - *Saudi Gazette*, June 2

Media Coverage:

Geneva, June 02, 2010, SPA--

- Saudi Ambassador to UN Describes Israeli Attack on Freedom Flotilla as "Massacre"
  - Saudi Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Dr. Abdulwahab Attar, described Israel's attack as "a flagrant violation of international law," in which "Israel recorded its lack of respect for civilian lives."
  - During an emergency session held here on Tuesday by the Human Rights Council for discussion of the Israeli attack on the convoy, he called on the international community to carry out its responsibilities to put an end to "barbaric" Israeli policies.

Makkah, June 02, 2010, SPA--

- MWL Affiliate Condemns Israeli "Heinous Aggression" on Gaza Aid Flotilla
  - The International Forum for Muslim scholars and thinkers, an affiliate of the Muslim World League (MWL) condemned Israeli aggression against Gaza Aid Flotilla.
  - The statement urged the Muslim countries and organizations to extend support to the people of Gaza and called on charitable organizations to provide the people of Gaza with the required food materials and medical supplies.

QR June 2, 2010 -

- **Saudi NSHR condemns Israeli "state terrorism;" demands prosecution:** The National Society for Human Rights in Saudi Arabia considers the (Flotilla) attack to be a "war crime," "an act of piracy," and "state terrorism," as well as a violation of all laws, norms, humanitarian treaties and international conventions. The society encouraged the international community and organizations related to human rights to condemn Israel and bring officials who ordered and carried out this criminal act to justice (*Al-Riyadh*, pg. 6).

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- **Saudi Red Crescent condemns Israeli massacre and calls for international action:** Head of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority Prince Faisal bin Abdullah issued telegrams of condemnation and denunciation to the President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, calling on authorities of various international humanitarian organizations to carry out their humanitarian and international duties and denounce the "flagrant Israeli aggression against the unarmed civilians in violation of international law and humanitarian law" (*Al-Riyadh*, pg. 13).

QR, June 3, 2010 –

- **Freedom Flotilla disturbs a U.S. – Saudi economic meeting at the JCCI:** Several papers reported that the Israeli raid on the Freedom Flotilla dominated and disturbed a meeting between a visiting U.S. Congressional delegation and members of the Saudi business community at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) on Wednesday. Attempts by the U.S. delegation not to discuss the issue were in vain, as Saudi businessmen and businesswomen insisted that the continuous U.S. support of the "Israeli aggression" in the region would have a direct impact on the sales of American products. Saudi businessmen said the priority for them is to have peace in the region which will allow all countries to prosper economically. A young Saudi businessman, Ahmad Mustafa Sabri, who appeared in the much talked about recent MTV documentary "True Life," said that every topic should be open for discussion in a house of commerce. Sabri added, "We are not going to talk about business while our brothers are being killed" (*Saudi Gazette*, pg. 2; *Al-Watan* and *Shams*, pg. 1).

### Editorials:

QR, June 2, 2010 –

- A skeptical editorial in *Al-Watan* argued: "Gradually, in light of the UNSC resolution, the focus will be on releasing detained activists of the Freedom Flotilla ships, not on the Palestinian people who are under siege in Gaza. With the start of the usual investigations and establishing of investigation committees, eventually doubts will be cast on their findings. The issue will then be closed and the Palestinian people will continue to be under siege, suffering under conditions of starvation and suppression."
- *Al-Madina* editorialized: "Arabs achieved a diplomatic and media victory against Israel without contributing toward it and without any valuable efforts. Even the Arab League's Ministerial Council meeting came after the meetings of the UNSC, the NATO and the EU... but international reactions, which condemned Israel in an unprecedented way, do not spare Arabs and Palestinians from the requirement of observing their duties and responsibilities to utilize this incident. This would include a move toward weakening the U.S. – Israeli relations, which have already been in a state of real crisis for more than a year."
- An editorial in *Al-Bilad* stated: "The important question is how much effort the U.S. will exert to weaken any resolution by the UNSC. The U.S. – Israeli relationship itself is in crisis. The indirect negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis, which are supported by the U.S., are likely to resume eventually, but under dark clouds of doubts, which will produce nothing, but will allow the extremist Israeli government to gain more time to carry out its plans."

### Blogs:

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QR, June 2, 2010 -

- <http://tomaar.net/vb/showthread.php?t=147000> a blogger commented that the "re-siege of Gaza represents a third 'Intifada' against Israel. The heart of this Intifada is Palestinian but its body is global and its pillars come from all strands of thought and religions." He advises to take advantage of it, not only [to raise issues] against the Israeli occupation of Palestine, but also against the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq.
- <http://tomaar.net/vb/showthread.php?t=147120> this blogger (Saudi writer Sulaiman Al-Salman) commented that the incidents in Gaza are only a "trick," aimed at obstructing the peace process, withdrawal of Arab parties from the peace process, pulling the carpet from the Iranian support to Palestine and handing it to "friendly" Turkey, and keeping the public busy in preparation for a new attack by Israel on Gaza and Hizbollah.
- <http://www.rasid.com/artc.php?id=38015> Over 90 Saudi intellectual (lawyers, journalists and academics) announced their support to the Freedom Flotilla and urged the Arab regimes to reconsider peace efforts with the "occupying country of Israel."

### **Other Online Commentary:**

#### Comments on Prince Faisal bin Abdullah's Cable condemning the attack:

- All comments approved what the prince said in the cable, saying this is what is expected from the King's son.

#### Others commented on the NSHR condemning the attack

- Some displayed anger toward Saudi's National Society for Human Rights for neglecting its duties in the Kingdom while commenting on human rights abroad.
- One commented that the society should focus on bringing Houthi leaders to court before bringing Israelis responsible for the attack to justice.
- Others said they are tired of hearing "just talk" and are looking for someone to take action.

#### Comments on Al-Riyadh article on the Arab Foreign Minister emergency meeting on June 2:

- "The meeting is like any other held in the past and the result will be the breaking of the 4-year long siege."
- "If a decision is issued from the UN denouncing or punishing those responsible, the U.S. will only veto the decision; the true problem is the U.S."
- Others think that Arabs should continue their "long nap"
- One commented that Arab foreign ministers should take some notes from Erdogan.
- Some think that this "emergency" meeting came a couple of days late

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**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

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**From:** Valdez, Pablo M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:45 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (Reuters) Ship raid must not undermine Mideast talks-US envoy

RELEASED IN FULL

BETHLEHEM (Reuters) - The U.S. Middle East Peace Envoy said a lethal Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid ship must not undermine indirect negotiations he is mediating between Israel and the Palestinians. "This incident underscores to need to make progress in negotiations," said Mitchell, who held talks with Palestinian President Abbas.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Shelstad, Jeffrey  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:41 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Situation Report No. 7 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU Version)

RELEASED IN FULL

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

## **SITUATION REPORT No. 7**

### **Gaza Monitoring Group MGGZ01**

Thursday, June 3, 2010  
0600 EDT

#### **STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**

(SBU) Eight AmCits were deported to Turkey, arriving in Istanbul on June 3. One AmCit was deported to Athens, and two are believed to have exited Israel via Jordan. The location of one dual-national AmCit remains unknown. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

#### **STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS**

(SBU) Approximately 520 foreign passengers have been deported to Turkey and Greece with the exception of a small group of passengers who were not able to travel, as well as approximately five who remain hospitalized. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

#### **OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA**

Please see the classified version of this product.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- (U) UN Secretary General Ban described Israeli actions as "counterproductive, unsustainable, and wrong," and called for Israel to lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip immediately. (*The Telegraph*)
- (U) Arab League Secretary General Moussa stated in a news conference following an emergency ministerial in Cairo that the Arab League will ask the UN Security Council to demand an end to Israel's blockade of Gaza. (*Reuters*)

#### **INTERNATIONAL REACTION**

- (SBU) Bahrain: The four Bahrainis who were on the flotilla were given a hero's welcome upon arrival in Bahrain. (MGGZ01/NEA/PD e-mail)
- (SBU) Kuwait: The 18 Kuwaitis who participated in the flotilla aid convoy were given a widely-publicized welcome upon arrival in Kuwait, and were received at the airport by the prime minister and members of parliament. (MGGZ01/NEA/PD e-mail)
- (SBU) UAE: Anti-U.S. sentiment remains present throughout UAE press, particularly focusing on President Obama's "moral collapse" and support of Israel's "barbaric" crimes and aggression. (MGGZ01/NEA/PD e-mail)
- (SBU) Norway: Foreign Minister Stoere stated Norway does not support a unilateral boycott against Israel. (MGGZ01/Embassy Oslo e-mail)

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Additional updates on events in BAHRAIN, ALGERIA, LIBYA, KUWAIT, BELGIUM, and ZIMBABWE are available through our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>.

Drafted: RChatterji

Approved: DLBanks

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS, DNI

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1298

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:39 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla: Reuters - Israel resists international probe into Gaza ship raid

RELEASED IN FULL

(Reuters) - Israel on Thursday resisted calls for an international inquiry to investigate its lethal seizure of a Turkish ship bound for blockaded Gaza.

WORLD

The United States, less outspoken than most of Israel's enemies and friends since nine people on the Mavi Marmara were killed on Monday, backed calls from the European Union, Turkey and the United Nations for some form of international inquiry.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden suggested an Israeli probe with international involvement.

Turkish and foreign pro-Palestinian activists arrived to a hero's welcome in Istanbul from the government and leveled charges of "war crimes" and unjustified killings at the Israeli marines who stormed the cruise liner Mavi Marmara and five other ships in international waters under cover of dark.

The allegations, coming after activists were released from Israeli custody, were not possible to verify immediately.

Israeli Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz, speaking on Army Radio, said "there is a need for an investigation to draw lessons," an apparent reference to a narrow Israeli inquiry into the operational details of the commando raid.

"As far as we are concerned there is no need for a commission of inquiry," he said, using Israel's term for a state panel, usually led by a judge, that would look into all aspects of the operation, including decisions made by political leaders.

Steinitz made no mention of any international participation.

Israelis have been shocked by military video of commandos being winched onto the ship's deck from helicopters only to be outnumbered and set upon with sticks by activists.

Officers say their men opened fire to save their lives and that two of the ship passengers shot at them with pistols seized from marines.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made an unrepentant defense of the four-year-old blockade on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip in a televised address on Wednesday, lambasting European and other governments for "hypocrisy" in challenging Israel's efforts to prevent the Iranian-backed Islamists from arming.

He made no mention in his speech of any investigation.

INTERNATIONAL DEMANDS

Political sources in Israel said the issue for the government now was not whether to launch an inquiry but what kind would satisfy the very different demands of Israeli public opinion and that of the international community.

The Foreign Ministry dismissed a vote by the United Nations Human Rights Council, a forum Israel says is deeply biased against it, to form an independent fact-finding mission to look into what it called violations of international law.

Israel was stung by a U.N. inquiry into the three-week offensive it launched in the Gaza Strip in December 2008 which found evidence its forces committed war crimes, allegations Israeli leaders denied.

Three Turkish planes brought some of a total of about 700 people detained on the convoy from Tel Aviv to Turkey. They also carried the simple wooden coffins of the nine killed.

Their identities are still uncertain, though Israel has said it believes most of them were Turks.

"We've been scared, frightened, kidnapped and attacked with battleships," said Mustafa Ahmet from Britain.

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As activists disembarked they lifted their arms in defiance, but afterwards some were overcome with emotion and wept.

Several accused the Israeli army of destroying evidence: "The soldiers shot a doctor who wanted to surrender and they threw dead bodies into the sea," said Bulent Yildirim, chairman of IHH, the Islamic charity which organized the convoy.

Kevin Ovenden of Britain said a man who had pointed a camera at the soldiers was shot dead through the forehead.

Many of those waiting at Istanbul's Ataturk airport carried Palestinian flags and bore slogans such as "murderer Israel."

The killings of Turks onboard the flotilla has brought the already strained relationship between the Jewish state and Turkey's Islamist-leaning government close to breaking point.

Turkey recalled its ambassador and Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, charging Israel with "state terrorism" has called for those responsible for the deaths to be punished.

Arab states will ask the U.N. Security Council to demand an end to Israel's blockade of Gaza, the Arab League chief said.

The Council, with Israel's ally the United States holding a veto, is unlikely to do that, although Western powers have been discussing how to pressure Israel to do more to let in supplies for the benefit of the 1.5 million people stuck in the enclave.

"Once again, Israel faces hypocrisy and a biased rush to judgment," Netanyahu said.

"The international community cannot afford an Iranian port on the Mediterranean ... The same countries that are criticizing us today, should know that they could be targeted tomorrow."

Egypt opened its Rafah border crossing to Gaza indefinitely on Wednesday – a step seen as an attempt by Cairo to deflect criticism of its role in imposing the Gaza blockade on Hamas, which is allied with Egypt's main Islamist opposition.

U.S. Vice President Biden on Wednesday backed Israel's right to board ships bound for Gaza to prevent weapons smuggling, but said Washington was concerned about the plight of people there.

"Israel has an absolute right to deal with its security interest," Biden told PBS television. He stressed President Barack Obama's support for an impartial investigation.

"It's legitimate for Israel to say, 'I don't know what's on that ship. These guys are dropping eight – 3,000 rockets on my people,'" he said, referring to Hamas.

But Biden said the United States also needed to "put as much pressure and as much cajoling on Israel as we can" to allow in aid shipments such as building materials.

He said an Israeli investigation with international involvement might resemble this year's probe in South Korean into the sinking of a warship, now blamed on North Korea.

(Additional reporting by Joseph Nasr in Jerusalem, Ross Colvin in Washington and Simon Cameron-Moore in Istanbul, Editing by Samia Nakhoul)

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1399

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:33 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla: Israeli FM Lieberman backs supervised probe of Gaza flotilla

RELEASED IN FULL

## Lieberman backs supervised probe of Gaza flotilla

Speaking to Ynet, FM says Israel should 'not fear' any investigation into raid that left nine pro-Palestinian activists dead. Adds: We won't let Irish aid ship reach Gaza

Roni Sofer

Published: 06.03.10, 13:16 / [Israel News](#)

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman on Thursday called for the establishment of an Israeli commission of inquiry to investigate the raid on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla, during which nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed.

Lieberman said the investigation must be supervised by impartial foreign officials. Industry, Trade and Labor Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer announced earlier that he supports the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to probe Monday's calamitous raid.

"I have no fear of an investigation committee into the operation against the Gaza-bound flotilla. We should not be afraid of any commission of inquiry. I spoke to the prime minister while he was in Canada. I told him there was nothing to be afraid of and that we should set up a transparent commission of inquiry headed by a senior judge, such as former Supreme Court presidents Aharon Barak or Meir Shamgar," the FM told Ynet. "If they'll ask to include foreign overseers in the probe - we'll include them."

As for the Irish-owned ship Rachel Corrie, which is attempting to reach Gaza, the foreign minister said that "we are in touch with Ireland. In any case, we won't let the boat reach the shores of Gaza. We've explained this to the Irish."

Asked whether he would suggest military action against the Rachel Corrie, Lieberman said once again, "We won't let the Irish ship reach Gaza's shores."


He said the army was drawing the necessary lessons from the raid on the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, adding "there is no doubt that they (IDF) will be better prepared for the next ship."

The foreign minister criticized the UN Human Rights Council's decision to launch an international investigation into the raid. "We've already seen the term 'human rights' with Judge (Richard) Goldstone, who is responsible for 18 death sentences during the apartheid regime in South Africa," he said.

Lieberman said Washington's response to the flotilla affair was encouraging on the whole. "The latest statements from officials in the US administration were very clear and very objective. There are problems and we don't see eye-to-eye on everything, but I'm not concerned."

US Vice President Joe Biden said in an interview on PBS's "Charlie Rose" show Wednesday that "Israel has an absolute right to deal with its security interest.

"They (Israel) have said, 'Here you go. You're in the Mediterranean. This ship - if you divert slightly north you can unload it and we'll get the stuff into Gaza.' So what's the big deal here?" Biden said, "What's the big deal of insisting it go straight to Gaza?"

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B2100

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:26 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla: Saudi Media Reaction

RELEASED IN FULL

**SAUDI ARABIA Media Reaction**

*Freedom Flotilla disturbs a U.S. -Saudi economic meeting at the JCCI:* Several papers reported that the Israeli raid on the Freedom Flotilla dominated and disturbed a meeting between a visiting U.S. Congressional delegation and members of the Saudi business community at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) on Wednesday. Attempts by the U.S. delegation not to discuss the issue were in vain, as Saudi businessmen and businesswomen insisted that the continuous U.S. support of the "Israeli aggression" in the region would have a direct impact on the sales of American products. Saudi businessmen said the priority for them is to have peace in the region which will allow all countries to prosper economically. A young Saudi businessman, Ahmad Mustafa Sabri, who appeared in the much talked about recent MTV documentary "True Life," said that every topic should be open for discussion in a house of commerce. Sabri added, "We are not going to talk about business while our brothers are being killed" (*Saudi Gazette*, pg. 2; *Al-Watan* and *Shams*, pg. 1).

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B101

**From:** Daniels, Cherrie S  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**CC:** Oslo, PAS; Oslo, PolEcon; Selinger, Thomas B; Peterson, Julie Anne  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: Norwegian FM Støre Opposes Boycott of Israel, according to Media reports  
**Sent:** 6/3/2010 5:26:05 AM  
Monitoring Group and EUR/NB colleagues - Here is Embassy Oslo public affairs section's Gaza Flotilla related media reaction for today - the top story is especially noteworthy.

Cherrie S. Daniels  
Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs and A/DCM  
U.S. Embassy Oslo

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**From:** Naess, Petter  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:39 AM  
**Subject:** Oslo press brief, Thursday, June 3

Oslo press briefing Thursday, June 3, 2010

News/commentary

(U) FM Støre opposes boycott (VG16-17) Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre says the demand for boycott of Israel is an expression of frustration that he understands and shares, but he is against a unilateral Norwegian boycott, which would mean closing a door. He notes that details on what happened during the boarding are still unclear. Embassy pol.econ section note: This comment was likely generated by Red-Green Government Coalition member Kristin Halvorsen's (Education Minister, from the Socialist Left Party) suggestion of a boycott of Israel in previous days, as well as by opinion polling reported June 2 showing a majority of Norway's public supported a boycott and thought FM Støre's reaction to that point had been too mild. See June 2 media reporting and June 1 MFA press release at bottom of this email. End note.

In a column in Dagens Næringsliv yesterday (Profession: Hostage) Bjørn Gabrielsen - one of a new breed of "freethinkers" (Aslak Nore is another) commonly associated with the left but who resist leftist orthodoxy on a range of issues - slammed writer Erlend Loe for participating in a protest outside the Israeli embassy and thereby becoming a puppet for terrorist groups Hamas and Hizbollah. Loe made it quite clear that he neither hated Israel or supported Hamas, but needed to protest the Israeli operation against the ship and express support for the people of Gaza. The Gabrielsen/Loe debate has also been picked up by Dagbladet. Petter Eide, Secretary General of Norwegian People's Aid, writes that Gabrielsen's criticism of Loe - and Swedish writer Henning Mankell (who participated in the convoy) as "useful idiots" for Hamas is a red herring; the issue is solidarity with the people of Gaza and the killing of civilians in international waters (DB65)

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Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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In *Aftenposten* Per Anders Madsen emphasizes that IDF soldiers were incontestably out of line, boarding a ship and shooting civilians in international waters. But an event consists of more than the most evident facts, and David Grossman's article in *Aftenposten* yesterday – in which he asserted that both IDF and the Gaza pilgrims were hoodwinked by the Turkish based organization IHH – complicates the story, and should be a warning to those who would simplify complicated issues. In an op-ed in VG Hanne Skartveit (*Mutual fear – and with good reason*, VG2-3) also underscores the complexity of the conflict, and alludes to Grossman and the alleged IHH ties to Al-Qaeda.

Ingrid Brekke (*Controlled Information* AFTK9) writes that it is disturbing to realize how easy it was for Israeli authorities to control the flow of information from the event and ensure that the world only had access to one version. In this age of instant information, it took almost 36 hours for eyewitness accounts to reach the outside world. Dag Tuastad of PRIO writes that no solution in the Middle East can be achieved until the West recognizes Hamas. (VG46)

### Editorials

#### DAGBLADET

**Not credible:** Truth is the first casualty of war. Israel argues a) that commandos had expected no resistance from demonstrators and b) that they knew ships were full of militant activists who were out to make trouble and therefore had to intervene.

AFT=Aftenposten

VG=VG

DB=Dagbladet

DA=Dagsavisen

DN=Dagens Næringsliv

KK= Klassekampen

c=cover

**Excerpt from June 2 Oslo press brief:**  
Oslo press briefing Wednesday, June 2, 2010

### News/commentary

#### Israel

The cover of *Aftenposten*, as well as 5 pages inside the newspaper is devoted to the incident aboard the Free Gaza Flotilla. *Aftenposten*'s US Correspondent Alf Ole Ask reports on UN activities, and has a picture of US demonstrators demanding that the US stop aid to Israel. John Harbo compares this to the massacres in Sabra and Shatila in 1982, as another time that Israel seriously did not care about what the world would think. (He emphasizes that it was different, however, in that the media was not hindered in their work at that time, and that the 1982 massacre did have serious ramifications for Israelis involved, whereas today, the Israeli government is working to defend what happened aboard the "Mavi Marmara"). Both Harbo and Ask write that Turkish-Israeli relations have been jeopardized, and that this might hamper the efforts in the UN to make sanctions against Iran stricter.



Aftenposten commentator Harald Stanghelle writes that the Israeli government is betting that the outrage will die out, and that no one in the end will demand betterment for the Palestinians in Gaza. Kjetil Wiedswang in Dagens Næringsliv writes that it is in nobody's interest to remove the blockade on Gaza—the Israeli right wing has nothing against showing Hamas from their bad side, Egypt does not want to let radical Islamists into their own society, and Iran is providing weapons to Hamas to get at their main enemy Israel. In most Arabic countries in the region, authoritarian leaders are targeting their populations' anger against this blockade, rather than at their own misrule.

David Grossman, an Israeli author, writes that the Israeli Government went into a trap, and that only a very unsure, panicked, and confused government would do what Israel has done, and that the Turkish religious fanatics who organized the Free Gaza Flotilla knew to take advantage of that. VG seconds this, and writes that one of the organizations behind the Flotilla, Turkish IHH, has connections to Al-Qaida, according to a Danish research report. Dagbladet's editors call the Israeli decision to board the ship disastrous, and that they now have lost Turkish support. Dagbladet focuses on the Swedish writer, Henning Mankell, who was also a part of the Flotilla, as well as on the three Norwegians who spent yesterday in Israeli prison. Henning Mankell in VG calls the Israeli government pirates.

Aftenposten.no and NRK.no write that Hillary Clinton refuses to condemn Israel after the incident, but Dagsavisen's editors point out that the US did agree to the UN Security Council condemnation of the incident yesterday. SV's leader Kristin Halvorsen had suggested a boycott, which most prominent labor politicians say is not appropriate. Today, VG's editors second this opinion, and write that the best way to get Israel to stop the blockade of Gaza is through open communication, not through a boycott. Through a poll in VG, where 1028 people answered, VG writes an article about how the Norwegian people want a boycott, and are of the opinion that Jonas Gahr Støre has reacted in too mild a manner. Meanwhile, NUPi director Jan Egeland hopes that this incident can result in an opening of the long blockade on Gaza, according to Dagsavisen, and he says to Klassekampen that Israel now should expect ship upon ship headed towards Gaza. He also encourages Norway to work with the UN and the US about creating a humanitarian corridor for necessary goods to enter Gaza. (AFTc, 15-17, K3, K5, DB, 2, 12-16, <http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/verden/1.7149338>, <http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/uriks/article3675578.ece> VG, 2, 6-9, 10, DAc, 2, 3, 16-19, DN, 2, KK, 12-13)

Petter Næss  
Information Resource Director  
American Embassy  
Office of Public Affairs

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Press release, 01.06.2010

**Norway supports the Security Council's demand for a transparent, impartial investigation of the Israeli operation against the Gaza convoy**

In a statement dated 31 May, the UN Security Council condemns the acts that led to the loss of civilian lives when Israeli naval forces boarded the convoy carrying humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The statement underscores the need for a prompt, impartial and credible investigation of the incident.

"The Security Council's statement shows that the entire international community condemns the Israeli raid on the convoy carrying humanitarian assistance to Gaza. I welcome the Security Council's demand for a transparent and impartial investigation of the Israeli military operation, which is something I also took up with the UN Secretary-General yesterday. It is in Israel's interests to cooperate on such an investigation," said Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable and underscores the need to allow necessary goods into the area.

"Norway has repeatedly called for an end to the blockade of Gaza so that humanitarian aid and other necessary assistance can reach the Palestinian population. This is important not least to enable the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for Assistance to the Palestinians (AHLC) to fulfil its Security Council mandate concerning the reconstruction of Gaza after the war," said Mr Støre.

In its statement, the Security Council calls for full consular access to those who were on board the ships and who are now detained in Israel. It also calls on the Israeli authorities to release those detained and their ships. The three Norwegian nationals who were on board the convoy have been identified by the Israeli authorities, and are now being detained in the Beer Sheva prison.

"In line with the Security Council, Norway calls for full consular access to the Norwegian nationals involved, and for the immediate release of those detained. We have made this clear to the Israeli authorities," said Foreign Minister Støre.

[http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/News/2010/investigation\\_israel.html?id=606557](http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/press/News/2010/investigation_israel.html?id=606557)

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12102

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Valdez, Pablo M  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:18 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: MGGZ01: (Reuters) Israel resists international probe into Gaza ship raid

RELEASED IN FULL

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel resisted calls for an international inquiry to investigate its lethal seizure of a Turkish ship bound for blockaded Gaza. Israeli Finance Minister Steinitz said "there is a need for an investigation to draw lessons", an apparent reference to a narrow Israeli inquiry into the operational details of the commando raid. "As far as we are concerned there is no need for a commission of inquiry," he said, using Israel's term for a state panel, usually led by a judge, that would look into all aspects of the operation, including decisions made by political leaders.

Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

13103

**From:** Benze, David K  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:14 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** GAZA Flotilla: CNN: Another Gaza Showdown Looming

RELEASED IN FULL

(CNN) – The next showdown over Israel's naval blockade of Gaza could come as early as Friday as an Irish-owned ship filled with humanitarian aid steams into the region.

The Rachel Corrie, named for an American activist killed in Gaza several years ago, was expected to arrive late Friday or early Saturday off the coast of Gaza. The vessel left Ireland laden with 550 tons of cement, educational materials, toys and medical equipment – the latest effort by peace activists to deliver humanitarian goods and break Israel's blockade, according to aid organizers.

Free Gaza Movement activist Derek Graham said that the plan was for the Rachel Corrie to be unloaded in Gaza and then return to Ireland.

The Irish government asked that Israel not interfere.

But an Israeli government official who spoke on background because of the diplomatic sensitivity of the issue told CNN "the Israeli government is offering to receive the ship's cargo, as it has offered other vessels if it docks at (Israel's) Ashdod port. The Israeli government will unload the cargo, screen it, and deliver it to Gaza."

That was the same deal rejected by the flotilla of six ships before Israeli commandos attacked one of them Monday. Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs Micheal Martin told the lower house of the Irish Parliament, the Dail, that he had asked the Israeli ambassador to convey to his government his request that, "following the tragedy which has occurred, the Rachel Corrie be allowed to continue unimpeded, and to deliver its cargo to Gaza."

"We will be watching this situation very closely – as indeed will the world – and it is imperative that Israel avoid any action which leads to further bloodshed," the foreign minister said.

More such ships may be on the horizon. The European Campaign to End Siege on Gaza announced Wednesday it has enough money to fund three more ships in a new fleet to Gaza.

On Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu defended his country's actions that led to the deaths Monday of nine activists aboard the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish boat laden with humanitarian supplies for Gaza. Netanyahu said the goal of the international flotilla had been to penetrate Israel's blockade of Gaza, which he said was needed to halt the shipment of weapons from Iran to militants in Gaza.

Speaking in a nationally televised address, Netanyahu said the state has the responsibility to stop every vessel bound for Gaza, including the flotilla that was targeted Monday.

"That was not a love boat. That was a boat of hatred. It was not a peaceful flotilla. The soldiers who boarded the ships were attacked by clubs, batons and knives."

An attempt by Israel to deliver the goods from the flotilla was rejected, the IDF said Wednesday.

Palestinian sources confirmed that trucks that arrived from Israel at the Rafah terminal at the Israel-Gaza border were barred from delivering the aid.

Raled Fatooh, in charge of the crossings, and Jamal Khudari, head of a committee against the Gaza blockade, laid out the following conditions for the aid to be accepted: Israel must release all flotilla detainees – and representatives of the Free Gaza Movement, which organized the flotilla, must deliver it.

Israel had released all foreign flotilla detainees by Wednesday, but four Israeli Arabs remained in custody.

Three Turkish Airlines planes carrying 466 activists and nine bodies landed Thursday morning in Istanbul, an official said.

Their numbers included several wounded people, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc told CNN.

Most of the passengers were Turks, who made up the majority of the activists in the flotilla.

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The commando raid that led to the deaths continued to draw international condemnation Wednesday and sparked outrage in the streets of world capitals. Demonstrators also decried Israel's ongoing blockade of Gaza.

"For years, many in the international community have been complicit in a policy that aimed at isolating Gaza in the hope of weakening Hamas," said the International Crisis Group, a think tank that denounced the Israeli action.

"This policy is morally appalling and politically self-defeating. It has harmed the people of Gaza without loosening Hamas' control. Yet it has persisted regardless of evident failure."

Turkish officials were seething. The country's prime minister launched strong rhetoric against the Jewish state — a onetime close ally — and its ambassador has been yanked from Tel Aviv.

A U.S. official said Turkey will cancel a trilateral military exercise with the United States and Israel set for August in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Attorneys for a Muslim humanitarian group have filed a petition asking Turkish prosecutors to sue Israel for murder. The Israeli state attorney general's office, in a response to the High Court on two petitions regarding the flotilla, defended the Israeli actions Wednesday. It said the "Hamas terrorist organization" controls Gaza and is intent on deliberately assaulting civilians.

As a result, Israel has worked to thwart the infiltration of weapons and ordnance from tunnels between Egypt and Gaza and has imposed a naval blockade on Gaza to stop the weapons smuggling.

As for the Rachel Corrie, the Free Gaza Movement said customs officials and a senator from the Irish Green Party inspected the vessel and found no weapons.

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B104

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Benze, David K  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:08 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** GAZA Flotilla: AP: Israel trying to limit diplomatic damage from raid

RELEASED IN FULL

## Israel trying to limit diplomatic damage from raid

By MARK LAVIE  
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) -- In an attempt to limit the diplomatic damage from its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Israel dropped plans Wednesday to prosecute dozens of pro-Palestinian activists, opting instead to deport them all immediately.

The stunning reversal came as Israel faced increasingly sharp international condemnation for Monday's high-seas raid that ended when Israeli commandos killed nine activists. The outcry included accusations of war crimes and a decision by Nicaragua to break diplomatic relations with Israel over the raid.

But Israeli officials said the decision not to prosecute any of the activists - despite suspicions that they were sent to attack Israeli forces on the ship - was primarily an attempt to control the damage to Israel's relations with Turkey, an unofficial sponsor of the flotilla. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive diplomatic issues.

Israel is anxious to patch up ties with Ankara because it is the Jewish state's most important Muslim ally. At least four of the nine killed were Turkish and the ship Israel attacked was Turkish. Israel ordered families of its diplomats out of that country a day after Ankara branded the raid a "massacre."

Turkish lawmakers continued to express their outrage Wednesday, calling on their government to review its political, military and economic ties with Israel. The lawmakers also said Israel must formally apologize for the raid, compensate the victims and bring those responsible to justice.

In a step aimed at calming the furious response, Israel announced Wednesday that it would deport all of the activists by day's end.

They received a hero's welcome in Istanbul. A few thousand jubilant relatives and supporters, waving Palestinian and Turkish flags, applauded outside the airport.

The deportees included about 50 of the nearly 700 activists on the ships who Israel said were apparently linked to the world jihad movement and possibly al-Qaida. Israel accused the suspects of attacking Israeli troops rappelling onto one of the ships and beating them with iron rods, clubs and knives. Originally, Israel planned on detaining them in Israel while police looked into possible charges.

But Israeli Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein said in a statement Wednesday that "keeping them here would do more damage to the country's vital interests than good."

Israeli Cabinet Minister Isaac Herzog said the expulsions were an attempt to dampen criticism of Israel.

"We are trying to take full control of this crisis management and move forward," Herzog told The Associated Press, while indicating that Israel would reject calls from the U.N. and others for an independent inquiry. "We are the last nation (that) you can say doesn't check itself," he said.

Herzog defended Israel's blockade of Gaza, saying weapons Hamas could receive by sea could be used

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"against Israel and the region."

International envoy Tony Blair told The Associated Press that Israel should ease the blockade and let more supplies in. He said the blockade was "counterproductive," but said it would be hard to lift it because of Israel's objections.

Israel instructed the families of its diplomats stationed in Turkey to return to Israel immediately because of noisy demonstrations at the Israeli embassy and consulate and the high level of Turkish outrage over the raid.

In another bizarre twist, Israel unloaded supplies from the six boats commandeered during the raid and sent some of the goods toward Gaza, only to see the blockaded territory's Hamas rulers refuse to accept them.

Israeli security officials said they had loaded 20 trucks with equipment that was on the ships, including wheelchairs, toys, clothes and medicine. They said contrary to earlier claims, there was no cement on board.

The Hamas minister of social affairs, Ahmad al-Kurd, accused Israel of keeping batteries for the wheelchairs and withholding tons of cement carried by the flotilla. He said the government would not accept the aid until Israel frees everything confiscated from the ships, but later said the aid would be picked up when all detainees were released.

Hanin Zoabi, an Arab lawmaker who sailed with the activists, was heckled when she took the podium in the Israeli parliament Wednesday.

"Go to Gaza, you traitor," Miri Regev, a lawmaker in the ruling Likud Party and former Israeli military spokeswoman, screamed in Arabic.

Despite the outcry over the raid, the Palestinians were resuming indirect peace talks with Israel Wednesday through U.S. envoy George Mitchell.

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Associated Press writers Karin Laub in Jerusalem and Selcan Hacaoglu in Ankara, Turkey, contributed to this report.

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B105

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Benze, David K  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:32 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: GAZA Flotilla: Local Media Reactions (Kuwait, Bahrain, UAE, Algeria)

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KUWAIT

**Kuwaiti members of Freedom Flotilla return to a hero's welcome**

Major Kuwaiti newspapers reported on the return of the 18 Kuwaiti participants of the Freedom Flotilla aid convoy to the country yesterday. The 18 activists who attempted to undermine the embargo placed on Gaza by the Israeli authorities were given a widely-publicized hero's welcome upon arriving in Kuwait, with both the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the National Assembly at the forefront of relatives, MPs and members of the public who were present at the airport to receive the activists.

Dr. Waleed Al-Tabtabaie, a prominent member of Kuwait's National Assembly who participated in the Freedom Flotilla, was reported by the Al-Seyassah newspaper to have said that he, along with his compatriots, were subject to both verbal and physical abuse by Israeli prison authorities while detained in a Beersheba prison before being deported to Jordan.

Al-Qabas carried statements by all of the Kuwaiti returnees related to their participation in the Freedom Flotilla. One of the returnees, Haya Al-Shatti, spoke of the psychological abuse she encountered from Israeli prison guards, and said that they threatened to not release her and her compatriots until they signed a paper "acknowledging the existence of Israel."

Al-Seyassah newspaper reports that the Chairman of the Representatives of the Families of Persons in the Popular Committee for the Advocacy of the Sons of Kuwait Salah Al-Abdul Jader has confirmed that a second aid convoy is due to be initiated soon. The newspaper quotes him as saying that "60 Kuwaitis, both male and female, have signed up to take part in a second Freedom Flotilla after the purchase of two humanitarian ships."

BAHRAIN

All dailies celebrated the return of the four Bahrainis, who were in the Freedom flotilla to Gaza, yesterday. They had a heroes' welcome at Bahrain International Airport after they were taken hostage by Israeli commandos. In their press statements, the four citizens said that Israelis tortured them mentally and left them tied down for 36 hours at Eilat City Prison. They said: "the Israelis confiscated our money, cell phones and laptops but we will return to Gaza again with humanitarian aid."

*Akhbar Al-Khalij & Al-Watan:* During his meeting with a senior congressional delegation, the Second Vice Chairman of the Parliament Dr. Salah Ali said that the Parliament had reservations on the U.S. stance towards the UN Security Council statement on the Israeli aggression on freedom flotilla. Dr. Ali affirmed that the U.S. must have a fair and clear policy that is not based on full submission to the number one enemy of peace, Israel.

**Commentaries:**

Mansoor Al-Jamri of *Al-Wasat* believes that there is a new rhetoric coming out of Washington. He referred to an article by U.S. strategic analyst Anthony Cordesman in which he describes the Israeli ally as a strategic burden on the United

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States because as America and its President strive to restore peace and support Israel, Tel Aviv continues to embarrass Washington with its aggressive and defiant attitude in the region.

### UAE

#### **Freedom Flotilla Response:**

**Headlines:** Israeli raid a test for President Obama; A setback for US diplomacy; Israeli raid may not change US policies (*Khaleej Times*); The White House refuses to condemn Israel and [Secretary] Clinton supports an Israel investigation (*Al Khaleej*); [Turkish PM Recep Tayyip] Erdogan to Obama: Israel is about to lose its sole friend in the Middle East (*Al Khaleej*); Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas wants "bold decisions" from Obama on Middle East (*Gulf News*); Israel Daily *Yedioth Ahronoth*: [PM Benjamin] Netanyahu and [Defense Minister Ehud] Barak planned the piracy operation (*Al Ittihad*); Netanyahu is proud of his crime (*Al Bayan*); Israel deports all detained Gaza aid activists (*All press*); Israel rushes to free aid activists (*The National*);

#### **Editorials**

**Note:** Anti-US sentiment escalates in UAE press, especially Arabic press. Most of the editorials reiterated their customary accusations of the US pro-Israel policy and its unconditional support of Israel's "barbaric" crimes and aggression. Writers also criticized President Obama's "moral collapse" and his defense of Israel crimes.

#### **"A Miserable and Unacceptable American Softness"**

##### ***Al Bayan Lead Editorial***

"Obama's remark on Israel's naval aggression is surprising and shocking. His words do not correspond to the gravity of the crime. Such brutal and grotesque attack deserves more than expressing "deep regret!"

Moreover, the president, who advocates the adoption of dialogue and communication to solve problems and conflicts rather than the language of force and war... This president couldn't find more than this miserable sentence in response to Israel's bloody piracy? Of course, he could deliver the appropriate response; if the offender was not Israel!

The U.S. protection of Israel in international arena is a familiar and well-known issue. Washington has always played the role of the protective umbrella to Israel, covering its violations with an unwarranted immunity against all international resolutions. Moreover, Washington has allowed Israel to continue its aggression and violations, without any restrictions. One fact is clear; Obama's softness with these Israeli crimes is dangerous and unacceptable."

#### **Cartoons**

##### ***Emarat Alyoum***

The cartoon suggests that the international Justice is turning a blind eye to US and Israeli criminal acts, as they violate all the international law.

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العدالة الدولية !!



ALGERIA

- The four Arabic-language newspapers whose journalists were among the Gaza aid flotilla, Echourouk El Youmi, El Khabar, Djazair News and El Bilad, published the testimonies of their journalists as well as members of the Algerian delegation.
  - o The Algerians were blackmailed and insulted—the Israeli intelligence interrogated them about Enrico Macias, terrorism, and the financing of the Gaza aid flotilla. Echourouk El Youmi
  - o Journalist Kada Ben Amar said: “They attacked during Al-Fadjr prayer. The Israeli soldiers searched the boat ‘Marmara’ with sniffing dogs.” Echourouk El Youmi
  - o All members of the Algerian delegation refused to sign a document on not returning to Gaza to be released within 48 hours. Echourouk El Youmi
  - o Photographer Maamar Halim said, “The Israelis took my camera but I hid the flash memory card in my shoes.” Echourouk El Youmi
  - o The wife of Aboudjerra Soltani, the president of the Movement for the Society of Peace (MSP), said, “I was interrogated by an Israeli General because I have a diplomatic passport.” Echourouk El Youmi
  - o The wife of Aboudjerra Soltani said, “The Israelis shot at us from helicopters.” L’Expression
  - o The coordinator of the Algerian delegation, Ahmed Ibrahim, said, “I have seen Israeli soldiers killing wounded people.” Echourouk El Youmi



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### Front page of Echourouk El Youmi

- Journalist Hamid Zaatchi said, "One of the Israeli investigators is from Constantine. The Israelis took all our cameras and threatened to kill a 1-year-old baby." El Khabar
- Journalist Abdelatif Belkaim said, "We were subjected to all forms of torture." Djazair News
- MSP Vice-president and president of the Algerian delegation, Abderrazak Mokri, said, "The flotilla achieved all of its goals." El Bilad
- Ennahda (Renaissance) Movement's leading officer Mohamed Dhouibi was wounded in Gaza; he is hospitalized in Jordan. Echourouk El Youmi



Mohamed Dhouibi—photo in Echourouk El Youmi

- 31 Algerian pro-Palestine activists repatriated to Algeria—the 32<sup>nd</sup> activist who had been wounded in his eye is still hospitalized in Jordan. Algerian Radio Channel 3
- The Algerian Foreign Minister, Mourad Medelci, said that the members of the Algerian delegation were released due to coordination with Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. Djazair News
- The Algerian Health Minister says that Algerian volunteer doctors will be sent to Gaza this week. Djazair News
- The Egyptian Embassy in Algiers refuses to receive a delegation from El Islah (Reform) Movement. El Islah is calling for the permanent unconditional opening of the Rafah Terminal and international denouncing the U.S.-Jewish-Egyptian alliance against Gaza. El Bilad

### U.S. OFFICIALS IN THE PRESS

- The black mask of a white policy: Obama is Bush+smile and culture. La Tribune
- The U.S. voted against conducting an investigation into the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla. El Khabar

### ISSUES OF U.S. INTEREST

- Protest against Israel blocked in front of the U.S. Embassy in Algiers. AP

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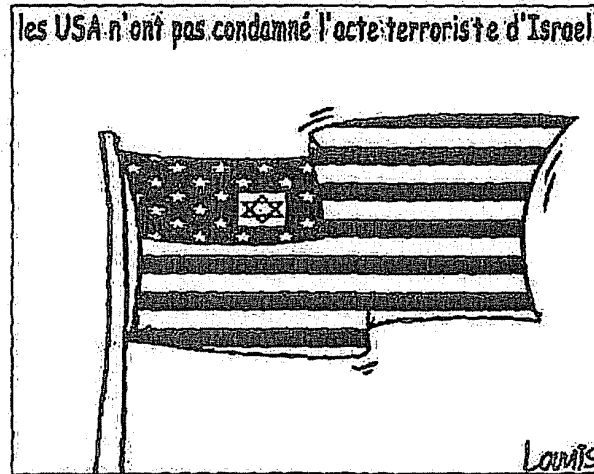
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MISCELLANEOUS

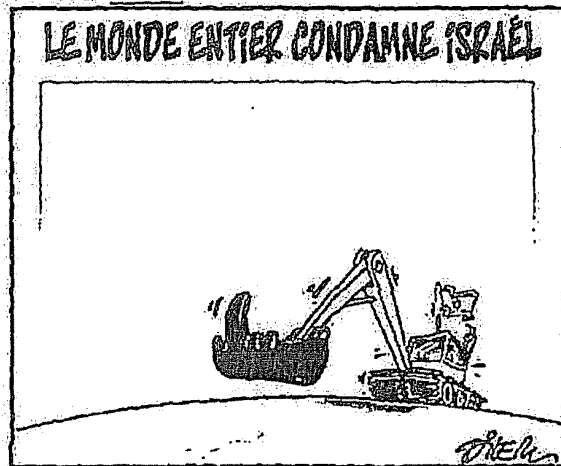
- French comedian M'bala M'bala Dieudonné said, "I am a cultural fighter against Zionism." El Khabar
  - Dieudonné wants a global anti-Zionist front. Liberté

CARTOON

- The U.S. has not condemned Israel's terrorist act. Le Jour d'Algérie



- The whole world condemns Israel. Liberté



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CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN

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RELEASED IN FULL

12106

**From:** Chatterji, Rina  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**CC:** Blome, Donald A  
**Subject:** FW: xlation of the Arab League Resolution  
**Sent:** 6/3/2010 4:20:45 AM  
**Attachments:** EN\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx [EN\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx] ,  
AR\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx [AR\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx]

FYI

---

**From:** Blome, Donald A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:18 AM  
**To:** Chatterji, Rina  
**Subject:** FW: xlation of the Arab League Resolution

Final with embassy translation.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Najeeb, Usama M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:59 AM  
**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Watkins, Todd J; Blome, Donald A; Perry, Laura M  
**Subject:** xlation of the Arab League Resolution

Enclosed is the Arabic original and unofficial English translation of the Arab League resolutions issued yesterday at the foreign ministers' meeting.

Thank You  
Usama Najeeb

CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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B106A  
RELEASED IN FULL

**Israeli military attack on Freedom Convoy going to Gaza Strip  
and breaking the Israeli siege imposed on it**

The Arab League council on the ministerial level extraordinary session on 02 June 2010 at the Arab League General Secretariat head quarters,

- After looking at the general secretariat memo,
- Has studied the required steps regarding the Israeli military attack and piracy conduct in international Mediterranean sea waters on the Freedom convoy which carried humanitarian material going to Gaza strip which lies under siege, and which led to the deliberate murder and fall of unarmed civilian victims and injured in this convoy, and all the participants of which were kidnapped using armed force,
- Considers the continuous Israeli occupation of Arab territories and insistence to change the demographic and geographic formation of the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem to be the basis for disruption and tension in the area,
- Decides that Israel's continuation, as the occupation force, to put Gaza Strip under siege and obstruct its reconstruction is a crime against humanity that should be immediately stopped using all legitimate means including resistance,
- Emphasizes that the continuity of some states to offer support to Israel despite its savage practices and violations against Palestinian people and those who try to offer to Palestinians necessary humanitarian help, is based on a big political mistake by giving Israel an immunity to not respect international law bases which is a precedent that threatens the entire international order,
- Emphasizes that these Israeli policies and practices that form state terrorism feeds terrorist inclinations in the Middle East,
- After discussions and listening to the speeches of the heads of delegations and the general secretary,

**DECIDES**

- 1- To condemn the intentional military attack that Israel conducted against the Freedom Convoy in the international waters, an issue that constitutes piracy and state terrorism and threat to the stability and security in the Mediterranean Sea, and a clear violation of international law that protects sailing in international waters, and related international humanitarian law concepts and principles.
- 2- To break the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and commit to deliver medical and food aid and necessary construction material for reconstruction and other required needs for the Palestinian people in the strip using all the means, and hold Israel internationally responsible for the obstruction of humanitarian aid and necessary requirements for reconstruction, and for not opening all the crossings for the movement of people and goods.

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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- 3- To assign Lebanon, the Arab member in the United Nations Security Council, and the Arab group in New York to request holding a meeting for the Security Council, in coordination with Turkey, and friend countries and groups, to issue the required resolution condemning the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and compulsion of Israel to immediately lift this siege, and request holding the continued 10<sup>th</sup> session in the context of the UN General Assembly to counter the Israeli siege on Gaza Strip.
- 4- To commit to the resolutions of Sirte Summit and particularly resolution number 508 dated 28 March 2010 to stop all forms of normalization with Israel and commitment to the discussions in this regards, and in light of this continuous Israeli challenge and violation of all its commitments, the ministerial council decides to send a recommendation to their excellencies heads of states to implement the speech of Saudi King Abdallah at the Economic Summit in Kuwait in January 2010 that the Arab Peace Initiative will not stay on the table for long.
- 5- That Israel's continuation of its practices and the last of which was the criminal attack on unarmed civilians emphasize clearly Israel is not serious in reaching fair and comprehensive peace in the region and is committed to make the negotiations useless and in vain and doubts the credibility of assurances offered to the Palestinian side, and assign the Secretary General to direct a message to the US Administration in this regards.
- 6- To Coordinate the Arab steps with Turkey and other concerned sides to file cases to national and international specialized suing agencies, on top of which is the ICC regarding the Israeli siege imposed on Gaza Strip.
- 7- To ask Israel to immediately release the remaining kidnapped members of the Freedom Convoy and detained ships and relief material.
- 8- To welcome the Human Rights Council resolution regarding forming an independent fact finding committee to investigate the violations of international law in the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy and express appreciation for the countries that voted for the resolution and express resentment from the position of countries that voted against this resolution.
- 9- To welcome the positions of countries that took clear and strong procedures against the Israeli military attack and condemned it, and express resentment from the positions of some countries at the United Nations Security Council that obstructed the agreement to conduct an independent international investigation.
- 10- To call for coordination with all international rights and humanitarian organizations to actually and immediately begin to show all the sides of this case, including the legal and humanitarian dimensions, and target the world media to reveal this crime and show its consequences, and

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praise the Qatari pledge to cover all the special costs for this movement on the legal and media tracks.

- 11- To appreciate all the activists who participated in this noble humanitarian mission and bless the souls of the victim martyrs and express appreciation of the Arab League council and its support for Turkey's honorable position and international positions that expressed condemnation for this attack and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and their fair case.
- 12- To ask the Arab delegation participating in the Arab Turkish Cooperation Forum meetings to express the appreciation for Turkey's positions and offer the condolences for the families of the victims of the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy.
- 13- To ask the Secretary General to follow on the implementation of this resolution and keep the Arab League Council in continuous session.

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العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية المتجهة إلى قطاع غزة  
وكسر الحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض عليه

إن مجلس الجامعة على المستوى الوزاري في دورته غير العادية بتاريخ 2010/6/2 بمقر الأمانة العامة بالقاهرة،

- بعد اطلاعه على مذكرة الأمانة العامة،
- وإذ تدارس خطوات التحرك المطلوبة إزاء العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي وممارسة القرصنة في المياه الدولية بالبحر المتوسط على قافلة الحرية التي حملت مواد إنسانية متجهة إلى قطاع غزة الواقع تحت الحصار، وما أدى إليه هذا العدوان من قتل متعمد وسقوط ضحايا وجرحى في صفوف المدنيين العزل في هذه القافلة، واختطاف جميع المشاركين تحت قوة السلاح،
- وإذ يعتبر أن استمرار إسرائيل في احتلال الأراضي العربية وإمعانها في تغيير التركيبة السكانية والجغرافية للأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة بما فيها القدس الشرقية يشكل أساس الاضطراب والتوتر في المنطقة،
- وإذ يقرر أن استمرار إسرائيل، بصفتها القوة القائمة على الاحتلال، في حصار قطاع غزة وتعطيل إعادة بنائه يمثل جريمة ضد الإنسانية يجب وقفها فوراً بجميع الوسائل المشروعة بما فيها المقاومة،
- وإذ يؤكد أن استمرار بعض الدول في تقديم الدعم لإسرائيل رغم هجينة ممارساتها وانتهاكاتها ضد الشعب الفلسطيني وضد من يحاولون تقديم مساعدات إنسانية ضرورية له، إنما يستند إلى خطأ سياسي كبير بإعطاء إسرائيل حصانة إزاء عدم احترامها للقواعد القانون الدولي في سابقة تهدد النظام الدولي برمته،
- وإذ يؤكد أن هذه السياسات والممارسات الإسرائيلية التي تشكل إرهاب دولة تُغذي نزعات الإرهاب في الشرق الأوسط،
- ويعد المداولات والاستماع إلى كلمات رؤساء الوفود والأمين العام،

يقرر

- 1- إدانة العدوان العسكري المبيّت الذي ارتكبتها إسرائيل ضد قافلة الحرية في المياه الدولية، الأمر الذي يشكل قرصنة وإرهاب دولة وتهديداً للاستقرار والأمن في البحر

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- المتوسط، وخرقاً صريحاً للقانون الدولي الذي يحمي الملاحة في المياه الدولية، والاتفاقيات الدولية ذات الصلة ومبادئ وقواعد القانون الدولي الإنساني.
- 2- كسر الحصار الذي فرضته إسرائيل على قطاع غزة، والالتزام بإيصال المعونات الطبية والأغذية ومواد البناء اللازمة لإعادة الإعمار وغيرها من الاحتياجات الضرورية للشعب الفلسطيني في القطاع بشتى الوسائل، وتحميل إسرائيل المسؤولية الدولية المترتبة على التعرض للمعونات الإنسانية والاحتياجات الضرورية لإعادة الإعمار، وعدم فتح جميع المعابر أمام حركة الأفراد والبضائع.
- 3- تكليف الجمهورية اللبنانية، العضو العربي في مجلس الأمن، والمجموعة العربية في نيويورك بطلب عقد اجتماع لمجلس الأمن، بالتنسيق مع تركيا والدول والتجمعات الصديقة، لإصدار القرار اللازم لإدانة الحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض على قطاع غزة وإلزام إسرائيل برفعه فوراً، وطلب عقد الدورة المستأنفة العاشرة في إطار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة لمواجهة الحصار الإسرائيلي على قطاع غزة.
- 4- الالتزام بما جاء في قرارات قمة سرت وخاصةً القرار رقم 508 بتاريخ 2010/3/28 بوقف كافة أشكال التطبيع مع إسرائيل وما أكدته المداولات في هذا الصدد، وفي ظل هذا التحدي والخرق الإسرائيلي المستمر لكافة التزاماتها يوصي المجلس الوزاري برفع توصية لأصحاب الجلالة والفخامة والسمو بشأن تنفيذ ما ورد في كلمة خادم الحرمين في القمة الاقتصادية في الكويت في يناير 2009 بأن المبادرة العربية لن تبقى على المائدة طويلاً.
- 5- إن إمعان إسرائيل في ممارستها وأخرها في العدوان الإجرامي على المدنيين المُزَلَّ تؤكد بالدليل الواضح عدم جدية إسرائيل في التوصل إلى سلام عادل وشامل في المنطقة وإصرارها على أن تجعل المفاوضات غير ذات فائدة أو جوى ويشكك في مصداقية التأكيدات والتعهدات التي قُدمت إلى الجانب الفلسطيني، وتكليف الأمين العام بتوجيه رسالة إلى الإدارة الأمريكية بهذا الشأن.
- 6- تنسيق التحرك العربي مع تركيا والجهات المعنية الأخرى لرفع دعاوى أمام جهات التقاضي الوطنية والدولية المختصة وعلى رأسها محكمة العدل الدولية فيما يتعلق بالحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض على قطاع غزة.
- 7- مطالبة إسرائيل بالإفراج الفوري عن بقية المختطفين من أفراد قافلة الحرية والسفن المحتجزة ومواد الإغاثة.
- 8- الترحيب بقرار مجلس حقوق الإنسان الخاص بتشكيل لجنة تقصي حقائق مستقلة للتحقيق في انتهاكات القانون الدولي عن الاعتداء الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية

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- والإعراب عن التقدير للدول التي صوتت لصالح القرار، وكذلك الإعراب عن استيائه من مواقف الدول التي صوتت ضد هذا القرار.
- 9- الترحيب بمواقف الدول التي اتخذت إجراءات واضحة وقوية في مواجهة العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي وإدانته، والإعراب عن استيائه إزاء مواقف بعض الدول في مجلس الأمن التي أعاققت الاتفاق على إجراء تحقيق دولي مستقل.
- 10- الدعوة إلى التنسيق مع كافة المنظمات الدولية الحقوقية والإنسانية للبدء الفعلي والفوري لإظهار كافة جوانب هذه القضية، ببعديها القانوني والإنساني، والتوجه نحو وسائل الإعلام العالمية لكشف هذه الجريمة وإظهار تداعياتها، والإشادة بتعهد دولة قطر بتغطية جميع التكاليف الخاصة بالتحرك على المسارين القانوني والإعلامي.
- 11- توجيه تحية تقدير إلى جميع الناشطين الذين شاركوا في هذه المهمة الإنسانية النبيلة والترحم على أرواح الضحايا الشهداء، والتعبير عن تقدير المجلس ودعمه لموقف تركيا المشرف والمواقف الدولية التي عبرت عن إدانتها لهذا العدوان وتضامنها مع الشعب الفلسطيني وقضيته العادلة.
- 12- الطلب من الوفد العربي المشارك في اجتماعات منتدى التعاون العربي التركي بالإعراب عن التقدير للمواقف التركية وتقديم العزاء لأهالي ضحايا العدوان الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية.
- 13- الطلب إلى الأمين العام متابعة تنفيذ هذا القرار وإيقاء المجلس في حالة انعقاد دائم.

(ق: رقم 7215 - د.غ.ع - 2010/6/2)

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B107

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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From: Valdez, Pablo M  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:54 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: MGGZ01: (AP) Forensic report indicates nine activist killed by gunshots

RELEASED IN FULL

ISTANBUL (AP) - Turkey's NTV television says an initial forensic report concludes that the nine activists killed in the Israeli commando raid on the aid flotilla to Gaza died of gunshot wounds.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B108

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Parker, Andrew C  
 Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:08 AM  
 To: Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Bernier-Toth, Michelle; ~~Gaza~~ Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
 Cc: Brandeis, Katherine L; Leone, Christina A; Plott, Susan M; Zuckerman, Eve  
 Subject: Re: Status of Free Gaza Amcits

RELEASED IN PART

Spoke with [redacted] daughter of 81 year old [redacted] about 30 min ago. She had not yet heard from him - but for the first time did not seem worried. Her phone # is [redacted]

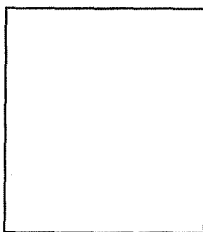
B6

From: Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)  
 To: Bernier-Toth, Michelle; SES-O\_CMS; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
 Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Brandeis, Katherine L; Leone, Christina A  
 Sent: Thu Jun 03 07:52:10 2010  
 Subject: RE: Status of Free Gaza Amcits

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
 Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:43 AM  
 To: SES-O\_CMS; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
 Cc: Parker, Andrew C; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Brandeis, Katherine L; Leone, Christina A  
 Subject: Status of Free Gaza Amcits

Per Andy Parker in Tel Aviv, the following Amcits have been deported to Istanbul:



Turks are planning reception desks to assist pax with onward travel resy. Probably will be a PR show as well. Pax will be admitted to Turkey without visas etc while in transit. Onward travel is not covered by israel. That was only for people who accepted immediate repat from the Port. No consular access was accorded by GOI at Ben Gurion Airport. Two or three smaller medical flights took injured to Ankara. No Amcits in that category that we have known about.

[redacted] has been deported to Athens. Andy has notified [redacted]s wife.

Location unknown: [redacted] (dual Irish/Amcit)

Others believed to have left thru Allenby:



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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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13773

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Turkey - Situation Calms with Flights Scheduled; NSC Meeting Ends; Moderate Statement by FM Davutoglu  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 12:10:17 PM

The Turkish National Security Council meeting ended with a statement focused on the PKK and Gaza. The NSC is a consultative body chaired by PM Erdogan that provides recommendations to the cabinet and other bodies:

**NSC ANNOUNCEMENT:** "At the meeting the attack that happened in Iskenderun on the night of May 31 and the attack of Israel on the same day against the ships taking aid to Gaza were evaluated. Both attacks were studied with all of their dimensions and the things were lived were discussed in detail. The terrorist incidents that occurred in the recent period, the works in the fight against terrorism, additional measures to be taken and steps to be taken were negotiated.

It was noted that the multi-dimensional struggle against terrorism will continue with determination in every field and works to eliminate the conditions that are exploited by terrorism will be speeded up. The steps to be taken after the Israel attack were taken up. The issue was put on the table with its political, military, economic and legal dimensions.

Within this framework the international initiatives that were launched were evaluated. The UN Security Council and NATO council issued statements condemning Israel. The UN Human Rights Committee at its meeting today in Geneva accepted the investigation of Israel's attack by an international neutral committee.

As a result of the works conducted by our government the wounded and dead were brought back. All bodies and all volunteers from every country will be brought back on Turkish Airlines (THY) planes that are specifically assigned to Istanbul."

**FOREIGN MINISTER DAVUTOGLU:** Upon his return to Ankara today from the United States, FM Davutoglu told the press that the United States had also signed on the condemnation issued by the UN Security Council and there was no need for further speculation in this regard. Therefore, the United States has condemned Israel. In addition, he said the United States has clearly issued a condemnation and has openly showed solidarity with Turkey. He also said Turkey is ready to normalize ties with Israel if it lifts the blockade on Gaza. He said, "It is time that calm replaces anger" in the wake of Israel's deadly boarding of the IHH Free Gaza flotilla. Davutoglu also told the press that the future of Turkish-Israeli ties depends on Israel's attitude. <http://www.internetajans.com/default.asp?NID=96596>; <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/news-211900-turkey-to-normalise-israel-ties-if-gaza-blockade-ends.html>

**TURKISH PARLIAMENT:** The Turkish Parliament has just passed a joint declaration condemning Israel by unanimous vote. The declaration asked the GOT to "review economic and

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SBU

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military relations" with Israel. It also asked Israel to apologize to Turkey. "Turkey's reactions do not target the people of Israel," it noted:

<http://www.cnnturk.com/2010/turkiye/06/02/israile.kinama.deklarasyonu.krizi.cozuldu/578602.0/index.html>

The human rights committee of the Turkish parliament will send a letter to several parliaments to condemn the Israeli attack on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla. <http://haber.turk.net/ENG/2439613/-Turkish-Parliament-Committee-To-Send-Letter-Of-Condernnation>

Alexander Schrank  
Turkey Desk Officer  
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)  
U.S. Department of State  
tel: (202) 647-7581, fax: (202) 647-5087

SBU

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Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)  
Page 2 of 2

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13114  
RELEASED IN FULL

## Turkey boosts security for Jews

By JONAH MANDEL  
06/03/2010 05:56

### Local Jewish community exhibits solidarity with flotilla fatalities.

Though hundreds of Turks protested against Israel for the third day on Wednesday, the Turkish Jewish community seems to have scored an important success by publicly distancing itself from the Jewish state and the violent hatred aimed at it.

Following the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla, Turkey's Jewish community and chief rabbinate expressed their sorrow over the "military operation against the *Mavi Marmara* ship" and the "loss of life and injury resulting from the operation," in a joint statement on the community's official Web site, [musevicemaati.com](http://musevicemaati.com).

"We share the public reaction this operation has created in our country and express our deep sorrow," the statement read.

In addition, during an interview with Israeli haredi radio station Kol Barama on Monday, Turkish Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva repeatedly praised the regime's attitude toward its Jews, while softly condemning Israel for its recent operation, to the native-Israeli interviewer's surprise.

Turkey maintains strict separation between religion and state, and Jews there consider themselves Turks, which might strike some Israelis who automatically fuse religious and national identity as odd.

The results of Turkish Jewry's public voice were apparent in Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Tuesday speech on the raid: Even as he slammed Israel's "bloody massacre... deserving of any kind of curse and condemnation," he not only praised his Jewish subjects for their loyalty, but spoke out against any hostilities toward them.

"I thank the Turkish Jewish community, putting in words their right and sincere reaction to the event," he said. "Our Jewish citizens have, as members of the Turkish people, defended, and continue to defend, the right position of Turkey to the utmost."

He added that "looking with hatred upon our Jewish citizens... is not acceptable; it cannot be and should never be."

On Wednesday, Turkish Interior Minister Besir Atalay said security had been stepped up at 20 different sites alone in Istanbul, which has several synagogues and centers serving 23,000 Jews.

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Nonetheless, it is likely that beyond their loyalty to the state, any other public sentiment by the Jewish community in Turkey would only have exacerbated the hostilities they face from the majority-Muslim population.

"The situation in Turkey is very difficult for the Jews now," Eyal Peretz, chairman of Arkadash – The Turkish Community in Israel, told *The Jerusalem Post* on Wednesday.

"The atmosphere on the streets is hostile, and there is a feeling of anger," he said, noting that the Israeli institutions in Turkey had been closed.

Peretz noted the link that Islamists in Turkey made between Jews and the State of Israel, and pointed out that Erdogan's statements would carry weight on the Turkish street in helping to curb violence toward Jews.

Still, he added that "the Jewish community in Turkey, which has always tried to culturally assimilate into the general society and maintain a low profile, is now perplexed and helpless."

Peretz noted that Jews in Turkey also served in the military there, paid taxes, and generally considered themselves Turks.

"We Israelis understand the need for an operation against the boats, but how would we feel if Israeli civilians were killed by the Turkish military?" he asked.

Those sentiments notwithstanding, "in every confrontation between Israel and Muslims, since the state's inception to this very day, the Jewish community in Turkey has felt a backlash of hostility to varying degrees, especially from the more religious factors in the Turkish populace," Peretz said.

"Accordingly, there have always been waves of aliya from Turkey after Israel's wars," he added, predicting another imminent one in the wake of recent events.

*AP contributed to this report.*

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B115

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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**From:** Rudnitski, Jennine R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:48 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (Reuters) Arabs seek UN push to end Israel's Gaza blockade

RELEASED IN FULL

CAIRO - Arab states will ask the UN Security Council to demand an end to Israel's blockade of Gaza, the Arab League chief said after ministers met to respond to Israel's attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla. "The Arab League will go to the Security Council and demand lifting of the blockade from Gaza," the League secretary general, Amr Moussa, said after the talks.

*Jennine Rudnitski*  
Operations Specialist, SES-O  
202.647.1512

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12117

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Goldberg, Joshua W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 6:37 PM  
**To:** SES-O  
**Cc:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Situation Report No.6 - Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01 (SBU Version)

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
Operations Center

## SITUATION REPORT No. 6

Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01

Wednesday, June 2, 2010  
1830 EDT

### STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

(SBU) Thirteen American citizens were transferred to Ben Gurion Airport and are scheduled to depart by June 3. Three additional American dual-nationals are departing to their countries of origin: Kuwait, Jordan, and Ireland. One Israeli-American was released without conditions, and the Embassy is trying to locate one additional American citizen.

*(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

### STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

Please see the classified version of this product.

### OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

Please see the classified version of this product.

### HUMANITARIAN GOODS

(SBU) UNRWA and ICRC are unable to confirm that eight truckloads actually entered Gaza from Israel. Media report 10 additional truckloads will be transferred on June 2. *(MGGZ01/PRM e-mail)*

### ISRAELI RESPONSE

- (U) PM Netanyahu publicly defended the military operation, emphasized the importance of the blockade for Israeli security, and rejected international pressure to launch an investigation of IDF actions. *(Reuters)*
- (U) Pro-IDF demonstrators are calling for a boycott of Turkish products. *(Tel Aviv 1225)*

### SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

(SBU) There has been a slight uptick in protest activities and violence in the West Bank and along the Gaza-Israel border, including sporadic mortar firing from Gaza. Jerusalem remains tense. *(Jerusalem 928)*

### INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- (U) ASEAN-GCC: Foreign ministers condemned the Israeli raid as "an act of violence," and urged release of the detainees and an end to the blockade. *(MGGZ01/EAP e-mail)*

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- (U) UNHRC: The Human Rights Council approved a Palestinian-drafted resolution condemning the "outrageous attack by the Israeli forces" by a vote of 32 yes, three no (U.S.), nine abstentions, and three no-shows. The resolution establishes an international fact-finding mission to investigate alleged violations of international law. *(MGGZ01/IO Bureau e-mail)*

### INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- (SBU) Egypt: The government opened the Rafah crossing indefinitely and allowed shipment of electric generators into Gaza, the first non-food or medical shipment from Egypt since the 2008-2009 Gaza conflict. Reportedly, 200 to 800 Gazans have crossed into Egypt. *(Cairo 611)*
- Turkey: Please see the classified version of this product.
- (U) Palestinian Authority: President Abbas rejected calls to suspend proximity talks. *(jpost.com)*
- (SBU) Jordan: A warden message was issued warning American citizens to avoid crowds and maintain a low profile due to anti-American sentiment and expected protests. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Amman e-mail)*
- (U) EU: Members of the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee almost unanimously condemned Israeli actions. Some called for suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement. One MEP called for opening talks with Hamas. *(MGGZ01/USEU Daily Report e-mail)*
- (U) Tunisia: A Gaza solidarity demonstration took place in Tunis. *(Tunis 395)*

For more information about the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops portal at the following link:

[http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza\\_Flotilla\\_2010](http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Drafted: WJReisser/JGrobblacher  
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS

Approved: GPMacris

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B120

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

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**From:** Posner, Michael H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:50 PM  
**To:** Otero, Maria  
**Cc:** Baer, Daniel B; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Cassidy, Joseph P; Stanfield, Emily  
**Subject:** Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

Maria

Here is a quick update on recent developments related to the Flotilla. A resolution on the topic passed in the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) this morning with 32 in favor, 3 opposed (US plus Netherlands and Italy), and 9 abstentions (Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine and the UK). The flotilla resolution contained problematic language (e.g. "occupation") and also called for a new UN fact finding mission, which will result in even more of a focus on Israel in the HRC. Many of those who voted against the resolution or abstained did so based on the fact that the UNSC Presidential Statement's call for impartial, credible investigation does not necessarily require an international fact finding mission.

We have no doubt that our isolation on this issue will affect our other HRC priorities at the Council. In particular, we are concerned that this could have a negative effect on the renewal of the Sudan mandate.

According to press reports, Israel's inner security cabinet voted to deport remaining prisoners within 48 hours. A government statement stated that the detainees would be expelled immediately according to the procedures set by law. Turkey has sent three planes to Israel to repatriate approximately 400 people. According to press reports, Egypt has opened its Rafah crossing for travel and humanitarian aid and has allowed a shipment of electric generators into Gaza. This is the first time it has let in non-food or medical supplies since late 2008.

PRM is drafting a memo with ideas for improving the humanitarian situation, which we welcome (and to which we have contributed ideas). I also plan to give some ideas to NEA/SEMEP on how to address the human rights situation in Gaza.

Mike

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B122

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**From:** Enav, Cari R  
**To:** Casteel, Ezra A; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** RE: MGGZ01: (Reuters) UN rights body sets probe into flotilla raid  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 1:42:18 PM  
**Attachments:** 100602 HRC 14 Flotilla EOV - FINAL.doc [100602 HRC 14 Flotilla EOV - FINAL.doc],  
Gaza Flotilla res.pdf [Gaza Flotilla res.pdf]

Please note that three (vice 33) African countries were absent.

Voting breakdown:

32 in favor

3 opposed (US, Italy, Netherlands)

9 abstentions (Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, UK)

3 absent (Cameroon, Madagascar, Zambia)

Attached is the resolution and the EOV as delivered.

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**From:** Casteel, Ezra A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 1:29 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (Reuters) UN rights body sets probe into flotilla raid

GENEVA (Reuters) - The United Nations Human Rights Council voted to set up an independent fact-finding mission to look into what it called violations of international law in Israel's raid on a Gaza aid flotilla. In a resolution proposed by Pakistan for the Organization of the Islamic Conference and Sudan for the Arab group, the Council by a vote of 32 of its 47 members also condemned the Israeli action as outrageous. The United States together with Italy and the Netherlands voted against, while nine European, African and Asian nations abstained and 33 more African countries did not vote.

---

Ezra Casteel  
S/ES-O Operations Specialist  
202.647.1512

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HRC 14

Explanation of Vote: The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the  
Humanitarian Boat Convoy

We regret having to call a vote and vote no on this resolution. It is our hope that, over time, this Council will be able to unite around balanced and appropriate responses to urgent situations that deserve our attention. We have engaged intently in discussions here in Geneva and in forums around the world in response to the events addressed in this resolution, and are deeply committed to working with partners to ensure a full and appropriate response to this incident and the circumstances that led to it.

As noted in our statement in this chamber yesterday, the United States is deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships. We condemn the acts that resulted in the loss of at least ten lives and many wounded, and we express our condolences to their families.

We call attention to the Security Council statement adopted on June 1. It is important to ensure a prompt, credible, impartial, and transparent investigation. Israel has a very strong interest in conducting such an investigation that meets international standards and exposes all the facts. There are, of course, a number of ways to ensure such an outcome.

The United States continues to be deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza and the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation there. The situation in Gaza is unsustainable and unacceptable. In line with the Security Council statement adopted yesterday, we stress the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and provision and distribution of humanitarian access throughout Gaza, and we will continue our work towards this end while bearing in mind the Government of Israel's legitimate security concerns.

In the context of today's debate, it is important to once again stress that the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement, negotiated between the parties, that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and fulfills the

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aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous, and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

Unfortunately, the resolution before us rushes to judgment on a set of facts that, as our debate over the last day makes clear, are only beginning to be discovered and understood. It creates an international mechanism before giving the responsible government an opportunity to investigate this incident itself and thereby risks further politicizing a sensitive and volatile situation. We understand the impetus to respond quickly to a troubling set of events. But we have an obligation to determine facts and make considered judgments on how to best address what is a complex and difficult situation.

For these reasons, we must vote against this resolution.

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B124

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:44 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: Six Germans still held in Israel after Gaza aid boat raid

RELEASED IN FULL

Six Germans still held in Israel after Gaza aid boat raid

BERLIN, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - Six Germans who were on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla held up by Israeli forces, including one who was injured, remained in detention in Israel on Wednesday, the German foreign ministry said.

Five Germans were detained "in a prison" following the deadly assault, foreign ministry spokesman Anton Peschke said.

"The Israeli authorities intend to take them later this evening to Ben Gurion airport to deport them," he added.

The sixth "could be kept in a hospital near to Tel Aviv," he said, without giving any details of the man's condition or injuries.

At least 11 Germans were on the boats which were raided Monday by Israeli commandos leaving at least nine people dead. Five, including two deputies from the Left Party, a former deputy and a doctor, had already been deported.

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B126

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:47 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: UN rights council approves probe into Israel's ship raid

RELEASED IN FULL

UN rights council approves probe into Israel's ship raid

GENEVA, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - The UN Human Rights Council on Wednesday adopted a resolution setting up an independent international probe into Israel's interception of Gaza-bound ships.

The resolution, which also condemned Israel's "outrageous attack," was adopted after a vote, with 32 countries voting in favour, three against, and eight abstentions.

It "decides to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian aid and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance."

The text also decides to "authorise the president of the council to appoint members of this independent international fact finding system."

Israeli commandos boarded one of the aid ships bound for the Gaza Strip in the pre-dawn raid on Monday that left at least nine passengers dead. Hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists were also arrested.

The move sparked global outrage and prompted states from the Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to ask for the special session of the 47 member states in the rights council.

It also drove Pakistan, Sudan and the Palestinian delegation to propose the resolution during the urgent sitting, during which countries ranging from Laos to Peru to Iceland all spoke out against Israel's move.

The United States said it was "deeply disturbed" by the violence but opposed the resolution.

US ambassador Eileen Donahoe said the text "rushes to judgement on a set of facts" that were only starting to emerge.

"It creates an international mechanism before giving the responsible government the opportunity to investigate the incident itself," she added.

The Netherlands also voted against, with its envoy saying that the call for a "parallel investigation" into the raid by the council "would not be conducive to relaunching the Middle East peace process."

Israeli ambassador Aharon Leshno Yaar did not refer to the resolution when he spoke ahead of the vote, but he reiterated that the activists onboard the raided ship did not have peaceful motives.

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He noted that Molotov cocktails, clubs and iron bars were used against Israeli soldiers.

He also claimed that "large quantities of cash were also found on board, some in the pockets of the attackers and most in courier belts ready for transfer to the Hamas."

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:39 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: All detained activists en route home: Israel prisons

RELEASED IN FULL

All detained activists en route home: Israel prisons

JERUSALEM, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - The hundreds of activists detained in a deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla have all been released from prison to be deported, a prisons authority spokesman said on Wednesday.

"There are no longer any detainees in prison," Yron Zamir told AFP when asked about the people detained after Monday's commando raid in international waters that killed nine activists.

He said they were all taken to Ben Gurion international airport near Tel Aviv or to the Jordanian border.

More than 120 people were deported to Jordan on Wednesday morning, others were put on flights out and more were awaiting deportation at the airport.

Authorities said 682 people from 42 countries had been aboard the six ships that tried to bust the Gaza blockade.

There was very little official information about the condition of the injured passengers being treated in Israeli hospitals.

Physicians for Human Rights put the number of wounded activists at 52.

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B 128

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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**From:** Casteel, Ezra A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:19 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (Reuters) Israelis "humiliated" ship activists: eyewitness

ALGIERS (Reuters) - Activists aboard a Turkish aid ship used sticks to defend themselves against a raid by Israeli commandos but were eventually forced to surrender and were tied up, one of the activists said. "They humiliated us," said Ahmed Brahim, an Algerian who said he was on board the Mavi Marmara ship where most of the violence took place during the raid. "We were not armed. We did not go there to fight," Brahim, who said he was the coordinator of the Algerian contingent on board the convoy's ships.

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Ezra Casteel  
S/ES-O Operations Specialist  
202.647.1512

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B129

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**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Connelly, Maura; Schlicher, Ronald L; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Jeffrey, James F; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; EUR-SE-DAR-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Per your request - Turkish Planes  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 8:50:36 AM  
All,

Following up on conversations with Israelis in DC and Tel Aviv, we called the Turkish MFA Operations Center. MFA Ops reports that two Turkish passenger planes are currently on the ground in Israel loaded with pax. There is a third Turkish passenger plane also on the ground without pax.

There are also three "ambulance planes" to carry wounded. MFA says those planes (not sure how many of them or how many pax) are being loaded now.

MFA said all planes would take off "in a synchronized way." Not sure what that means.

Doug

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

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**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:46 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** Per your request - Turkish Planes

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**From:** Tayla, Suheyla  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:33 PM

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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To: de Otalvaro, Laura H  
Cc: Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Ahn, Michael; Arvey, Jason M  
Subject: Turkish planes

Laura,

I talked to MFA crisis desk. They said that there are no Turkish planes took off Israel yet.

Now there are 3 ambulance planes, and 3 passenger planes in Israel waiting at the airport. 2 of the passenger planes have their passengers on board.

Right at this moment, ambulance planes are making preparations to board their patients. They are foreseeing all six planes to leave Israel in a synchronized way.

FYI

Suheyla

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B130

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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From: Casteel, Ezra A  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:50 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: MGGZ01: (AP) Turkish lawmakers urge govt to review Israel ties

RELEASED IN FULL

ANKARA (AP) - Turkish lawmakers issued a declaration calling on the government to review its political and military ties with Israel. The lawmakers also urged Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza, issue an apology for the deadly raid on Gaza-bound aid ships that left nine activists dead, and compensate victims.

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Ezra Casteel  
S/ES-O Operations Specialist  
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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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**From:** Casteel, Ezra A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:49 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: (AP) Israel to expel all activists by day's end

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JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's attorney general said all of the nearly 700 activists detained in a deadly raid on an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip will be deported by the end of the day. Yehuda Weinstein said Israel decided not to prosecute any of the activists. Officials earlier said they were considering prosecuting about 50 people believed to be involved in violence.

---

Ezra Casteel  
S/ES-O Operations Specialist  
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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B132

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:45 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Arraf

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**From:** Richter, Kim B.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:32 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** Arraf

### Roseville woman on Gaza flotilla freed from Israeli jail

By Niraj Warikoo  
Detroit Free Press  
June 1, 2010

A Palestinian-American woman originally from Roseville who was part of the Gaza flotilla was released today from an Israeli jail after being beaten by Israeli security, her husband told the Free Press today. Huwaida Arraf, a native of metro Detroit, is a Palestinian advocate who was on one of the several ships by activists in a flotilla looking to deliver aid to people in Gaza. She is co-founder of the International Solidarity Movement, a controversial group, and is married to Adam Shapiro, an activist with the Free Gaza Movement.

"She was released from the prison about 5-6 hours ago," Shapiro told the Free Press. "She was beaten up on the ship by an Israeli commando when they took it and again in the jail. She was punched at least once. And on the way out of prison, one officer elbowed her in the face. She's bruised, but she's a tough kid."

Israeli officials said they could not confirm Arraf's story.

Orli Gil, consul general of Israel to the Midwest, told the Free Press that they could not find a record of someone with her name with a U.S. passport.

Gil also said: "She was probably not beaten."

She added, "If there was any violence initiated by the people on the boats, of course the soldiers had to react to this in order to get over the resistance."

Shapiro said Arraf was on the Challenger One boat, which was part of a flotilla that was intercepted by Israel. Since the incident, Arraf has been featured in media outlets such as the New York Times and CNN.

An Israeli captain told Israeli newspapers he and others were violently assaulted after they landed on one of the ships. He said some of the activists attempted to lynch the Israelis with weapons.

Shapiro said the Israelis are giving misleading statements.

"It's clear they have been coached on what to say," Shapiro said. "They are acting as if they are the weak victims ... to make it seem they were somehow the victims here is utterly ridiculous."

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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Israeli officials have said that while they regret the shooting deaths, their commandos acted in self-defense in dealing with violent extremists.

*Kim Richter*

CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA

(202) 647-8308

Bahrain, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Nepal,  
Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Maldives

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

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B133

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

**From:** Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:36 AM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Humia; 'Dennis B Ross'; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'; 'Dennis\_B.Ross@nsc.eop.gov'  
**Cc:** Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers

Israeli DCM Dan Arbelle just called me back with further clarification. He said that there are/are "four to five" individuals who are "being left behind" temporarily, but not/not because of any judicial procedures. These "four to five" are either undergoing medical treatment, and thus staying behind at their request, or they are waiting for the right flights to their intended destination. The "four to five" are not being held involuntarily, nor are they being held for political or judicial reasons. He did not elaborate on the nationalities.

Jeffrey Feltman  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
 Department of State  
 202-647-7209

**From:** Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:00 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Humia; Dennis B Ross; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'  
**Cc:** Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers

To all:

Israeli DCM Dan Arbelle just called me with the following information (which does not track entirely with what Embassy Tel Aviv has reported, so I underscore that I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this message):

-- The Israeli Attorney General has determined that all/all Gaza flotilla detainees are to be released now. This includes those wounded and includes even the "six or seven" who were suspected of instigating the attacks on the Israeli commandos. All means all, Dan said; responding to my question, he confirmed that the Lebanese wounded [redacted] was part of the "all."

B6

-- One Turkish plane, full, has already left Ben-Gurion Airport for Turkey. A second plane is currently being filled. "Within a few hours" everyone should be out. There are Turkish consular officials working with the Israelis, and the Turkish Ambassador to Israel is likely to be on one of the planes leaving.

-- There were some Israelis who objected to the Attorney General's blanket release, but the Supreme Court has upheld the decision.

This seems to be good news; let's hope it is accurate.

Jeffrey Feltman

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*Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Department of State  
202-647-7209*

2  
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StateDept01548

UNCLASSIFIED

B134

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

**From:** Cunningham, James B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:33 AM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; 'Dennis B Ross'; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'  
**Cc:** Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers  
**Expires:** Sunday, November 28, 2010 5:00 PM

Seems to be, per my email about talk with Gilad.

**From:** Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Sullivan, Jacob J; Abedin, Huma; Dennis B Ross; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'  
**Cc:** Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** Israel DCM reports Attorney General permits release of ALL Gaza flotilla passengers

To all:

Israeli DCM Dan Arbell just called me with the following information (which does not track entirely with what Embassy Tel Aviv has reported, so I underscore that I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this message):

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B6

-- One Turkish plane, full, has already left Ben-Gurion Airport for Turkey. A second plane is currently being filled. "Within a few hours" everyone should be out. There are Turkish consular officials working with the Israelis, and the Turkish Ambassador to Israel is likely to be on one of the planes leaving.

-- There were some Israelis who objected to the Attorney General's blanket release, but the Supreme Court has upheld the decision.

This seems to be good news; let's hope it is accurate.

*Jeffrey Feltman  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Department of State  
202-647-7209*

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B136

From: Giaque, Jeffrey G  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:53 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: ASEAN-GCC Statement on Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

**JOINT STATEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF  
ASEAN-GCC COUNTRIES**

At the Second ASEAN-GCC Ministerial Meeting on 1 June 2010 in Singapore, Foreign Ministers considered the recent attacks by the Israeli authorities against personnel aboard the humanitarian vessel, Mavi Marmara.

The Ministers strongly deplored and condemned this Israeli raid and act of violence in international waters.

The Ministers expressed condolences to the victims of the raid and solidarity with the people and Government of Turkey and other countries.

The Ministers urged the immediate release of those who are still held hostage by the Israeli authorities.

The Ministers called for the removal of the Israeli blockade in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in particular UN Security Council Resolution 1860.

Through the aforementioned raid and violence, Israel has once again created additional hurdles to the Middle East peace process which is currently entering a critical phase with the launching of the "proximity talks".

The Ministers agreed on the need for international cooperation to ensure that Israel is held accountable for its action in accordance with international law. Specifically, the Ministers urged the United Nations to discharge its responsibilities in accordance with its Charter, including through investigation of the Israeli attack in order to ensure its accountability.

.....

1 June 2010

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B138

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Larson, Jennifer A  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**CC:** Siekman, Kelly O; Engelken, Stephen C  
**Subject:** Statement from UNESCO Director-General  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 7:35:04 AM

As predicted, Please see this link:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco-director-general-shocked-and-concerned-over-deadly-israeli-military-interception/>

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



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12139

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Hayes, Molly E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 6:37 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Morocco Underlines Emergency to Break Inhumane Blockade on Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

**Morocco Underlines Emergency to Break Inhumane Blockade on Gaza**

Geneva, June 1 (MAP) - Morocco's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva Omar Hilale underlined, on Tuesday, the pressing need to break the Israeli inhumane and appalling blockade imposed on Gaza.

Hilale, who was speaking at a meeting held by the UNHRC to discuss the Israeli raid on an aid fleet bound for Gaza, said that Morocco was deeply shocked and dismayed by this Israeli military assault. Having expressed Morocco's solidarity with the injured and its heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the diplomat reiterated the Kingdom's condemnation of this vile attack, as well as its concern over Israel's disproportionate use of force.

The Kingdom of Morocco utterly rejects this act which runs counter to the international law, he said, adding that the Israeli military attack is unacceptable at the political, diplomatic and humanitarian levels, all the more so because it targeted an aid convoy in international waters, which is a blatant breach of the international human rights law and humanitarian law.

The Moroccan ambassador said that the gravity of this Israeli attack should call upon the international community's conscience since it occurred at a time when US-brokered indirect talks are being held between Palestinians and Israelis. He added that Morocco, which commends the swift reaction by the UNSC, urges Israel to abide by the Council's declaration calling for the immediate release of civilians.

Morocco calls for all parties to resolutely engage in the peace process with the aim of establishing an independent and viable Palestinian State with Al Quds Asharif as its capital, living side by side with Israel in peace and security. (Maghreb Arab Press - MAP)

B140

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Pattarini, Daniel M  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 6:34:49 AM

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**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 02:28:34  
**To:** Pattarini, Daniel M  
**Cc:** MUSCAT-SMARTS  
**Subject:** OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA

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**MRN:** 10 MUSCAT 378  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 02, 2010 / 021028Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** OIIP, KPAO, KMDR, MU  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD, NEA/PI, INR/R/MR, NEA/SA/EX/PMO  
 LONDON FOR NEA WATCHER  
 PARIS FOR NEA WATCHER  
 FOREIGN PRESS CENTER FOR NEA WATCHER  
**Subject:** OMAN SPECIAL MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST GAZA AID FLOTILLA

1. SUMMARY: The Omani print media reacted swiftly to Israeli military action against the aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip. Nearly all of Oman's English and Arabic papers

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Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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issued strong condemnations and called on the international community to take actions to punish Israel for violations of international law and to force it to end the blockade of Gaza. END SUMMARY.

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ISRAEL KNOWS HOW TO "KILL PEACE;" WILL THE U.S. ACT NOW?

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2. On Tuesday June 1, the private English language daily the "Tribune" (circulation 15,000) wrote that the only explanation for the attack on the convoy of aid ships was that Israel wanted to scuttle the peace process. The paper condemned the action and the "apathy" of the international community to the plight of Gaza under the blockade.

"The raid has brought into sharp focus the crippling Israeli blockade of Gaza and the international community's apathy to Gaza's plight. So far Israel has been getting away with every atrocity it has been perpetrating against the Palestinians and this time the world should not allow it to happen. It should be isolated and punished for yesterday's crime, which is not only against the Palestinians but others also. What is appalling in the sordid drama is Israel indulged in the heinous act just on the eve of its Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington to confer with the Obama administration officials on the progress of the current proximity talks to restart the Middle East peace dialogue. Israel's peace postures are a charade and the Jewish state is taking the world, particularly the US, for a ride. It's time President Obama sees through Israel's game. Will he act now?"

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ATTACK DESERVES "CONDEMNATION OF THE HIGHEST ORDER"

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3. On Tuesday, the English-language government daily "Observer" (circulation 20,000) blasted the action against the aid flotilla, declaring it both a common occurrence of Israeli abuse and unique in that it occurred in international waters and was directed at international actors of many nationalities.

"In the past, the Jewish state had restricted its excesses to areas and countries that it either controls or with whom it has unpleasant relations. Yesterday morning, it chose to target organizations and people who oppose its aggressive initiatives in international waters...Yesterday's strike by heavy force certainly deserves condemnation of the highest order for reasons that it occurred in international waters and caused death, injury and anguish to peaceful citizens of dozens of peace-loving countries who wanted to help distraught residents of a poverty-ridden area."

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ACTION "A KIND OF ISRAELI BARBARISM"

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4. Also on Tuesday, the Arabic-language government daily "Oman" (circulation 38,000) wrote that although Israel has clearly announced that it would prevent the fleet from arriving to Gaza's shores, its cruel actions against international activists is a clear violation of all international laws and norms. The editorial also called for international action which would force Israel to end the Gaza blockade.

"It is no exaggeration to say that what happened is, by all standards, a kind of Israeli barbarism, which has long been practiced by Israel and is still practiced when dealing with Palestinians and everything related to the occupied Palestinian territories... And that it is vital and necessary for those organizations particularly the UN General Assembly, the Security Council and the Red Cross, to work on issuing practical resolutions to force Israel to live up to its responsibility as occupying force. But the fact is that the Israeli government aims to throttle the Gaza Strip, destroy its economy and prevent its people from very basic living requirements."

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#### ISRAEL "BLEW UP ALL PEACE"

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4. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the private Oman Arabic daily "Azzaman" (circulation 25,000) stated that Oman is standing by the Palestinians and condemning the Israeli aggression on the aid fleet which killed many people; "New Assault":

"The Israeli aggression on the freedom ships to Gaza blew up all peace attempts that the Arabs stood firm by with the blessing of the United States and European Union. They have showed the whole world that they do not intend to move towards peace but only favor escalation of the situation by ignoring all international laws. In the midst of the Israeli intransigence and the silence of the international community, the Arabs and Muslims should take a strong stand and provide a unified vision to deter Israel and condemn it internationally and legally."

---

Signature:	Schmierer
Drafted By:	MUSCAT:Pattarini, Daniel M
Cleared By:	Front-Office:Hurtado, L Victor (Muscat) Craven, Myca R (Muscat)
Approved By:	Front-Office:Schmierer, Richard J
Released By:	MUSCAT:Pattarini, Daniel M
Info:	
Attachments:	Metadata.dat

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Action Post:

Dissemination Rule:

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B142

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

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**From:** Levin, Jan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:35 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: DEPORTATIONS UPDATE – IL RADIO

RELEASED IN FULL

FYI. Embassy Tel Aviv will try to confirm this afternoon.

Israel will act to immediately expel all the detainees according to the procedures set by law

Israel will act to immediately expel all the detainees according to the procedures set by law 01/06/2010. Following the discussion of the security and diplomatic cabinet today, the Prime Minister consulted with the Defense Minister, Justice Minister, and Interior Minister on the question of expelling the detainees from the flotilla to Gaza.

It was agreed that the detainees would be expelled immediately – according to the procedures set by law. The Interior Minister announced that the expulsion will begin this evening, and the assessment is that it can be completed in approximately 48 hours.

**Subject:** DEPORTATIONS UPDATE – IL RADIO

IL RADIO REPORTS THAT TO DATE 325 PERSONS DETAINED FROM THE GAZA FLOTILLA HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO BEN GURION AIRPORT FOR DEPORTATION TO TURKEY. APPROXIMATELY 180 REMAIN IN JAIL AND WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE AIRPORT IN THE COMING HOURS. IL RADIO'S REPORTER ADI ME'IRI SAYS IL INTENDS TO DEPORT ALL THE FOREIGN NATIONALS DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE GAZA FLOTILLA BY THE END OF THE DAY.

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DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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B143.

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:11 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

RELEASED IN FULL

Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

ANKARA, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - Turkey's justice ministry is mulling possible legal action against Israel over its deadly raid on aid ships bound for the Gaza Strip, Anatolia news agency reported Wednesday.

Officials are looking into both domestic and international law to see what action might be undertaken after Monday's operation in international waters that left nine people dead, among them at least four Turks, the report said.

The ministry will also decide whether to file a complaint with Turkish prosecutors, it said.

Calling the raid a "bloody massacre," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tuesday urged an international inquiry into the raid, insisting that Israel's "lawlessness" must be punished.

"It is no longer possible to cover up or ignore Israel's lawlessness. It is time for the international community to say 'enough is enough'," he said.

Most of the bloodshed occurred on a Turkish-flagged ship, the Mavi Marmara, carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists from about 30 countries, mostly Turkish nationals mobilised by an Islamist charity.

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B/H/H

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:40 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: Malaysia thanks Jordan for aiding in saving detained Malaysians

RELEASED IN FULL

Malaysia thanks Jordan for aiding in saving detained Malaysians

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Xinhua) -- The Malaysian government expressed its deepest gratitude to Jordan here on Wednesday for the latter's assistance in successfully bringing Malaysians detained earlier out of Israel.

Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday that the 12 Malaysians on board the humanitarian aid ship attacked by Israel on Monday were safe.

According to the statement, the Malaysian volunteers had arrived in Jordan at 11:20 a.m. Malaysian time.

Upon arrival at the King Hussein Bridge, the group was received by the Malaysian Ambassador Abdul Malek Aziz.

The statement also said that the Malaysians were on their way to Amman and arrangements were being made to bring them back to Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Anifah Aman, who is on his way to Jordan, will thank the Jordanian government for its assistance in securing the release of the Malaysians.

He would also meet with the released Malaysians, added the statement.

Israel defense forces attacked the humanitarian ship Mavi Marmara that had 12 Malaysians on board in the international waters early Monday.

The violent act has resulted in strong condemnation from the Malaysian government.

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B145

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:23 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Algerian and U.A.E reaction

RELEASED IN FULL

#### Algeria

The Presidential Alliance parties, the National Liberation Front (FLN), the National Democratic Rally (RND) and the Movement for the Society of Peace (MSP) held yesterday a Gaza solidarity gathering of the Palestinian Ambassador. The Secretary General of the FLN/Minister of State/Personal Representative of President Boutefflika Abdelaziz Belkhadem called upon Egypt to permanently open the Rafah Terminal. Abdelaziz Belkhadem, the spokesman of the RND Miloud Chorfi and the president of the MSP Aboudjerra Soltani called for putting an end to the blockade.

On the other hand, the Secretary General of the Workers' Party (PT), Louisa Hanoune, and the president of the Algerian National Front (FNA), Moussa Touati, held separate Gaza solidarity meetings.

Abdelaziz Belkhadem was also the guest of the Algerian TV's show "In the Spotlight," Belkhadem called upon Arab countries to isolate Israel.

The Algerian Minister Delegate Minister will take part in today's Arab League emergency meeting in Cairo.

The Secretary General of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), Abdelmadjid Sidi Saïd, condemned the "Israeli barbarian aggression" at the 99<sup>th</sup> International Labor Conference (ILO) in Geneva.

Three Algerian TV channels—EPTV, Canal Algérie and A3—aired last night Palestine-related movies.

- o Gaza: All members of the Algerian delegation have been released. [Tout sur l'Algérie](#)
- o Israel releases all members of the Algerian delegation. [Algerian Radio website](#)
- o The Algerian delegation survives the Israeli raid. [Algerian Radio website](#)
- o 121 detainees, including all members of the Algerian delegation released; they arrived in Jordan last night. [Echourouk El Youmi](#)
- o Israel releases the Algerians—President Boutefflika has ordered to send a plane to repatriate them. [El Khabar](#)
- o A great thing...an Arab emergency summit—the Europeans were more courageous in their reaction to Israel. [Ennahar](#)
- o Israel releases 28 Algerians due to Jordan's mediation. [Djazair News](#)
- o Gaza: The Algerians released. [La Nouvelle République](#)

#### U.A.E.

- o General: Washington blocks the condemnation of the Zionist Entity (*Al Khaleej*); U.S. moves cautiously on Gaza flotilla crisis (*Gulf News*); More than 100 deported activists arrive in Jordan (*Gulf News*); Turkey Prime Minister

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Recep Tayyip Erdogan: Israel is rude and it must pay a price (*Al Khaleej*); Israel threatens to repeat "the massacre of freedom" and ignores world anger (*Al Bayan*); Egypt opens border as new aid ship sails for Gaza (*The National*)

- UAE: President Khalifa Bin Zayed calls for united response to the Israeli attack (*Al Ittihad*); The Federal National Council condemns Israeli raid on Freedom flotilla (*Khaleej Times*); *Al Khaleej* conducts a full-page investigative report entitled "The Zionist Terrorism Kills Freedom." The report reviews reaction of Emirati intellectuals, politicians and business leaders to the "Zionist attack on Freedom Flotilla"; Local events condemn Zionist attack on Freedom Flotilla; The Palestinian community staged a solidarity protest in Dubai (*Al Khaleej*)

2  
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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

B147

**From:** Sullivan, John L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:05 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Malaysia to table motion at parliament to condemn Israel

RELEASED IN FULL

Malaysia to table motion at parliament to condemn Israel

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Xinhua) -- The Malaysian Cabinet decided on Wednesday to table a motion at the Malaysian Parliament to strongly condemn Israel for attacking the humanitarian aid ship to Gaza.

The Prime Minister's Office said in a statement posted on its official website that the motion will be tabled next Monday, when the parliamentary meeting resumes.

On Tuesday, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said that Malaysia would make a motion so that Israel's brutal act would be brought up at the United Nations (UN) Security Council meeting.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Anifah Aman departed for Jordan Wednesday morning to seek the release of the 12 Malaysians on board the ship attacked by Israeli commandos.

The minister said earlier that Malaysia was disappointed with the UN as it had not strongly deplored Israel for breaking international laws.

Instead, the UN only expressed its regret over the incident, added Anifah.

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B148

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 1:24 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Flotilla Reaction: Cairo External News Summary 02-06-2010

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**Some more reactions from Egypt.**

**Gaza Flotilla:** Parliament Speaker Fathi Sorour said the two Egyptian parliamentarians detained in Israel after being taken by Israeli forces were released with the efforts of the general intelligence and ministry of foreign affairs (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). In a related context, UNSC condemned the Israeli attack on the flotilla. Egyptian delegate to the UN Maguid Abdel Fattah said the Arab group at the UN allowed the UN 30 days to complete their independent investigation before calling for another UNSC meeting to discuss the new procedures (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). In a related context, President Mubarak ordered yesterday the opening of Rafah Crossing to allow in humanitarian and medical needs to Gaza. The crossing will be opened in the two directions for an undefined time (Al Ahram, RAY). An official at Rafah Crossing said additional staff was called in to help facilitate the crossing operation. The first day of operation is today. Mamdouh Gabr, the secretary general of the Egyptian Red Crescent said his organization is currently deciding how much aid it will send (Al Gomhuria, El Shorouk). Khaled Meshaal in a speech in Yemeni Capital Sanaa thanked Egypt and asked for the crossing to remain permanently open (El Shorouk, Youm7). In a related context, Official and popular condemnations of the Israeli attack on the flotilla continued for the second day (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). Shura Council speaker Safwat El Sherrif said the Israeli army conduct could not be interpreted or justified. El Sherrif condemned the Israeli attack on behalf of the NDP and emphasized the need to hold an international investigation of the incident (Al Ahram, Al Gomhuria). Arab Foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting today to discuss the consequences of the Israeli attack on the flotilla (Al Gomhuria). Amr Moussa said yesterday at the permanent delegates meeting that Turley is now partnering with Arabs to counter the Israeli attack (El Shorouk). The meeting was attended for the first time by the Turkish Ambassador who falsified Israeli allegations that the attack was an act of self defense (Youm7). In the closed session, Syrian delegate proposed a 5 step plan that focuses on stopping normalization, lifting the siege, holding Israel accountable for the attack, unite in refusing indirect and direct negotiations before lifting the siege, coordinate to pursue Israeli war criminals (Youm7). In a related context, Egyptian and Libyan officials discussed yesterday countering the consequences of the Israeli attack on the flotilla (Al Gomhuria).

Thank You

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Usama Najeeb  
Political Specialist on External and Military Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Cairo

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B149

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:48 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: India condemns Israeli raid of flotilla bound for Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

India condemns Israeli raid of flotilla bound for Gaza

NEW DELHI, June 2 (Xinhua) -- India has condemned Israel for " indiscriminate use of force" in its raid on flotilla with humanitarian aid bound for the Gaza Strip, while calling for peaceful dialogue to restore peace between Israel and Palestine.

Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vishnu Prakash said Tuesday night in a statement that India deplores the tragic loss of life and the reports of killings and injuries to people on the boats carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza.

"It is our firm conviction that lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue and not through use of force," said the statement.

Meanwhile, India's ruling Congress party has also condemned the attack on the flotilla.

"Such use of force is blatant negation of all human values. The party expresses its sympathy with the families who have lost their members and with those who have suffered injuries," party general secretary Janardan Dwevedi said.

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13150

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Shelstad, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:32 AM  
**To:** 'Higdon, George S.'; SES-O  
**Cc:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** RE: Requested article

RELEASED IN PART  
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Mr. Higdon -

I have just spoken with the U.S. Consulate in Karachi.

The event happened yesterday afternoon (06/01) and the protest outside the Consulate was not large.

The Consulate reports all is quiet now (06/02 at 0915 Karachi / 0015 EDT).

Jeff Shelstad  
Watch Officer  
Department of State Operations Center (S/ES-O)  
[ShelstadJ@state.gov](mailto:ShelstadJ@state.gov) (202) 647-1512

---

**From:** Higdon, George S. [<mailto:George.S.Higdon@nss.eop.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:06 AM  
**To:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Requested article

Requested article concerning rioting near the American Consulate in Karachi in response to Israeli raid.

G. Scott Higdon  
Duty Officer  
WHSR  
(202) 456-9431 (open)  
770-7400 (secure)

---

**From:** NOC Media Monitoring [<mailto:kcraswell@techopsolutions.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:13 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients  
**Subject:** FOLLOW-UP #10--MMC IOI #569-05/10--Arrests Made In Anti-Israel Protest Targeting U.S. Consulate - Karachi, Pakistan

**Title:** Anti-Israel protest turns violent in Karachi  
**Location:** Karachi, Pakistan

**MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information.**

**Excerpt from News Articles:**

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The red zone of Karachi depicted a battle scene Tuesday evening as law enforcement agencies countered activists of the Inamia Student Organization (ISO), who were marching towards the American consulate to protest against Israel's attack on an aid flotilla.

According to reports, a large number of ISO activists staged a demonstration at the Karachi Press Club against Israel's atrocities, and after the demonstration the participants started marching towards the American Consulate to protest further.

Demonstrators pelted stones at police as they attempted to continue their march towards the consulate. Some reportedly succeeded in reaching the consulate, where officers tried to curb the agitation. Electricity was turned off and heavy clouds of smoke were visible.

Policemen used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd and arrested several activists.

**Sources:**

Express Tribune / International Herald Tribune

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/17909/anti-israel-protest-turns-violent-in-karachi/>

The Daily Times (Pakistan)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C06%5C02%5Cstory\\_2-6-2010\\_pg12\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C06%5C02%5Cstory_2-6-2010_pg12_1)

**Kim Craswell**

**Operations Analyst**

**DHS NOC Media Monitoring**

**Phone: (703)-802-6231 ext 5809**

**Cell:**

B6

<sup>2</sup>  
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18151

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Doner, Susan L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:12 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Requested article

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Forwarding...

**From:** Higdon, George S. [mailto:George\_S\_Higdon@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:06 AM  
**To:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Requested article

Requested article concerning rioting near the American Consulate in Karachi in response to Israeli raid.

G. Scott Higdon  
Duty Officer  
WHSR  
(202) 456-9431 (open)  
770-7400 (secure)

**From:** NOC Media Monitoring [mailto:kcraswell@techopsolutions.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:13 PM  
**To:** Undisclosed recipients  
**Subject:** FOLLOW-UP #10--MMC IOI #569-05/10--Arrests Made In Anti-Israel Protest Targeting U.S. Consulate - Karachi, Pakistan

**Title:** Anti-Israel protest turns violent in Karachi  
**Location:** Karachi, Pakistan

**MMC CIR #3: Identifying events with operational value...corroborating critical information.**

**Excerpt from News Articles:**

The red zone of Karachi depicted a battle scene Tuesday evening as law enforcement agencies countered activists of the Inamia Student Organization (ISO), who were marching towards the American consulate to protest against Israel's attack on an aid flotilla.

According to reports, a large number of ISO activists staged a demonstration at the Karachi Press Club against Israel's atrocities, and after the demonstration the participants started marching towards the American Consulate to protest further.

Demonstrators pelted stones at police as they attempted to continue their march towards the consulate. Some reportedly succeeded in reaching the consulate, where officers tried to curb the agitation. Electricity was turned off and heavy clouds of smoke were visible.

Policemen used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd and arrested several activists.

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**Sources:**

Express Tribune / International Herald Tribune

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/17909/anti-israel-protest-turns-violent-in-karachi/>

The Daily Times (Pakistan)

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C06%5C02%5Cstory\\_2-6-2010\\_pg12\\_1](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C06%5C02%5Cstory_2-6-2010_pg12_1)

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**Cell:**

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B/52

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Sullivan, John L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:10 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Israel repatriating families of Ankara embassy staff: report

RELEASED IN FULL

Israel repatriating families of Ankara embassy staff: report

JERUSALEM, June 2, 2010 (AFP) - Israel is repatriating the families of its embassy staff in Ankara amid tensions over its raid on a Gaza-bound aid convoy, in which at least four Turkish nationals died, Israeli public radio reported Wednesday.

Around 50 people related to Israeli consulate and embassy staff in Ankara were heading home, a senior official told the station, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

13153

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:57 PM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: UPDATE: 124 Gaza aid flotilla activists arrive in Jordan

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FYI

124 Gaza aid flotilla activists arrive in Jordan  
DALE GAVLAK, Associated Press Writer

ALLENBY BRIDGE, Jordan (AP) - Dozens of pro-Palestinian activists detained in the Israeli raid on the Gaza aid flotilla arrived in Jordan on Wednesday after being deported from neighboring Israel, Jordanian officials said.

The 124 activists from 12 Muslim nations - most of them without diplomatic ties with Israel - crossed the Allenby Bridge aboard five Jordanian buses.

The bridge across the Jordan River is under Israeli control. It links Jordan with the West Bank.

Jordanian government spokesman Nabil Al-Sharif said there were 30 Jordanians in the group. Jordan is one of two Arab nations with a signed peace treaty with Israel.

The bridge's Jordanian chief, Brig. Mahmoud Abu Jumaa, said Jordan will help repatriate the activists - who include lawmakers and journalists - to their respective countries in coordination with their governments.

Kuwaiti ambassador Sheik Faisal Al Sabah said there were 16 Kuwaitis aboard the buses. "They will be flown home aboard a Kuwaiti government-chartered plane later Wednesday," Al Sabah said.

He said the other activists came from Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Yemen, Oman and Bahrain.

Dozens of other activists remain in Israeli detention, but most are expected to be deported in the coming days.

Worldwide condemnation has poured on Israel since its naval commandos halted the aid flotilla in international waters overnight Monday, setting off a melee that left nine activists dead and dozens wounded. Turkey, an unofficial backer of the flotilla, has led the criticism, accusing Israel of committing a "massacre," and the U.N. Security Council demanded an impartial investigation.

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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**From:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:01 PM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL); Mayfield, Kay (DRL); Johnstone, Kari A (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Cc:** Posner, Michael H  
**Subject:** FW: Daily Press Briefing - with Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs  
**Importance:** High

B5



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**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, the Secretary conveyed to Foreign Minister Davutoglu primarily what she conveyed in her press availability that you heard a short time ago, that we support the Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. We support an Israeli investigation and – but we're open to different ways of ensuring a credible investigation, including international participation.

**From:** Pelton, Erin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:45 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Daily Press Briefing - with Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs

The Gaza/flotilla-related discussion from today's Daily Press Briefing is excerpted below.

On-Camera Daily Press Briefing Index  
 Tuesday, June 1, 2010  
 3:41 p.m. (EDT)

Briefer: Philip J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs

03:41 p.m. EDT

**MR. CROWLEY:** But I can report the Secretary had a very detailed, in-depth discussion with Foreign Minister Davutoglu. The first portion of the meeting was on the immediate situation with respect to the flotilla. The second half of the meeting regarded the situation with respect to Iran. I'll go into detail on that, I'm sure, through your questions.

**QUESTION:** P.J., I'm wondering if you can give us a bit of – a little bit of flavor of what the conversation between the Secretary and the Turkish foreign minister was. He had some pretty strong things to say this morning. His boss has had some pretty strong things to say as well. Is it safe to assume that – I mean, he came out and said that he wanted the United States to condemn this act. Neither the Secretary nor the spokesman at the White House would do that. Is it fair to say that there's still not a meeting of the minds on this between the U.S. and Turks?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Actually, not at all. It was a – obviously, very in-depth discussion lasting far longer than had been originally scheduled. And throughout the meeting, both the Secretary and Foreign Minister Davutoglu more than once said, look, we are here as allies and we have a shared interest in working through what are very tragic circumstances that have created significant emotions in the region. The foreign minister talked about Turkey's immediate concern, which is the return of their citizens and Turkish citizens who were tragically killed in this episode. And the Secretary fully

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understood that. In fact, we have our own concerns and are providing consular assistance today to roughly 11 American citizens who were part of the flotilla.

And so in our conversations that we've had subsequently with Israeli officials, we have again stressed the importance of moving ahead and releasing citizens from a wide range of countries, not just Turkey, even as Israel goes through and begins its own investigation of what happened.

**QUESTION:** Well, yeah, but you still haven't condemned this. Was the conversation at all heated? Why was there the need for the foreign minister to make a phone call to his -- to the prime minister?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I mean, that was simply about the sequence of events. You've got the foreign minister has met -- since he met with Secretary Clinton, he has also met with the National Security Council Advisor General Jones and working through and teeing up having those meetings prior to a call. So it was just a matter of rescheduling the President's call and making sure that the -- we had preliminary meetings with the Secretary and the National Security Advisor first.

**QUESTION:** Did their conversation enter into the Gaza situation, deeper into that situation? And I assume that there are disagreements there on the role of Hamas. Did they broach these subjects?

**MR. CROWLEY:** No, they weren't discussed. Clearly, there -- the foreign minister went through some background from a Turkish standpoint and the preparations that they had made and discussions they had had with Israeli Government officials prior to the launching of the flotilla. But this was primarily focused on understanding where we are now and what should be done in the short and intermediate term.

**QUESTION:** Did the Turks agree with the idea of an Israeli probe of what happened or did they push more for foreign participation, international participation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I mean, the Secretary conveyed to Foreign Minister Davutoglu primarily what she conveyed in her press availability that you heard a short time ago, that we support the Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. We support an Israeli investigation and -- but we're open to different ways of ensuring a credible investigation, including international participation.

Now, Turkey will have its own judgment as to any investigation it might undertake, since this was a Turkish ship among other international --

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. CROWLEY:** I mean, and Foreign Minister Davutoglu did say, and we fully understand, that this is not just an incident that involves Turkey and Israel. A number of countries, including the United States, obviously had citizens and flagged vessels as part of this flotilla.

**QUESTION:** On the investigation --

**QUESTION:** Can I --

**MR. CROWLEY:** One at a time.

**QUESTION:** Can I follow on something Matt said and some -- and one of the ways you've answered the -- where we go from here, or the meeting upstairs with the foreign minister? First of all with the foreign minister, did he ask her assistance, Secretary Clinton's assistance, in talking to the Israelis about freeing the ship or freeing Turkish citizens or getting them released?

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And secondly, you mentioned 11 Americans. I'm led to believe there were at least 14 that are still there. Perhaps there are different categories.

**MR. CROWLEY:** There have been some American citizens who have already departed Israel. I would just simply say I think we provided consular services for 11 today.

**QUESTION:** Still in detention? They are -- those -- the 11 are still in detention?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I think those 11 are still being held, yes.

**QUESTION:** On the investigation --

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible.)

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible.)

**MR. CROWLEY:** All right, hold on. Again, one at a time.

**QUESTION:** The other part of the question about did the foreign minister ask Secretary Clinton's assistance in talking to the Israelis on Turkey's behalf?

**MR. CROWLEY:** The -- well, the Turkish Government has been in touch with the Israeli Government. I think they have a couple of aircraft that have already arrived at Ben Gurion and they are understandably anxious to bring those who are killed, injured, but other Turkish citizens, back to Turkey. He stressed that a couple -- a number of times. The Secretary indicated that we would convey Turkey's desires to Israel and we have done that.

**QUESTION:** What would participation look like in an investigation -- can I (inaudible)?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Sure.

**QUESTION:** Because you said impartial and transparent and so on investigation, then an Israel investigation. Are those two separate things or are we supporting -- or are you supporting just an Israeli investigation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** We believe that Israel is in the best position to conduct an investigation of what transpired. And as we've said, we want to make sure it is prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent.

**QUESTION:** Why?

**QUESTION:** How would you determine that?

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) the fox watching the henhouse here. I mean, you've said there's 11 Americans involved in this. What other --

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, I said there -- no, let me clarify. I said that we've provided consular services to 11 Americans today.

**QUESTION:** Okay. A foreign military boarded a ship in international waters, assaulted its passengers, handcuffed and beat some of those passengers, many of them humanitarian activists, and you're saying you're not prepared to send U.S. investigators. I mean, this is clearly a case of the fox watching the henhouse.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, you're making some presumptions in those -- in your question.



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**QUESTION:** What's the presumption? You said there's 11 --

**MR. CROWLEY:** No, no, no, you characterized what happened on the ship. We are still trying to ascertain precisely what happened on that ship.

**QUESTION:** Then will you send investigators from the United States to do an impartial --

**MR. CROWLEY:** As the Secretary indicated, we completely support what was described in the presidential statement last night in the UN and we are open to determine if there are opportunities for international participation in that investigation.

**QUESTION:** Would that include sending the FBI?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm not prepared to say what role the United States would have at this point.

**QUESTION:** P.J. --

**QUESTION:** P.J., this building has made it a point to criticize and to condemn human rights practices worldwide. These ships had aid, medical equipment including wheelchairs, building equipment. How essential is it right now that this equipment get to the Palestinians? How important is it that there -- that these materials are now sort of confiscated and not within the hands of those who desperately need it? Is this useful right now?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, first of all, I can't say right now what the status of the material that was on the ship -- certainly, again in the presidential statement, there was an encouragement, which we absolutely support, that that material be provided to the people of Gaza. As the Secretary said again today, we have pressed the Israelis to expand the amount of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza, and we will continue to work with the Israelis every day to try to make that happen.

Lachlan.

**QUESTION:** It's my understanding that before this flotilla was launched, there was some communication by the Israeli Government with the U.S. ambassador there about the possibility that U.S. citizens would be aboard some of these ships. And the Israelis have made no secret about what they were planning to do. They even put together a press pool to observe this. So I'm wondering, did the United States offer any words of caution to Israel before it undertook this attempt to stop these ships? Was there any kind of communication at any level, ambassador or from this building, to the Israeli Government saying you need to be careful and watch how you handle this situation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'll take that question. I believe the answer is yes, but I'm not in a position to characterize what our communication was prior to the launching of the flotilla.

**QUESTION:** Okay. And then further on that, what is the U.S. Government saying to Israel now about this? Because there is going to be another attempt, I think as early as tomorrow, to bring a ship into Gaza. Is the United States offering any words of caution to Israel that if you're going to try to stop it this time, do it differently?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, the Secretary had the opportunity to learn from the Israeli Government yesterday; Minister of Defense Barak called in to provide the Israeli perspective on this. And the Secretary, during that conversation, did express concern about the -- obviously, the loss of life, the injury, the impact that that's had on emotions in the region. And she did, at that point, express that for the United States, for Israel, for other countries, we should be extremely cautious in both what we say and what we do in coming days in light of what's transpired.

**QUESTION:** So what you're saying is that the message from the United States Government is that Israel should not use these same tactics the next time they encounter ships like this heading towards Gaza.

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**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, as to what Israel does, we are obviously very aware that there is one or more ships that are still heading towards Gaza. This is a very serious incident that's occurred. The loss of life is tragic. The Secretary expressed our condolences to the Turks for their loss of life on board these ships. I think -- don't think anyone wants to see a repeat of what happened yesterday.

**QUESTION:** And could you just clarify a point of international law for me? Because the Israeli Government says that it's well within their rights to do what they did yesterday. They cite the Paragraph 62-A of the San Remo Manual, whereas the Turkish foreign minister this morning was quite emphatic that this took place in international waters and Israel had no right to board these ships. What is the opinion of the United States Government on this --

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, not being an international lawyer, I'm not going to that from the podium. Clearly, that will be something that will be investigated, and I'm sure debated, as we go forward.

**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) -- understanding that Israel was acting in self-defense?

**MR. CROWLEY:** We certainly --

**QUESTION:** Although --

**MR. CROWLEY:** -- understand that Israel has a right to self-defense. Given the situation in Gaza, it has been subject to rocket attacks in the past. There is a state of hostility between Israel and Hamas. But as to particular questions of international law, I'll defer. That will be -- clearly be something that will be thoroughly debated and investigated.

**QUESTION:** You sound like you're saying that Israel had the right to defend itself here because of Palestinian rockets.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Israel has a right to self-defense, to be sure. That said, there is also a clear humanitarian need to provide material to the people of Gaza to help them subsist and rebuild, and we recognize that as well.

**QUESTION:** In this incident, you see its right to self-defense being applied?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm -- as we've said, we regret the tragic loss of life here. We've called for a prompt, credible, transparent investigation. We are still trying to determine what happened on that ship. I'm not going to prejudice the investigation from here.

**QUESTION:** Doesn't this provide the Obama Administration an opening? It said early on its first months in office that it wanted to repair its relations with the Arab and Muslim world. This crisis has proven, many believe, that Israel is acting as a strategic liability. The U.S. has ways of ending the crisis in Gaza, the starving of the 1.6 million of the civilian population. They have assets, humanitarian assets, ships. Would the U.S. consider breaking with coordinating with Israel some sort of siege to let humanitarian goods and medical services into the strip?

**MR. CROWLEY:** We -- as I just said -- I can repeat what I just said. We clearly have supported the expansion of humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza. As the Secretary and others have said, the situation in Gaza is unsustainable. We want to see how we can provide greater assistance to the people of Gaza --

**QUESTION:** What is the assistance you give now?

**MR. CROWLEY:** -- but -- let me finish -- but clearly, while protecting Israel's legitimate right of self-defense.

**QUESTION:** What is the assistance you're giving now? There was 900 million pledged last year. What's happened to it?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'll be happy to take that question.

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**QUESTION:** Can I change topics for a second?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm sure not yet.

**QUESTION:** Can I just clarify a few things? You mentioned the 11 that you have provided consular access to. Can you give us the total number of Americans you believe were involved in the incident? There's been ranges up to 20 and down to lower than that.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Let me see what our latest information is.

**QUESTION:** Okay.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Because I don't -- I wasn't -- I've heard like 14.

**QUESTION:** Right. I've heard that one, yeah.

**MR. CROWLEY:** I don't think we had contact to all of them. There were some people who have manifested on these vessels, we haven't found them yet, so I'm not sure we've arrived at a --

**QUESTION:** Okay. And I have --

**MR. CROWLEY:** -- firm number of those involved.

**QUESTION:** I have a few more questions --

**MR. CROWLEY:** Go ahead.

**QUESTION:** -- if I can ask my colleagues' indulgence on. How many Americans injured? Do you have a list of those yet?

**MR. CROWLEY:** I'm only aware of one that received minor injuries and was treated yesterday at an Israeli hospital.

**QUESTION:** One you said, okay.

**MR. CROWLEY:** One.

**QUESTION:** Has -- have you heard anything from the Palestinians about their unwillingness to take part in further indirect peace talks -- in the proximity talks?

**MR. CROWLEY:** As far as I know, and I talked to George Mitchell a few minutes ago, he's planning to leave for the region later this afternoon and he has meetings planned as early as tomorrow with Palestinian officials.

**QUESTION:** (Off-mike.)

**QUESTION:** Hold on, hold on a second. I've got a couple more.

**MR. CROWLEY:** All right.

**QUESTION:** Just on the blockade, can you clarify the U.S. position? Do you think it should be lifted or do you think there's a legitimate Israeli reason for it?

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MR. CROWLEY: We believe there are -- certainly, Israel has a right to be concerned about the nature of materials that is moving into Gaza. At the same time, we've long called for an expansion of humanitarian goods to the people of Gaza to help improve their situation on the ground.

QUESTION: Does that include the blockade?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm not going to get into issues of the blockade.

QUESTION: All right. And then my last question was -- I don't think you've sufficiently answered why the -- why an Israeli investigation could be at all independent and transparent. Why exactly -- why would you call, of all things, for an Israeli investigation of --

MR. CROWLEY: I think the term used in the presidential statement was "impartial" and we support that investigation and believe that Israel is in the best position to lead that investigation.

QUESTION: How can a party to the investigation be impartial if it's an investigation of itself? Why are they in the best position? Can you explain that?

MR. CROWLEY: I'm --

QUESTION: Well, I mean, just in --

QUESTION: I was going to ask the same question. It does not make sense.

MR. CROWLEY: We support the --

QUESTION: Especially judging from the --

MR. CROWLEY: We -- look, we support the statement from the UN release last night and that characterizes our position.

QUESTION: But why do you think Israel would be impartial in this investigation? If you judge by their media comments, they've already prejudged, which is something you say you don't want to do.

MR. CROWLEY: I -- again, I -- I don't agree with your -- you're leaping ahead here before --

QUESTION: Well, the --

MR. CROWLEY: -- the investigation has barely begun.

QUESTION: You say Israel is best positioned. You have just said a few minutes ago --

MR. CROWLEY: Right.

QUESTION: -- that Israel is best positioned. And you haven't answered his question about why that's so when they're part of this. And how can that be?

MR. CROWLEY: Well --

QUESTION: (Off-mike.)

QUESTION: Just -- well, hold on. Just to clarify a point. I mean, just a moment ago you said the question of whether or not this was an -- under international law or not, was something to be addressed as part of an investigation. But the

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Israeli Government has already said its actions are permissible under their interpretation of international law. So how can they conduct an investigation that would examine the question of whether or not this took place --

**MR. CROWLEY:** Again, I'll just repeat what I just said. We believe that Israel is in the best position to carry out this investigation. As the Secretary said a short time ago, we are open to ideas on how there might be broader participation.

**QUESTION:** We're just asking you to explain your logic. We're not -- we just want to know why you think they're best positioned. Can't you explain that?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, these were Israeli forces that carried out this action and we think that that means that they're in the best position to investigate whether -- what the instructions were given to those forces, how they viewed the situation as they approached the flotilla, and what transpired on board that ship.

**QUESTION:** Will Abbas still come as scheduled?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Yes, President Abbas is -- will be here next week and will visit with the President on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**QUESTION:** So the fact that Mr. Netanyahu is no longer meeting with the President today, that is not putting off the calendar?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, as the -- the President and the prime minister talked multiple times yesterday and they agreed that they would reschedule their meeting as soon as possible.

**QUESTION:** Do you or the Turks or anyone else that you've talked to have any ideas about potential international participation in the investigation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Look, we're going to have these kinds of conversations in the coming days --

**QUESTION:** Well, I'm just asking if -- but have they -- have they happened already?

**MR. CROWLEY:** What -- has what happened?

**QUESTION:** Have ideas been thrown out about how there could be international participation --

**MR. CROWLEY:** Not to my knowledge.

**QUESTION:** -- in the investigation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Not yet.

**QUESTION:** So this is just -- so the Security Council statement is based on air? If there haven't been ideas tossed around or people haven't suggested different ways that there could be an international component to the investigation, how are you supporting it?

**MR. CROWLEY:** All right, let me clarify. We are -- we will look at how -- I mean, obviously, Turkey has a vital interest in this. Other countries have a vital interest in this. There are -- a number of citizens and ships from multiple countries that were involved in this. And we will work within the Council and more broadly to see how an international element can be introduced into this investigation.

**QUESTION:** Right. Well, just let me -- let's just look at a different example. Look at the South Korean ship incident, where you had numerous countries involved in that, with the South Koreans obviously taking the lead, but you were involved as well. I mean, is that something that -- is that something that --

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MR. CROWLEY: We were invited to participate because we have a particular expertise that --

QUESTION: So it's up to Israel to invite people, whoever they want, to join their investigation?

MR. CROWLEY: Look, I've just said we will help think through how to make this as credible and transparent, impartial, and prompt as possible.

QUESTION: But you believe though, right now, that Israel is capable of doing all -- meeting all those criteria on its own?

MR. CROWLEY: As a --

QUESTION: On its own.

MR. CROWLEY: As a vibrant democracy accountable to its people, we have every confidence that Israel is fully capable of investigating this.

QUESTION: Okay. Well, I think that was the answer to the question --

MR. CROWLEY: Okay.

QUESTION: -- that people were asking before. If that's what you believe, then that's -- that's fine.

QUESTION: But does a vibrant democracy arrest journalists, handcuff and beat them? Just that allegation in itself should absolve Israel from doing its own investigation.

QUESTION: I was wondering -- the Israelis have said that they believe the aid group was connected to terrorist groups -- al-Qaida. Do you agree? Does the State Department -- can you confirm that? Is there any truth to it?

MR. CROWLEY: I've got -- I don't know. I don't know on what basis -- I've heard that said. I'm not sure on what basis --

QUESTION: Can you take that question? I mean, it's -- because they cite -- one of the groups that they say they're connected to -- is a group that in 2008 the United States put on the state -- on the terrorism list.

MR. CROWLEY: I understand that.

QUESTION: So you should have some knowledge or understanding about it.

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, part of this goes into the aspect of -- again, this should be part of the investigation in terms of who was on that ship, how was it organized. These vessels assembled somewhere between the coast of Turkey and Israeli waters, and so it might have been organized under one group's auspices, but we're very conscious of the fact that there were a number of people representing a variety of different NGOs on that ship.

QUESTION: Could you take the question?

MR. CROWLEY: What's -- so I just want to understand the question. Is -- what is our assessment of the IHH?

QUESTION: Yes.

MR. CROWLEY: All right. We'll take that question.

QUESTION: Will Turkey do its own investigation if the Israelis are doing their -- if, I mean --

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**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, that's a matter to address to address to the Government of Turkey.

**QUESTION:** The prime minister said this morning that Turkey was not going to move forward with plans to try mediating a restart in the Israel-Syria indirect talks. I'm wondering if that came up in the meeting with the Secretary. And more broadly, is there concern in the State Department that this is really going to torpedo any effort to get the kind of regional support for peace moves that you've been working for for the past year and a half?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, we certainly hope not. As the Secretary reiterated today and at various statements that we put out yesterday, we think that this incident underscores why we are trying to push ahead with a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, because ultimately, that is the only way that you avoid these kinds of situations in the future. So we are – that's why George Mitchell is going back to the region tonight and we want to see the proximity talks continue and lead to direct negotiations.

Now, during the course of the meeting, Foreign Minister Davutoglu reflected on the deep and rich history that Turkey has with Israel. Turkey has been one of Israel's closest friends in the region for 60 years. But as to what happens in light of this incident, I think that remains to be seen. But to the extent that Israel can address Turkey's very legitimate concerns about getting its citizens returned – and I suppose Turkey will be judging the nature of the Israeli investigation into this incident. And on that basis, different countries will determine what the implications are.

**QUESTION:** As you wait for the Israeli investigation, how much weight will you give to the statements of American citizens who were there, who were on those boats? Some of them have even released statements to the press denying Israeli allegations that they used white weapons and that everything they had was basically made out of plastic.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Again, that's why we have been very cautious in our statements until we have a better perspective on what actually happened on that ship and why we have called for a prompt, thorough, impartial, transparent investigation.

Jill.

**QUESTION:** P.J., the foreign minister this morning told some journalists that the one thing that they really want from the United States is condemnation of this action by the United States. Did that come up? Did he ask Secretary Clinton to do that? Was there any – if so, was there any answer by the Secretary?

**MR. CROWLEY:** It did not come up. He did not make that demand specifically in the meeting. And the Secretary reiterated during the meeting what she said afterwards, which is we have to have a careful, thoughtful approach to this going forward.

**QUESTION:** Did he make any demands or ask for anything for the United States directly to do?

**MR. CROWLEY:** We've already covered that. He indicated that Turkey's immediate focus was on the – on their citizens and the return of those who have been killed, injured, and others on board the ship. And we have conveyed Turkey's concern to the Israeli Government.

**QUESTION:** What coordination has the State Department had with the Egyptian Government? I saw that the Rafah crossing was supposed to be opened rather soon, at least temporarily.

**MR. CROWLEY:** I can't – at a high – I don't know how high a level. I think we've been in touch with a variety of capitals since yesterday to compare notes and to express our concern about moving forward in a cautious way. I don't know whether Egypt indicated to us in advance what they are prepared to do.

**QUESTION:** Has Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit been rescheduled?

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MR. CROWLEY: Yes.

QUESTION: When will he come?

QUESTION: P.J. --

MR. CROWLEY: Right. The meeting that was supposed to be held today will be rescheduled. I don't know that there's a new date yet.

QUESTION: (Inaudible) in a conference call today said he thanked the United States profusely for the actions it took behind the scenes at the Security Council to -- quote, unquote -- "water down the resolution." What happened behind the scenes in the Security Council on -- what did the United States do to help out the Israelis?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I think it was a thorough debate over many hours. As with the case with statements that come out of the Security Council (inaudible) -- statement, words have meaning and we worked closely with a number of countries to make sure that going forward that there was significant action calling for an investigation, but making sure that any actions do not further inflame emotions in the region.

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B156

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Shelton, Deretta F  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:59 PM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: Situation Report No.4 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

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## **SITUATION REPORT No. 4**

**Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01**

Tuesday, June 1, 2010  
2030 EDT

### **STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**

(SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv consular officers gained access to 11 detained American citizens, two of whom had been briefly hospitalized. Two Amcits, including former Ambassador Peck, were deported. A consular assistant visited the morgue June 1; none of the deceased match photos of any known Americans. At least 100 detainees have not yet been registered. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

### **STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS**

- (SBU) The Israeli cabinet decided to repatriate all Turkish detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. The cabinet also supported a National Police request to detain those suspected of attacking the IDF for further investigation. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (SBU) Israelis believe all of the deceased are Turkish citizens. Turkish embassy officials are working to identify the remaining dead. There are 42 Turkish nationals in Israeli hospitals; 24 Turks have been repatriated. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (SBU) The Prisons Service is holding about 610 flotilla participants. All detainees refusing to sign deportation waivers will be brought before a judge prior to facing deportation. Forty eight of them chose to comply with the expulsion order and have already left. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

### **CARGO**

(U) The unloading of the flotilla's cargo continues at the port of Ashdod where Israeli officials are examining the cargo for illicit materials. The IDF hopes to deliver legitimate cargo to the Gaza Strip at the end of the week. *(Yedioth Ahronoth)*

### **INCOMING SHIPS**

Please see the classified version of this product.

### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

(SBU) The UN Human Rights Council delayed a vote on a Palestinian-drafted resolution condemning Israel and establishing an investigatory mechanism until June 2. *(MGGZ01/USUNHCR e-mail)*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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**INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS**

- (U) Media reports indicate Egypt opened its border with the Gaza Strip, letting Palestinians cross until further notice. *(Reuters)*
- (SBU) Jordan offered to facilitate the repatriation of citizens of Muslim states that do not have relations with Israel. At least one Indonesian and one Lebanese are among the wounded, and the Jordanians will handle their repatriation.  
*(MGGZ01/Embassy Amman e-mail)*

**TURKISH RESPONSE**

(SBU) PM Erdogan struck a more moderate tone following his May 31 remarks. Erdogan denounced anti-Semitism but appealed to Israelis to pressure the Netanyahu government to stop resorting to violence. He also called for the immediate release of passengers and seized ships. *(Ankara 781)*

For more information on the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops portal at the following link:  
[http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza\\_Flotilla\\_2010](http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Drafted: JMSindle

Approved: PMBeekman

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS

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B160

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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**From:** Duguid, Gordon K [duguidgk2@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:52 PM  
**To:** Heffern, John A; Baez, Alejandro X; EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.  
**Cc:** USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** RE: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

B5

[Redacted]

B5

Gordon Duguid  
 Public Affairs  
 Tel: +202-647-9606

**From:** Heffern, John A [mailto:HeffernJA@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Duguid, Gordon K; Baez, Alejandro X; EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.  
**Cc:** USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** RE: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

[Redacted]

SBU  
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**From:** Duguid, Gordon K [mailto:duguidgk2@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:15 PM  
**To:** Baez, Alejandro X; EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.  
**Cc:** USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** RE: Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Gordon Duguid  
 Public Affairs  
 Tel: +202-647-9606

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

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**From:** Baez, Alejandro X [mailto:Baezax@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:49 AM  
**To:** EUR-RPM-DL; Bradley, Tobin J.; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kelso, Jesse, CIV, OSD-POLICY; Jeffrey, James F; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.  
**Cc:** USNATO POL; Ross, Rebecca; USNATO ODA Directors; Julazadeh, David J; Szczepanik, Jeffrey P; Harrison, Paul Q; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

01 Jun. 2010

Press Release: (2010) 074

## Statement by the Secretary General of NATO on Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza

Today the North Atlantic Council (NAC) met for an extraordinary meeting to discuss the recent Israeli operation against ships bound for Gaza. There was an extensive exchange of views among Allies on all aspects of this tragic event.

I would like to express my deep regret over the loss of lives and the other casualties resulting from the use of force during the incident involving the convoy sailing to Gaza. I offer sincere condolences to the families of all victims and condemn the acts which have led to this tragedy. I add my voice to the calls by the United Nations and the European Union for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation into the incident.

As a matter of urgency, I also request the immediate release of the detained civilians and ships held by Israel.

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B/162

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Rosenthal, Hannah S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:01 PM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Cc:** Cofsky, Warren A (DRL); Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
**Subject:** FW: Arab Media Reports on Flotilla Participants: Writing Wills, Preparing for Martyrdom, Determined to Reach Gaza or Die

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Just FYI

**From:** MEMRI [mailto:memri@memri.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:54 PM  
**To:** Rosenthal, Hannah S  
**Subject:** Arab Media Reports on Flotilla Participants: Writing Wills, Preparing for Martyrdom, Determined to Reach Gaza or Die

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Special Dispatch | 2990 | June 1, 2010

Palestinians



**Arab Media Reports on Flotilla Participants:  
 Writing Wills, Preparing for Martyrdom,  
 Determined to Reach Gaza or Die**

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








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

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**Flotilla Participants**

Following is information from the Arab media about some of the flotilla participants. It should be noted that many of these were from the Muslim Brotherhood across the Muslim world:

**Egypt**

In Friday sermons, Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Muhammad Badi' expressed support for Hamas, frequently reiterating harsh statements in favor of jihad and of the armed struggle in Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan (For more on this subject, see also MEMRI Special Dispatch No. 2986, "MEMRI TV Clips on the Gaza Flotilla: Activists On Board Chant Songs of Martyrdom at Departure," <http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/4249.htm>).

The Egyptian flotilla delegation included two members of the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Egyptian parliament: Muhammad Al-Baltaji and Hazem Farouq.

Al-Baltaji, who is deputy secretary-general of the Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc in Egypt, said at a March 2010 conference, "A nation that excels at dying will be blessed by Allah with a life of dignity and with eternal paradise." He also said that his movement "will never recognize Israel and will never abandon the resistance," and that "resistance is the only road map that can save Jerusalem, restore the Arab honor, and prevent Palestine from becoming a second Andalusia.[1]



Muslim Brotherhood logo

**Lebanon**

The Lebanese flotilla delegation, with six members, was headed by attorney Dr. Hani Suleiman, who also participated in a February 2009 Gaza flotilla. He was pro-bono attorney to Japanese terrorist Kozo Okamoto.[2] In 2006, he signed a communiqué supporting armed resistance in Palestine, Lebanon, and Iraq.[3]

Three other members of the Lebanese delegation are Al-Jazeera TV correspondents.[4] One, 'Abbas Nasser, worked for Hizbullah's Al-Manar TV from 1997 through 2003; he has said that he enjoyed working there because he felt like part of a family, and because the channel "embraced his religious and political orientation." In 2003, he also worked for Iran's Al-'Alam TV.[5]

Another delegation member, Hussein Shaker, is known as "Abu Al-Shuhada" ("Father of the Martyrs"). He has reportedly expressed a desire to meet "his martyrs" (i.e. relatives killed during the 2006 Lebanon war), and has called his participation in the flotilla revenge for their deaths.[6]

**Jordan**

The Jordanian flotilla delegation included Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan activists such as delegation head Wael Al-Saka, a veteran Muslim Brotherhood member,[7] and Salam Al-Falahat, who was general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan from 2006 to 2008.[8] In an interview last year, Al-Falahat said: "We in the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan see Palestine as part of the Islamic and Arab land that must not be relinquished – on the contrary, defending it is a national and jurisprudential obligation... We see Hamas movement in Palestine as standing at the head of the project of the Arab and Islamic liberation for which the Muslim Brotherhood calls... The Muslim

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Brotherhood supports Hamas and every Arab resistance movement in the region that works for liberation."<sup>[9]</sup>

Also in the delegation was Jordanian publicist and journalist Muhammad Abu Ghanima, a former head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan's information bureau and a member of the movement's political bureau. Abu Ghanima writes frequent articles praising Hamas and condemning the Palestinian Authority. In one, he vehemently attacked Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, calling on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt to topple his regime even at the cost of thousands of martyrs.<sup>[10]</sup>

Journalist Saud Salam Abu Mahfouz, member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan's political party, the Islamic Action Front, is also director-general of the Jordanian *Al-Sabil* newspaper, which is identified with the Muslim Brotherhood. His son, Jordanian correspondent for Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, was arrested in Egypt in 2008.<sup>[11]</sup>

### Syria

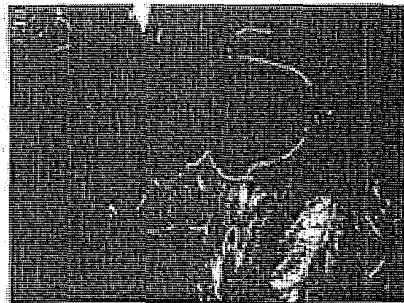
The only Syrian citizen of the flotilla's 700 participants was Shadha Barakat. She was sent as a representative of the Civil Association for Resisting Zionism and Aid for Palestine, which supports armed resistance in Palestine and in Iraq. Her husband Ayman said that she had written a play on assassinated Hamas founder and leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and had told him that when she reaches Gaza she "plans to visit [Yassin's] home and inhale the scent of the place where he lived."<sup>[12]</sup>

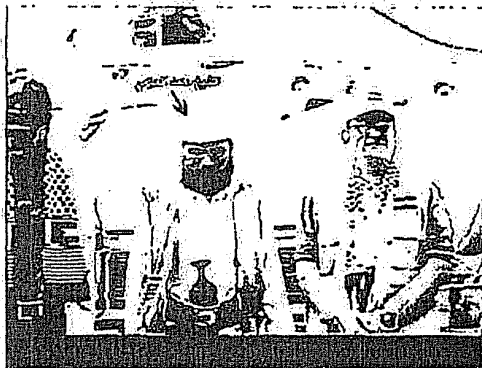


Logo of the Civil Association for Resisting Zionism and Aid for Palestine

### Yemen

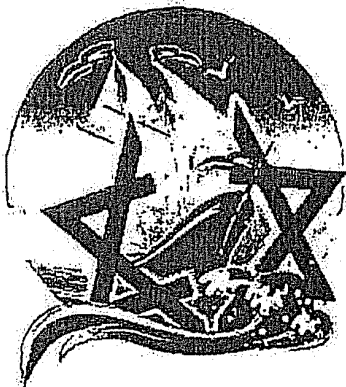
Prominent activists in the Yemeni flotilla delegation were three MPs from the Al-Islah party, an Islamist party that is close to the Muslim Brotherhood. One, Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hazmi, was photographed on the deck of the Mavi Marmara brandishing his large curved dagger.<sup>[13]</sup>





Yemenite Sheikh Muhammad Al-Hazmi

Another Yemeni MP in the flotilla, Hazza' Al-Maswari, also from the Al-Islah party, previously expressed vehement anti-American sentiment. In 2004, he objected to a Yemeni program for dialogue with prisoners from Al-Qaeda aimed at tempering their views, declaring recently at Friday prayers: "We cannot tell militants 'don't terrorize Americans' or 'don't attack their interests.' Those who plant hatred will harvest hatred."<sup>[14]</sup>



Depiction of flotilla on Yemeni website<sup>[15]</sup>

#### Kuwait

Among the prominent flotilla activists from Kuwait were Salafist MP Walid Al-Tabtabai, who is known to support armed resistance in Palestine and in Iraq. He said: "We think that the armed resistance in Iraq is legitimate resistance. Every resistance directed against anyone who occupies it is legitimate..."<sup>[16]</sup> Al-Tabtabai also expressed explicit support for Hamas and objected to the regime of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.<sup>[17]</sup>

Another prominent Kuwaiti activist in the flotilla was Dr. Osama Al-Kandari, a Hadith lecturer at the College of Basic Education. In February 2009, he signed a communiqué expressing support for Hamas and for jihad in Palestine against the "Jewish enemies."<sup>[18]</sup>

#### Bahrain

Sheikh Jalal Al-Sharqi, head of the Association of Islamic Scholars in the GCC Countries, was also on board. Previously, Al-Sharqi signed a clerics' petition calling to acknowledge Hamas's legitimacy, as recognized by shari'a, and not to prevent it from obtaining weapons. The petition justified the stance of the "fighters in Gaza" who cling to jihad "against the Jews" and to



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martyrdom.[19]

### Israeli Arabs

The Monitoring Committee of the Israeli Arabs sent four of its members to the flotilla, including Sheikh Raed Salah, head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel. He made statements in support of Hamas and against the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority. Previously, Salah said at the Conference of the Palestinians in Europe: "We are very joyful over the Freedom Flotilla... that in another few days will break the siege on free Gaza, noble Gaza, heroic Gaza. At the same time, we emphasize to all the world that the Freedom Flotilla heralds another flotilla to come — do you know what that is? It is the flotilla returning the Palestinian refugees to our country, to our plains, to our sea and our land, to our fields and our groves."[20]

### Bishop Hilarion Capucci

Another passenger on the Mavi Marmara was Bishop Hilarion Capucci, who in the 1970s was convicted and imprisoned in Israel for smuggling weapons from Lebanon to the PLO, but afterwards was freed at the request of the Vatican. According to Algerian flotilla participants, Hilarion said that he was "waiting for the day when he could return to Palestine and hear the church bells and the *muezzins'* calls of 'Allah Akbar,' under the skies of a free Palestine."[21]



Bishop Hilarion Capucci, left, with Algerian delegation head Dr. Abd Al-Razzaq Maqri

### Anticipating Conflict, Willing to Die

In their statements, flotilla participants raised the possibility that Israel would use force to prevent the ship from reaching the Gaza coast; and declared that this would not stop them. Many noted that they would break the siege even if it cost them their lives.

Muhammad Al-Baltaji, of the Muslim Brotherhood faction in the Egyptian parliament, said: "The flotilla participants have two aims: to reach Gaza and break the siege, and to denounce Israel if it prevents the flotilla from entering Gaza, even at the cost of martyrdom or imprisonment."[22]

Algerian delegation head Dr. Abd Al Razzaq Maqri, who is the deputy head of the Algerian group Movement of Society for Peace, Algeria's major Islamist party, said, "The Algerians on board will hear only the orders of their leaders, who seek to break the siege. [The options are] martyrdom, imprisonment, or breaking [the siege]."[23]

The website of the group titled its collection of photos from the flotilla "Photos of Algerian Mujahideen."[24]



Photo of flotilla participants, under the title "Photos of Algerian Mujahideen"

Algerian delegation coordinator Ahmad Brahimi said about his delegation: "Algeria has been known for its support of the Palestinian cause since the days of Salah Al-Din Al-Ayyubi. Our fathers gave their blood and lives to defend Palestine... and we are the sons of those fathers." He added that the delegation's only purpose was to reach Gaza, and that Israel could not prevent it from doing so.[25]

Another participant, Attorney Fathi Nassar of Jordan, said: "The Freedom Flotilla members are filled with determination to reach Gaza or die." [26]

Rami Abdou, representative of the *European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza*, said that most of the participants were willing to lay down their lives to reach Gaza. He stressed that they would not allow the occupation forces to tow the ship to Ashdod.[27]

Shadha Barakat's husband Ayman said that his wife was likely to be harmed during the venture, adding that "she will make no truce with Zionism" and that "since she was a child, she has dreamed of attacking an Israeli." [28]

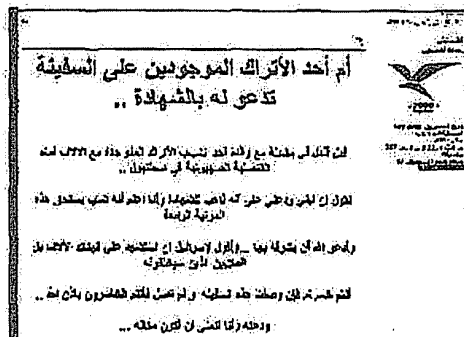
### Participants Write Their Wills

At a press conference in Antalya, Turkey, the flotilla organizers asked all the participants to "write their wills." [29] Following the press conference, Kuwaiti Salafist MP Walid Al-Tabtabai reportedly "did not hesitate to write his will, in defiance of the Israeli threats." [30]



Kuwaiti MP Walid Al-Tabtabai wrote his will before boarding the *Mavi Marmara*

The father of Kuwaiti activist Abd Al-Rahman Al-Filkawi told the Kuwaiti *Al-Watan* daily that his son had told him that the flotilla participants' morale was high, and that they "would sacrifice themselves for the sake of Allah. He added that his son had "told them before embarking that he would be a martyr for the sake of Allah." [31] Likewise, on the various Internet forums, it was reported that the mother of one of the Turkish participants had said that her son had bade her farewell and told her that he was going to lay down his life. [32]



- [1] [Ikhwanonline.com](http://Ikhwanonline.com), March 15, 2010.
- [2] <http://www.inbaa.com>, August 11, 2008.
- [3] <http://www.alwahdawi.net>, April 5, 2006.
- [4] *Al-Akhabar* (Lebanon), June 1, 2010; *Al-Safir* (Lebanon) June 1, 2010.
- [5] <http://www.nowlebanon.com>, May 31, 2010; [www.bintjubail.org](http://www.bintjubail.org), June 1, 2010.
- [6] <http://www.inbaa.com>, August 11, 2008.
- [7] <http://stocksexperts.net/archive/.php?t-11429.html>, *Al-Sabil* (Jordan), May 31, 2010
- [8] *Al-Sabil* (Jordan), May 31, 2010.
- [9] *Al-Raya* (Qatar), September 23, 2009.
- [10] <http://ziad-1937.maktoobblog.com/> December 3, 2008.
- [11] [Aljazeera.net](http://Aljazeera.net), August 12, 2009. *Al-Sabil* (Jordan), January 9, 2010.
- [12] *Al-Watan* (Syria), June 1, 2010; <http://alfikralarabi.net/vb>, June 1, 2010.
- [13] <http://almethaq.net>, May 31, 2010.
- [14] <http://www.anti-war.com/ips/sultan.php?articleid=2649>, May 25, 2010.
- [15] [www.yemen-sound.com](http://www.yemen-sound.com)
- [16] <http://www.alarabiya.net>, May 29, 2004; [www.news.gov.kw](http://www.news.gov.kw), April 24, 2004.
- [17] <http://islamtoday.net>, March 7, 2010.
- [18] <http://www.islamway.com>, February 7, 2009.

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[19] [islamonline.net](http://islamonline.net), February 16, 2009; [www.aqsatv.ps](http://www.aqsatv.ps), May 27, 2010.

[20] <http://alsedeek.com/alsedeek>, May 10, 2010.

[21] <http://hmsalgeria.c4.ixwebhosting.com/ar/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1669>, May 26, 2010.

[22] [www.ikhwanonline.com](http://www.ikhwanonline.com), May 27, 2010.

[23] [www.arab48.com](http://www.arab48.com), May 25, 2010.

[24] [http://www.hmsalgeria.net/ar/gazza\\_live/](http://www.hmsalgeria.net/ar/gazza_live/)

[25] <http://www.insanonline.net>, May 22, 2010.

[26] *Al-Haqiqa Al-Dawliyya* (Jordan), May 27, 2010.

[27] [http://paltimes.net/arabic/read.php?news\\_id=113072](http://paltimes.net/arabic/read.php?news_id=113072), May 27, 2010.


[28] *Al-Watan* (Syria), June 1, 2010.

[29] <http://www.aqsatv.ps/ar>, May 27, 2010; [alfikrarabi.net/vb](http://alfikrarabi.net/vb), June 1, 2010.

[30] *Al-Rai* (Kuwait), May 30, 2010.

[31] *Al-Watan* (Kuwait), May 31, 2010.

[32] <http://www.paldf.net>, May 31, 2010.

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For assistance, please contact MEMRI at [memri@memri.org](mailto:memri@memri.org).

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

Billo

**From:** Valdez, Pablo M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:42 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Israel to deport all foreigners seized on Gaza ships

RELEASED IN FULL

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel said it would immediately deport hundreds of foreign activists seized aboard a Turkish-backed aid flotilla to Gaza in a bloody raid.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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StateDept01596

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B168

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:29 PM  
To: Cassidy, Joseph P; Posner, Michael H; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
Subject: RE: This won't help

B6, B5

[Redacted]

B6

-----Original Message-----

From: Cassidy, Joseph P  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:24 PM  
To: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
Subject: RE: This won't help

He has a non-diplomatic style (and I say that in a complimentary way).

-----Original Message-----

From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:23 PM  
To: Cassidy, Joseph P; Posner, Michael H; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
Subject: RE: This won't help

See Jim Jeffrey's (our Amb in Turkey) comments -- just received

-----Original Message-----

From: Cassidy, Joseph P  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:13 PM  
To: Posner, Michael H; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL)  
Subject: FW: This won't help

-----Original Message-----

From: Cassidy, Joseph P  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:12 PM  
To: Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; McGeeney, Kristen R (DRL)  
Subject: FW: MFA on cabinet meeting

[Redacted]

B5

-----Original Message-----

From: Sievers, Marc J  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:08 PM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura  
Subject: MFA on cabinet meeting

[Redacted]

called me to update on deportation authority.

B6

Cabinet decided it has authority to expedite departure of all detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. This apparently covers all those in detention in Beer Sheva. They will still be asked to sign release form, but oral request to leave Israel will be accepted.

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Cabinet decided, however, to support police request to detain for possible investigation and perhaps prosecution those who are suspected of attacking Israeli military. He said this means basically all the wounded currently in hospitals and a small number of those in Beer Sheva will be held at least for a few more days while Attorney General decides how to proceed, it's not clear yet whether they will put any of them on trial. I noted this would scuttle understanding reached with Turks about evacuating Turkish wounded. He said that was correct.

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12173

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

---

**From:** Kazi, Pamela R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:04 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Copy of Flotilla Coalition Passenger List v3.xlsx updated 4 PM 6.1.10

RELEASED IN FULL

---

**From:** Kazi, Pamela R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:54 PM  
**To:** Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** Copy of Flotilla Coalition Passenger List v3.xlsx updated 4 PM 6.1.10



Copy of Flotilla  
Coalition Pas...

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12174

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Valdez, Pablo.M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:34 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Irish PM calls on Israel to free Irish detainees

RELEASED IN FULL

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Ireland called for the immediate and unconditional release of seven of its nationals detained by Israel after the seizure of ships taking aid to Gaza, and warned of "serious consequences" if they were harmed.

Pablo Valdez  
Watch Officer  
Operations Center  
Department of State  
202-647-1512

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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B178

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

**From:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** DRL-NESCA-DL  
**Cc:** DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

Want to make sure all or some of NESCA is receiving these flotilla working group updates.

---

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:32 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Goodman, Ian A; Silliman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ankara-POL-DL; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Gilmore, Bradley T; Allison, Alicia P; de OtaIvaro, Laura H; Grubb, Jason B; Howe, Geoffrey G; Chue, Jason; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza

Colleagues:

There is press reporting that the Free Gaza Movement is sending two additional vessels to Gaza. The first ship is Ireland's "Rachel Corrie," with about 10 passengers on board including Denis Halliday, the Irish former UN Human Rights Coordinator in Iraq. The second ship is the US-flagged "Challenger II", which dropped out of the first flotilla to undergo repairs in Nicosia. According to Free Gaza Movement spokesperson Audrey Bomse in Larnaca, the Rachel Corrie left Malta on her way to Gaza the night before last and she should be coming near Crete today. Arrival is expected around Gaza between late Wednesday and sometime Thursday.

If anyone has additional information on the status of the vessels and the number, nationalities, and the names of the passengers aboard please forward it to the collective. It should help us in terms of tracking any Amcits in advance of detainment. CG Istanbul and Embassy Ankara reaching out to the IHH organizers was valuable in this regard during the first iteration. GOI has told Embassy Tel Aviv that the IDF still intends to intercept these vessels, but is reviewing how to do it.

Many Thanks,

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: [SindleJM@state.gov](mailto:SindleJM@state.gov)  
Classified: [SindleJM@state.sgov.gov](mailto:SindleJM@state.sgov.gov)

202-647-4386 (office)

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B179

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: Martone, Stephanie L  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:48 AM  
To: DRL-Users-DL  
Subject: FW: DRAFT Tasking List for Monday, June 1, 2010

RELEASED IN FULL

Stephanie Martone  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor  
202-647-3026

From: Duckworth, Karl E [mailto:DuckworthKE@state.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:40 AM  
To: PAO Group  
Subject: DRAFT Tasking List for Monday, June 1, 2010

DRAFT Tasking List for Monday, June 1, 2010

Unclassified E-mail: PA/PO Group

Classified E-mail: PAPress\_Officers

*Daily Schedule*

Daily Press Briefing: 2:30 p.m.

Briefer: PJ

Tasking list prepared by Karl Duckworth, x7-4733 (or in the PA/FO at 7-8232 after 10 a.m.)

Final Guidances Due at 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

PENDING RELEASES

AFRICA

CA / AF / RWANDA: Do we have any updates on American lawyer Peter Erlinder? Is he still incarcerated?

S/WCI / IO / L / UGANDA: Please provide guidance on the Rome Statute Review Conference in Kampala and the intervention.

EAST ASIA

EAP / IO / NORTH KOREA: Do we have any information on the Russian team that is investigating the ship explosion? Do we expect China to send its own team to confirm the report? Is this in preparation for UNSC action? What's next?

EUROPE

FOR THE TOP: EUR / TURKEY: What is on the agenda for Secretary Clinton's meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu? Will the Gaza flotilla be discussed?

FOR THE TOP: EUR / ROMANIA: What is on the agenda for Secretary Clinton's meeting with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi?

NEAR EAST

NEA / CA / IS/PAL: What updates do we have on the taking of the Gaza flotilla ship? Were any Amcits on the boat? If so, where are they now? Were any Americans injured in protests in Israel or the Palestinian territories? What does the United States plan to do? (Also - see below tasking - I'll leave it up to you if you want to combine.)

IO / NEA / IS/PAL: What happened at the emergency meeting at the UN yesterday in regards to the above incident? What specific proposal did Turkey put forward? Will we support any action against Israel?

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DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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**ISN / NEA / IO / IRAN:** Do we have a reaction to the IAEA report on Iran that says, among other things, that Iran's stockpile of LEU has risen to 2.43 tons? Does this finding add to our skepticism about this month's revived nuclear fuel deal brokered by Brazil and Turkey? Are we concerned that the report also indicates possible activity in Iran to develop a nuclear payload for a missile?

**NEA / LIBYA:** Is the Secretary still planning on meeting with Libyan Foreign Minister Musa Kousa? If so, what is on the agenda? Do we have an update on the health and our thoughts on the Lockerbie bomber? Will it be discussed?

### SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

**S/RAP / SCA / AFGHANISTAN:** Can we have details on the Secretary's 10 a.m. call with Afghani President Hamid Karzai? What was discussed? (It's on the public schedule.)

**FOR THE TOP: S/RAP / SCA / AFGHANISTAN:** Can we have a few sentences for the top on the beginning of the Consultative Peace Jirga?

**SCA / S/RAP / DRL:** Do we have any reaction to the Afghan government's suspension of the operations of two church-based relief groups over suspicions they were involved in converting Afghans to Christianity?

**SCA / INDIA:** What are our expectations for the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue? Can we have an overview of our relations with India? (One of the Indian reporters has been asking for this for awhile.) What are the issues/goals/successes SCA wants to highlight?

**DRL / SCA / PAKISTAN:** Do we have any comment on the Pakistani court's decision on Monday, ordering the government to restore access to Facebook?

### WESTERN HEMISPHERE

**UPDATE: WHA / JAMAICA:** Do we have an update on the situation in Jamaica? What's the status of the embassy?

### MISCELLANEOUS

**UPDATE: OES:** Can we have updates on the oil spill cleanup and international offers of assistance?

**ISN / IO:** Can we have an assessment on the meetings of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference?

## UPCOMING

### June 2

**NEA:** Who are the visiting Middle East democracy activists? What organizations do they represent and what are their goals? With whom are they meeting?

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## **Russians To Study Warship Sinking Probe (Kim, AP)**

Monday, May 31, 2010

Associated Press

By Hyung-jin Kim

SEOUL, South Korea - Russian experts arrived in Seoul on Monday to review findings of an investigation that blamed North Korea for the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship, as the South sought to build support for U.N. punishment of the North.

If Russia endorses the multinational probe's conclusions, the move could convince China and other major powers to support possible U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang for the sinking two months ago of the Cheonan, which killed 46 sailors.

The South Koreans shared the investigation's findings with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao last weekend before a summit, but Beijing has yet to blame North Korea or support any potential U.N. action against its longtime ally.

Wen is now in Japan, where he was expected to face more pressure to censure North Korea. On Monday, he met with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who said Tokyo strongly supports Seoul's plans to bring North Korea before the U.N. Security Council for sanctions or condemnation.

North Korea has denied sinking the ship and has said the multinational investigation - involving America, Britain, Sweden and Australia - was a biased probe conducted by South Korea's allies.

A Russian endorsement of the investigation could greatly contribute to the legitimacy of the conclusions. Like China, Moscow is a traditional North Korean ally and a veto-holding permanent council member.

The Russian team - including torpedo and submarine experts - arrived Monday and were to stay in South Korea for several days as they review the investigation results and examine the ship's wreckage, said a Defense Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity citing department policy.

The official declined to provide further details, citing Russia's request not to publicize many of the team's activities.

Russia's ambassador in Seoul, Konstantin V. Vnukov, told a forum Friday that Moscow will determine its position on the U.N. action on North Korea after the experts study the probe results, according to YTN television network.

## **Australia Begins Legal Action To Stop Japan Whaling (AFP)**

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

AFP

TOKYO (AFP) - Australia has launched legal action at the International Court of Justice to stop Japan's whaling programme, Japanese officials said Tuesday, calling the move "extremely regrettable".

"We were informed that Australia has filed a lawsuit with the International Court of Justice regarding research whaling. We will discuss how to deal with it," said a fisheries agency official.

Hirofumi Hirano, Japan's top government spokesman, said: "I think it is extremely regrettable. The Japanese government will deal with it properly, based on our position."

Japan defends whaling as part of its cultural tradition and hunts the ocean giants under a loophole in a 1986 international moratorium on commercial whaling that allows lethal "scientific research".

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Australia has long protested the hunts, including annual whaling expeditions in Antarctic waters, and has in recent months hardened its stance, announcing last week that it would launch legal action in The Hague.

"We want to see an end to whales being killed in the name of science in the Southern Ocean," said Environment Protection Minister Peter Garrett last week, vowing "to bring a permanent end to whaling in the Southern Ocean".

A Japanese foreign ministry official told AFP on Tuesday: "We are studying our strategy regarding the lawsuit. Details are yet to be decided, but we won't disclose our strategy even after we make a decision."

### **China Bans Court Evidence Gained Through Torture (Jacobs, NYT)**

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

New York Times

By Andrew Jacobs

BEIJING - The top judicial and law enforcement bodies in China have issued new guidelines that seek to halt the use of torture in obtaining confessions or witness testimony, especially in death penalty cases.

The rules, announced Sunday, would nullify evidence gathered through violence or intimidation and give defendants the ability to challenge confessions presented during their trials.

The new regulations were issued weeks after the authorities conceded that the confession used to erroneously convict a farmer for a murder was based on torture. The case came to light only after the supposed victim turned up alive and the defendant had spent 10 years in prison. It has provoked national outrage.

"Judicial practice in recent years shows that slack and improper methods have been used to gather, examine and exclude evidence in various cases, especially those involving the death penalty," said a statement released by the central government.

Although such provisions are a basic feature of modern criminal codes, legal experts said it was the first time Chinese law has explicitly spelled out rules for the admissibility of prosecutorial evidence.

Confessions gained through torture are thought to be common in China, though rights advocates and defense lawyers say such mistreatment gains public notice only when a defendant dies in custody. In some recent cases, jailhouse deaths have spurred protests and alarmed the authorities, who are eager to maintain social stability.

In a rare admission of the problem, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, which carries out investigations and prosecutions, issued a report in 2003 acknowledging that what it characterized as forced confessions had led to the deaths of 460 people and serious injuries for 117 others.

The stakes are high in China, which puts to death more people than all other countries combined. The government does not release figures on executions, but Amnesty International estimates more than 1,700 last year.

Lawyers and legal scholars praised the new regulations, which are part of a larger package of legal reforms that have been in the works for years, but have been stalled by powerful interests within the country's public security apparatus.

"They have come just in time because the necessity is so great," said Zhang Xingshui, a defense lawyer. "It is a good cure for loopholes, because legal workers are often under so much pressure to get cases closed no matter what it takes."

Several lawyers said that they were curious to see the extent to which the regulations would be carried out, pointing out that China often fails to abide by its own rules and regulations.

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The larger problem, legal experts say, is the disconnect between China's stated desire for the rule of law and the Communist Party's insistence that the judicial system serve the party.

When it comes to criminal justice, the Ministry of Public Security and Supreme People's Procuratorate are often averse to measures that might limit their powers. After a previous round of legal revisions in 2007, for example, prosecutors refused to allow lawyers to meet with clients accused of violating state-secrets laws, a hazy designation that is often used against dissidents.

Nicholas Bequell, a researcher with Human Rights Watch in Hong Kong, called the new guidelines a welcome step, but said that they were weak medicine for an ailing criminal justice system.

"I think the government has abandoned any ambition of carrying out systemic reform and instead has adopted an approach where it aims at marginal procedural improvements," he said.

Cui Min, a professor at Chinese People's Public Security University, was somewhat more optimistic. One important element of the regulations, he noted, requires the police to testify in court if they are accused of using torture to extract a confession.

"This may be common practice for police in the West or in Hong Kong, but it is a new thing for Chinese policemen to testify in court," he said. "We have to cultivate a new mindset, one that accepts the idea of possibly setting free a criminal over wrongfully convicting an innocent man."

### **Israel: At Least 9 Pro-Palestinian Activists Killed On Gaza Flotilla Carrying Aid (Zacharia, WP)**

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

Washington Post

By Janine Zacharia

JERUSALEM — At least nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed and dozens were wounded aboard an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip when Israeli naval commandos seized control of the boats about 70 miles offshore in international waters early Monday.

An Israeli army spokesman would not disclose their identities or nationalities. Some Turkish, Israeli and Arab media outlets had earlier put the death toll at 19 activists and said they included as many as 10 Turkish nationals. The wounded were evacuated to Israeli hospitals and the ships were led into Israel's Ashdod port, where the passengers and aid supplies were being unloaded and screened. Seven Israeli naval personnel were also injured.

Sharp condemnations of Israel rang out from across the world, with several European countries summoning Israeli ambassadors to protest. The European Union called for an inquiry into the deaths. And the United Nations Security Council planned to meet Monday afternoon for an emergency session. The United States expressed regret at the loss of the life and said it was "working to understand the circumstances of the tragedy."

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who is in Canada and had been scheduled to meet President Obama in Washington on Tuesday, decided to cut short his trip and will return home Monday night instead, his office said.

Turkey, which dispatched the main Mavi Marmara ship carrying 600 activists and thousands of tons of aid, strongly condemned Israel, warning of deep consequences to relations, as protesters demonstrated outside the Israeli consulate in Istanbul and Israel released a travel advisory warning Israelis to avoid travel to Turkey.

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"We strongly condemn these inhumane acts of Israel. This grave incident which took place in high seas in gross violation of international law might cause irreversible consequences in our relations," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Israel had warned the organizers of the flotilla -- transporting items such as concrete to help Gaza rebuild after last year's war with Israel -- that they would not be allowed to sail directly through the blockaded region.

The activists refused to dock in Israel and have relief supplies unloaded and inspected there, saying they did not trust that Israel would allow the contents to be trucked to the Gaza Strip.

Overnight, Israeli naval personnel dropped from helicopters onto the largest passenger ship from Turkey, which had mostly Turkish nationals aboard. Short video clips broadcast on television stations showed demonstrators clubbing the navy personnel with metal bars and showed at least one Israeli commando firing.

Israeli military officials said demonstrators attacked the navy personnel with knives and live fire and seized at least one of the soldiers' weapons.

"This IDF naval operation was carried out under orders from the political leadership to halt the flotilla from reaching the Gaza Strip and breaching the naval blockade," the Israeli army said in its statement.

Past flotillas either reached Gaza or were diverted to Israel peacefully. But the activists, frustrated with a continuing blockade of Gaza, mounted a much larger effort this time to challenge the siege. Israel, amid growing tensions with Turkey and anxieties about the Turkish organizers' contacts with what Israeli officials described as terrorist groups, said it needed to keep the siege in tact.

Some in Israel, before the raid and after, questioned the wisdom of Israel trying to take the ships by force.

Israel has managed a blockade on Gaza in an effort to isolate the Islamist leadership of Hamas, which took control of the strip of territory in 2007. Israel allows goods to pass into the Gaza Strip but limits, or prevents, certain categories needed especially for construction. Many goods are smuggled into Gaza through underground tunnels from Egypt, creating an overall dysfunctional economy reliant on the decisions of outside powers.

On Monday, after the clash at sea, Israel closed one of the main border crossings into Gaza and turned back roughly 60 trucks of goods destined for the strip.

Flotilla organizers, from the Turkish non-governmental organization IHH, or Humanitarian Relief Fund, said they were transporting 6,000 tons of cement, more than 2,000 tons of iron, 100 prefabricated houses, 500 wheelchairs, medical equipment, wood and glass for building, as well as electric generators and food.

Reports of the activists' deaths prompted demonstrations in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, and Israel increased the presence of police and military across the country in anticipation of possible riots. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas declared three days of mourning.

A committee representing the Arab Israeli community declared a general strike for Tuesday. Already on Monday, Arab merchants in the Old City of Jerusalem shuttered their shops and restaurants in protest.

Turkish flags flew high above Gaza's port on Monday alongside posters with photos of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We are shocked by reports of killings and injuries of people on board boats carrying supplies for Gaza,

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apparently in international waters," United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry and Filippo Grandi, commissioner-general of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, said in a statement. "We condemn the violence and call for it to stop," they said, adding that they were seeking a "full explanation" from Israel.

"We wish to make clear that such tragedies are entirely avoidable if Israel heeds the repeated calls of the international community to end its counterproductive and unacceptable blockade of Gaza," the statement by the U.N. officials said.

### **Analysis: Condemnation of Israeli assault complicates relations with U.S.**

By Glenn Kessler  
Tuesday, June 1, 2010; A01

The worldwide condemnation of the deadly Israeli assault on the Gaza aid flotilla will complicate the Obama administration's efforts to improve its tense relations with Jerusalem and will probably distract from the push to sanction Iran over its nuclear program.

The timing of the incident is remarkably bad for Israel and the United States. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Obama were scheduled to meet Tuesday in Washington as part of a "kiss and make up" session. The United Nations, meanwhile, was set to begin final deliberations on Iran in the weeks ahead.

Now the White House talks have been scrubbed, Israel's actions were the subject of an emergency U.N. Security Council meeting Monday and the administration increasingly faces a difficult balancing act as Israel's diplomatic isolation deepens.

In contrast with forceful statements from European, Arab and U.N. officials -- and impromptu demonstrations from Athens to Baghdad -- the White House responded to the assault Monday by saying only that Obama had held a phone conversation with Netanyahu in which the prime minister expressed "deep regret at the loss of life" and "the importance of learning all the facts and circumstances around this morning's tragic events."

Hours later, the State Department issued a statement saying that the United States remains "deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza" and "will continue to engage the Israelis on a daily basis to expand the scope and type of goods allowed into Gaza."

Even before Monday's incident, Israel was on shaky diplomatic ground. After the government was accused of using forged foreign passports in the assassination of a Palestinian militant in Dubai, Britain expelled an Israeli diplomat in March. Australia did the same last week.

The latest furor may have caused irreparable harm to Israel's relations with Turkey -- a Muslim state with which Israel has long had close ties -- because so many of those onboard were Turkish. At the United Nations, Turkey's foreign minister urged the Security Council to condemn Israel's raid and set up a formal inquiry to hold those responsible for it accountable.

"This is terrible for Israel-Turkey relations," Namik Tan, the Turkish ambassador to the United States, said in an interview. "I am really saddened by it."

Tan, who served as ambassador to Israel from 2007 through 2009, said Israel's actions demand condemnation from every country because the flotilla incident took place in international waters and involved civilians on a

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humanitarian mission. But he said the Obama administration's initial statement was wanting. "We would have expected a much stronger reaction than this," he said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu will be in Washington on Tuesday to discuss Iran with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, but Turkey's fury over the Gaza incident will inevitably top the agenda.

Daniel Levy, a former Israeli peace negotiator now at the New America Foundation in Washington, said it's not the first time Israel has done itself a disservice.

"Israel constantly claims it wants the world to focus on Iran, but then it ends up doing something that gets everyone to focus on itself," he said.

Apart from the raid, attention is likely to fall on the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, which has faced an Israeli blockade since the Hamas militant group seized power three years ago. Although the Obama administration has pressed quietly for less onerous restrictions on trade, it has not questioned Israeli policies. Special envoy George J. Mitchell has never visited Gaza in about a dozen trips to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Without high-level attention, the situation in Gaza -- a narrow coastal area with 1.5 million people -- has faded from view. Now that might change.

Robert Malley, Middle East director for the International Crisis Group, said Monday's deaths were a consequence of ignoring the "unhealed wound that is Gaza."

In condemning Israel's actions Monday, European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton signaled that the European Union would press anew for a shift in policy. "The E.U. does not accept the continued policy of closure," she said in a statement. "It is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. We need to urgently achieve a durable solution to the situation in Gaza."

Malley said U.S. officials have told him that the situation in Gaza "is very high on Obama's agenda." Obama highlighted Gaza in his Cairo speech a year ago, saying, "Just as it devastates Palestinian families, the continuing humanitarian crisis in Gaza does not serve Israel's security."

In that speech, Obama appeared to appeal to Palestinians to undertake acts of civil disobedience rather than violence, saying that it was "not violence that won full and equal rights" for African Americans but "a peaceful and determined insistence."

Whether the flotilla was an act of civil disobedience remains up for debate. Its organizers said it was, but Israeli officials said members of the Israel Defense Forces were met with violence when they boarded the ships.

Not only has the incident strengthened the Islamist Hamas, it has probably weakened the secular Palestinian leadership on the West Bank. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas quickly condemned the attack as a "massacre," but he will probably face new pressure to abandon indirect talks with Israel.

Iran, whose nuclear ambitions deeply concern Israeli leaders, also is a beneficiary. Turkey holds one of the rotating seats on the U.N. Security Council and was already deeply skeptical of the U.S.-led push to impose new sanctions on the Islamic republic. But now the council's attention will be diverted by the Israeli assault.

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### Deadly Israeli Raid Draws Condemnation

By ISABEL KERSHNER

JERUSALEM — Israel faced intense international condemnation and growing domestic questions on Monday after a raid by naval commandos that killed nine people, many of them Turks, on an aid flotilla bound for Gaza.

Turkey, Israel's most important friend in the Muslim world, recalled its ambassador and canceled planned military exercises with Israel as the countries' already tense relations soured even further. The United Nations Security Council met in emergency session over the attack, which occurred in international waters north of Gaza, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel was flying home after canceling a Tuesday meeting with President Obama.

With street protests erupting around the world, Mr. Netanyahu defended the Israeli military's actions, saying the commandos, enforcing what Israel says is a legal blockade, were set upon by passengers on the Turkish ship they boarded and fired only in self-defense. The military released a video of the early moments of the raid to support that claim.

Israel said the violence was instigated by pro-Palestinian activists who presented themselves as humanitarians but had come ready for a fight. Organizers of the flotilla accused the Israeli forces of opening fire as soon as they landed on the deck, and released videos to support their case. Israel released video taken from one of its vessels to support its own account of events.

The Israeli public seemed largely to support the navy, but policy experts questioned preparations for the military operation, whether there had been an intelligence failure and whether the Israeli insistence on stopping the flotilla had been counterproductive. Some commentators were calling for the resignation of Ehud Barak, the defense minister.

"The government failed the test of results; blaming the organizers of the flotilla for causing the deaths by ignoring Israel's orders to turn back is inadequate," wrote Aluf Benn, a columnist for Haaretz, on the newspaper's Web site on Monday, calling for a national committee of inquiry. "Decisions taken by the responsible authorities must be probed."

The flotilla of cargo ships and passenger boats was carrying 10,000 tons of aid for Gaza, where the Islamic militant group Hamas holds sway, in an attempt to challenge Israel's military blockade of Gaza.

The raid and its deadly consequences have thrown Israel's policy of blockading Gaza into the international limelight; at the Security Council on Monday voices were raised against the blockade, and the pressure to abandon it is bound to intensify.

Israel had vowed not to let the flotilla reach the shores of Gaza, where Hamas, an organization sworn to Israel's destruction, took over by force in 2007.

Named the Freedom Flotilla, and led by the pro-Palestinian Free Gaza Movement and a Turkish organization, İnsani Yardım Vakfı, the convoy had converged at sea near Cyprus and set out on the final leg of its journey on Sunday afternoon. Israel warned the vessels to abort their mission, describing it as a provocation.

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The confrontation began shortly before midnight on Sunday when Israeli warships intercepted the aid flotilla, according to a person on one boat. The Israeli military warned the vessels that they were entering a hostile area and that the Gaza shore was under blockade.

The vessels refused the military's request to dock at the Israeli port of Ashdod, north of Gaza, and continued toward their destination.

Around 4 a.m. on Monday, naval commandos came aboard the Turkish ship, the Mavi Marmara, having been lowered by ropes from helicopters onto the decks.

At that point, the operation seems to have gone badly wrong.

Israeli officials say that the soldiers were dropped into an ambush and were attacked with clubs, metal rods and knives.

An Israeli official said that the navy was planning to stop five of the six vessels of the flotilla with large nets that interfere with propellers, but that the sixth was too large for that. The official said there was clearly an intelligence failure in that the commandos were expecting to face passive resistance, and not an angry, violent reaction.

The Israelis had planned to commandeer the vessels and steer them to Ashdod, where their cargo would be unloaded and, the authorities said, transferred overland to Gaza after proper inspection.

The military said in a statement that two activists were later found with pistols taken from Israeli commandos. It accused the activists of opening fire, "as evident by the empty pistol magazines."

Another soldier said the orders were to neutralize the passengers, not to kill them.

But the forces "had to open fire in order to defend themselves," the navy commander, Vice Adm. Eliezer Marom, said at a news conference in Tel Aviv, adding, "Their lives were at risk."

At least seven soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously. The military said that some suffered gunshot wounds; at least one had been stabbed.

Some Israeli officials said they had worried about a debacle from the start, and questioned Israel's broader security policies.

Einat Wilf, a Labor Party member of Parliament who sits on the influential Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that she had warned Mr. Barak and others well in advance that the flotilla was a public relations issue and should not be dealt with by military means.

"This had nothing to do with security," she said in an interview. "The armaments for Hamas were not coming from this flotilla."

The fatalities all occurred aboard the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish passenger vessel that was carrying about 600 activists under the auspices of İnsani Yardım Vakfı, an organization also known as I.H.H. Israeli officials have characterized it as a dangerous Islamic organization with terrorist links.

Yet the organization, founded in 1992 to collect aid for the Bosnians, is now active in 120 countries and has been present at recent disaster areas like Haiti and New Orleans.

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"Our volunteers were not trained military personnel," said Yavuz Dede, deputy director of the organization. "They were civilians trying to get aid to Gaza. There were artists, intellectuals and journalists among them. Such an offensive cannot be explained by any terms."

There were no immediate accounts available from the passengers of the Turkish ship, which arrived at the naval base in Ashdod on Monday evening, where nearly three dozen were arrested, many for not giving their names. The base was off limits to the news media and declared a closed military zone.

The injured had been flown by helicopter to Israeli hospitals. At the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer, near Tel Aviv, relatives of injured soldiers were gathered outside an intensive care unit when a man with a long beard, one of the wounded passengers, was wheeled by, escorted by military police.

Organizers of the flotilla, relying mainly on footage filmed by activists on board the Turkish passenger ship, because all other communications were down, blamed Israeli aggression for the deadly results.

The Israeli soldiers dropped onto the deck and "opened fire on sleeping civilians at four in the morning," said Greta Berlin, a leader of the pro-Palestinian Free Gaza Movement, speaking by phone from Cyprus on Monday.

Israeli officials said that international law allowed for the capture of naval vessels in international waters if they were about to violate a blockade. The blockade was imposed by Israel and Egypt after the Hamas takeover of Gaza in 2007. Israel's deputy foreign minister, Danny Ayalon, said Monday that the blockade was "aimed at preventing the infiltration of terror and terrorists into Gaza."

Despite sporadic rocket fire from the Palestinian territory against southern Israel, Israel says it allows enough basic supplies through border crossings to avoid any acute humanitarian crisis. But it insists that there will be no significant change so long as Hamas continues to hold Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured in a cross-border raid in 2006.

The Free Gaza Movement has organized several aid voyages since the summer of 2008, usually consisting of one or two vessels. The earliest ones were allowed to reach Gaza. Others have been intercepted and forced back, and one, last June, was commandeered by the Israeli Navy and towed to Ashdod. This six-boat fleet was the most ambitious attempt yet to break the blockade.

### **U.N. Report Says Iran Has Fuel For 2 Nuclear Weapons (Sanger, Broad, NYT)**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2010**

**New York Times**

**By David E. Sanger And William J. Broad**

WASHINGTON - In their last report before the United Nations Security Council votes on sanctions against Iran, international nuclear inspectors declared on Monday that Iran has now produced a stockpile of nuclear fuel that experts say would be enough, with further enrichment, to make two nuclear weapons.

The report, by the International Atomic Energy Agency, a branch of the United Nations, appears likely to bolster the Obama administration's case for a fourth round of economic sanctions against Iran and further diminish its interest in a deal, recently revived by Turkey and Brazil, in which Iran would send a portion of its nuclear stockpile out of the country.

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When Iran tentatively agreed eight months ago to ship some of its nuclear material out of the country, the White House said the deal would temporarily deprive Iran of enough fuel to make even a single weapon.

But Iran delayed for months, and the figures contained in the inspectors' report on Monday indicated that even if Iran now shipped the agreed-upon amount of nuclear material out of the country, it would retain enough for a single weapon, undercutting the American rationale for the deal.

The toughly worded report says that Iran has expanded work at one of its nuclear sites. It also describes, step-by-step, how inspectors have been denied access to a series of facilities, and how Iran has refused to answer inspectors' questions on a variety of activities, including what the agency called the "possible existence" of "activities related to the development of a nuclear payload for a missile."

A spokesman for the White House, Michael Hammer, said in a statement on Monday that the report "clearly shows Iran's continued failure to comply with its international obligations and its sustained lack of cooperation with the IAEA." He said the report "underscores that Iran has refused to take any of the steps required of it" by the security council or the I.A.E.A.'s board of governors, "which are necessary to enable constructive negotiations on the future of its nuclear program."

Iran, which insists that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, has said it has conducted no work on weapons, and argues the evidence of work on warheads is forged.

Iran's nuclear progress had been expected to be a central subject at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday at the White House between Mr. Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. Mr. Netanyahu canceled the visit after a deadly raid by Israeli commandos on ships carrying supplies to Gaza.

But the report left hanging the question of whether Israel would ratchet up the pressure on Washington and its allies to show that they can deal with the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran diplomatically. Israeli officials have hinted, but never explicitly threatened, that they would take military action if diplomacy fails and Iran is close to weapons capability.

Administration officials have argued that the combination of the sanctions they expect to come out of the Security Council, along with other sanctions imposed by the United States and its European allies, may change Iran's calculus. But many inside and outside the administration are highly skeptical.

It has been four years since the Security Council first demanded that Iran cease all enrichment of uranium, citing its efforts to hide its activities and deceive inspectors. The country has openly defied those resolutions, telling inspectors those demands - along with calls to allow inspectors to visit a series of facilities that could be useful in energy or weapons production - had been "issued illegally and have no legal basis."

The inspectors reported Monday that Iran now has now produced over 5,300 pounds of low-enriched uranium, all of which would have to undergo further enrichment before it could be converted to bomb fuel.

The inspectors reported that Iran had expanded work at its sprawling Natanz site in the desert, where it is raising the level of uranium enrichment up to 20 percent - the level needed for the Tehran Research Reactor, which produces medical isotopes for cancer patients. But it is unclear why Iran is making that investment if it plans to obtain the fuel for the reactor from abroad, as it would under its new agreement with Turkey and Brazil.

Until recently, all of Iran's uranium had been enriched to only 4 percent, the level needed to run nuclear power reactors. While increasing that to 20 percent purity does not allow Iran to build a weapon, it gets the country closer to that goal. The inspectors reported that Iran had installed a second group of centrifuges - machines that spin incredibly fast to enrich, or purify, uranium for use in bombs or reactors - which could speed its production

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of the 20 percent fuel.

The inspectors also noted that the agency had finally succeeded in setting up a good monitoring system for the 20-percent work after a rocky start in February, when Iran began raising the enrichment levels. "A new, safeguards approach," the report said, "is now being implemented."

But the report called the equipment upgrades and the continuing enrichment "contrary to the relevant resolutions of the I.A.E.A.'s Board of Governors and the Security Council." Both have called on Iran to cease its uranium enrichment because of outstanding questions about Tehran's intentions. The sanctions, if passed, are intended to compel Iran to comply with that demand by the Security Council.

Last fall, President Obama, along with the leaders of Britain and France, denounced Iran for secretly building a second enrichment plant near the holy city of Qum, without alerting inspectors until just before those three countries announced they had discovered the facility. But curiously, the report suggested that now, with its existence revealed, Iran may be losing interest in it. The report said that Iran had installed no centrifuges in the half-built enrichment facility, which is located inside a mountain near a military base.

Iran has sought to locate many of its nuclear facilities in underground sites so as to lessen their vulnerability to aerial attack. In the new report, the inspectors said that the Iranians disclosed that a new analytical laboratory slated for construction amid a warren of tunnels at Isfahan "would have the same functions as the existing" unprotected laboratory there.

The report quoted an Iranian letter as saying the second, underground laboratory was needed "to meet security measures."

### **U.S. Says Afghan Peace Deal Must Ensure Women's Rights (Madhani, USAT)**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2010**

**USA Today**

**By Aamer Madhani**

WASHINGTON - As Afghanistan prepares to open a peace conference aimed at persuading Taliban leaders to put down their weapons, U.S. lawmakers have made clear that they want women's rights preserved in any potential deal to integrate former insurgents into the government.

About 1,600 Afghans, that will including lawmakers, tribal and religious leaders, will convene in a tent at Kabul Polytechnic University for a peace jirga on ways to get insurgents to stop battling the government of President Hamid Karzai.

Rep. Donna Edwards, D-Md., who went to Afghanistan as part of a congressional delegation, says she wants to ensure that women's rights aren't set aside during the conference, which begins Wednesday.

"He faces a really tremendous challenge," Edwards says of Karzai. "At the same time, he has a constitution. . . Women's participation is a bottom line."

During the Taliban's rule of Afghanistan, women lived under severe restrictions. Women weren't allowed to

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work outside of the home and girls were prohibited from going to school. The Taliban also required women to wear a head-to-toe veil, and they risked a beating if they were caught in public with a man who wasn't a close relative.

Karzai will offer jobs to mid- and low-level Taliban plus aid for their villages if they lay down their arms, according to the draft of his jirga offer obtained by the Associated Press. The Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Program would be supported by \$160 million from the U.S., Japan, Britain and others.

Insurgents must renounce violence, vow to respect the Afghan constitution and sever ties with al-Qaeda or other terrorist networks, according to Karzai's offer.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander, said the jirga offer appeared "very, very responsible."

Abdullah Abdullah, the most prominent Afghan opposition leader, said the peace conference only offers "false hope" that members of the Taliban are willing to embrace democracy.

"The core of the problem is that they're not looking to have a part in a power sharing system, but they are looking to reverse the system itself," Abdullah said.

"If anything, the Taliban have become more hard-line," he said. "On issues of women, on human rights, on education, not on one of these things that are part of the democratic process have they softened."

In Washington last month, Karzai said at least 20% of the participants in the jirga will be women. Edwards also said Afghan officials told her during her Kabul visit that women would play a meaningful role in the conference, with more than half of the breakout meetings being led by women.

"It would be most unfortunate for us, and for our values, if we allowed (the jirga) to happen without engaging women in a way that's consistent with the constitution," she said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the U.S. wouldn't back any plan between the government and militants that diminished women's rights.

It is "essential that women's rights and women's opportunities are not sacrificed or trampled on in the reconciliation process," she said.

### **Afghanistan Suspends Two Aid Groups (Nordland, Wafa, NYT)**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2010**

**New York Times**

**By Rod Nordland And Abdul Waheed Wafa**

KABUL, Afghanistan - The Afghan government suspended the operations of two church-based relief groups on Monday over suspicions that they were involved in converting Afghans to Christianity, even though the evidence against them apparently consisted of nothing more than a listing in a telephone directory.

An Afghan television station, Noorin TV, broadcast photographs that it claimed showed Westerners' baptizing Afghans, both men and women, and other Afghans' praying to Jesus at private prayer meetings. It mentioned the two groups in the same report, although it had no evidence tying them to such activities; officials at Noorin TV confirmed.

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Converting to any religion from Islam is a crime in Afghanistan, and proselytizing is also outlawed.

The suspended groups, Church World Service, an American organization, and Norwegian Church Aid, say they do not proselytize.

Both groups have major operations in Afghanistan, disbursing millions of dollars in aid. Church World Service employs 190 people, and Norwegian Church Aid 50 people in a variety of development programs here, the government said.

Students at Kabul University staged a protest on Monday in response to the television report, briefly blocking streets around the campus.

Mohammed Sediq Amarkhiel, a spokesman for the Ministry of Economy, which regulates aid groups working here, said there was no actual evidence against the two groups, which were known for "doing a good job here." However, Mr. Amarkhiel added, the ministry decided on the suspensions because the television reports "raised suspicions" and "made people very emotional and angry." The government will investigate the groups' activities, he said.

"If they are really involved in proselytizing Afghan people for Christianity, then definitely these people will be introduced to the judicial authorities," Mr. Amarkhiel said.

Evangelizing is a delicate issue in Afghanistan, a conservative Islamic country where there are no known native Christians and no formal churches, although some foreign embassies hold services within their own compounds. But many foreign nongovernmental organizations and aid groups here are supported by Christian groups abroad.

Foreign aid groups have to make a "commitment that their activity will be based on the Constitution of Afghanistan," which forbids conversion from Islam, Mr. Amarkhiel said.

The television reports were shown last Thursday and Friday on Noorin TV, a small station in Kabul known as an antigovernment gadfly. Even the station's director, Muhammed Arif Noori, however, said Noorin TV had no evidence that the two aid groups had been involved in proselytizing. The report merely raised "suspicions" about the two groups after finding them in a local telephone directory of nongovernmental organizations and noticing that they each had the word "church" in their names, Mr. Noori explained in an interview.

The television reports showed photographs that were alleged to be of Christian baptisms as well as videotapes of Christian prayer meetings, held at what the station said were seven missionary safe houses in western Kabul. The baptisms, presided over by at least four Western men, were done by dunking Afghan men completely in full bathtubs and pouring buckets of water over the heads of Afghan women as they stood in empty bathtubs.

Atle Sommerfeldt, Norwegian Church Aid's general secretary, said "the N.C.A. is not engaged in missionary work anywhere in the world, and not in Afghanistan."

Mr. Sommerfeldt said most of the group's development work, concentrating on rural and agricultural development in four central and southern provinces, continued as usual because most of it was carried out by local Afghan partners who were not affected by the suspension.

"In Afghanistan, as elsewhere in the world, N.C.A. does not have a mandate to influence people to change religion," he said. "We hope and believe in a speedy and positive solution."

Maurice A. Bloem, deputy director of programs for Church World Service, said in a statement that proselytizing

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was against his organization's code of conduct, The Associated Press reported.

The group has an \$8 million budget for Afghan projects this year, according to Liv Snesrud, its Afghanistan program coordinator.

Last year, Al Jazeera broadcast a report showing evangelical Christian soldiers at an American base who were apparently discussing trying to convert Afghans to Christianity by distributing Bibles in Pashto and Dari, the country's two main languages.

The United States military responded that such activity was forbidden by military rules, and confiscated and destroyed the Bibles.

### **Pakistani Court Orders Access To Facebook Restored (Ellick, Gillani, NYT)**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2010**

**New York Times**

**By Adam B. Ellick And Waqar Gillani**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - A Pakistani court on Monday ordered the government to restore access to Facebook, nearly two weeks after it blocked the social networking Web site amid anger over a Facebook page that solicited images of the Prophet Muhammad.

Images or drawings of the prophet are considered blasphemous by most Muslims.

"We cannot block access to information," said Justice Ejaz Ahmed Chaudhry, a High Court judge in the city of Lahore who had also issued the original ban.

Still, in the ruling, Justice Chaudhry ordered the government to block specific content considered blasphemous to Islam. He also called on the authorities to explore a central censorship system, such as those used in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to block hate content.

The court will reconvene on June 15 to review the government's progress.

The Islamic Lawyers Forum, the group that filed the original case to ban access to Facebook, rejected the court-ordered restoration on Monday, pledging to pursue what it called "a complete ban again" if the government does not adequately censor offensive content.

Outside the courtroom, protesters chanted slogans against Facebook.

The controversy erupted after a Facebook user created a page called "Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" and asked for submissions.

On May 19, thousands of Pakistanis responded with angry protests around the country. As a result, the Lahore High Court ordered the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority to block access to over 600 Web sites, including Facebook, YouTube and certain pages on Flickr and Wikipedia. Access to most sites has since been restored.

On Saturday, Bangladesh became the second country to block Facebook. As in Pakistan, the ban is expected to be temporary.

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COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION



Brussels, 31 May 2010  
10485/10 (Presse 152)  
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**Declaration by HR Catherine Ashton on behalf of the EU on  
the Israeli military operation against the Flotilla**

The EU deeply regrets the loss of life during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the Flotilla sailing to Gaza and offers its condolences to the families of the victims. The EU condemns the use of violence that has produced a high number of victims among the members of the flotilla and demands an immediate, full and impartial inquiry into the events and the circumstances surrounding them.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains a source of grave concern. The EU does not accept the continued policy of closure. It is unacceptable and politically counterproductive. We need to urgently achieve a durable solution to the situation in Gaza.

The EU underlines its call for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza.

The EU calls on Israel to urgently provide Member States with consular access to and information about their citizens.

The EU calls upon all parties and relevant actors to prevent a further escalation of tensions and underlines the need to continue the proximity talks with a view to the resumption of direct negotiations.

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**P R E S S**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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From: Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:39 AM  
To: DRL-MLGA-DL; Ostermeier, Amy A; Nossel, Suzanne F; Aswad, Evelyn M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Johnstone, Kari A (DRL)  
Subject: Fw: Special NAC on Gaza  
Attachments: UNSC Statement.docx; EU statement on Gaza Convoy.doc

B5

Per my email response to Evelyn re broadening our guidance outreach:

[Redacted]

B5

From: Doner, Susan L  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Sent: Tue Jun 01 07:31:43 2010  
Subject: FW: Special NAC on Gaza

Forwarding the e-mail w/ attachments...

- Susan

From: Harrison, Paul Q  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:02 AM  
To: Heffern, John A; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Daalder, Ivo H; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X  
Cc: Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth\_d.\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart; 'Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY'; SES-O\_Shift-I; Rathod, Rona R  
Subject: RE: Special NAC on Gaza

Dear All,

[Redacted]

B5

Attached are the EU and UNSC statements.

POSSIBLE NAC Statement Text:

[Redacted]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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B5

SBU

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**From:** Heffern, John A

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:50 AM

**To:** Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Daalder, Ivo H; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X

**Cc:** Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth\_d.\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart; 'Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY'; Harrison, Paul Q

**Subject:** RE: Special NAC on Gaza

Below are cleared talking points per A/S Feltman's earlier email.

Thank you.

Payton

--The Administration has publicly expressed its deep regret and concern for the tragic loss of life and the injuries suffered surrounding the recent incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships.

--We have called for a credible and transparent investigation and urge the Israeli government to investigate the incident fully.

--We continue to believe that the situation in Gaza is unsustainable and have long called on Israel to address the humanitarian crisis there. At the same time, any durable solution to Gaza must address Israel's legitimate security concerns, as the Quartet and the UN Security Council consistently acknowledge.

--Ultimately, the only solution to this conflict is through an agreement, negotiated between the parties, that establishes an independent, contiguous, and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel.

--For this reason, President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and Special Envoy Mitchell have worked from day one of this Administration to launch negotiations between the parties that will achieve Palestinian aspirations to exercise their right of self-determination within their state.

--The proximity talks that are currently underway are the only hope for re-starting direct, credible, and productive negotiations, and we are pursuing them at the request of the Palestinians. They must continue. Further delay in negotiations only empowers extremists on both sides and postpones the day when Palestinians can live in a secure and independent state in the West Bank and Gaza.

--The U.S. is leading diplomatic efforts to resolve the current situation. There will be setbacks and challenges to progress toward peace, but we must remain steadfast. As we continue our efforts in the Security Council and with Israel to

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overcome the current impasse, it is critical that the Arab League not take a decision that would damage the proximity talks, which are the only viable path forward.

SBU

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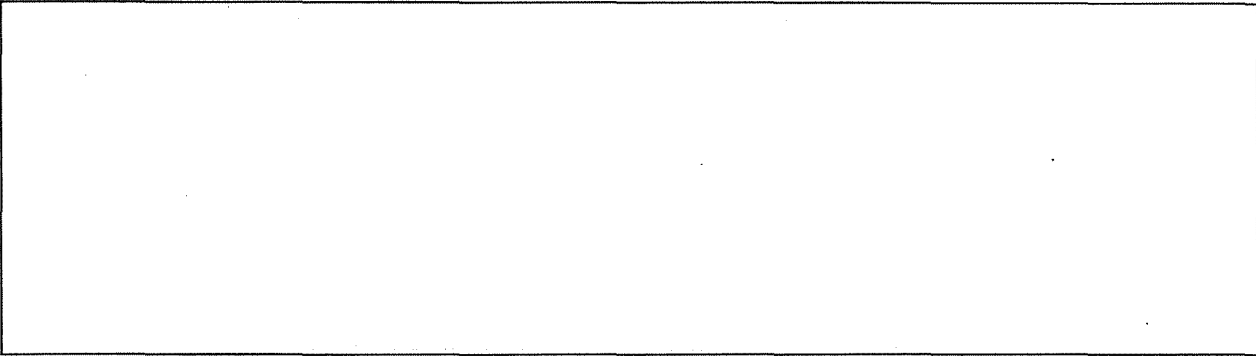
**From:** Gordon, Philip H

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:42 AM

**To:** McEldowney, Nancy E; Daalder, Ivo H; Heffern, John A; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X

**Cc:** Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart; 'Vershbow, Alexander R HON OSD POLICY'

**Subject:** RE: Special NAC on Gaza



B5

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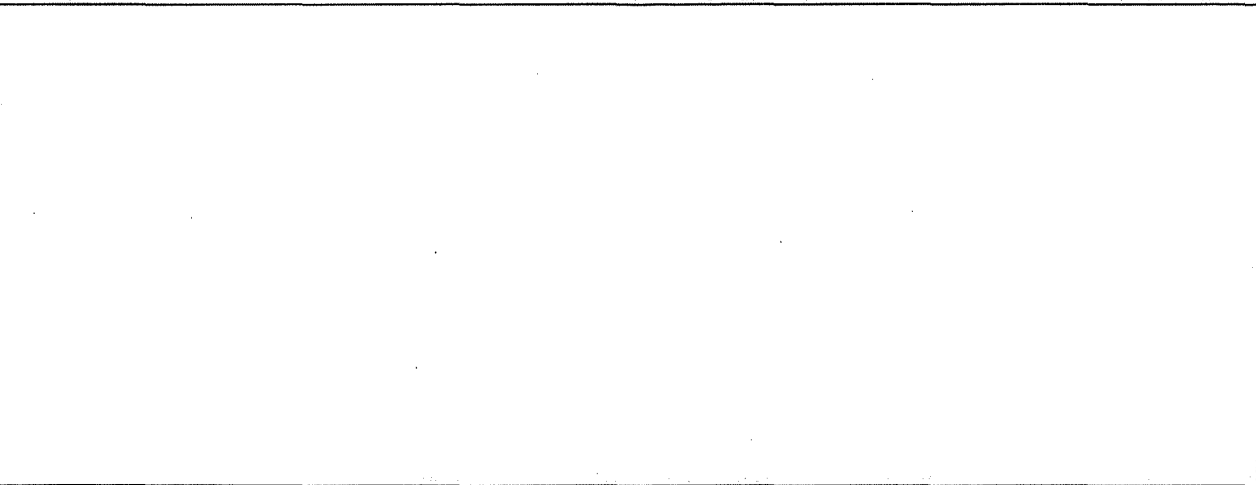
**From:** McEldowney, Nancy E

**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 9:01 PM

**To:** Daalder, Ivo H; Heffern, John A; Degnan, Kelly C; Baez, Alejandro X

**Cc:** Gordon, Philip H; Turner, Bruce I; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Tervakoski, Mark A; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Jones, Stuart

**Subject:** Special NAC on Gaza



B5

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**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Leary, Thomas M; McEldowney, Nancy E; Katsoulos, Athena; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-DAR-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 16:53:57 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 16:36:38 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

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**From:** Ratney, Michael A  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:45 PM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Subject:** Fw: Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

B5

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**From:** USUN, PRESS  
**To:** USUN, PRESS  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 15:40:41 2010  
**Subject:** Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010

United States Mission to the United Nations  
Office of Press and Public Diplomacy  
140 East 45th Street  
New York, NY 10017  
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USUN PRESS RELEASE #109  
AS DELIVERED

May 31, 2010

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*Remarks by Ambassador Alejandro Wolff, Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to the United Nations, at an Emergency Session of the Security Council, May 31, 2010*

Thank you, Mr. President and thank you, Assistant Secretary-General Fernandez-Taranco.

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The United States is deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident last night aboard the Gaza-bound ships. We are working to ascertain the facts. We expect a credible and transparent investigation and strongly urge the Israeli government to investigate the incident fully.

As I stated in the Chamber in December 2008, when we were confronted by a similar situation, mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by member states and groups that want to do so. These non-provocative and non-confrontational mechanisms should be the ones used for the benefit of all those in Gaza. Direct delivery by sea is neither appropriate nor responsible, and certainly not effective, under the circumstances.

The United States remains deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza, and the deterioration of the situation there, including the humanitarian and human rights situation. We continue to believe the situation is unsustainable and is not in the interests of any of those concerned. We will continue to engage the Israelis on a daily basis to expand the scope and type of goods allowed into Gaza to address the full range of the population's humanitarian and recovery needs. Hamas' interference with international assistance shipments and the work of nongovernmental organizations complicates efforts in Gaza. Its continued arms smuggling and commitment to terrorism undermines security and prosperity for Palestinians and Israelis alike.

We will continue to work closely with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, along with international NGOs and the UN, to provide adequate access for humanitarian goods, including reconstruction materials, through the border crossings, while bearing in mind the Government of Israel's legitimate security concerns.

Ultimately, this incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region. The only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement, negotiated between the parties, that ends the occupation that began in 1967 and fulfills the aspirations of both parties for independent homelands through two states for two peoples, Israel and an independent, contiguous, and viable state of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security. We call again on our international partners – both inside and outside this Council – to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the entire region.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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**Source: Reuters**

UNITED NATIONS, June 1 (Reuters) - Following is the full text of a formal presidential statement adopted on Tuesday by the United Nations Security Council on Israel's action against an aid flotilla heading for Gaza.

The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbors, could bring peace to the region.

The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

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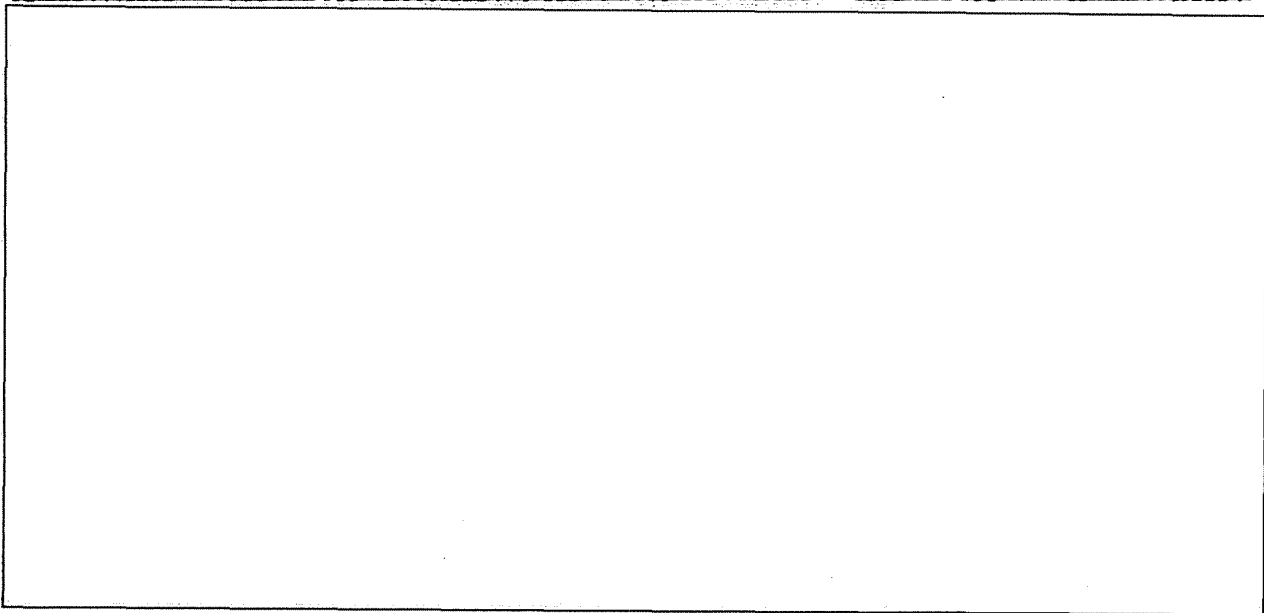
**From:** Graze, Deborah E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:14 AM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Cassidy, Joseph P; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Mayfield, Kay (DRL)  
**Subject:** Fw: Final Gaza PRST  
**Attachments:** Presidential Statement Gaza 31.May rev 1.doc

B6

---

**From:** Germain, Ellen J (USUN)  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Schedlbauer, Amy W; Germain, Ellen J (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 01:46:22 2010  
**Subject:** Final Gaza PRST

Being read in the SC chamber now.



B6

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

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**From:** Levent Gumrukcu [redacted]  
**Date:** Mon, 31 May 2010 22:35:44 -0700 (PDT)  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** PRST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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**DRAFT SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE RECENT  
INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, could bring peace to the region.

The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region.

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Schwartz, Jonathan B

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**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 7:01 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Woodward, Shirley G; Pomper, Stephen E; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** Israeli proposed COE -questions.DOC  
**Attachments:** LEGAL-#247657-v2-Israeli\_Flotilla\_incident\_-\_Commission\_of\_Experts\_-\_questions.doc

Here is a newer version of this paper in case we need it at future point.

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Schwartz, Jonathan B

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**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:46 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Woodward, Shirley G; Pomper, Stephen E; Banos, Mariano H; 'Bob and Sue Harris Biniaz'  
**Subject:** israeli proposed COE - considerations.DOC  
**Attachments:** LEGAL-#247657-v1-Israel\_Flotilla\_incident\_-\_Commission\_of\_Experts\_-\_questions.doc

Here's a draft paper for 2:30 meeting today on the proposed Commission of Experts, drawing from the questions raised by Joanne and Steve Townley. I can collect comments/edits. Thanks, Kate

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DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAR 2012 201004163

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**Schwartz, Jonathan B**

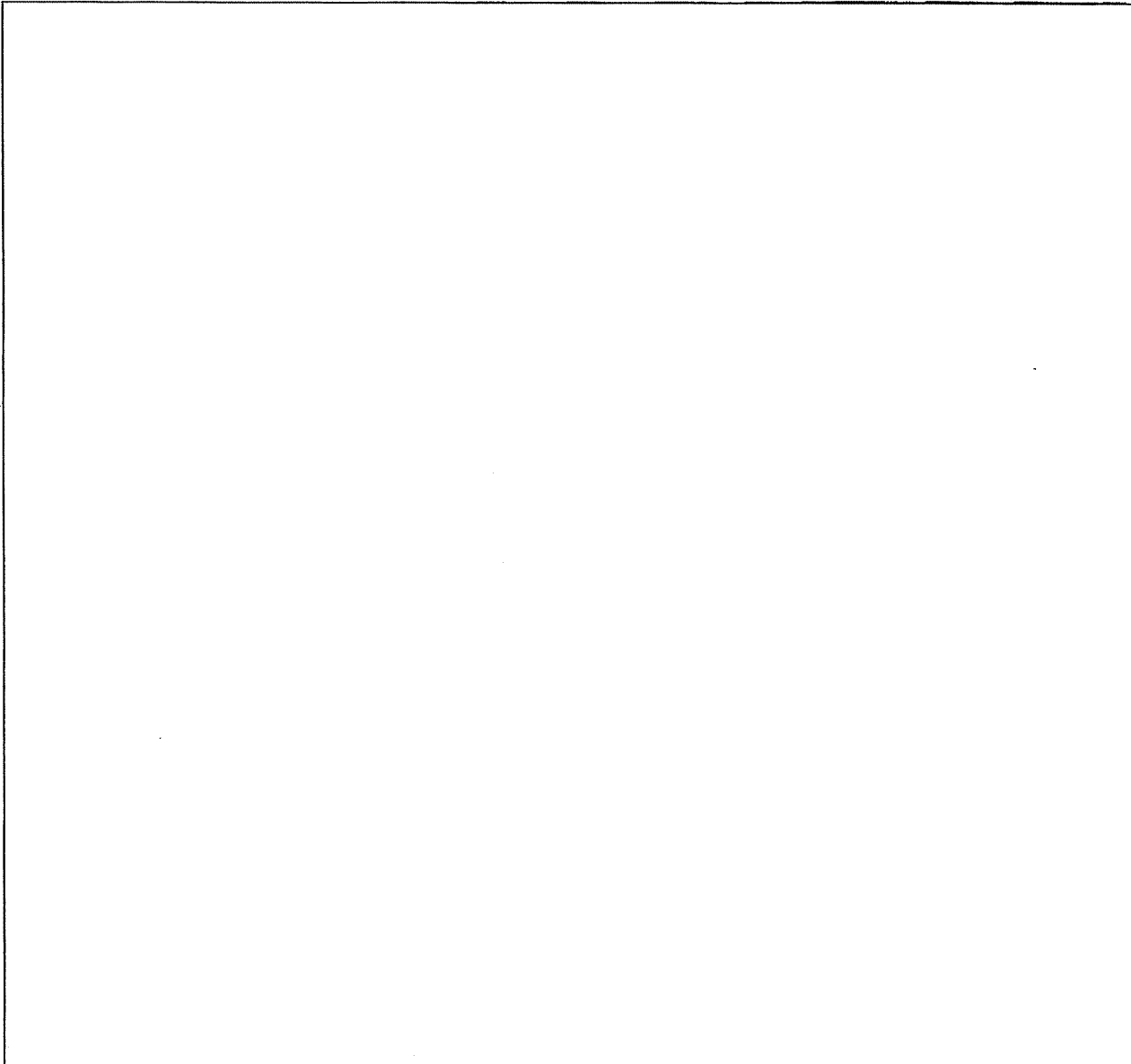
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**From:** Cleveland, Sarah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:27 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** FW: Israel -Flotilla and beyond

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**Importance:** High

Jon - per the Samantha Power conversation, FYI.



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DATE/CASE ID: 28 MAR 2012 201004163

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**Schwartz, Jonathan B**

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**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 6:11 PM  
**To:** Perina, Alexandra H; Jacobson, Linda; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** FW: flotilla outline 2.doc  
**Attachments:** flotilla outline 2.doc

RELEASED IN FULL

Inadvertently some of the changes to the prior draft were dropped from the final version. I have reentered them here as tracked changes for others to review and Linda to confirm before we send this to Harold. Please advise if there is anything further. In view of this complication, Stephen may want to wait until OOB to send forward to permit final input from others.

---

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 4:17 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** flotilla outline 2.doc

Here is the latest version incorporating some comments from BH and JoAnn. I need to leave at 4:45 today, so please send your comments soonest, or if later, to JoAnn. Steve, I think this is good to go to HHK if addressees have no further thoughts.



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**Israeli military attack on Freedom Convoy going to Gaza Strip  
and breaking the Israeli siege imposed on it**

**The Arab League council on the ministerial level extraordinary session on 02 June 2010 at the Arab League General Secretariat head quarters,**

- After looking at the general secretariat memo,
- Has studied the required steps regarding the Israeli military attack and piracy conduct in international Mediterranean sea waters on the Freedom convoy which carried humanitarian material going to Gaza strip which lies under siege, and which led to the deliberate murder and fall of unarmed civilian victims and injured in this convoy, and all the participants of which were kidnapped using armed force,
- Considers the continuous Israeli occupation of Arab territories and insistence to change the demographic and geographic formation of the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem to be the basis for disruption and tension in the area,
- Decides that Israel's continuation, as the occupation force, to put Gaza Strip under siege and obstruct its reconstruction is a crime against humanity that should be immediately stopped using all legitimate means including resistance,
- Emphasizes that the continuity of some states to offer support to Israel despite its savage practices and violations against Palestinian people and those who try to offer to Palestinians necessary humanitarian help, is based on a big political mistake by giving Israel an immunity to not respect international law bases which is a precedent that threatens the entire international order,
- Emphasizes that these Israeli policies and practices that form state terrorism feeds terrorist inclinations in the Middle East,
- After discussions and listening to the speeches of the heads of delegations and the general secretary,

**DECIDES**

- 1- To condemn the intentional military attack that Israel conducted against the Freedom Convoy in the international waters, an issue that constitutes piracy and state terrorism and threat to the stability and security in the Mediterranean Sea, and a clear violation of international law that protects sailing in international waters, and related international humanitarian law concepts and principles.
- 2- To break the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and commit to deliver medical and food aid and necessary construction material for reconstruction and other required needs for the Palestinian people in the strip using all the means, and hold Israel internationally responsible for the obstruction of humanitarian aid and necessary requirements for reconstruction, and for not opening all the crossings for the movement of people and goods.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 20 MAR 2012 201004163

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- 3- To assign Lebanon, the Arab member in the United Nations Security Council, and the Arab group in New York to request holding a meeting for the Security Council, in coordination with Turkey, and friend countries and groups, to issue the required resolution condemning the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and compulsion of Israel to immediately lift this siege, and request holding the continued 10<sup>th</sup> session in the context of the UN General Assembly to counter the Israeli siege on Gaza Strip.
- 4- To commit to the resolutions of Sirte Summit and particularly resolution number 508 dated 28 March 2010 to stop all forms of normalization with Israel and commitment to the discussions in this regards, and in light of this continuous Israeli challenge and violation of all its commitments, the ministerial council decides to send a recommendation to their excellencies heads of states to implement the speech of Saudi King Abdallah at the Economic Summit in Kuwait in January 2010 that the Arab Peace Initiative will not stay on the table for long.
- 5- That Israel's continuation of its practices and the last of which was the criminal attack on unarmed civilians emphasize clearly Israel is not serious in reaching fair and comprehensive peace in the region and is committed to make the negotiations useless and in vain and doubts the credibility of assurances offered to the Palestinian side, and assign the Secretary General to direct a message to the US Administration in this regards.
- 6- To Coordinate the Arab steps with Turkey and other concerned sides to file cases to national and international specialized suing agencies, on top of which is the ICC regarding the Israeli siege imposed on Gaza Strip.
- 7- To ask Israel to immediately release the remaining kidnapped members of the Freedom Convoy and detained ships and relief material.
- 8- To welcome the Human Rights Council resolution regarding forming an independent fact finding committee to investigate the violations of international law in the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy and express appreciation for the countries that voted for the resolution and express resentment from the position of countries that voted against this resolution.
- 9- To welcome the positions of countries that took clear and strong procedures against the Israeli military attack and condemned it, and express resentment from the positions of some countries at the United Nations Security Council that obstructed the agreement to conduct an independent international investigation.
- 10- To call for coordination with all international rights and humanitarian organizations to actually and immediately begin to show all the sides of this case, including the legal and humanitarian dimensions, and target the world media to reveal this crime and show its consequences, and

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praise the Qatari pledge to cover all the special costs for this movement on the legal and media tracks.

- 11- To appreciate all the activists who participated in this noble humanitarian mission and bless the souls of the victim martyrs and express appreciation of the Arab League council and its support for Turkey's honorable position and international positions that expressed condemnation for this attack and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and their fair case.
- 12- To ask the Arab delegation participating in the Arab Turkish Cooperation Forum meetings to express the appreciation for Turkey's positions and offer the condolences for the families of the victims of the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy.
- 13- To ask the Secretary General to follow on the implementation of this resolution and keep the Arab League Council in continuous session.

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Logg, Cristina A

**From:** Wilmer, Kami A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:39 AM  
**To:** Godfrey, Anthony F; Lee, Robert D  
**Subject:** Yesterday's Spot reports -- in case you haven't yet seen them.

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

***SPOT REPORT No. 2***  
***LATEST SITUATION ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA***

Monday, May 31, 2010  
 1200 EDT

**NETANYAHU TO CURTAIL TRIP AND RETURN TO ISRAEL**

(U) The Israeli Prime Minister is currently in Canada, but press report he will cancel his scheduled onward stop in Washington to return to Tel Aviv. (AP)

**FLOTILLA SHIPS ENTERING PORT, CASUALTIES NOT YET IDENTIFIED**

- (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv reports nine American citizens are in detention and consular staff hope to have access to them the morning of June 1. Israeli sources say two former U.S. diplomats detained for their participation in the flotilla will be deported from Ben Gurion Airport tonight. One Amciti is hospitalized with minor injuries and will be transferred to a deportation facility shortly. A total of 18 Amcits are believed to have been part of the flotilla, seven are unaccounted for. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) Israeli defense officials say 10 to 14 civilians were killed or seriously injured, with an additional 30 wounded. Ten Israeli Navy personnel were wounded, one seriously. All casualties had been aboard the MAVI MARMARA and are now in Israeli hospitals. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) The CHALLENGER I is now in the port of Ashdod with Americans onboard, and the MAVI MARMARA is expected between 1700 and 1800 local time, with the rest arriving later in the evening. Passengers will have two options -- jail or deportation. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

**TURKEY CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND**

- (SBU) Turkey is alleging a gross violation of international law, saying the raid occurred 64 nautical miles from the Gaza blockade area. The IDF contends a vessel may be boarded prior to entering an area under naval blockade, if there is reason to believe the vessel intends to breach it. (Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail, Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) Israeli Defense Minister Barak and Major General Dangot, Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, are in communication with officials from the Turkish Foreign and Defense Ministries. They discussed the extent to which rhetoric could be kept in check, the need for security cooperation, and the impact the status of wounded Israeli Arab Islamic leader Raed Salah could have on public reaction. (Ops/ConGen Jerusalem e-mail)
- (SBU) Turkish PM Erdogan cut his trip to Latin America short and will return to Turkey today. FM Davutoglu is in route to New York to request an emergency session of the UNSC today to discuss the incident. Acting PM Arinc ruled out sending Turkish naval forces to the region for the time being, and President Gul condemned the attack, but urged Turks to act with restraint. (Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2012 201004163

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- (SBU) Peaceful protesters gathered outside the U.S. Consulate in Adana (500 to 700 according to local guards, 4000 by Turkish National Police estimates) to lay a black wreath, then dispersed. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*
- (SBU) Embassy Ankara requested additional security for Israeli and American installations in Turkey, and reports the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has authorized the additional forces. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*

**SPOT REPORT NO. 1**  
**LATEST SITUATION ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA**

Monday, May 31, 2010  
0600 EDT

**ISRAELI NAVY INTERCEPTS GAZA FLOTILLA, 15 ACTIVISTS KILLED**

- (SBU) Nine of the 15 killed are reportedly Turkish citizens, according to press. In addition, dozens of activists and six Israeli commandos are reported injured. The wounded are being taken to hospitals in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa. *(Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail, France 24)*
- (SBU) There are currently no reports of wounded or killed American citizens. *(Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*
- (SBU) The incident occurred around 0430 local time May 31, when Israeli soldiers boarded the Turkish flagged ship "Blue Marmara," approximately 70 miles off Israel's coast.
- *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*
- (U) Raed Salah, the head of the northern faction of the Islamic Movement, has been wounded in the incident and is undergoing surgery in an Israeli hospital, media report. *(Jerusalem Post)*

**FLOTILLA HEADED TO ASHDOD; ISRAELI POLICE ON HIGH ALERT**

- (U) The Israeli police are on their highest state of alert and have instituted several road blocks, including one in the Temple Mount area. *(YNet News)*

**ISRAELI CONSULATE ISTANBUL SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS**

- (SBU) Consulate General Istanbul reports Turkish police are deployed around the Israeli Consulate and there are no reports of violence or injuries. At least 5000 protestors are marching from the consulate toward the city's main square, according to press. *(Ops/Consulate General Istanbul e-mail, AP)*
- (SBU) Consulate Adana issued a Warden Message May 31 advising American citizens of potential anti-U.S. and Israeli demonstrations. *(Ops/Consulate Adana e-mail)*

**TURKEY "STRONGLY PROTESTS" INCIDENT; EU CALLS FOR INQUIRY**

- (SBU) The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling the incident "unacceptable" and demanding an "urgent explanation" from Israel, according to press. Embassy Ankara reports the Turkish MFA has summoned Israel's ambassador to Turkey but that Ambassador Levi has been unable to meet with Turkish officials due to a protest surrounding the Israeli Embassy. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail, AP)*
- (U) EU High Representative Ashton expressed her deep regret at the loss of life and violence and demanded a full inquiry. *(Reuters)*
- (U) Arab League Secretary General Moussa called for an emergency meeting June 1 to discuss Israel's "terrorist act." *(Reuters)*
- (U) President Abbas called for three days of mourning throughout the Palestinian Territories. *(Reuters)*

Drafted: JAMorgan  
Dist: State (all bureaus), NSC, HSC, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, FBIS, NCTC, DHS

Approved: PSlaterry

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Kami Witmer

2  
**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J2

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(D)

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:37 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Howard, Jeremiah H; Arvey, Jason M; de OtaIvaro, Laura H; Eppler, Dale B; Godfrey, Anthony F  
**Subject:** FW: text of cable on IHH

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Here is the text of the IHH cable -- already sent to EUR and NEA and NSC via e-mail.

I'm having SMART problems actually sending this as a cable, but IPC is working on it.

Douglas A. Silliman  
 Deputy Chief of Mission  
 US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
 90-312-455-5555 x7190

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Classified by:** Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2035/06/01

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:33 PM  
**To:** EUR-SE-DL; 'Brink, Bridget A.'; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Bailly, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; McEldowney, Nancy E; Schlicher, Ronald L; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** text of cable on IHH

All,

We are having trouble with our SMART system so we will send you this text via e-mail. The cable will come out soon.

Doug

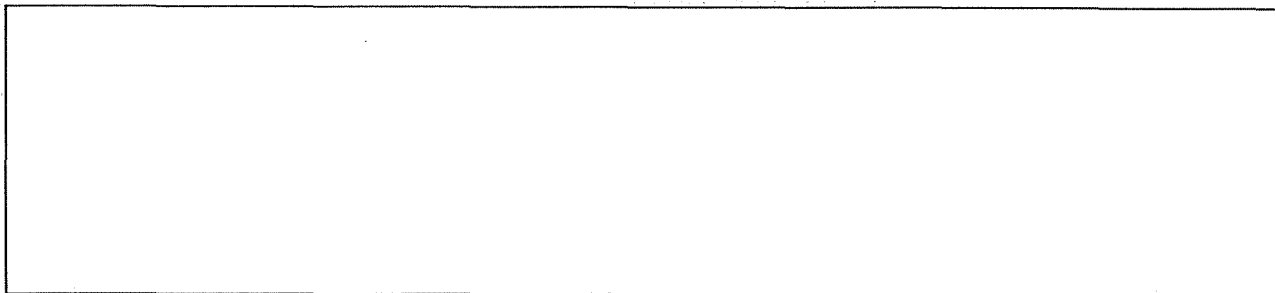
1. (SBU) Summary. The Foundation for Human Rights, Liberties and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), the charitable group which organized the aid flotilla to Gaza, has largely achieved its goal of drawing attention to itself and casting Israel into the role of an oppressor. The IHH has been on the rise for a decade, particularly gaining prominence in its defense first of Bosnians, then Chechens, and now Gazans. Israel designated the organization as a terrorist-supporter in 2008; the organization has had legal problems in the past related to allegations it provides financial and material support to terrorist organizations. End Summary.

2. (C) The IHH flotilla -- flagshipped by the Mavi Marmara, which was stormed by Israeli Defense Forces on May 31 -- achieved a greater success than it bargained for in portraying Israel in as negative a light as possible. The IHH told us before the flotilla set sail that it would either "win" by successfully landing in Gaza to distribute aid, or highlight Israel's intransigence by forming an "artificial island" off the Israeli coast, trying to dominate the world media at least until the World Cup began on July 11. (REF-A) They said being boarded would make Israel look "ridiculous." [REDACTED]

B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED



#### Past Support of Terrorism?

4. (U) A 2006 report on Islamic charities' support of terrorist organizations written by American terrorism researcher Evan Kohlman and published by the Danish Institute for International Studies discusses details of the IHH's alleged support of terrorist organizations. Turkish authorities raided the Istanbul office in 1997, discovering arms, explosives, instructions for constructing improvised explosive devices, and jihad propaganda material. Documents uncovered in the raid indicated IHH members were either planning to join jihad or were actively facilitating traveling jihadists' efforts to go to Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya. The Istanbul office's phone records showed "repeated" telephone calls to what was alleged to be an al-Qa'ida guesthouse in Milan, Italy; to various Algerian terrorists in various places in Europe; and to Abd al-Qadr Mukhtari, a jihadist active in Bosnia during the Bosnia war. The report also quotes French authorities that Bulent Yildirim was personally involved in organizing jihadist facilitation.

5. (U) Following the 1997 raid on their Istanbul offices, the IHH took efforts to protect itself legally from Turkish scrutiny. It registered in Germany as a charitable organization making the bulk of its assets untouchable by Turkish authorities. Bulent Yildirim resigned from formal authority in the organization, although he remained its decision-making and administrative authority; for several years, his son Gokten was President. It appears Bulent Yildirim is now, once again, officially president. The IHH website is registered in Friesdorf, Germany, keeping it out of the authority of Turkish media monitors. The IHH is represented legally, at least in part, by Osman Karahan, an Istanbul lawyer who also defended the suspects in the 2003 Istanbul bombings and Lu'ay al-Saqa who was found guilty of plotting an attack on an Israeli cruise ship in Turkish waters. Karahan has, himself, been arrested on charges of aiding terrorist organizations.

6. (U) Regarding its ties to HAMAS, IHH has met with senior HAMAS officials in Turkey, Syria, and Gaza over the past three years. HAMAS members attended the launching of the Mavi Marmara out of Istanbul. IHH Deputy President Dede is in damage control mode concerning allegations that passengers on the flotilla attacked Israeli forces first, claiming in the press on May 31 that Israel might "place weapons" on the ship to create a justification for the attack and to paint IHH as a terrorist organization.

#### But Broadly Popular

7. (SBU) IHH's contact with and seeming support for terrorist organizations is not widely known in Turkish society. In the early 1990s, the organization was only prominent in religious circles. Its advertising and campaigns have always been anodyne, calling for donations to the oppressed people of various Muslim countries, but being vague on the details of who, exactly, would be handling funds and material upon arrival. As a result, the Turkish populace sees it as a supporter of Bosnians, Afghans, Uzbeks, Indonesians, Iraqis, and Palestinians, but is blind to the nuance that some of the groups actually receiving the money use at least part of the funds to perpetuate violent acts. This nuance is especially lost in the Gaza case, because most Turks -- religious and secular -- do not perceive HAMAS to be a terrorist organization.

8. (SBU) Throughout its existence, IHH has been close to the political religious movement in Turkey. Bulent Yildirim and other IHH staff were frequent guests at events held by the now defunct but religiously conservative Refah and Fazilet parties. Members of these two parties form the core of the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP). It is unlikely that most Turkish politicians are aware of the IHH's contacts with terrorist organizations (other than HAMAS), and would find such allegations incredible and offensive. It is a reasonable assumption that many AKP politicians have donated money to the IHH, assuming it to be a purely charitable organization, making investigations into allegations against the organization politically poisonous.

#### Comment

9. (SBU) The IHH appears to have won the PR battle over the flotilla. The Turkish populace is outraged by Israeli actions on the Mavi Marmara, and is staging anti-Israeli protests in Turkey's major cities. The government, the military, and the opposition parties have condemned the Israeli action. Even the respectable secular press is denouncing what it sees as Israeli aggression against innocent charitable workers. In the midst of it all, IHH's profile as a charitable organization

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defying perceived oppressors is at its highest. Messages coming out of Israel or Washington will meet a jaded public convinced Israel is the aggressor.

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Classification: **SECRET**  
Classified by: Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State  
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)  
Declassify On: 2035/06/01

3  
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01639



UNCLASSIFIED

J3

Logg, Cristina A

**From:** SMART Core [svcSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; Brooks, Judith A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; Jeffrey, James F; Guido, Deborah L  
**Cc:** tjsenecal@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Eppler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Roundy, Brian A; Ogle, Karen L.; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Klopp, Deborah A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Miles, James W  
**Subject:** JCG: CT COORDINATOR AMB. BENJAMIN'S DISCUSSIONS ON TURKEY AND REGIONAL SECURITY

**Categories:** Archival  
**Caption:** SIPDIS  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**DTG:** 091408Z JUL 10  
**MRN:** 10 TEL AVIV 1569  
**Originator:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Precedence:** 3.IMMEDIATE  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), NR

**SECRET**  
Sensitive



**Action Office:** POL\_MIL, POL, AMB\_JFY  
**Info Office:** EAC, AMB\_INFO

**MRN:** 10 TEL AVIV 1569  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 09, 2010 / 091408Z JUL 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, MOPS, TU, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
 AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** JCG: CT COORDINATOR AMB. BENJAMIN'S DISCUSSIONS ON TURKEY AND REGIONAL SECURITY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E. AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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StateDept01640

UNCLASSIFIED

SECRET TEL AVIV 001569

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: DECL: 06/16/2020  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, MOPS, TU, IS  
SUBJECT: JCG: CT COORDINATOR AMB. BENJAMIN'S DISCUSSIONS ON  
TURKEY AND REGIONAL SECURITY

Classified By: DCM Thomas Goldberger, reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

1. (S) Summary: The May 31 Gaza flotilla incident and [redacted] dominated discussion during S/CT Coordinator for Counterterrorism Amb. Daniel Benjamin's discussions with GOI officials on June 13 and 14. [redacted]

B1

[redacted]

NR

2. (SBU) On June 13 and 14, S/CT's Coordinator for Counterterrorism Amb. Daniel Benjamin met with a number of GOI officials, including NSC Deputy Chairman Vice Admiral (ret) Avriel Bar-Yosef, NSC Deputy Eran Lehrman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Intelligence Dan Meridor, and Mossad Deputy Director Rami Ben Barak. Amb. Benjamin led a U.S. delegation to participate in the U.S.-Israel Joint Counterterrorism Group (JCG); a read-out from the JCG and other bilateral meetings with GOI officials will be sent septel.

Turkey

[redacted]

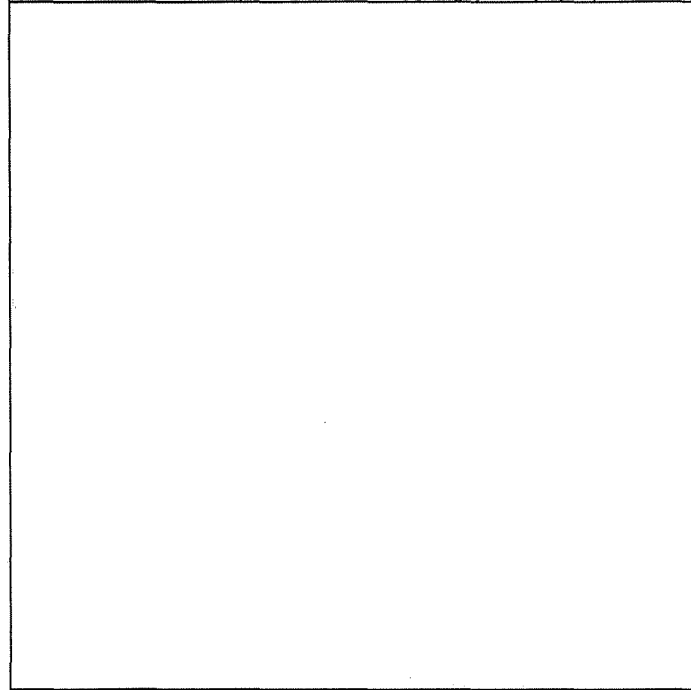
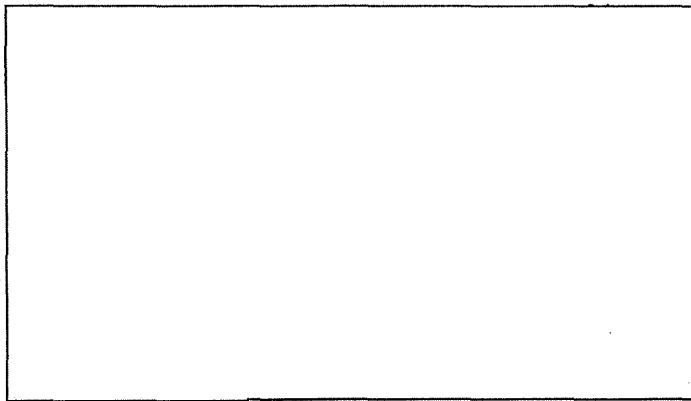
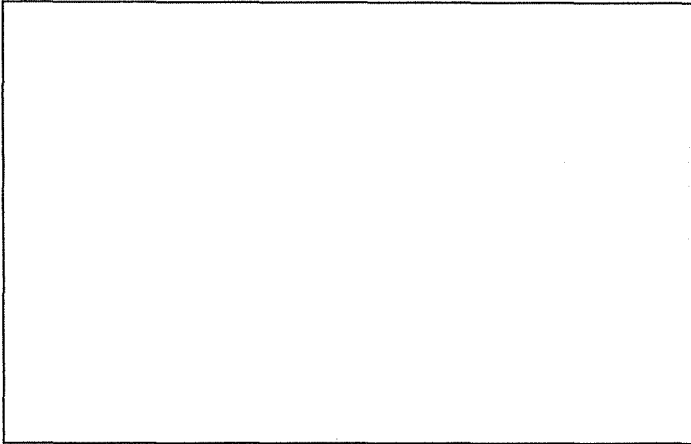
B1

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B1  
NR

B1

NR

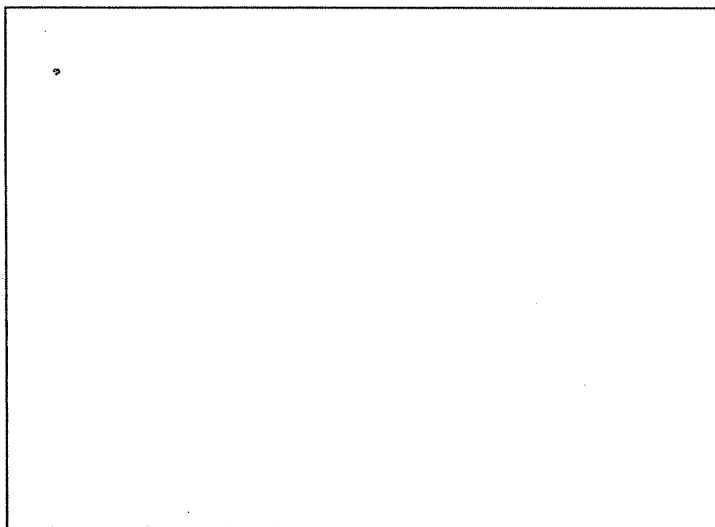


3

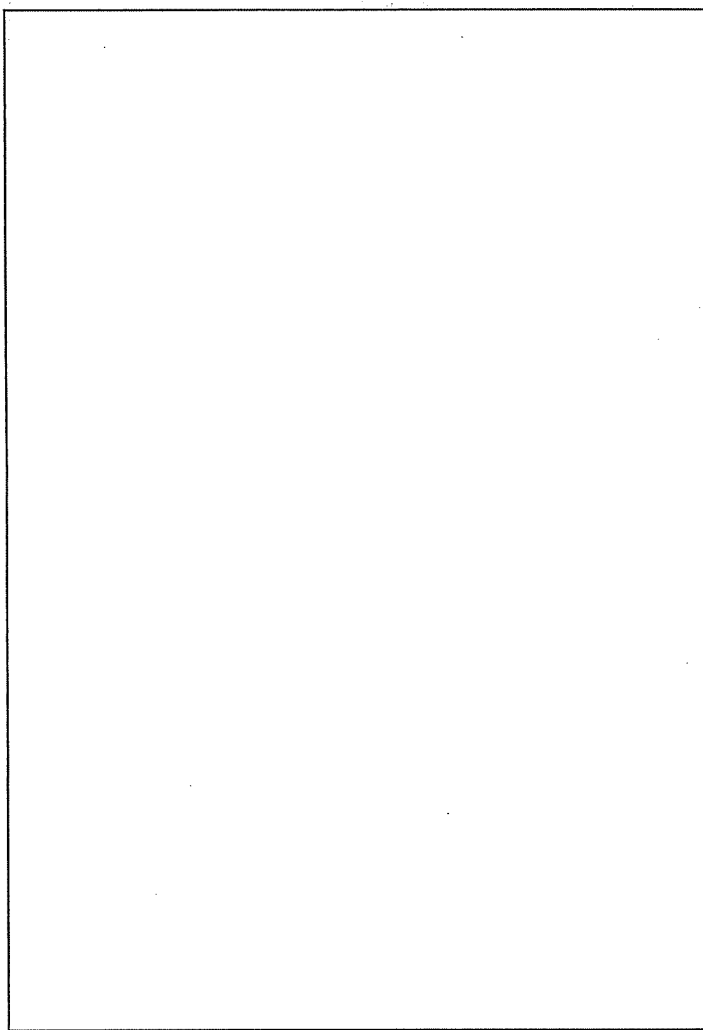
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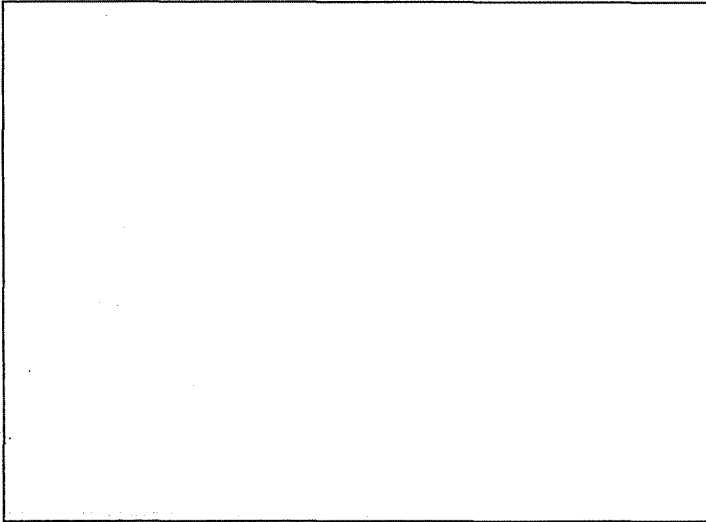
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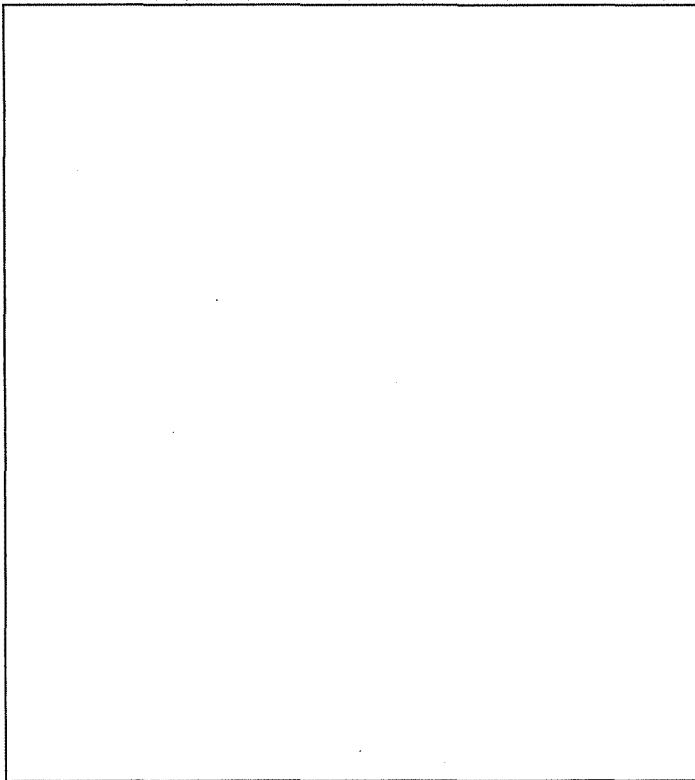
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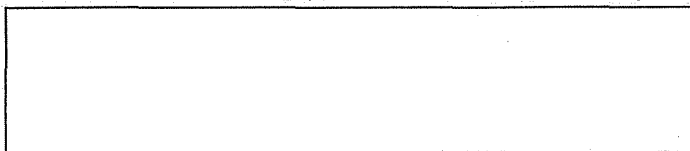
NR



Syria



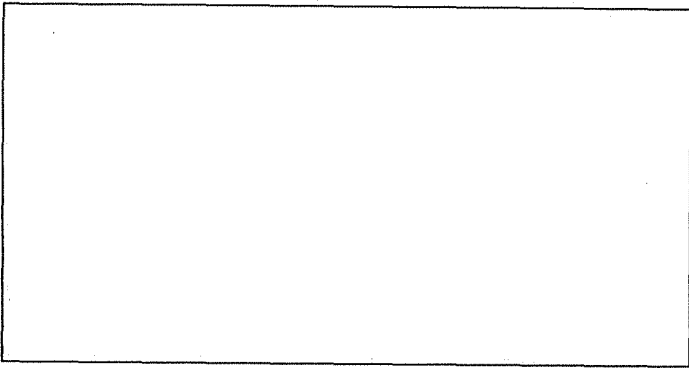
Jordan/Iraq



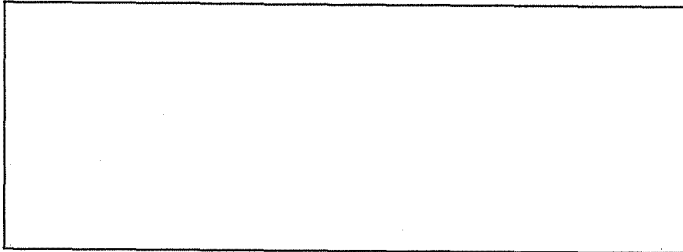
5  
UNCLASSIFIED

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NR



Egypt



CUNNINGHAM

**Signature:** CUNNINGHAM

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**Classified By:** DCM Thomas Goldberger,

**Reason:** 1.4 (b),(d)

**Declassify on:** 06/16/2020

**Info:** WASHDC; SECDEF *PRIORITY*; HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE *PRIORITY*; NSC WASHDC *PRIORITY*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *PRIORITY*; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *PRIORITY*; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI; ZEN/AMCONSUL STRASBOURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Action Post:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA

**Dissemination Rule:** POL\_MIL, EAC, POL, AMB\_JFY\_ACTION, AMB\_INFO

**SECRET**  
Sensitive

6  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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**From:** Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** 8/18/2010 3:33:24 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTCrossLow  
**Subject:** FW: Mavi Marmara event

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Belmonte, Monica L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2010 2:36 PM  
**To:** Schneller, Rachel I; Lester, Raymond; Nash, Robert C; Reynolds, Nathaniel L; Galpern, Steve G; Schrank, Alexander D; Miller, Andrew P  
**Subject:** FW: Mavi Marmara event

Rachel – thanks for the readout! All – of interest, from CFR's Mavi Marmara session today.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Rachel I. Schneller [mailto:RSchneller@cfri.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 18, 2010 2:29 PM  
**To:** Belmonte, Monica L  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara event

Hi Monica,

You missed a nice event at the CFR today! Jeremy Shapiro attended though, so State was nicely represented. It was a smaller group- maybe 15 people- which made it smaller and more collegial. Your friend Henri Barkey was there, as was former US Amb. To Turkey Ross Wilson. Elliot Abrams too.

The speaker Yigal Schleifer, lives in Istanbul and has a blog: [istanbulcalling.blogspot.com](http://istanbulcalling.blogspot.com), that apparently is in high regard. He opened with a nice analogy between Turkish foreign policy and Turkish Airlines. Turkish Air is expanding, being privatized, and used to make Turkey/Istanbul a regional hub, in the same way that Turkish foreign policy is expanding and making Turkey a regional hub. In this vein, the Mavi Marmara incident was a "charter flight gone horribly wrong," rather than a crash.

Yigal put the Mavi Marmara incident into the context of Turkey-Israel relations, which the AKP has been trying to recalibrate since it was elected in 2002. Starting in 2003 with the Iraq War effort (seen in the Middle East as US being manipulated by Israel), Turkey did not want to be seen as "in cahoots" with the US and Israel. Then after trying to mediate between Israel and Syria, which resulted in Israel "scuttling" Turkey, there has been a near-complete breakdown in high-level relations between Israel and Turkey. Apparently Turkish diplomats were aware that the Mavi Marmara was going to be a lot of trouble but were powerless to stop it.

Israel-bashing has become such a crowd-pleaser in Turkey that Erdogan and Davutoglu could not have stopped the flotilla without incurring substantial domestic backlash. Gaza in particular is a flash-point; Yigal thinks for there to be a breakthrough on Turkey-Israel relations there will have to be a breakthrough on Gaza.

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The Mavi Marmara can be seen as a victory for the "Islamist Right" in Turkey. The rally held in Taksim with the return of the 7 killed from the event was symbolically significant. Taksim is the heart of secular, urban elite, and almost no one gets to hold rallies there. Usually the Islamist Right, when it holds rallies, is only able to do so in the surrounding neighborhoods of Istanbul. Will be very difficult for Erdogan to not cede ground to the Islamists.

Problem is there was no "post-Mavi" game plan for these folks. They are not a credible opposition to the AKP; there is no credible opposition to the AKP, which ultimately Yigal thinks will lead to AKP becoming its own worst enemy.

As for results of the Mavi Marmara, the jury is still out. There is some talk of Israeli companies not getting tenders in Turkey, and some decline in Israel-Turkey tourism, but too early to see.

Rachel Schneller  
International Affairs Fellow  
Council on Foreign Relations  
Tel: 202-509-8447  
E-mail: rschneller@cfr.org

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J6

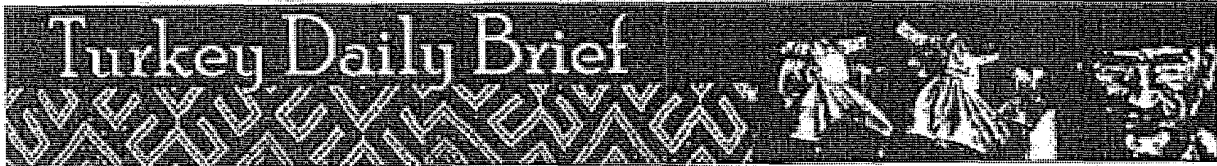
Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART  
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: O'Grady, Daniel J  
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:15 AM  
Subject: Turkey Daily Brief - April 26, 2011

Categories: Working  
AttachmentsClassification:

Classification: SECRET  
SECRET



SECRET

April 26, 2011

<u>(S) Anniversary Flotilla:</u>

NR  
B1  
NR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1  
UNCLASSIFIED

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[Return to Top](#)

**Israeli Embassy Pleaded Israel Not a Turkish Election Issue**

(C)

B1, NR

[Return to Top](#)

**Anniversary Flotilla:**

B1

[Return to Top](#)

NR

**Media Highlights**

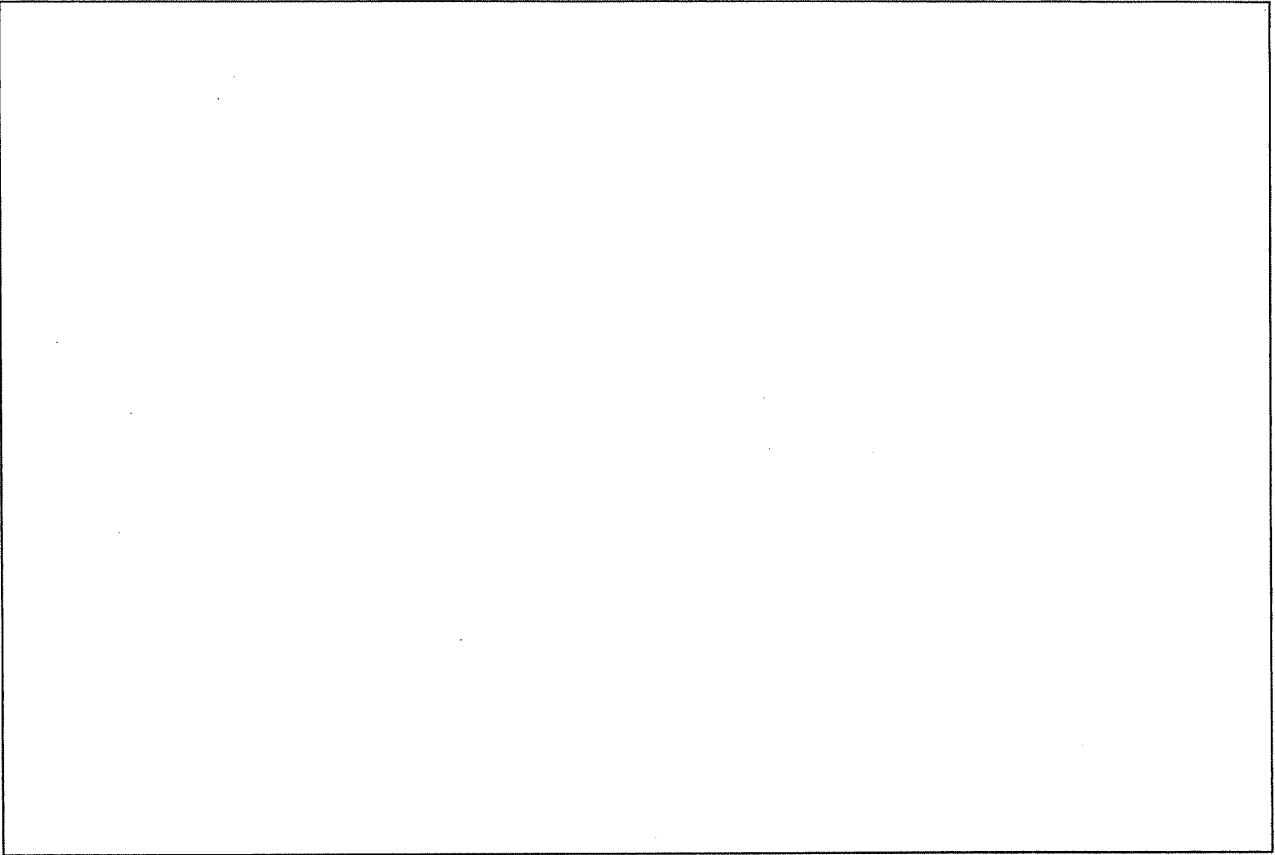
[Return to Top](#) – [Read the Latest Media Reaction \(Ankara 576\)](#)

**Upcoming Events**

2  
UNCLASSIFIED

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NR



<sup>3</sup>  
UNCLASSIFIED

Logg, Cristina A NR

**From:** Norberg, Chad R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2011 6:38 PM  
**To:** EUR-Ambassadors-DL; EUR-DCM-DL; EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-DeskOfficers-DL  
**Cc:** EUR-Staff Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** (S) EUR Daily Activity Report for Wednesday, May 25th

**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Wednesday, May 25, 2011**

CARC

• (SBU) Georgia:

[Redacted content]

NR

CE

• (SBU) Austria:

[Redacted content]

UNCLASSIFIED

• (C) Austria:

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

• (U) Germany:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• (U) Switzerland:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

ERA

• (SBU) EU

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NB

• (U) Finnish Parliament

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

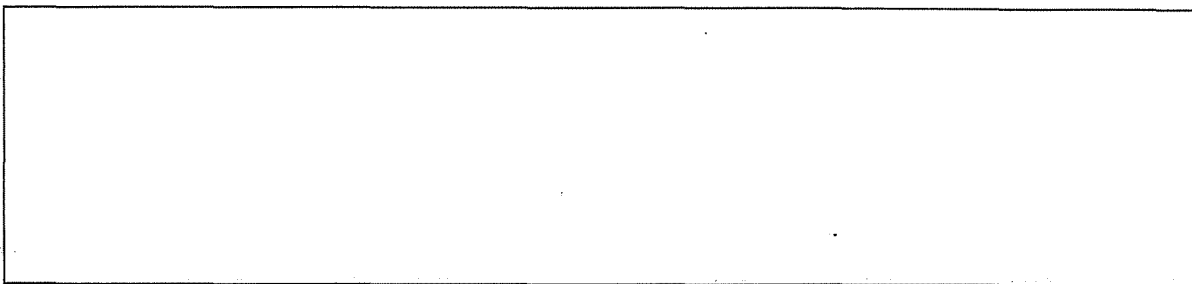
PPD

• (U) Poland:

[Redacted]

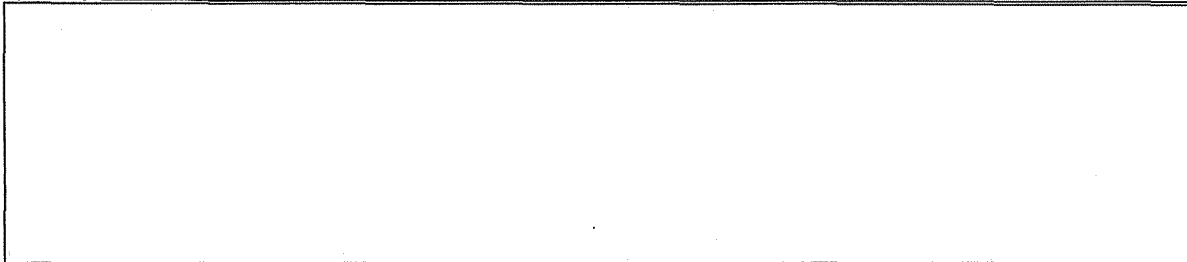
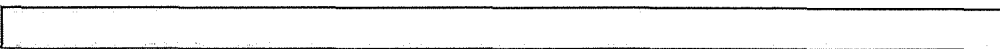
[Redacted]

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PRA

- (SBU) IAEA



- (SBU) Russia:



SCE

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◦ (SBU) Kosovo:

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

◦ (U) Macedonia:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

◦ (SBU) Albania:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

SE

- (SBU) Turkey: IHH Recruiting for Second Gaza Flotilla: An IHH spokesman claimed on May 24 that the organization has received 500,000 applications to participate,

UNCLASSIFIED

and that 1,500 international activists in 15 vessels including the Mavi Marmara will sail the "last week of June." An IHH ship is also scheduled to sail to El Arish, Egypt, on the anniversary of the May 31 incident to deliver humanitarian assistance. Separately, IHH head Bulent Yildirim stated in a May 11 television interview that his goal was to solicit a million potential candidates, of whom a limited number would be chosen to participate in the flotilla. Yildirim also said that "even if we sacrifice martyrs for this cause, we will have justice on our side."

UMB

- (SBU) Ukraine:

NR

WE

- (U) Malta:



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[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

NR

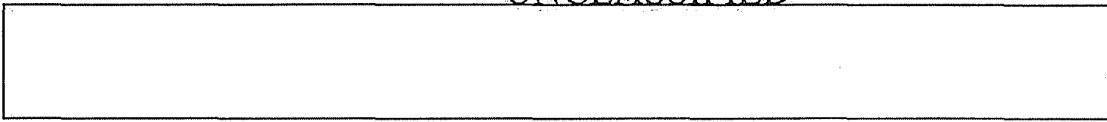
◦ (U) France:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



NR

7

UNCLASSIFIED

Logg, Cristina A

**From:** Kimbrell, Rebecca J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 6:57 PM  
**To:** EUR-Ambassadors-DL; EUR-DCM-DL; EUR-CG-DL; EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-DeskOfficers-DL; EUR-OMS-DL; EUR-Staff Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** (C) EUR Daily Activity Report for Friday, June 17, 2011

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART  
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

CONFIDENTIAL  
DECL: 6/17/2021

**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Friday, June 17, 2011**

CARC

- (SBU) Georgia:
- 

NR

CE

- (SBU) Germany:
- 

NB

- [Redacted]

- (U) Norway: [Redacted]

- (U) Sweden: [Redacted]

PGI

- (SBU) UN HRC [Redacted]

◦ (SBU) UN HRC

NR

[Redacted]

PPD

◦ (U) Balkans:

[Redacted]

RPM

◦

[Redacted]

NR

◦ (SBU) OUP Contributors

[Redacted]

• (U) OECD

NR

[Redacted content]

• (SBU) OSCE

[Redacted content]

• (U) Norway

[Redacted content]

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

NR

• (SBU) OSCE: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

RUS

• (SBU) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

5  
UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

SCE

- (SBU) Serbia: [Redacted]

SE

- (SBU) Greece: [Redacted]

- (SBU) Turkey: Mavi Marmara Drops Out of Flotilla: IHH leader Bulent Yildirim announced June 17 that the Mavi Marmara would not participate in this year's flotilla "due to technical issues." IHH officials say their activists will seek to participate aboard European vessels instead.

UMB

- [Redacted]

NR



UNCLASSIFIED

• (SBU) Ukraine: [redacted]

NR

[redacted]

WE

• [redacted]

B1

[redacted]

• (SBU) France: [redacted]

NR

[redacted]

• (U) Malta: [redacted]

[redacted]

[Redacted]

◦ (U) Netherlands:

[Redacted]

◦ (U) Portugal:

[Redacted]

◦ (U) Spain:

[Redacted]

◦ (U) Spain:

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

J15

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

From: SMART Core [svcsSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov] NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
 Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2011 3:41 PM  
 To: Jones, Stacey L; Wentworth, Mark A; Brown, Kristina M; Hessler, Robert E; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Witmer, Kami A; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Tarry, George R; Baily, Jess L; Walston, Melissa L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Joseph.babb@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Gibbs, Jennifer H; Hay, Andrew W; Kim, Yuri J; marion.shore@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Stafford, Edward G; Sullivan, Corene S  
 Cc: Roe, Cherisa K  
 Subject: Scenesetter for the December 1 U.S.-Israel Strategic Dialogue

Categories: Archival  
 Classification: SECRET  
 DTG: 232039Z NOV 11  
 MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1407  
 Originator: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
 Precedence: 5.ROUTINE

**SECRET**



Action Office: POL  
 Info Office: AMB\_INFO

MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1407  
 Date/DTG: Nov 23, 2011 / 232039Z NOV 11  
 From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
 E.O.: 13526  
 TAGS: PREL, IR, EG, KPAL, SY, TU, JO, IS  
 Reference: A) 11 TEL AVIV 1357  
 B) 11 TEL AVIV 1315  
 C) 11 TEL AVIV 1301  
 D) 11 TEL AVIV 1221  
 E) 11 TEL AVIV 963  
 Subject: Scenesetter for the December 1 U.S.-Israel Strategic Dialogue

1. (S) Summary:

[Redacted box]

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

NR

[Redacted]

2. (C) Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon will lead an interagency GOI delegation of senior officials (see para 14 for full list). [Redacted]

[Redacted]

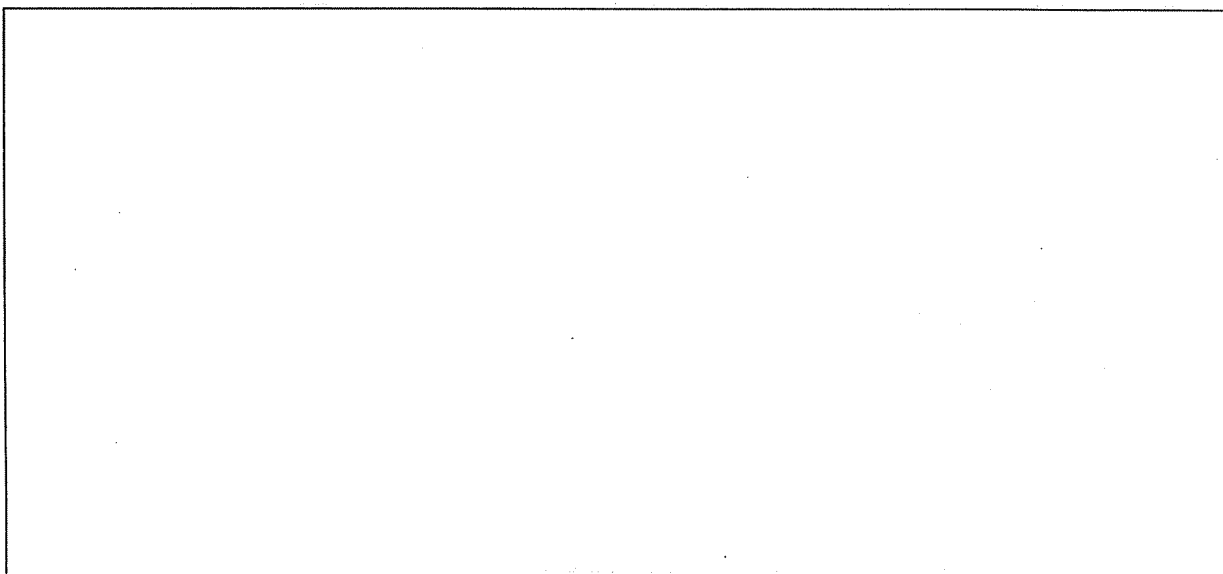
Iran: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

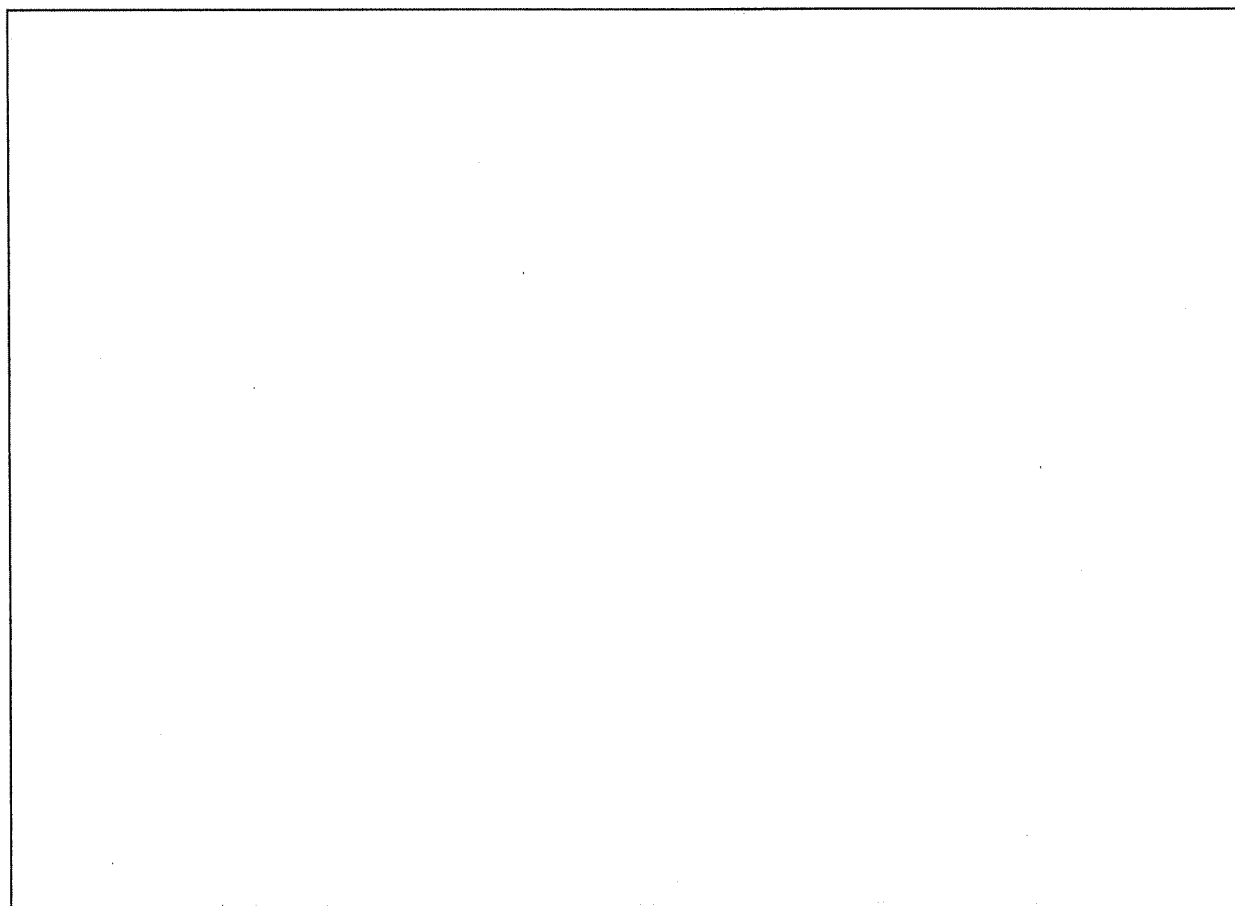
UNCLASSIFIED

NR



Egypt:

[Redacted box]



UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR

[Redacted]

Syria:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Lebanon:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Turkey:

[Redacted]

B1

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

B1

Iraq:

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

Jordan:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

-----  
GOI Delegation  
-----

14. (C)

[Redacted]

B1

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

IDI Strategic Analysis Chief Col. Udi Avental

Signature: SHAPIRO

---

**Classified By:** Name: Daniel Shapiro, Title: Ambassador  
**Reason:** 1.4 (a), (b), (c), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2036/11/23  
**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Berns, David B  
**Cleared By:** POL:Silverman, Robert J  
EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR:Monosson, Danielle H  
POL:Eussen, Matthew M  
POL:Duwan, Gottlieb J  
POL:Levin, Jan X  
EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H  
DAO:JHood/TCyril  
POLRES  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv)  
**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Crippen, John  
**Info:** WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE, ARAB  
ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** AMEMBASSY-TRIPOLI

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, AMB\_INFO

SECRET

6  
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01671



UNCLASSIFIED

J18

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

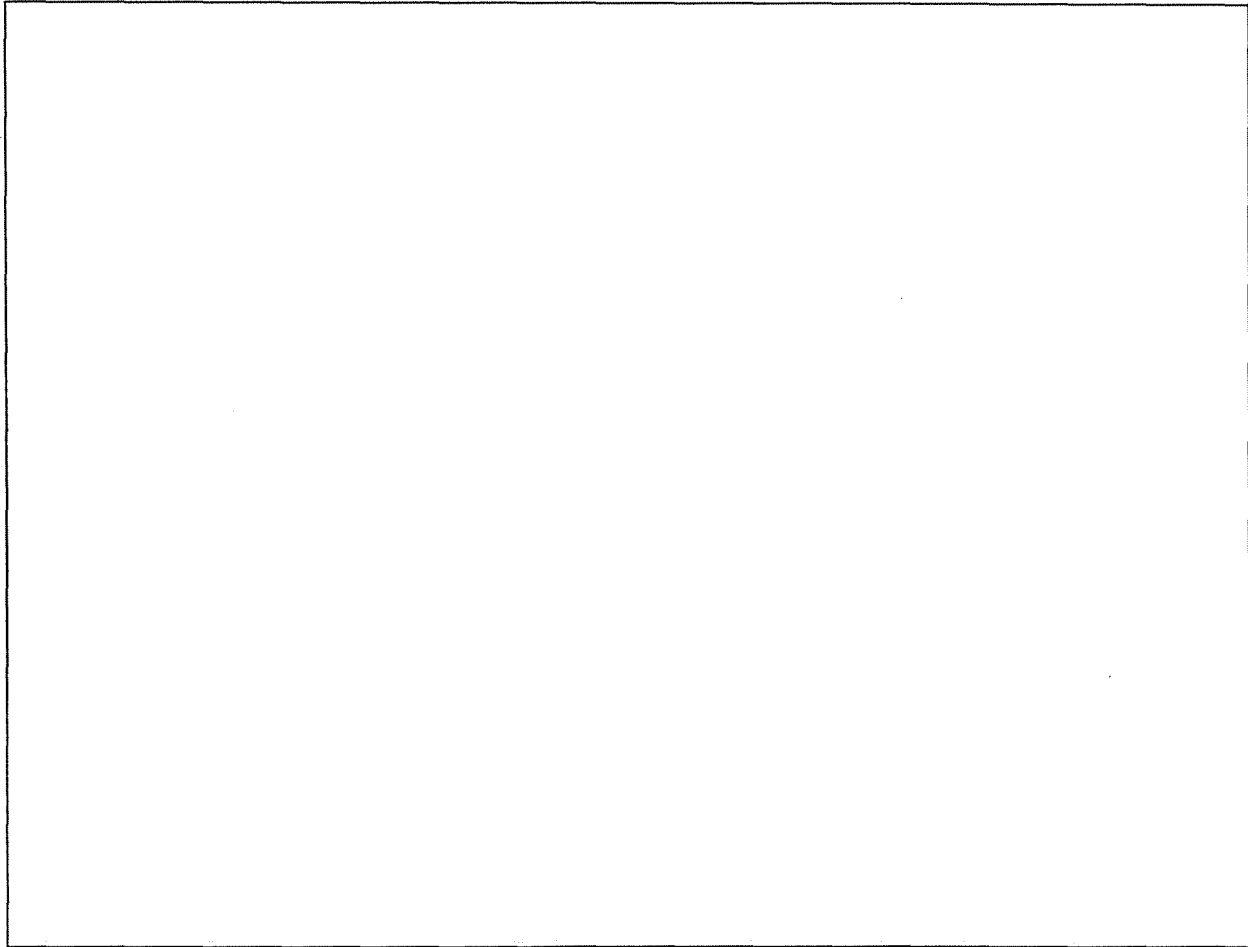
**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 9:36 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Godfrey, Anthony F; Litke, Sara L; Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Price, Adam P  
**Subject:** The Israeli Embassy [redacted]

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), NR

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** SECRET

NR

SECRET

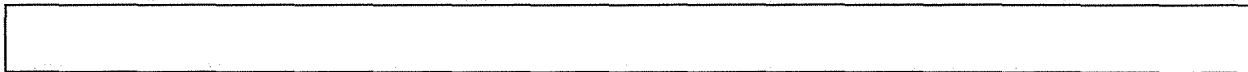


NR

Turkish Demands

(C) [redacted] listing Turkey's demands arising from the May 31 Mavi Marmara interdiction:

B1

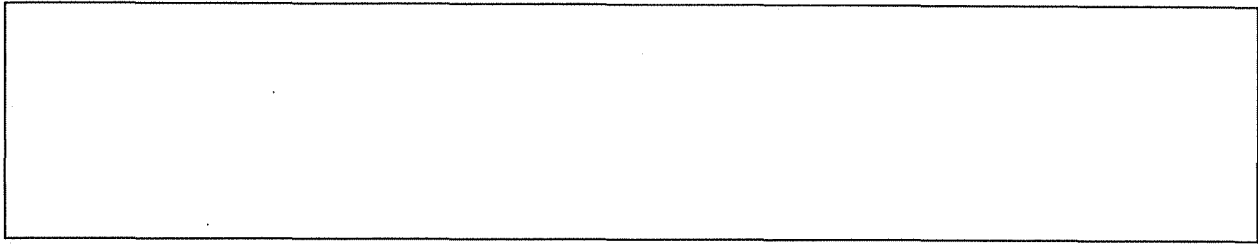


B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 22 MAR 2012 201004163

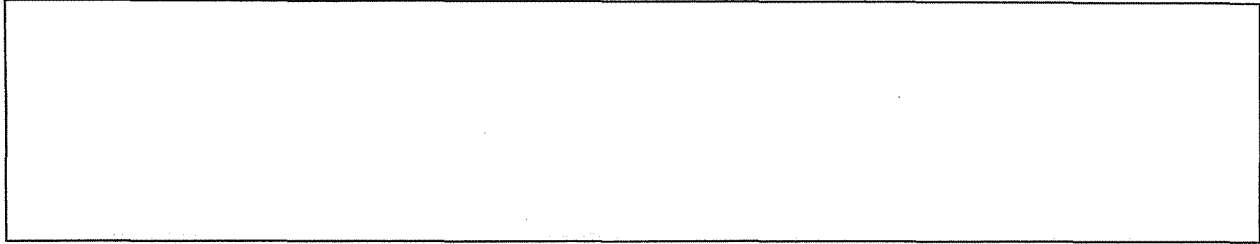
1  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



B1

Ties to Kurds



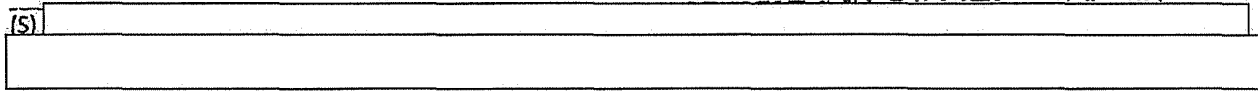
NR

IHH



NR

(S)



B1

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

**Classification: SECRET**  
**Classified by: J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS**  
**Reason: 1.4(b), (d)**  
**Declassify On: 2020/06/28**

UNCLASSIFIED

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART  
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: de Otalvaro, Laura H  
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 6:55 AM  
Subject: (SE) Turkey Daily Brief - September 13, 2010

Categories: Working  
AttachmentsClassification:

Classification: SECRET  
SensitivityCode: Sensitive



SECRET

September 14, 2010

(C) Referendum Opens Turkey's Political Season

[Redacted]

(S) CJCS ADM Mullen September 3-4 Visit to Turkey

(C) Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

[Redacted]

(U) Media Highlights:

[Redacted]

(U) Upcoming Events:

[Redacted]

Referendum Opens Turkey's Political Season

[Large redacted content block]

NR

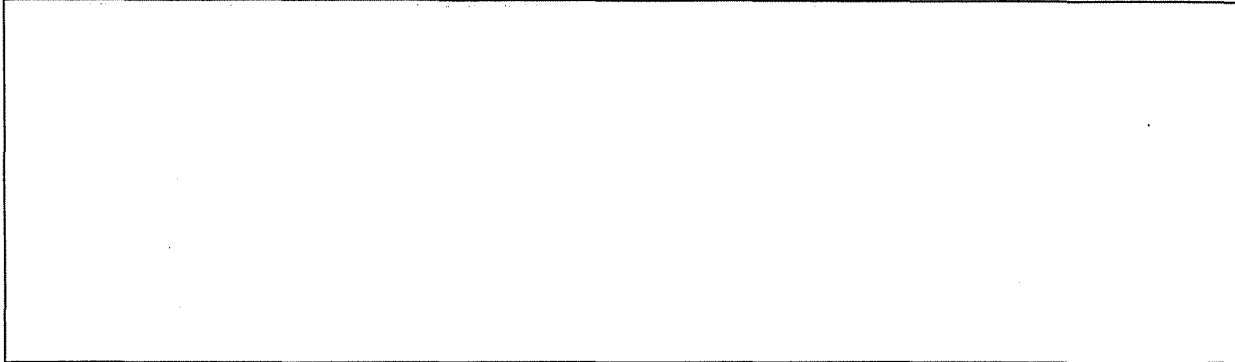
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UNCLASSIFIED



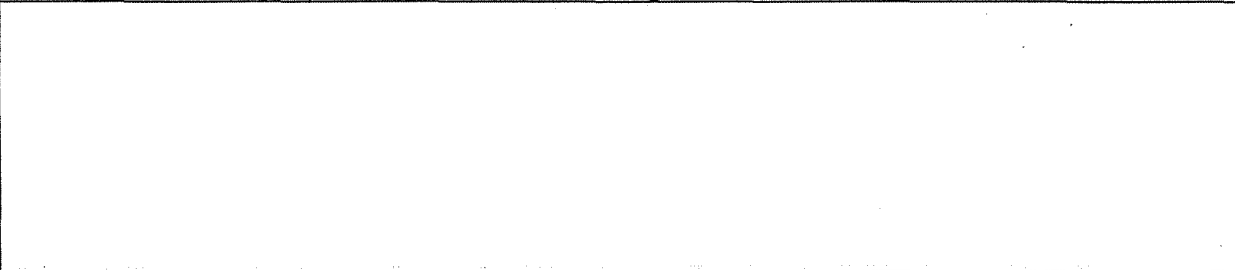
NR

CJCS ADM Mullen September 3-4 Visit to Turkey



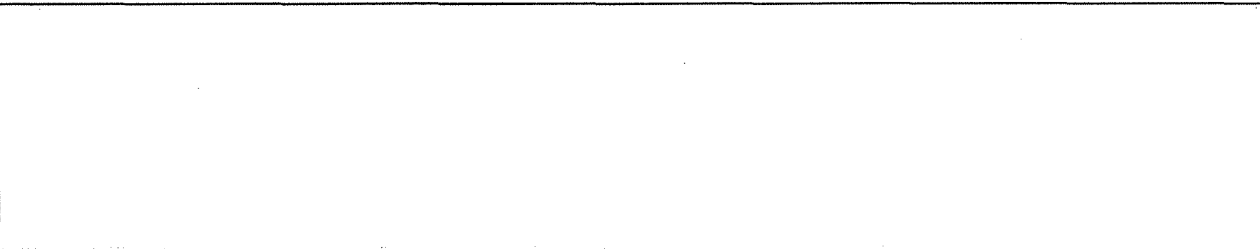
NR

Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council



B1

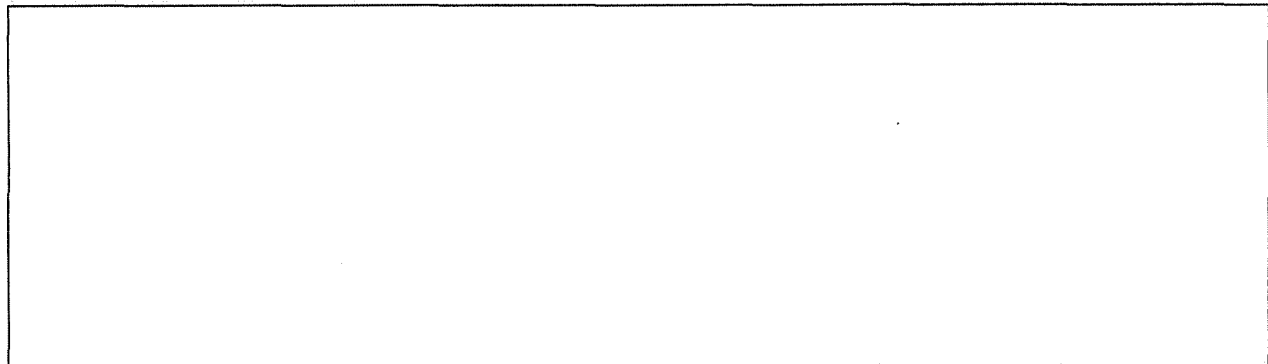
[Return to Top](#)



NR

[Return to Top](#)

**Media Highlights**



[Return to Top - Read the Latest Media Reaction](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Upcoming Events

NR

[Return to Top](#)

[Links to More Info on Turkey](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART  
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Howard, Jeremiah H  
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 7:17 AM  
Subject: (S//NF) Turkey Daily Brief - May 9, 2011

Categories: Working  
AttachmentsClassification: SECRET  
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN



SECRET//NOFORN

May 9, 2011

5/9 (SBU) [redacted]  
(C//REL UK) Mavi Marmara Anniversary [redacted]  
(S//NF) Additional Details on May 4 PKK Kastamonu Attack [redacted]

NR  
B1

(U) Media Highlights: [redacted]

NR  
NR

(U) Upcoming Events: [redacted]

NR

[redacted]

[Return to Top](#)

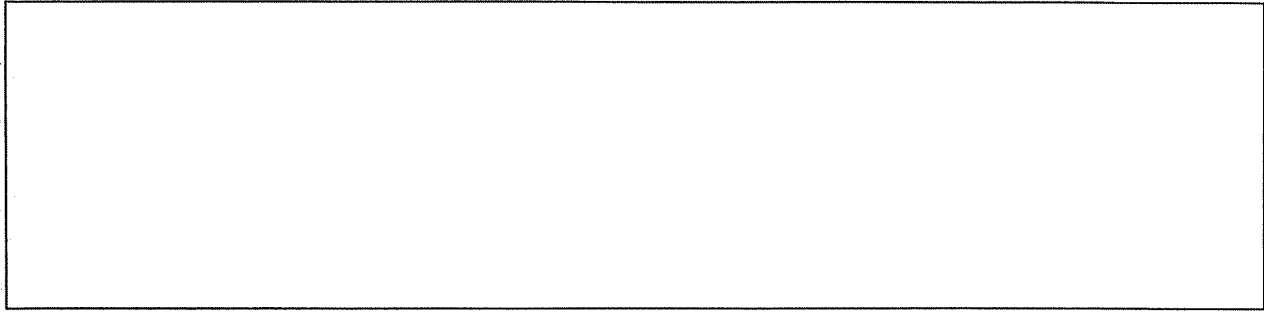
Mavi Marmara Anniversary [redacted]  
(C//REL UK) The Turkish Islamist NGO IHH announced it is sending a single ship May 31, carrying humanitarian supplies, to El Arish, where the cargo will be transshipped to Gaza by truck through the Rafah border crossing. [redacted]

B1

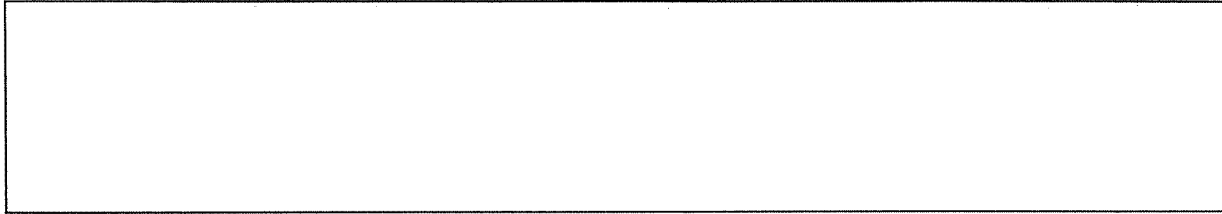
[Return to Top](#)

Additional Details on May 4 PKK Kastamonu Attack [redacted]

NR

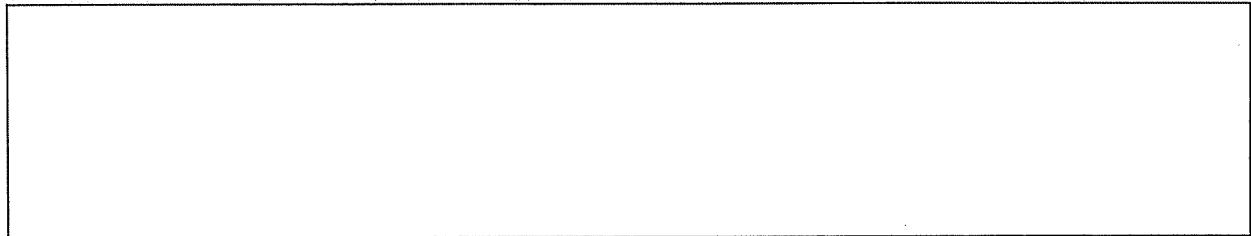


**(U) Media Highlights**



[Return to Top](#) – Read the Latest Media Reaction ([Ankara 652](#))

**(U) Upcoming Events**



[Return to Top](#)

**Links to More Info on Turkey**

- Embassy Ankara's SIPRNet Website: [Embassy Ankara](#)
- Turkey Portal on Intellipedia: [Turkey Portal](#)
- Turkey Human Rights Portal on Intellipedia: [Turkey Human Rights Portal](#)
- Latest Biographies on Turkey's Leaders: [Turkey Bios](#)
- Turkey Daily Brief Archives: [TDB Blog](#)

*Dear TDB Readers: As of November 29, 2010, per IO State 121496, the full text of classified Mission Turkey cables will no longer be posted by SIPDIS to the Net-Centric Diplomacy (NCD) community. Hyperlinks will be provided to the State Department's SMART Archive. For interagency colleagues who are interested in the full text of cables but can not access the SMART Archive, please contact Laura de Otalvaro and she will assist you.*

Please direct inquiries or report problems to Laura de Otalvaro (deOtalvaroLH@state.gov.gov).

Today's TDB Editor was Berna Keen, POL, Embassy Ankara.

Classified by Deputy POLCOUNS Jeremiah Howard, E.O. 13526, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).  
DECL:05/08/2021

UNCLASSIFIED

134

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Kimbrell, Rebecca J  
 Sent: Friday, September 09, 2011 9:36 PM  
 To: EUR-Ambassadors-DL; EUR-DCM-DL; EUR-CG-DL; EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-DeskOfficers-DL; EUR-OMS-DL; EUR-Staff Assistants-DL  
 Subject: (C/NF) EUR Daily Activity Report for Friday, September 9, 2011

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
 SensitivityCode: Sensitive

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

DECL: 9/8/2021

EUR Daily Activity Report  
 Friday, September 9, 2011

CARC

- (SBU) Georgian Government

NR

CE

- (U) Austria's OMV

- (U) Bulgaria:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1  
 UNCLASSIFIED



[Redacted]

NR

ERA

◦ [Redacted]

NR

◦ (SBU) EU [Redacted]

[Redacted]

NB

◦ (SBU) Norway [Redacted]

[Redacted]

◦ [Redacted]

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

NR

PPD

- (U) Plans for USG Outreach

[Redacted]

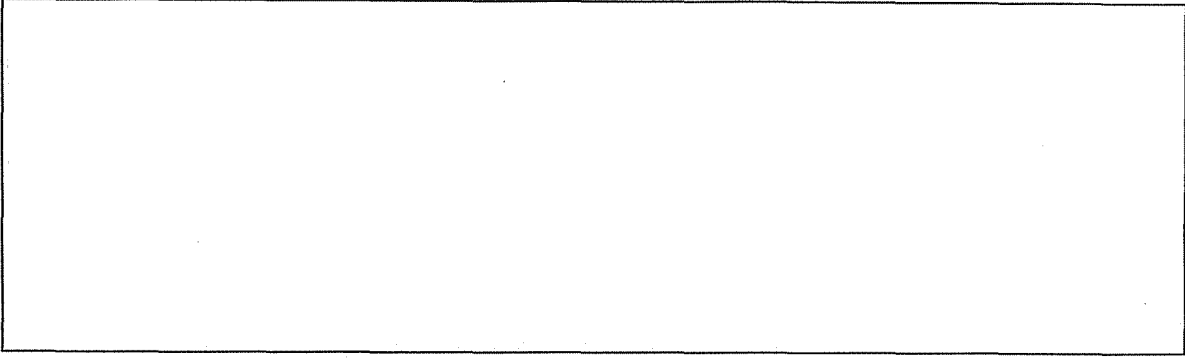
- (U) France:

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

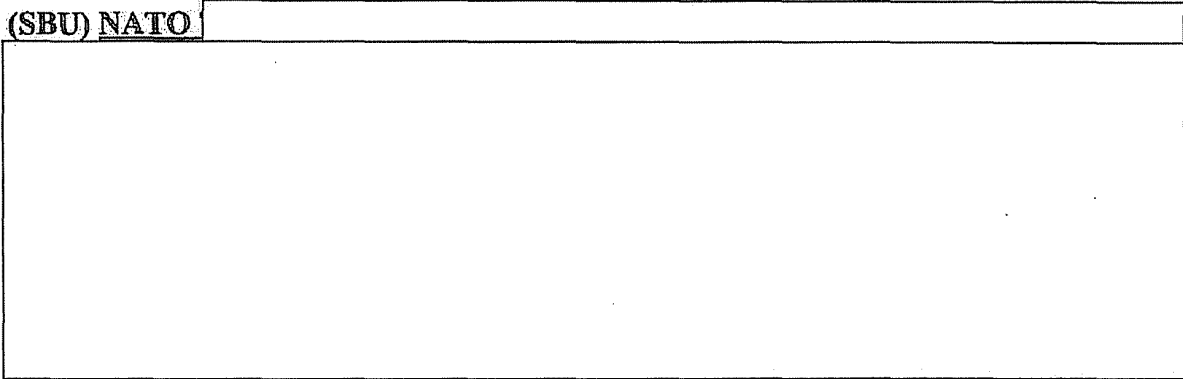
UNCLASSIFIED

NR



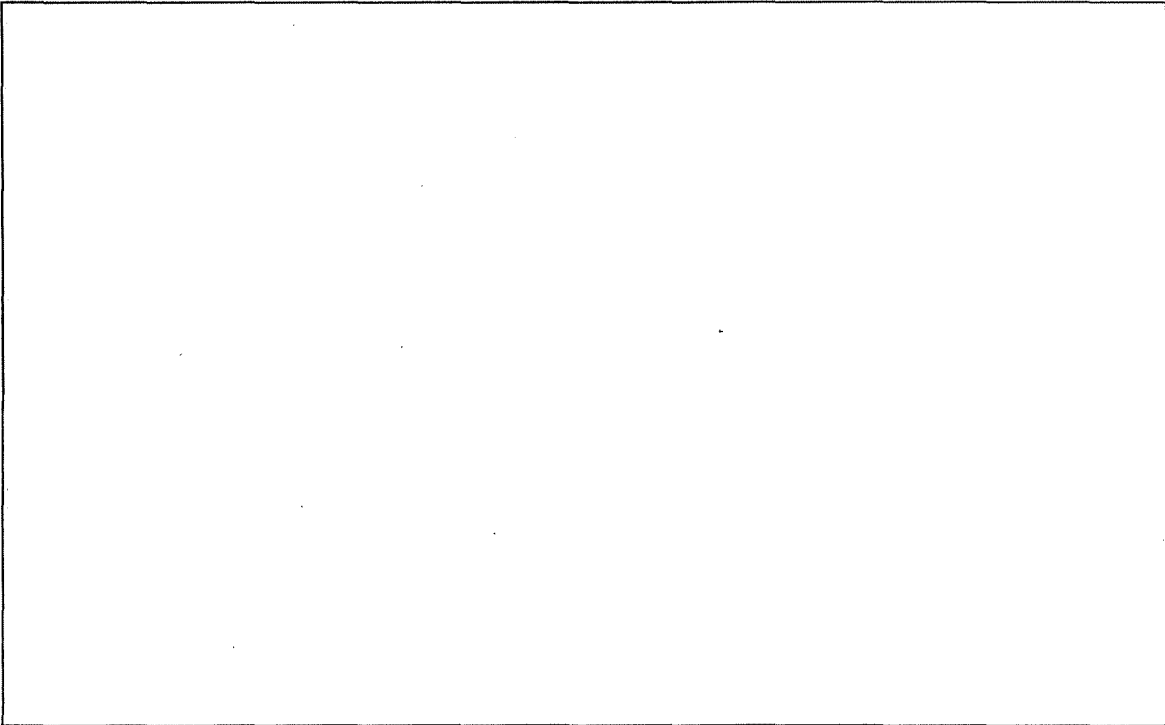
RPM

• (SBU) NATO



RUS

•



4

UNCLASSIFIED

SCE

- **(U) Montenegro:** [redacted]

NR

- **(U) Serbia** [redacted]

- **(U) Croatia** [redacted]

SE

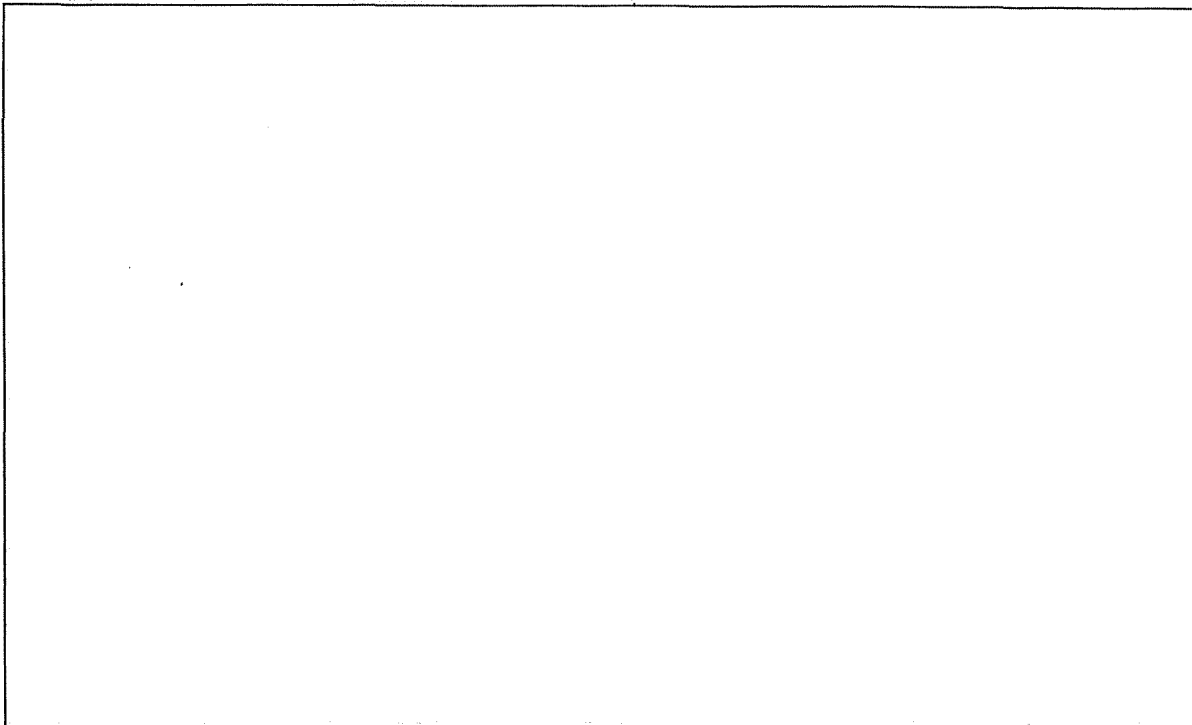
- **(C/NF) Turkey: Erdogan Says Turkish Navy will Protect Turkish Ships in Mediterranean:** [redacted] PM Erdogan's remarks, as reported by Al Jazeera: "There is no doubt that the Turkish military ships are responsible to protect its own ships. The priority step is this. And there are humanitarian aids that we will make there. And those humanitarian assistances will not be attacked as it happened to Mavi Marmara." [redacted]

B1

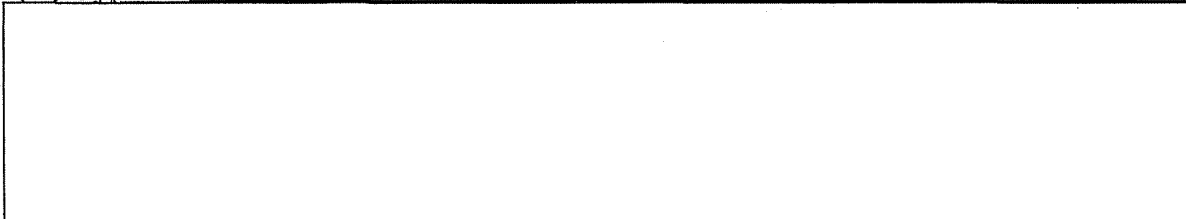
- [redacted]

NR

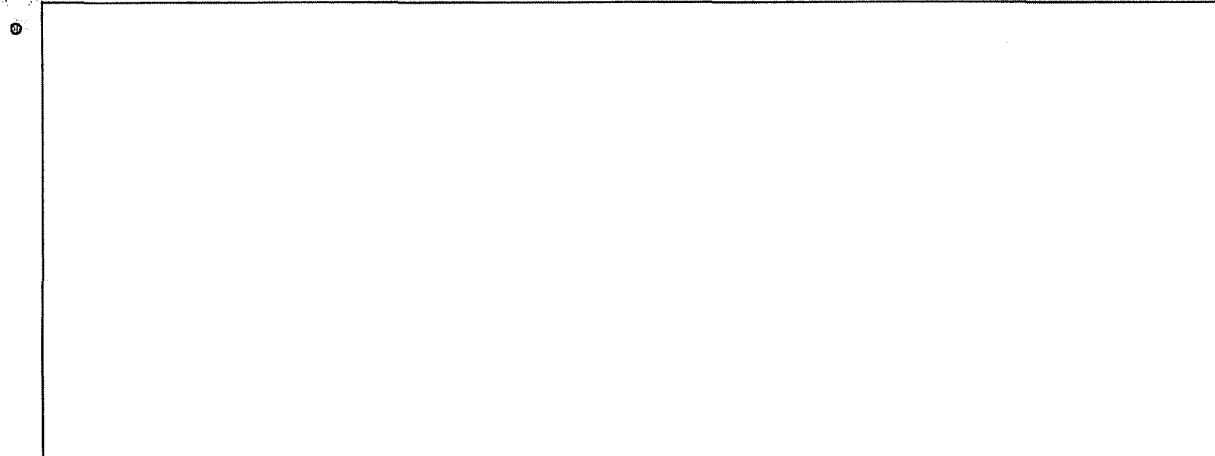
NR



• (U) Cyprus:



UMB



[Redacted]

WE

• (SBU) Ireland:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• (U) Malta:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• (U) France:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• (U) UK:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

NR

• (SBU) Germany:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

• [Redacted]

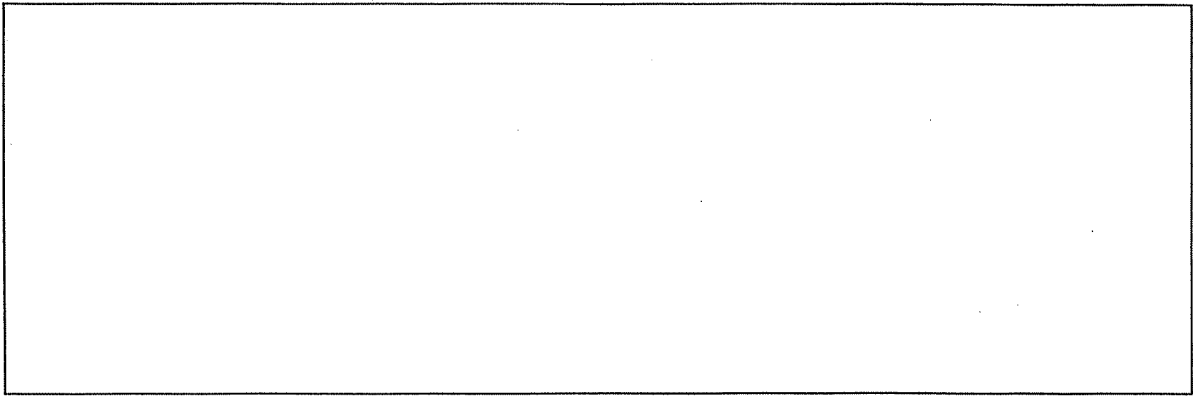
• [Redacted]

NR

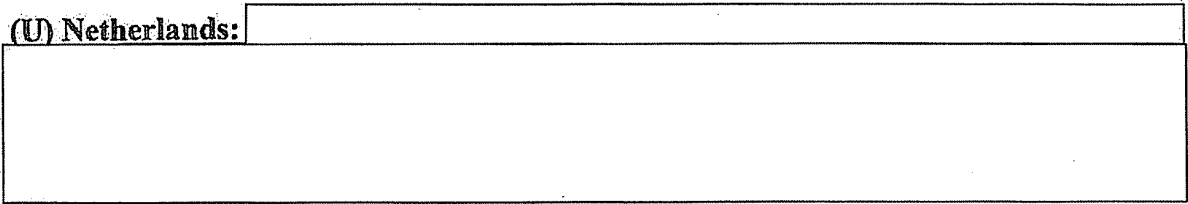
8  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR



• (U) Netherlands:



Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

9  
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01687



UNCLASSIFIED

J36

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED

NR

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 6:50 AM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Kilner, Scott F  
**Cc:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** RE: Coordination

**AttachmentsClassification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive  
**SMARTCategory:** Working

[Redacted]

NR

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 10:35 AM  
**To:** Kilner, Scott F; Kim, Yuri J  
**Cc:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** RE: Coordination

[Redacted]

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Kilner, Scott F  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2011 10:32 AM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J  
**Cc:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Coordination

Jess, Yuri -

[Redacted]

Thanks,  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1  
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01688

UNCLASSIFIED

Scott

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 22, 2011 05:35:24  
**To:** Mitchell, Shamar P; Schwartz, Judith C (Istanbul); Lindenfeld, Seth J (Istanbul); Ashworth, Tonya R (Istanbul); Cross, Lisa T (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); draper, hannah a (Istanbul); Scrivner, Kimberly K (Istanbul); McKay, Roland D; Ragan, Anthony D; ACCOUNT, TDY; Kim TDY, Yuri; Brookins, LauraM  
**Cc:** Bidou, Susan M (Istanbul); Wong, Susan W (Istanbul); Faillace, Richard J (Istanbul); Donadieu, Noah A  
**Subject:** Scenesetter for CODEL Burton Visit to Turkey

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU



**Action Office:** RSO, ECON, PAS, DCM  
**Info Office:** CODEL

---

**MRN:** 11 ANKARA 1523  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 22, 2011 / 221434Z SEP 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, ECON, ETRD, OREP  
**Captions:** CODEL, SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Scenesetter for CODEL Burton Visit to Turkey

1. (SBU)



NR

2  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

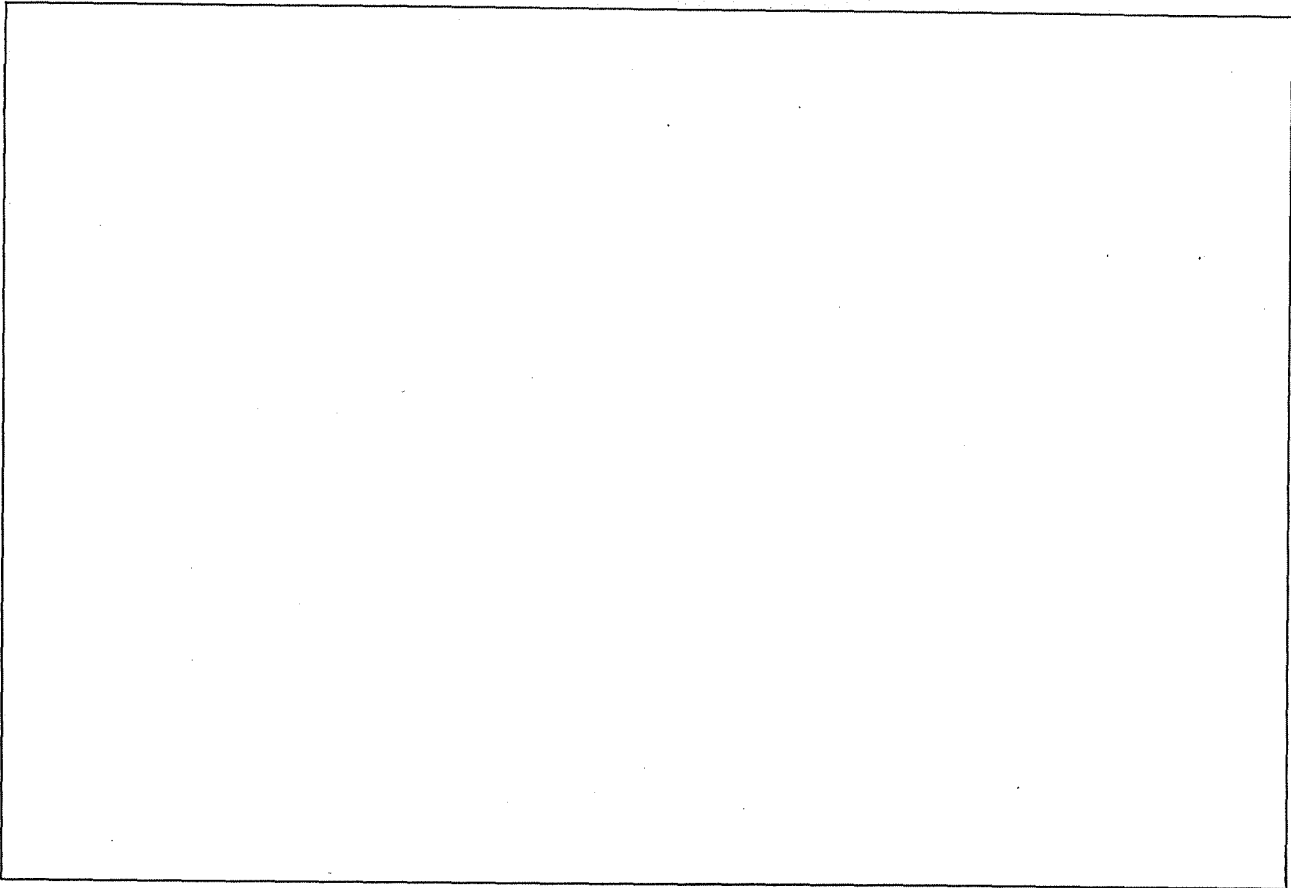
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UNCLASSIFIED

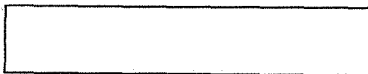
UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

**Israel**

9. (SBU) On May 31, 2010, a flotilla of ships, organized in part by a Turkish NGO, IHH, departed Turkey with the goal of breaking Israel's blockade of Gaza. Israel Defense Force (IDF) commandos fast-roped from helicopters onto the flagship, the Mavi Marmara, and immediately encountered violence from the passengers. The commandos responded with deadly force, killing eight Turks and one Turkish-American. The incident has gravely strained Turkish-Israeli relations. A several-months-long low-profile effort by senior Turkish and Israeli diplomats to hammer out an apology/compensation formula failed in early September, as the UN's Palmer Commission released a report that upheld the legality of the blockade and determined that the Government of Israel had used excessive and unreasonable force. Turkey has responded by (1) down-grading diplomatic relations, (2) suspending all military agreements, (3) declaring it will take measures to ensure the freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean, (4) requesting that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) examine the legality of the Gaza blockade, and (5) supporting all flotilla victims in pursuing lawsuits against Israel. Highly charged rhetoric from leaders on both sides has made rapprochement difficult, complicating our efforts to influence the course of the Arab Spring. We want them to put aside their dispute and work together with us in encouraging the Middle East towards democracy and prosperity.



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UNCLASSIFIED

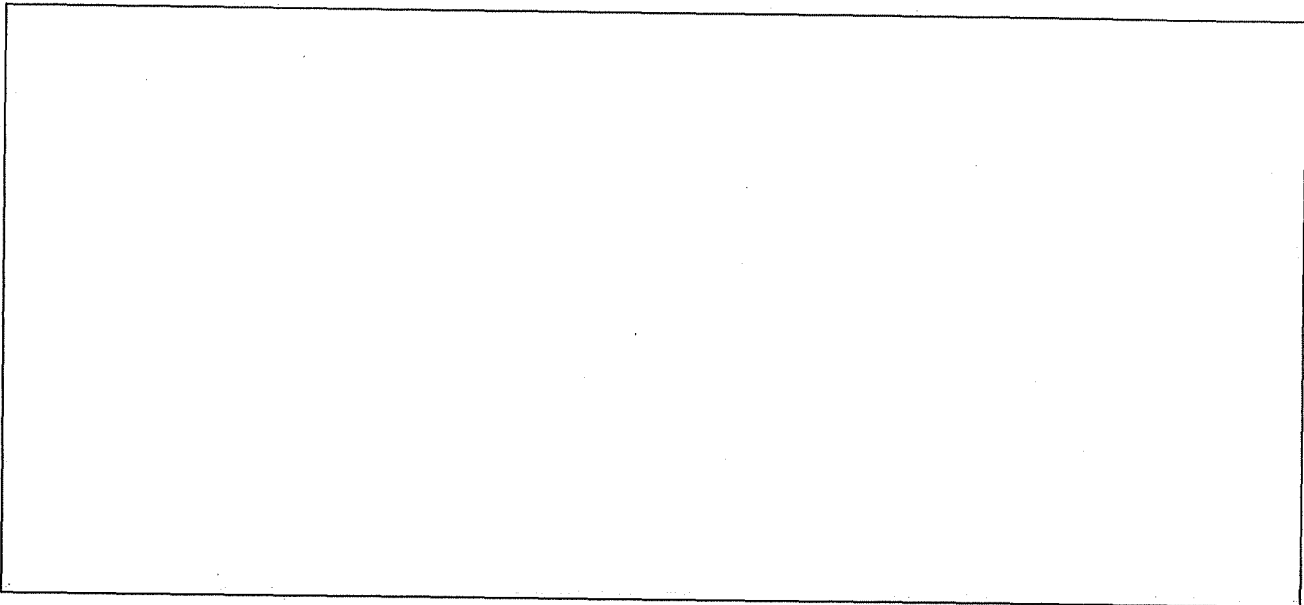
UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NR



**Signature:** Ricciardone

---

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah

**Cleared By:** Kim, Yuri J

Baily, Jess L

POL:Dunn, Patrick M

PMA:Stafford, Edward G

ECON:Fernandes, Cheryl L

**Approved By:** EUR/SE:Ricciardone, Francis J

**Released By:** ANKARA:Kim, Yuri J

**Info:** ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** CODEL, RSO, ECON, PAS, DCM

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU

8  
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01695



Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

From: Kim, Yuri J  
 Sent: Friday, September 30, 2011 9:16 AM  
 To: Bijanki, Ashwin  
 Subject: FOR RELEASE: CODEL Burton and PM Erdogan Discuss Israel, Cyprus, CT, MD, Economy

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
 SMART Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE  
 SMART Approver Name: Ricciardone, Francis J//EUR/SE//  
 SMART ArchiveOnly: No  
 SMART Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
 SMART Classified By: Francis J. Ricciardone, AMB  
 , State  
 Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)  
 SMART Clearer Names: Kim, Yuri J///  
 SMART Declassification: DECLASSIFY ON: 2021/09/29  
 SMART Draft Type: 3  
 SMART Drafter Computer Name:  
 SANKARATS01  
 SMART Drafter IP: 172.18.196.46  
 SMART Drafter Name: Bijanki, Ashwin  
 SMART Drafter Org: ANKARA  
 SMART Drafter UserID: EUR\bijankia  
 SMART EONum: 12958  
 SMART Final: False  
 SMART Info: CIA WASHINGTON DC RUEAIIA; DIA WASHINGTON DC RHEFDIA; NATIONAL SECURITY  
 COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC RHEHAAA; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE (D/F) (UN)  
 SMART Message Type: New  
 SMART MessageCategory: SMART  
 SMART NOFORN: False  
 SMART Options: FFTTF  
 SMART Precedence List: <?xml version="1.0"?>  
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 xmlns:mstns="http://tempuri.org/AddresseeOptionsStorage.xsd"  
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 msdata:UseCurrentLocale="true">  
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 <xs:element name="IsZen" type="xs:boolean" default="false" />  
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 </xs:complexType>  
 </xs:element>  
 </xs:choice>  
 </xs:complexType>  
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 <xs:field xpath="mstns:Name" />  
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 </xs:element>

UNCLASSIFIED

SMART Precedence List: </xs:schema>  
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xmlns:diffgr="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:xml-diffgram-v1">  
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<AddresseeOptions diffgr:id="AddresseeOptions1" msdata:rowOrder="0"  
diffgr:hasChanges="inserted">  
<ActionInfo>ACTION</ActionInfo>  
<Name>WASHDC, SECSTATE</Name>  
<Precedence>IMMEDIATE</Precedence>  
<Office />  
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UNCLASSIFIED

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SMART Category: For Release
SMART ClassificationData:

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UNCLASSIFIED

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1. (C) SUMMARY: Reps. Dan Burton, Lynn Woolsey, Wally Herger, Virginia Foxx, Collin Peterson, and Steve King in an extended and lively meeting with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan

[Redacted]

NR:

[Redacted]

2. (C) Accompanied by the Ambassador, Reps. Dan Burton, Lynn Woolsey, Wally Herger, Virginia Foxx, Collin Peterson, and Steve King met PM Erdogan at the PM's official residence on the evening of September 27. Erdogan was accompanied by his daughter, Guldal Aksit, the head of the AKP women's wing, and Murat Ersoy, MFA Deputy Director General for the Americas. The PM

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Israel

3. (C)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

6. (C) Erdogan said

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B1

8. (C)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

**Missile Defense**

[Redacted]

**Cyprus**

11. (C)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

12. [Redacted]

**Countering Terrorism**

14. [Redacted]

**Economy**

[Redacted]

**Press Points**

[Redacted]

17. (C) CODEL Burton did not have a chance to clear on this cable.

UNCLASSIFIED

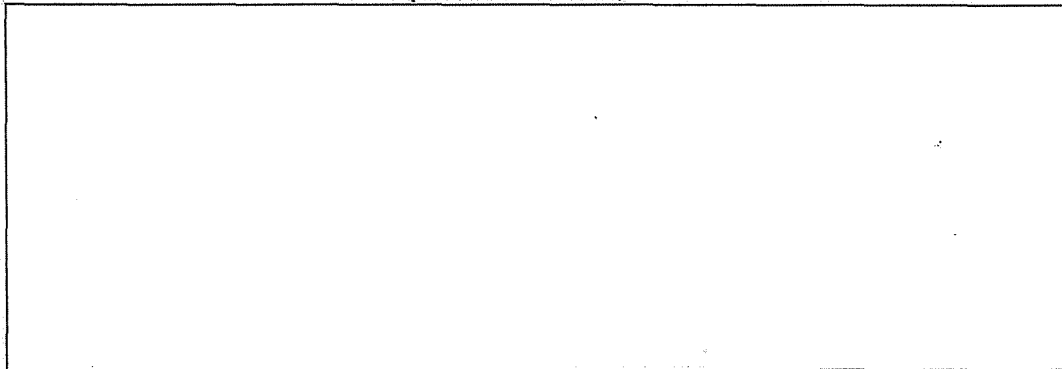
J43

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive

Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN PART  
B5

**From:** Godfrey, Anthony F  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:05 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** RE: FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT



B5

Anthony,

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:25 PM  
**To:** Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

Anthony,

Please look carefully at this and see how helpful it is to our efforts with the Turks.

Doug

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

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Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive

Printed By: Witmer, Kami A  
Page 1 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01702

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive

Page 2 of 2

**Classified by:** Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2035/06/03

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:22 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

This just out of Embassy Tel Aviv. Thanks.

Jan Levin, A/PolCouns

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive

Printed By: Witmer, Kami A  
Page 2 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01703



1. (C) SUMMARY: An October 25 Turkish press article alleged the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) interdicted the Gaza-bound humanitarian aid flotilla May 31 despite knowing the Turkish NGO organizer had agreed to divert the ships to the Egyptian port of Al Arish. [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED]

SUMMARY.

[REDACTED]

5. (U) Turkish media October 26 replayed the story. The "Hurriyet Daily News" quoted IHH chief Bulent Yildirim as saying the agreed upon "Al-Arish formula" had been relayed to the GoI May 28 when the MFA informed "James Jeffrey, the U.S. ambassador to Turkey, about this formula and Jeffrey then called James Cunningham, the U.S. ambassador to Tel Aviv, to convey the information. Israeli officials subsequently got in touch with Ankara."

6. (C) COMMENT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE, DELETED  
NR Ambassador Ricciardone Talking Points  
For U/S Sinirlioglu

• Bahrain:

[Redacted]

NR

[Large redacted area]

- **Human Rights Council:** We are prepared to vote against the resolution you are proposing at the HRC in Geneva. Ambassador Tan demarched A/S Gordon on March 17, asking for U.S. support or at least abstention on a resolution Turkey drafted requesting follow up of the fact finding mission report. On March 21, the Council will consider a report from the High Commissioner on the Gaza flotilla issue. Turkey's resolution, which condemns Israel, is an effort to keep the issue alive in the HRC. The U.S. has consistently opposed HRC action on the flotilla issue. We continue to view the UN Secretary General's "Palmer Commission", which Turkey and Israel support, as the primary method for the international community to review this incident.

UNCLASSIFIED

NR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

**Logg, Cristina A**

RELEASED IN PART <sup>J5)</sup>  
NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(C)

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2011 6:28 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E; 'agodfrey@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; 'esherwood-randall@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Dibble, Elizabeth L; Cretz, Gene A; Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Ricciardone, Francis J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Treiber, Laird D; Stafford, Edward G; Ford, Robert S; Hunter, Charles F (Baghdad); Wiltmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Cheryl L  
**Subject:** Davutoglu: Telcon w/S, re: Libya, Syria, Israel, etc.  
**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

NR

**LIBYA**

[Redacted]

**ISRAEL**

[Redacted]

B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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UNCLASSIFIED

[Redacted]

B1

**SYRIA:**

o [Redacted]

NR

**PALESTINE:**

[Redacted]

**ARMENIA/AZERBAIJAN/NK:**

[Redacted]

**HALKI:**

[Redacted]

We'll get out front-channels on above later today.

Yuri

**YURI KIM**

Political Counselor  
U.S. Embassy Ankara

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Classified by:** Yuri Kim, Political Counselor, Embassy Ankara

**Reason:** 1.4(b); (d)

**Declassify On:** 2021/07/06

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART <sup>153</sup>

Logg, Cristina A

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

**From:** Cunningham, James B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 5:07 AM  
**To:** Walles, Jacob; Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'Ross, Dennis B.'; 'Steve Simon (SSimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov)'; Rubinstein, Daniel H; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Nossel, Suzanne F; Gordon, Philip H; Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Levin, Jan X; Sutphin, Paul R  
**Subject:** Discussion with Netanyahu: Syria, Turkey

SECRET/NODIS

I had dinner with a cheerful and expansive Prime Minister at his residence June 26. He spent a considerable amount of time speculating about developments in the region.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

B1

Discussion of Negotiation issues in separate email.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 1 APR 2022  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J69

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

From: Baily, Jess L  
 Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 7:03 PM  
 To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; O'Grady, Daniel J  
 Subject: FW: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

Categories: Working

Noted one small phrase from Sinirlioglu on the HRC/flotilla issue [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

B1  
NR

Sensitivity: Sensitive  
 Classification: SECRET  
 Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.  
 Declassify On: 2021/03/19

From: Ricciardone, Francis J  
 Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:04 AM  
 To: Riley, Robert J; SES-O\_SWO-Only  
 Cc: Kaidanow, Tina S; Collins, Jeffrey S.; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Kenna, Lisa; LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov; Gordon, Philip H; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth; Daalder, Ivo H; Rivkin, Charles H; Allegrone, Kathleen H; Ford, Robert S; Schlicher, Ronald L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Smith, James B; Ziadeh, Susan L; Williams, Stephanie T; Shampaine, Nicole D  
 Subject: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

This is a resend to fix missing line in item # 3, in original outgoing.

SES-O pls pass EUR + S staff in Paris; also to U/S Burns @ OOB Saturday (Sinirlioglu asked for Burns' location so I expect he may try to phone today); NEA addrees pls pass to interested colleagues in bureau + at posts:

1. TU-FR-LY: [redacted]

[redacted]

NR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1  
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NR

[Redacted]

2. Iran - Syria

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

3. Flotilla @ HRC: Conveyed point verbatim from Riley email.

[Redacted]

B1, B5

[Redacted]

4. Bahrain:

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

Francis J. Ricciardone

US Ambassador

Ankara, Turkey

tel: +90 312 457 7280

after hours: +90 312 455 5555

From: Riley, Robert J

Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:54 AM

To: Ricciardone, Francis J

Cc: Kaldanow, Tina S; Collins, Jeffrey S.; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Kenna, Lisa; LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov

Subject: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

<< File: 03 18 2011 TPs for Amb R with Turkey.docx >>

Ambassador,

2  
UNCLASSIFIED



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Here are the talking points I mentioned in my low side message. They cover: Bahrain; US "no" vote on Turkey flotilla res at HRC; [redacted] Paris summit:

B1, NR

On the Paris summit, [redacted]

NR

Thank you very much,

Bob

SECRET STATE:024631

NOFORN

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2036/03/17

TAGS: PARM, PREL, MCAP, ETC, MARR, MASS, IR, TU, SY

SUBJECT: (S) FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE REGARDING [redacted]

NR

REF: A) 11 STATE 021810

B) 11 ANKARA 347

Classified by: Vann Van Diepen, Acting Assistant Secretary

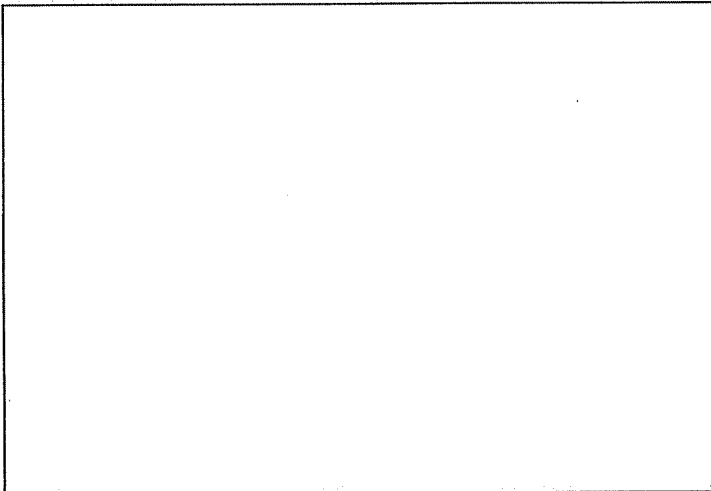
ISN, STATE

Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request for Embassy Ankara.

BACKGROUND:

NR



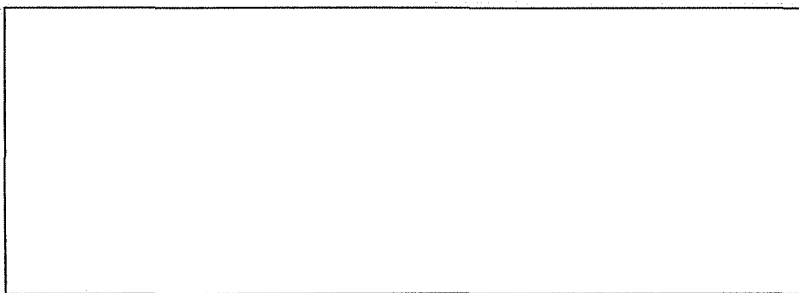
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UNCLASSIFIED

NR



CLINTON.

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Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: SECRET

Classified by: Robert J. Riley, Deputy Director, EUR/SE, State

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

Declassify On: 2021/03/18

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: SECRET

Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On: 2021/03/19

5  
UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01714

UNCLASSIFIED

J71

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

**From:** Jaworski, Richard E  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 12:02 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla  
**Categories:** Working

Mr. Ambassador,

A May flotilla on the way that POL wants to flag for your attention.

Rich

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**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/24

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**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:45 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Anthony C; Jaworski, Richard E  
**Subject:** RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jaworski, Richard E; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Anthony C  
**Subject:** Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

[Redacted]

B1

UNCLASSIFIED

B1



Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.  
Declassify On: 2021/03/24

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 05:54:36  
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**To:** Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Joseph.babb@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; karlo.jajliardo@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M; Downs, Jeffrey J  
Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Donelson, Lale ;  
**Cc:** tjsenecal@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; AFMichaelangelo@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; BJKlutzaritz@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; SLWeathers@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN  
**Subject:** Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

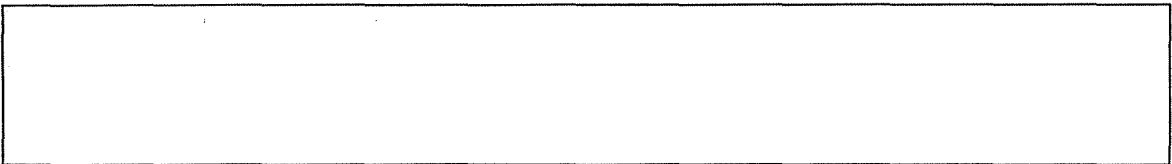
CONFIDENTIAL



**Action Office:** POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA  
**Info Office:** CONS\_INFO, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

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**Date/DTG:** Mar 23, 2011 / 231553Z MAR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, TU, IS  
**Subject:** Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

2.



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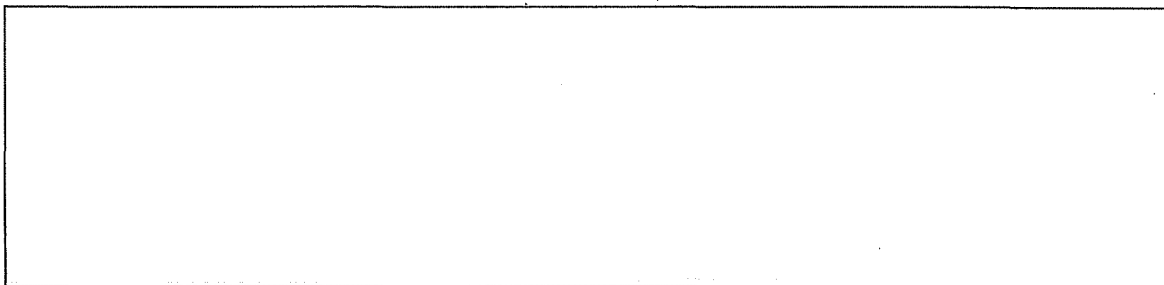
B1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

B1

6.



**Signature:** Cunningham.

---

**Classified By:** Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Deputy Chief of Mission  
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Agency: Dept of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/03/23

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Cleared By:** POL:Silverman, Robert J

**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE, USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** POL, RSO, CONS\_INFO, LEGAT, AMB\_INFO, ORA, DEA\_INFO, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J72

**Logg, Cristina A**

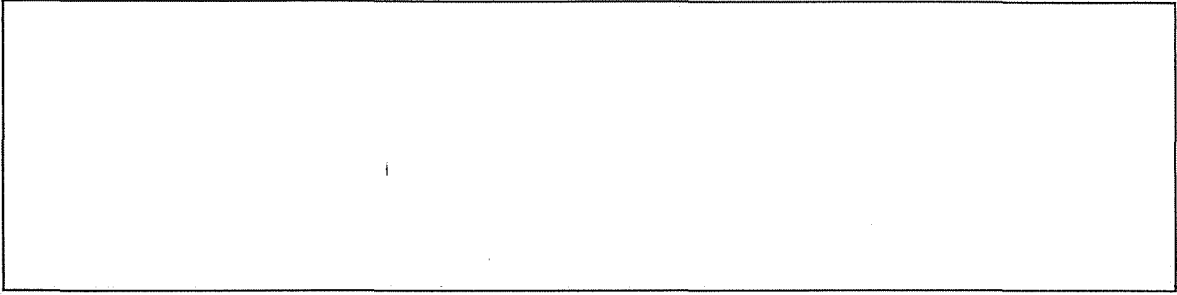
**RELEASED IN PART**

**B5, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)**

**From:** Cunningham, James B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:13 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Cc:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J  
**Subject:** FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

**Categories:** Working

1)

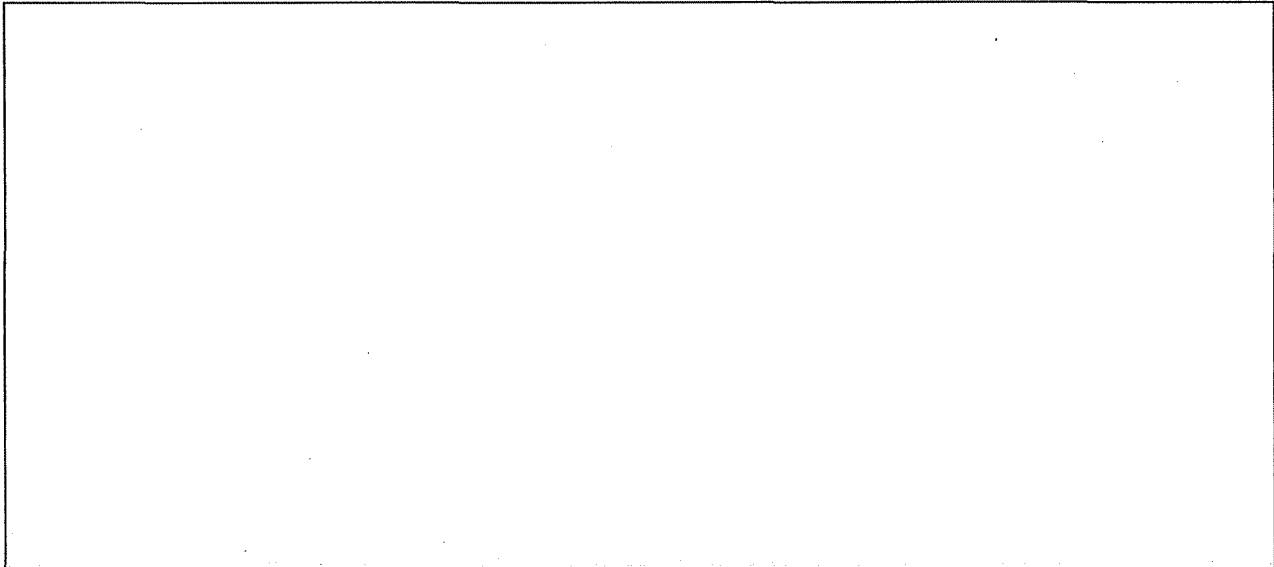


B5

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 8:00 PM  
**To:** Cunningham, James B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Jim,

B1, B5



Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
Ankara, Turkey

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

1  
UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

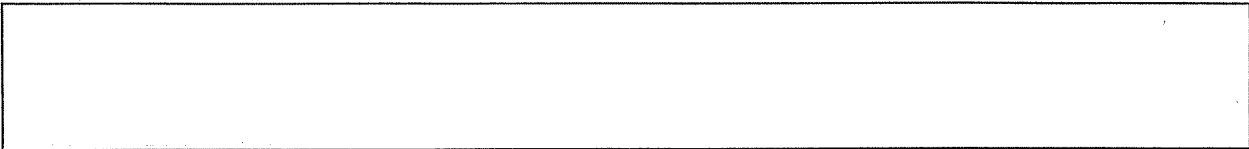
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after hours: +90 312 455 5555

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** ricciardone, amb  
**Reason:** 1.4(d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/25

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**From:** Cunningham, James B  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 1:05 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla



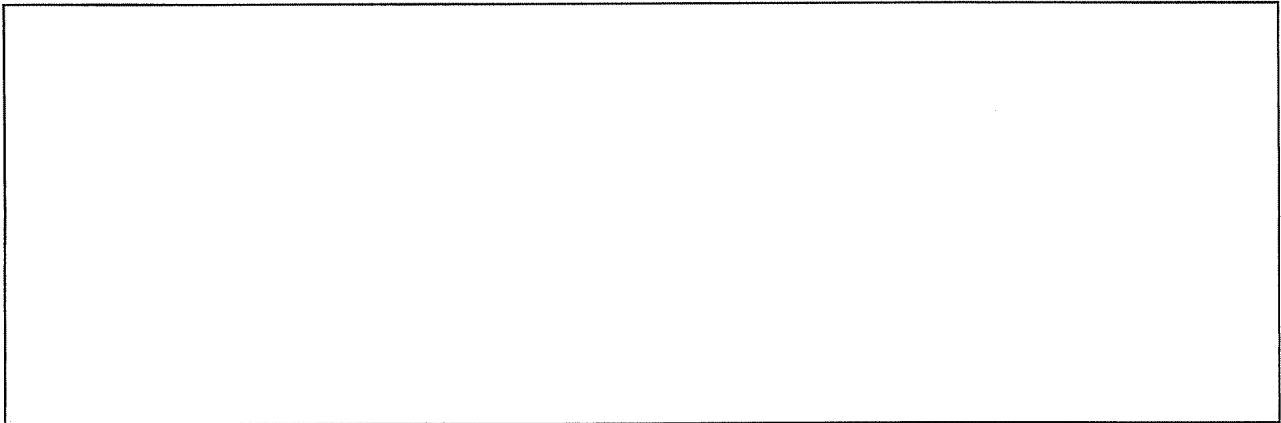
B5

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 6:29 PM  
**To:** Cunningham, James B; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Gordon, Philip H  
**Subject:** RE: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Jim, Jeff, Phil

B1, B5



Frank

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UNCLASSIFIED

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This document is SECRET when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Classification: SECRET  
Classified by: ricciardone, amb  
Reason: 1.4b, d  
Declassify On: 2021/03/24

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 05:54:36  
**To:** Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; Roundy, Brian A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Sanderson, Mary A; Mineo, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Combs, James D; Walston, Melissa L; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Joseph.babb@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; karlo.jajliardo@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M; Downs, Jeffrey J  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Donelson, Lale; tjseecal@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; AFMichaelangelo@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; BJKlutzaritz@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; SLWeathers@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN  
**Subject:** Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

CONFIDENTIAL



**Action Office:** POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA  
**Info Office:** CONS\_INFO, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 365  
**Date/DTG:** Mar 23, 2011 / 231553Z MAR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, TU, IS  
**Subject:** Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

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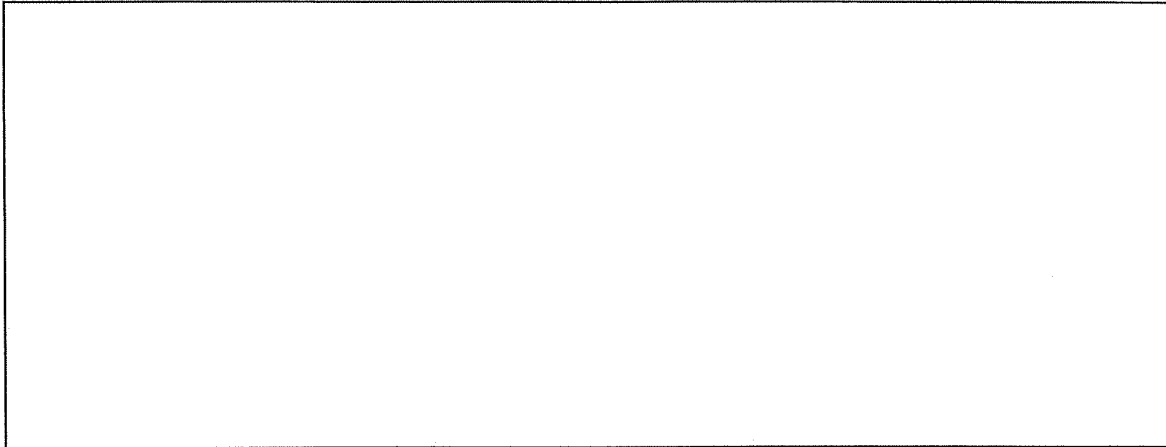
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UNCLASSIFIED

B1

4.

5.



Signature: Cunningham

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Classified By: Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Deputy Chief of Mission  
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Agency: Dept of State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2021/03/23

Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

Cleared By: POL:Silverman, Robert J

Approved By: EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

Released By: TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

Info: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*

Attachments: Metadata.dat

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Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: POL, RSO, CONS\_INFO, LEGAT, AMB\_INFO, ORA, DEA\_INFO, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

5

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StateDept01723

Turkey Bars Media from Covering Return of Flotilla Ships

1. (U) The Mavi Marmara, the IHH's flagship at the center of the May 31 Gaza flotilla raid, returned to the Turkish port of Iskenderun on August 7 with little fanfare. Local authorities imposed strict security measures for the Mavi Marmara's arrival and reportedly barred reporters from entering the port. All three ships belonging to the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), the Mavi Marmara, Defne Y, and Gazze, were towed into port after Israeli authorities released them on August 6.

2. (U) According to media reports, the Mavi Marmara appeared to be freshly painted. Huseyin Oruc, an IHH board member, claimed the Israelis repaired and painted the Mavi Marmara to conceal evidence. Oruc said more flotillas, which could include the Mavi Marmara, will set sail to Gaza if the embargo is not lifted by the end of the year.

3. (C)

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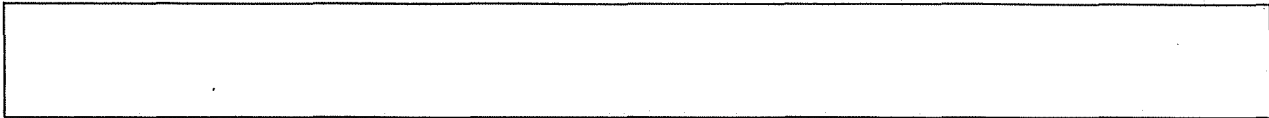
Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2011 6:32 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: Discussion of Turkey/prospective June Flotilla w/ Israeli DCM Arbell

**Categories:** Working



B1

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Classified by:** Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2036/05/27

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2011 11:57 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** RE: Discussion of Turkey/prospective June Flotilla w/ Israeli DCM Arbell

Doug,  
I don't recall any recent phone or in-person contact between S and Davutoglu, at least since the last Libya contact group in Rome (? If she was there?). have you seen or heard anything along lines Jake described below to the Israelis?

Francis J. Ricciardone  
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after hours: +90 312 455 5555

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN.

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**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2011 10:10 PM  
**To:** Burnett, David R; Cunningham, James B; Riley, Robert J; Kaidanow, Tina S; 'dshapiro@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Kumar,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2012 201004163

1  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Prem: G.; 'ssimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; Silliman, Douglas A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Ricciardone, Francis J  
Cc: Waller, Jacob; Buzbee, John R  
Subject: Discussion of Turkey/prospective June Flotilla w/ Israeli DCM Arbell

NEA DAS Jake Waller discussed the likely mid-late June Gaza flotilla today with Israeli DCM Dan Arbell,

B1

**Paul Sutphin**

Director  
NEA/IPA  
tel: 202-647-3672  
Fax: 202-736-4461  
VIPER: 202-647-1686

Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN  
Classified by: Paul R. Sutphin, Director, NEA/IPA, State  
Reason: 1.4(b), (d)  
Declassify On: 2036/05/27

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UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

J8)

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN PART

NR, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B5

**From:** Barks-Ruggles, Erica J  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:29 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S.Sinirlioglu

Got it Frank – thank you.

For you only - [redacted]  
[redacted]

B1, NR

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/19

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:03 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; SES-O\_SWO-Only; Rice, Susan E (USUN); Barks-Ruggles, Erica J  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S.Sinirlioglu

Susan, Erica

[redacted]

NR

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/19

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 12:58 PM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; SES-O\_SWO-Only  
**Cc:** Kaidanow, Tina S; 'Collins, Jeffrey S.'; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; 'Kenna, Lisa'; 'LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth; Daalder, Ivo H; Rivkin, Charles H; Allegrone, Kathleen H; Ford, Robert S; Schlicher, Ronald L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Smith, James  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD**  
**DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163**

1  
UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

B; Ziadeh, Susan L; Williams, Stephanie T; Shampaine, Nicole D

Subject: RE: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

C – entire text.

SES-O pls pass EUR + S staff in Paris; also to U/S Burns @ OOB Saturday (Sinirlioglu asked for Burns' location so I expect he may try to phone today); NEA addrees pls pass to interested colleagues in bureau + at posts:

1. TU-FR-LY: [redacted]

NR

2. Iran – Syria [redacted]

NR

3. Flotilla @ HRC: Conveyed point verbatim from Riley email. [redacted]

B1, B5

4. Bahrain: [redacted]

NR

Francis J. Ricciardone

US Ambassador

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tel: +90 312 457 7280

after hours: +90 312 455 5555

From: Riley, Robert J  
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:54 AM  
To: Ricciardone, Francis J  
Cc: Kaldanow, Tina S; Collins, Jeffrey S.; Jaworski, Richard E; Godfrey, Anthony F; O'Grady, Daniel J; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Kenna, Lisa; LTsou@nss.eop.sgov.gov  
Subject: Amb Ricciardone Talking Points for U/S Sinirlioglu

<< File: 03 18 2011 TPs for Amb R with Turkey.docx >>

Ambassador,

Here are the talking points I mentioned in my low side message. They cover: Bahrain; US "no" vote on Turkey flotilla res at HRC; [redacted] Paris summit.

B1, NR

On the Paris summit, [redacted]

NR

Thank you very much,

Bob

SECRET STATE 024631

NOFORN

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2036/03/17

TAGS: PARM, PREL, MCAP, ETT, MARR, MASS, IR, TU, SY

SUBJECT: (S) FOLLOW-UP DEMARCHE REGARDING [redacted]

NR

REF: A) 11 STATE 021810

B) 11 ANKARA 347

Classified by: Vann Van Diepen, Acting Assistant Secretary

ISN, STATE

Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1: (U) This is an action request for Embassy Ankara.

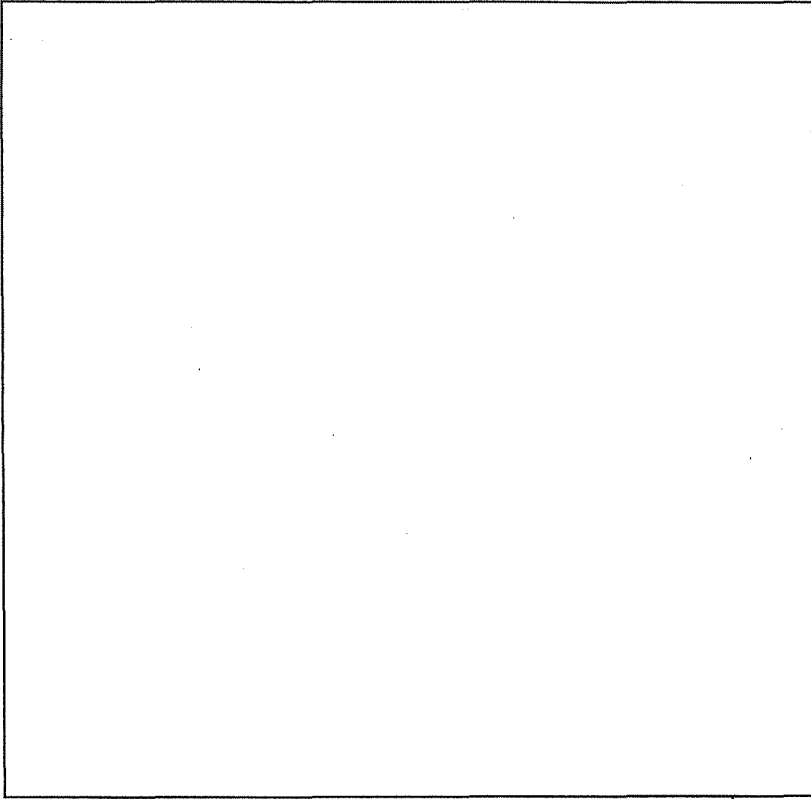
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NR



CLINTON

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Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: ~~SECRET~~

Classified by: Robert J. Riley, Deputy Director, EUR/SE, State

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

Declassify On: 2021/03/18

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: ~~SECRET~~

Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On: 2021/03/19

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RELEASED IN FULL



K1

## Behind the Headlines: Turkel Commission publishes first part of report

23 Jan 2011

This background document has been prepared before the release of the Turkel Commission's Report. It is based on information made available over the past six months.



IDF soldiers assaulted by dozens of armed activists on the Mavi Marmara

### Turkel Commission (23 January 2011):

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Government resolution no. 1796 of June 14, 2010, we respectfully submit to the Government a report on the following matters:

- a. The security circumstances in which the naval blockade on the Gaza Strip was imposed and whether the blockade complies with the rules of international law (paragraph 4a of the Government resolution).
- b. Whether the actions carried out by Israel to enforce the naval blockade on May 31, 2010, complied with the rules of international law (paragraph 4b of the Government resolution).
- c. The actions carried out by the organizers and participants of the flotilla and their identities (paragraph 4c of the Government resolution).

### Concluding Remarks of Report Summary

Today, approximately five months after hearing the first testimonies, the Commission is completing this part of its work. After a journey full of obstacles and pitfalls, and after exhaustive investigations, inquiries, studies and discussions, here are our conclusions:

The naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip - in view of the security circumstances and Israel's efforts to comply with its humanitarian obligations - was legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

The actions carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, to enforce the naval blockade had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life and physical injuries. Nonetheless, and despite the limited number of uses of force for which we could not reach a conclusion, the actions taken were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer**

### Behind the Headlines

Israel was entitled under international law to board the Mavi Marmara. Maritime blockades are recognized by international law as legitimate, and may be enforced in international waters.

Israel is engaged in an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas, a terrorist organization which violently seized de facto control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist groups have launched more than ten thousand rockets at Israeli cities and towns. Israel has imposed a maritime blockade on the Hamas regime in order to prevent it from building up its military capabilities, smuggling terrorists and weapons and staging attacks from the sea.

Security considerations have likewise led Israeli to impose a number of restrictions on the transfer of goods and supplies to Gaza via its land crossings. At the same time, Israel has continued to facilitate the import of hundreds of thousands of tons of food, medicine and other goods into Gaza, thereby ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population are met.



Hamas fighters prepare to launch rockets at Israel

International law recognizes maritime blockades as a legal and legitimate measure within the context of armed conflicts. A blockade may be enforced against breach. Article 98 of the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea states "Merchant vessels believed on reasonable grounds to be breaching a blockade may be captured." Furthermore, "Merchant vessels which, after prior warning, clearly resist capture may be attacked" (see similarly art. 67a.)

The blockading party has the right under international law to stop ships which intend to evade the blockade, even if they have not yet entered the blockaded area, Ships may be stopped even if they are in international waters. The US Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations explains that an "attempted breach of blockade occurs from the time a vessel or aircraft leaves a port or airfield with the intention of evading the blockade."

International law requires that a blockade must "be applied impartially to the vessels of all States." (San Remo, art. 100). The blockading party may stop ships claiming to carry humanitarian aid. The duty to ensure that the humanitarian needs of a blockaded territory

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are met, which Israel complies with, does not imply a duty to allow the passage of a particular ship.

Israel publicly declared the imposition of a maritime blockade on the Gaza Strip in full compliance with international law. It informed the flotilla ships of the blockade numerous times through diplomatic, media and maritime channels.

The flotilla's cargo was in no way essential for meeting Gaza's humanitarian needs. In any case, even if allowing a particular ship to enter the blockaded territory were essential to meeting the humanitarian needs of the civilian population, international law would still allow the blockading party to insist on inspecting the ship. It would also have the right to demand that the ship's cargo be distributed by a recognized neutral party. Such a security inspection could not be carried out at sea. Neither the Turkish IHH nor the Free Gaza Movement, the organizations which lead the flotilla, is a recognized neutral party.



Non-neutral parties- members of the Free Gaza Movement receive medals from Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh (center, first row)



IHH head Bulent Yildirim with Hamas Political Chief Khaled Mashaal

Israel took numerous steps to avoid the need to employ force while taking control of the Mavi Marmara.

Israel made numerous efforts to avoid employing force and had no desire to cause harm to civilians. It repeatedly communicated the following or similar messages to the flotilla activists both before and during their journey (video):

*"Mavi Marmara, you are approaching an area of hostilities, which is under a naval blockade... The Israeli government supports delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian*

NO CLASSIFICATION MARKED

population in Gaza Strip and invites you to enter Ashdod port. Delivery of supplies will be in accordance with the authorities' regulations...and under your observation, after which you can return to your home ports aboard the vessels on which you arrived."

The ships were also warned that if they proceeded, Israel would be forced to take all necessary steps to enforce its blockade.

No effective method currently exists for forcing a ship the size of the Marmara to change course without taking physical control. Attempts to block the ship's passage with other vessels or to disable its systems would have endangered the flotilla participants. Israel had no choice but to board the vessel.

The naval commandos were instructed to use the minimum force necessary to take control of the vessels, and to avoid lethal force unless necessary for self-defense in the event that their lives were in immediate danger.

Accordingly the first teams to land on the Marmara were equipped primarily with riot-control equipment such as tear gas and paintball guns.

Using similar methods, Israel had stopped a number of previous attempts to violate its blockade without having to resort to lethal force. Five out of the six ships in the May 2010 flotilla were brought under Israeli control without serious injury to flotilla participants or soldiers. Since the Marmara, the IDF has prevented several additional attempts to violate its blockade without the need to employ a significant degree of force. This indicates that the problem stemmed not from Israeli methods, but from the violent behavior of the flotilla activists.

Soldiers abseiling onto the ship from helicopters were assaulted immediately by dozens of activists wielding knives and clubs, who also seized four of the soldiers' firearms. Facing an immediate threat to their lives, the soldiers had no choice but to use force to repel the attack.



Activists making preparations to confront Israeli soldiers





Soldiers assaulted by dozens of armed activists

A number of the Marmara's passengers were members of hardcore Islamist groups. These activists openly declared their desire for a violent confrontation and their hope to die as shahids (martyrs).

While the majority of the flotilla passengers may well have been peaceful civilians, some (approx. 40-50) were hardcore extremists determined to violently attack the Israeli boarding party.

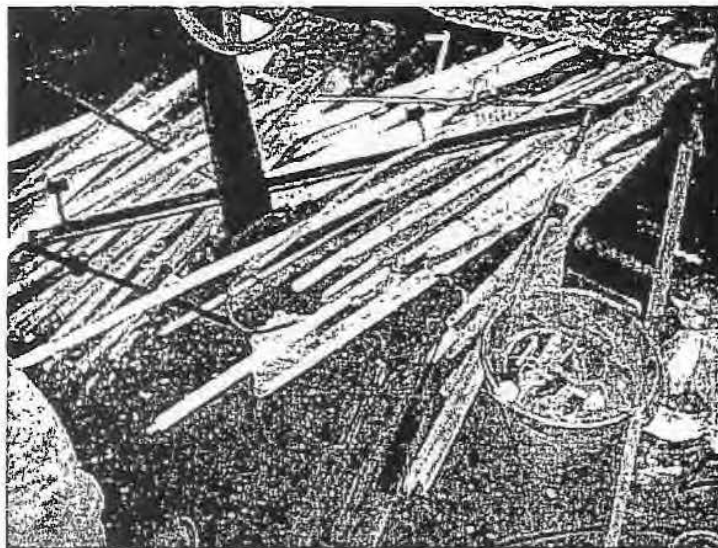
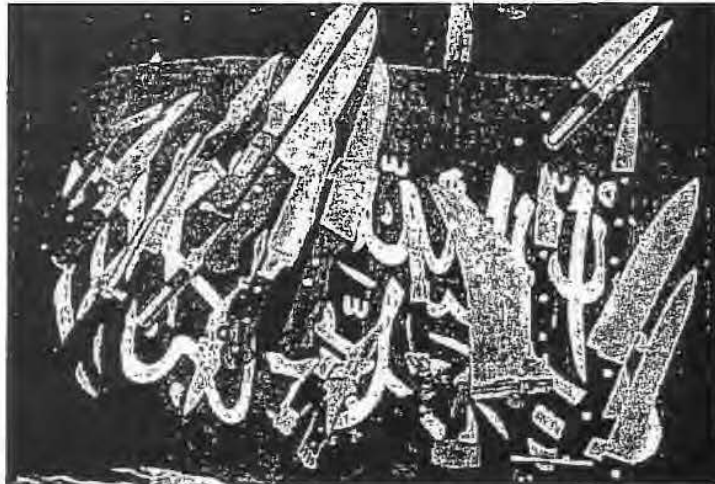
Many of the members of this group were affiliated with the Turkish Islamic organization IHH, which Western countries and terrorism experts have described as a supporter of terrorist groups including Hamas.

IHH head Bulent Yildirim declared on board the Marmara: "We're going to defeat the Israeli commandos... If you bring your soldiers here, we will throw you off the ship and you'll be humiliated in front of the whole world." During the voyage, IHH activists chanted songs celebrating the killing of Jews and openly declared their desire to die as shahids (martyrs) (view videos [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Former U.S. Marine Kenneth O'Keefe, who took part in the assault on the soldiers, told the Haaretz newspaper ("Rough Passage", 24 Sept 2010) "I knew that if the Israelis boarded that ship, it would be a disaster... You have to be an idiot to board that ship and think it will be a ship of passive resistance."

This group of hardcore extremists took control of the ship prior to the IDF's boarding. According to the Chief Officer of the Marmara, they limited the movement of the other flotilla participants and carefully controlled entrance to certain parts of the ship.

These activists were equipped with commando knives, daggers, tear gas, gas masks, night vision goggles, and ballistic vests (view [here](#) and [here](#)) - objects not found on a humanitarian passenger ship.



Weapons used by the Marmara passengers (Photos: IDF Spokesperson)

Israeli soldiers employed a necessary and proportionate degree of force.

The first several Israeli commandos who boarded the Marmara were rushed by dozens of activists wielding knives, clubs, and chains. The first soldier to land was stabbed and thrown to the deck below. The second was shot in the stomach. Others suffered knife and gunshot wounds as well.

The attackers were able to take four of the soldiers' firearms. O'Keefe told the BBC that "myself and another brother descended on him [a wounded soldier] and the first thing I did was to go for his 9mm pistol." While O'Keefe claims that the gun was not used, two soldiers suffered gunshot wounds. Video released by the IDF records the commandos' surprise at being shot at with live fire.

Three soldiers from the first landing party were seriously wounded and taken by the activists to the ship's interior.

Therefore the soldiers had no choice but to use limited and precise force against their attackers in self-defense.

Nearly all of those killed were IHH activists or members of affiliated Islamist groups, the very people who led the assault on the descending soldiers. About half had previously declared their hope to be martyrs.

Claims that soldiers summarily executed activists, or that they fired live ammunition indiscriminately from the air, are completely false.

Given that the soldiers were mobbed and intense hand-to-hand combat ensued, it is not surprising that a number of those shot were hit at close range. This does not in any way indicate that they were summarily executed, as the Report prepared for the UN Human Rights Council facetiously states.

The claim that activists were shot from the air is also unfounded; the commandos rappelling from helicopters required both hands to grasp the rope and could not have fired. The helicopters carrying the commandos were not equipped with firing systems, nor did they carry snipers who could have fired from the air.

Israel began its operation using stun grenades, paintball guns, and other crowd control equipment.

The timing and manner of the operation were a result of the complex situation and Israel's desire to avoid harm to civilians.

The early morning timing of Israel's boarding was the result of numerous factors. Given the expected time that it would take to board six ships carrying more than 700 flotilla participants, and the fact that the ships continued ahead at full speed, Israel decided to carry out the operation at a distance from the Israeli coast. Israel also allowed time to observe whether the ships would heed its numerous warnings to change course.

Once it became clear that boarding the ships would be necessary, Israel employed one of its most highly-trained and disciplined units, which had carried out several similar missions while avoiding the use of lethal force. The timing was likewise meant to contribute to a rapid and non-violent transfer of control.

As soon as the danger to the soldiers subsided, IDF medics attended to wounded activists. The flotilla participants were treated in a respectful manner while specially-trained units searched for additional weapons.

Immediately following the completion of the operation, IDF medics attended to the injured. Given the violent confrontation that had just taken place, the participants and ship were searched for additional weapons by soldiers specially trained in such procedures. Activists judged to constitute a potential threat were restrained, while the other flotilla passengers were not.

31 activists were airlifted from the ship directly to Israeli hospitals. Another 24 were transferred to Israeli medical facilities after docking in Ashdod. These activists were given professional medical care at six of Israel's leading hospitals.

The flotilla participants were processed in an orderly manner and offered the option of being quickly deported. Those who refused this offer were given access to medical care and diplomatic personnel while detained. Within a week, all foreign flotilla participants had departed.

Israel prepared extensively to quickly and efficiently process the flotilla participants. Those in need of medical attention were taken to hospitals. The rest were registered in a specially erected reception center staffed by government officials and translators. In special cases, such as that of a mother with a one-year old baby, passengers were immediately sent back to their countries of origin.

The flotilla participants were then taken to the new 'Aileh' detention center in southern Israel. There they were held in open units where, other than during roll calls, they were free at all times to leave their rooms and congregate in common areas. They were provided with all their needs including medical care.

Flotilla participants willing to be deported were able to leave the country within a very short time of their arrival. The departure of those who refused was delayed by several days.

The activists were not held incommunicado. They were given access to the diplomatic officials of their home countries. Consular representatives from 26 countries, as well as 19 lawyers providing legal services, visited the flotilla participants. Participants were also provided with phone cards.

As the flotilla ships were still making their way to Ashdod, a petition was filed with Israel's Supreme Court which challenged the custody of the flotilla passengers by Israeli authorities. The Court held hearings on the matter within 48 hours and ultimately dismissed the petition.

While Israel could have begun prosecutions against those who had assaulted its soldiers, it decided to release all of the flotilla participants. Six days after the ships were brought to Ashdod, all of the foreign flotilla participants had left Israel.

**The Mavi Marmara itself did not carry humanitarian aid. The limited amount of aid carried by the other ships included outdated and useless medicines.**

The Mavi Marmara did not carry humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid that was carried by three of the flotilla ships appears to have been carelessly packed, leading to some of it being damaged. The BBC's Jane Corbin found that two-thirds of the medicines aboard the flotilla "are out of date and useless."

Of the 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies which the flotilla claimed to be carrying, approximately 8,000 tons consisted of construction materials. Hamas uses such materials for building rockets, bunkers and launching sites. Therefore, while Israel regrets the difficulties that may be caused to Gaza's civilians, it can only allow the import of such materials in coordination with recognized international bodies.

Hamas initially refused to allow aid from the flotilla into Gaza. Israel made good on its promise to quickly prepare the aid for transfer. Hamas, however, apparently felt that the need was less pressing. An unnamed Gaza official told the Guardian, "Israel brought five truckloads of wheelchairs to the crossings, but Hamas turned them back."

**Israel's import restrictions and blockade are legal under international law.**

International law recognizes the right of a state to impose a naval blockade within the context of hostilities.

The blockade on Gaza has been imposed strictly for security reasons and is not aimed at harming the civilian population. These security considerations include the need to prevent the smuggling of terror operatives and military-use materials into and out of Gaza, and to

prevent terrorist attacks against Israeli towns and vessels.

With regard to Israel's restrictions on the transfer of goods into Gaza- such a policy is neither illegal nor considered collective punishment. This is indicated by the numerous examples from the international community (for example, the UN's 13-year sanctions against Iraq.) Although international law requires that Israel facilitate the transfer of humanitarian aid to Gaza, Israel has no obligation to engage in economic relations or maintain open borders with the territory.

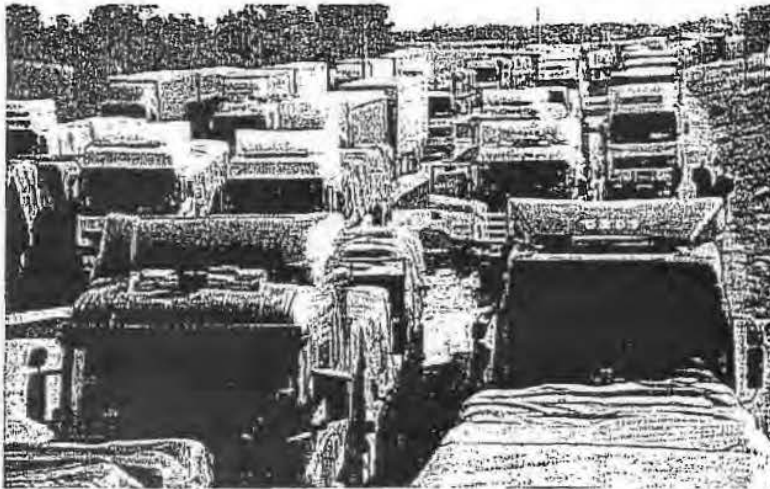
Israel has facilitated the transfer of well over a million tons of goods and supplies to Gaza, thereby more than ensuring that its humanitarian needs are met.

Despite the armed conflict with Hamas, Israel has gone far beyond the demands of international law in assisting Gaza's civilian population. Israel has provided or facilitated the transfer of over a million tons of humanitarian goods and supplies to the Gaza population. At no point has there been a humanitarian crisis in the territory.

From the end of the 2008-2009 Gaza War until approximately the time of the IHH flotilla, Israel facilitated the delivery to Gaza of 1,025,686 tons of aid, 49,610 tons of cooking gas and 136,097,330 liters of fuel. This aid includes wheat, meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, baby formula, seeds, clothes, school supplies, medical equipment, glass, wood and equipment for the flower industry.

Numerous indicators show that there is no humanitarian crisis or extreme hardship in Gaza. According to the CIA World Factbook, the projected life expectancy in Gaza is 73.68, greater than that in half of the world's countries, including many in Europe. The infant mortality rate in Gaza is 17.71 per 1000, lower than in the West Bank and in more than 50% of countries worldwide.

As explained, Israel has been forced to restrict the import of construction materials in order to prevent Hamas from using such materials for military purposes. However, Israel does facilitate the import of construction materials in coordination with recognized international agencies.



Truckloads of aid at the Gaza border crossing (Photo: IDF Spokesperson)





A Gaza market, September 2009 (Photo: Reuters)  
(Video of daily life in Gaza)

Israel facilitates the transfer of medical supplies into Gaza and treats thousands of Gazans each year in Israeli hospitals.

In 2009, 4,883 tons of medical equipment and medicine were brought into the Strip, 10,544 patients and their companions left Gaza to receive treatment in Israeli hospitals (Israel also treats patients and trains doctors from the West Bank.)



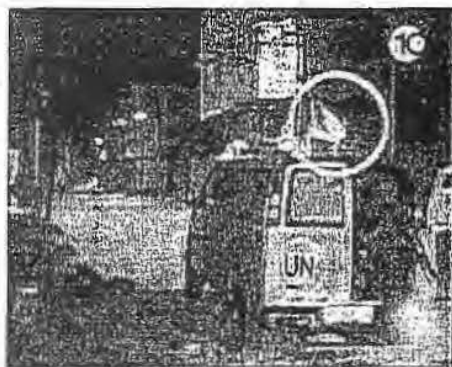
Gazan children with cancer enter Israel for treatment  
(Photo: Rafael Ben-Ari/Chameleons Eye). View video  
Video from Israeli hospital program for training Palestinian doctors

The medical corridor is maintained despite the fact that since 2005, Palestinians have used medical cooperation arrangements to carry out more than 20 terrorist attacks.

Hamas refuses to allow the International Red Cross or any other organization access to an Israeli soldier which it has been holding hostage since June 2006. This is a gross violation of his basic human rights.

Israel's restrictions are necessary in light of Hamas' repeated diversion of goods and supplies for its own purposes. Israel's border crossings have been attacked numerous times since Hamas' takeover of Gaza.

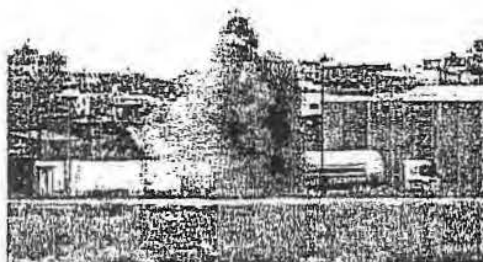
The Hamas regime's control of the Gaza Strip has enabled it to divert goods and supplies on numerous occasions in order to build its military and economic capabilities. For example in February 2009 UNRWA halted its import of goods into Gaza after Hamas repeatedly seized thousands of tons of aid from the UN agency. In August 2009 Hamas claimed to have seized three ambulances transferred from Israel to UNRWA (UNRWA officials issuing conflicting reports regarding the claim.) Palestinian officials have complained that Hamas commandeers fuel trucks coming from the Nahal Oz crossing for its own needs.



Video of Hamas using ambulances to transfer armed militants in Gaza  
(Reuters, 2004)

The transfer of fuel to Gaza has been disrupted at times due to disputes between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. A UN official described this as a "Palestinian problem, made by Palestinians, and causing Palestinian suffering." Hamas has also repeatedly attacked the Nahal Oz fuel depot. Quartet envoy Tony Blair explained that "most people don't understand- that we're trying to urge Israel to get fuel into Gaza, and then the extremists come and kill the people bringing the fuel in. It's a crazy situation."

Since Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza, more than a dozen bombs and mortar attacks have been launched at the crossing points at which goods are transferred. Israeli servicemen and civilians have died in these attacks.



April 2008 mortar attack on the Nahal Oz fuel terminal at the Israeli-Gaza border,  
in which two Israelis were killed. (Photo: Flash90)

Nevertheless, Israel has assisted in the export of several of Gaza's air commodities, such as strawberries and flowers, in accordance with security considerations.

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## Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs

K2

### No: 29, 23 January 2011, Press Statement by the National Inquiry and Investigation Commission Instituted Upon Israel's Attack on the International Humanitarian Aid Convoy

On 31 May 2010, Israeli armed forces attacked, on the high seas, a convoy brought together by aid volunteers from 37 countries and different faiths to deliver humanitarian relief material to the people in the Gaza Strip. Nine persons were killed and scores were wounded during the attack.

In order to shed light upon all aspects of the attack, Turkey established a National Inquiry and Investigation Commission composed of representatives from pertinent institutions. The UN Secretary-General also set up a Panel of Inquiry in accordance with the Presidential Statement adopted by the UN Security Council which held an emergency meeting on 1 June 2010 upon Turkey's request. Israel initiated, through a commission, its own national inquiry as well. Moreover, the UN Human Rights Council has mandated an International Fact-Finding Mission to establish the violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law in connection with the attack.

Heeding the UN's call for prompt consideration of the issue, our Commission has worked intensively and submitted its Interim Report to the UN Panel on 1 September 2010. Also respecting the confidentiality of the process, our Commission has refrained from disclosing its report to the public. In contrast, the Israeli side impeded the Panel's work by constantly delaying its own report, and has chosen to share it with the public even before submitting it to the UN Panel.

Our Commission, convened on 23 January 2011 to thoroughly evaluate these developments, has decided to share, at this stage, the following with the public in view of Israel's unconstructive attitude:

- Israel's so-called "maritime blockade" against the Gaza Strip is devoid of legal basis and legitimacy. Israel's attack which is an extension of this unlawful practice is, therefore, equally illegal.

Under international law, blockades are warfare methods applicable only in armed conflicts of "international" character. Israel is seen to avoid characterizing its armed conflict with Hamas as "international", while claiming reliance on the San Remo Manual, an important compendium of international law applicable to naval war, for its so-called blockade and related practices. Yet, the San Remo Manual, including its provisions relating to the establishment of blockades and the interception of vessels on the high seas, comprise legal rules applicable only to international armed conflicts. As long as Israel does not qualify its armed conflict with Hamas as international, it is estopped from relying any of its practices within the framework of this conflict on the San Remo

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<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/common/print.htm>

1/24/2011

NO CLASSIFICATION MARKED



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The result is self-evident and requires no further explanation.

Basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, first and foremost the right to life, have been flagrantly violated, and these violations have continued massively up to the moment that the passengers left Israel. The report of the Fact-Finding Mission of the UN Human Rights Council vividly depicts Israel's violations and the violence it used.

Our Commission is surprised, appalled and dismayed that the national inquiry process in Israel has resulted in the exoneration of the Israeli armed forces despite all the facts that have also been confirmed by the International Fact-Finding Mission.

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K3

## Ahn, Michael

---

From: Guido, Deborah L  
Sent: Monday, November 01, 2010 3:13 PM  
To: Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-PAO-IO-DL; Ankara-POL-DL; Ankara-ECON-DL  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla Guidance - as cleared

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

On Friday, the final guidance was released – FYI

EUR Draft Press Guidance  
October 29, 2010

### Turkey: Gaza Flotilla

Q: Did the US have advanced notice that the Free Gaza Flotilla was in fact headed to Egypt and not Gaza?

- **The flotilla organizers consistently declared in public their intention to sail directly to Gaza.**

Q: Was there an agreement between the U.S., Israel and Turkey to get the flotilla to reroute to Al-Arish (Egypt)?

- **The United States encouraged direct contacts between Israel and Turkey prior to May 31, but was not involved in any negotiations between Turkey and Israel.**

#### If Asked:

Q: Can you confirm assertions by Turkish officials that the U.S. was informed by Turkey that the ships were going to Al-Arish?

- **We do not comment on the contents of diplomatic exchanges.**
- **We continue to regard the UN Secretary General’s panel as the primary method for the international community to review the incident. We again express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to establish this panel, and to the governments of Turkey and Israel for their constructive participation.**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer**

Drafted:  
EUR/Press Valerie O’Brien 7-8602

Cleared:

UNCLASSIFIED

EUR/FO: TKaidanow ok  
EUR/SE: JBaily ok  
NEA/IPA:PSutphin ok  
NEA/Press:EVasquez ok  
P: ABaez ok  
D(S): D Duty ok  
S/P: TNavratil ok

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KH

The X Meeting with Turkish X  
September 20-29<sup>th</sup> 2010 (NY/GENEVA/ANKARA)

Context

We welcomed UNSYG Ban's establishment of -- and Israel and Turkey's participation in -- a panel to receive and review the Israeli and Turkish investigations of the May 31 flotilla incident. We remain opposed to the HRC flotilla fact-finding mission (FFM), which is mandated to investigate possible Israeli violations of international law related to the incident and oppose a renewal of its mandate in the September session. [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

Key Objectives

- We recognize that the Government of Turkey takes the tragic May 31<sup>st</sup> incident seriously. [redacted] the USG shares its concern. [redacted]  
[redacted]

- We appreciate Turkey's constructive and cooperative spirit in participating on the Secretary General's panel regarding the incident of May 31<sup>st</sup>. The United States believes that the UNSYG panel, which includes the participation of both Israel and Turkey, offers a balanced and credible channel to address these very serious issues.

- [redacted]

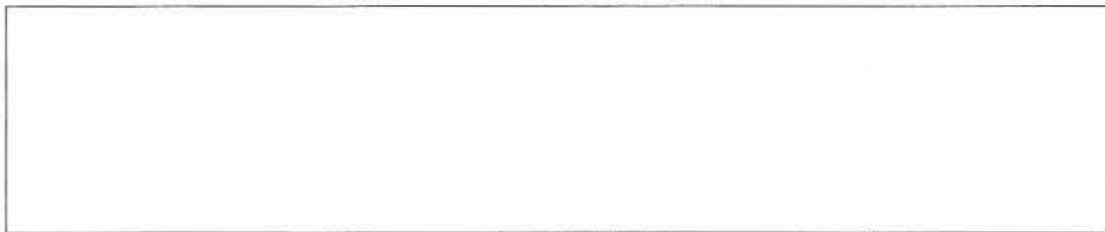
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A/HRC/RES/14/1

K5

# Advance Edited Version

Distr.: General  
23 June 2010

Original: English

Human Rights Council  
Fourteenth session  
Agenda item 1  
Organizational and procedural matters

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council<sup>a</sup>

### 14/1 The grave attacks by Israeli forces against the humanitarian boat convoy

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Taking into consideration the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949,*

*Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, including humanitarian personnel,*

*Expressing grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in occupied Gaza,*

*Emphasizing the need to ensure the sustained and regular flow of goods and people into occupied Gaza, and welcoming the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid,*

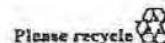
1. *Condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous attack by the Israeli forces against the humanitarian flotilla of ships, which resulted in the killing and injuring of many innocent civilians from different countries;*

2. *Deeply deplores the loss of life of innocent civilians, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families;*

<sup>a</sup> The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its fourteenth session (A/HRC/14/37), chap. I.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

GE.10-



A/HRC/RES/14/1

3. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of detained and injured persons;
4. *Demands* that the occupying Power, Israel, immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands;
5. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to immediately lift the siege on occupied Gaza and other occupied territories;
6. *Also calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to ensure the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment, to the occupied Gaza Strip;
7. *Welcomes* the statements made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks;
8. *Decides* to dispatch an independent, international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance;
9. *Also decides* to authorize the President of the Council to appoint members to the above-mentioned fact-finding mission, who should report on their findings to the Council at its fifteenth session;
10. *Further decides* to remain seized of this matter.

10<sup>th</sup> meeting  
2 June 2010

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 to 3, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Uruguay,

*Against:*

Italy, Netherlands, United States of America,

*Abstaining:*

Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.]



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# TODAY'S ZAMAN

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## Turkey sets up own national inquiry team for flotilla raid

Soon after a UN probe of Israel's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla began on Tuesday, Ankara announced that it has established its own national commission for investigating the May 31 raid in order to draft a report to be introduced to the UN panel of inquiry.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry, in a written statement released late on Wednesday, recalled that a committee led by Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Interior Minister Beşir Atalay had already been established for investigating the May 31 attack by Israeli security forces on the Gaza humanitarian aid convoy -- which took place in international waters and ended with the killing of eight Turkish and one Turkish-American civilians.



"This time, upon the UN secretary-general's establishment of the inquiry panel, a National Investigation and Examination Commission has been established by the Prime Ministry for the purpose of investigating said attack and the treatment to which persons in the convoy had been exposed to and for preparing a report to be introduced to the UN Inquiry Panel within this framework," the ministry said.

In New York, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met on Tuesday with the four-member panel of inquiry into the May Gaza flotilla incident as they sat down to map out how they will conduct the investigation.

The panel -- comprising Chairperson Geoffrey Palmer, the former New Zealand prime minister, Vice Chair Alvaro Uribe, the former Colombian president, Israel's Joseph Cichanover and Turkey's Özdem Sanberk -- "will spend the coming days determining how they will undertake their task," according to information released by the UN Secretary-General's office.

Ban stressed during the meeting at UN headquarters in New York that the panelists "should seek the fullest cooperation of the national authorities" as they carry out their work, and that they should perform their mandate in line with the UN Security Council presidential statement issued following the flotilla incident on May 31. The first progress report from the panel is scheduled to be delivered to the secretary-general by Sept. 15.

Turkey's national commission will work under the coordination of the prime ministry with the participation of bureaucrats from the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Transportation Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs. For communication with the commission of UN officials and the UN inquiry panel, Ambassador Mithat Rende has been

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



appointed as "the contact point," the ministry said.

The number of members on the commission is not definite as of yet, Today's Zaman learned from diplomatic sources.

"It is envisaged that the National Investigation and Examination Commission will prepare its report via examining the incident in coordination with all related institutions and establishments," the ministry concluded.

Amidst debates over the scope of the mandate of the UN panel, UN sources said earlier this week that the panel is not designed to determine individual criminal responsibility, but to examine and identify the facts, circumstances and the context of the incident involving the flotilla, which had departed from Turkey and was bound for the Gaza Strip.

As part of that, the panel will receive and review the reports of national investigations into the incident and request clarifications and information as it needs from national authorities, according to the same sources.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Council's independent fact-finding mission of high-level experts that is inquiring into the same incident held its first meeting on Monday in Geneva. The mission is charged with determining whether any violation of international law, international humanitarian and human rights law has taken place. Its report is expected to be presented to the council's next session, slated for September.

#### **Rende: an expert on maritime law**

Ambassador Rende, who has been chosen as the contact point for communication between the UN and Ankara concerning the inquiries on the attack, is a distinguished expert of maritime law.

Rende currently holds the position of director general for economic affairs, including energy, water and environment at the Foreign Ministry. Prior to serving in this position, he was Turkey's ambassador to Qatar. From 1996-2000 he was counselor at the Turkish Embassy in London and deputy permanent representative of Turkey to the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). At the IMO, Rende was responsible for negotiating issues related to maritime law. He then completed the post-graduate program at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London on security and international relations.

13.08.2010

News

TODAY'S ZAMAN

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K7



# Two-hour Israeli raid video presented in Turkey's UN report

**SEVİL KÜÇÜKKOŞUM**  
**ANKARA - Hürriyet Daily News**  
**Thursday, September 2, 2010**

Turkey presented video cassettes, passenger testimonies and its legal reasoning that Israel's raid on the Mavi Marmara was an offense in its report Thursday to the United Nations about the attack on the Gaza-bound aid ship.

"We gave the Turkish Foreign Ministry a two-hour video of the Israeli raid of the ship, recorded by an American citizen. The images show how our friends were killed by Israelis," Hüseyin Oruç, a council member of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or İHH, told the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review on Thursday.

Turkey included the testimonies of 55 Mavi Marmara passengers and forensic opinions on the wounded passengers in its report.

Following Turkish Ambassador Mithat Rende's presentation of Turkey's report to the U.N. investigating committee in New York, sources said Turkey's initiatives regarding the issue would continue.

Eight Turks and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, which included the Mavi Marmara, May 31. Approximately 30 people were wounded in the attack; all of those killed were aboard the Mavi Marmara - a vessel owned by the İHH.

Activists claim the troops started firing as soon as they boarded the ship, while Israeli authorities say passengers attacked the commandos with steel rods and wooden staves as they were abseiling down from helicopters.

The U.N. Human Rights Council established an international fact-finding mission June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including humanitarian and human-rights law, following the attack on the flotilla.

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URL: [www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=two-hour-israeli-raid-video-is-in-turkey8217s-un-report-2010-09-02](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=two-hour-israeli-raid-video-is-in-turkey8217s-un-report-2010-09-02)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Turkey, on the other hand, is demanding an apology from Israel and compensation for the families of the victims.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/> , printed on 24.08.2010.

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THE HURRIYET GROUP

# DAILY NEWS

## UN Gaza aid probe finds 'clear evidence' against Israel

GENEVA - Agence France-Presse  
Thursday, September 23, 2010

A U.N. probe said Wednesday there was clear evidence to back prosecutions against Israel for killing and torture when its troops stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in May.

In a scathing report, it also threw out Israel's argument that the aid activists were violent, thereby justifying the decision by Israeli soldiers to open fire. The incident left nine Turkish nationals dead and drew global condemnation.

Saying some were victims of actions "consistent with... summary execution," the inquiry ordered by the U.N. Human Rights Council said Israel's military used "unnecessary violence."

These "constituted grave violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law," it said, adding there was "clear evidence to support prosecutions" of crimes including "wilful killing; torture or inhuman treatment; and willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health."

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu hailed the U.N. report on Thursday, Anatolia news agency reported.

The report by the U.N. Human Rights Council "is extremely unbiased and based on sound evidence. We appreciate it," Davutoğlu was quoted by Anatolia as telling reporters in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. general assembly.

"It meets our expectations. I hope the Israeli side will ... from now on act within international law," he added.

Israel rejected the report as "biased" and "one-sided." "As expected of a democratic country, Israel has been - and still is - investigating the events of the Gaza flotilla," said a statement released by the Israeli foreign ministry late Wednesday night.

It added that its own committee of inquiry, which includes two international observers, was still at work and that Israel had also agreed to take part in an inquiry set up by the UN Secretary General. "The report... is as biased and as one sided as the body that has produced it," the statement said. "Israel... is of the opinion that the flotilla incident is amply and sufficiently investigated as it is. All additional dealing with this issue is superfluous and unproductive."

Israel has insisted that it acted in line with international law, arguing that it had the right to retaliate against ships attempting to breach its blockade of the impoverished Gaza Strip. However, the probe said Israel's enforcement of a blockade was itself unlawful, since Gaza was suffering from a humanitarian crisis on the day of the deadly raid.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

<http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/n.php?n=un-gaza-aid-probe-finds-clear-evidence-again...> 9/23/2010

"For this reason alone, the blockade is unlawful and cannot be sustained in law. This is so regardless of the grounds on which it is sought to justify the legality of the blockade," said the report, which will be presented to the rights council on Monday.

It said even those activists who did not try to stop Israeli soldiers from boarding the aid ships "received injuries, including fatal injuries." "It is apparent that no effort was made to minimize injuries at certain states of the operation and that the use of live fire was done in an extensive and arbitrary manner," said the inquiry.

"The circumstances of the killing of at least six of the passengers were in a manner consistent with an extra-legal, arbitrary and summary execution," it added. "The conduct of the Israeli military and other personnel towards the flotilla passengers was not only disproportionate to the occasion but demonstrated levels of totally unnecessary and incredible violence," said the probe.

The fact-finding mission, chaired by Karl Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, had travelled to Turkey, Jordan and Britain to interview witnesses and officials for the probe.

Desmond de Silva, former chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, as Malaysian human rights expert, are the other members of the panel.

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URL: [www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=un-gaza-aid-probe-finds-clear-evidence-against-israel-2010-09-23](http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=un-gaza-aid-probe-finds-clear-evidence-against-israel-2010-09-23)



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# Israel bracing for 'mother of all flotillas' to Gaza

**TEL AVIV - From wire dispatches**  
**Tuesday, September 7, 2010**

Israel is bracing for what is being described by its military as the "mother of all flotillas," comprising up to 20 ships planning to set sail for the blockaded Gaza Strip, a report said Tuesday.

The flotilla is being organized by a coalition of nongovernmental organizations from Europe and the United States, including a group calling itself European Jews for a Just Peace, Israel's Jerusalem Post reported. The groups hope to set off within the coming months.

"We hope to have a broad coalition from European countries, and also maybe the United States," Dror Feiler, a Stockholm-based Israeli-Swedish musician and artist who is one of the organizers behind the flotilla plans, told the Post on Monday. "We would like it to be double the size of the last flotilla, with at least a dozen ships and more than a thousand people."

According to the newspaper, the Israeli military is closely tracking the planned flotilla and is preparing for a wide range of scenarios, including the possibility that due to the large number of ships, it will need to stop the vessels far from Israel's shores.

"The Israeli army can stop 12 or 50 ships if it wants," Feiler said. "[Nonetheless] there are so many ships since so many people want to get together to stop the siege, which is a collective punishment on the people of Gaza and is unacceptable."

## The May 31 attack

The last flotilla aimed at breaking the Gaza blockade was stopped by Israeli commandos at the end of May. Nine activists, including eight pro-Palestinian Turks and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed during the May 31 attack, which reduced already-tense relations between Turkey and Israel to historic lows.

The coalition behind the new flotilla effort includes the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or IHH, and the Free Gaza Movement, which organized the flotilla stopped in May, the Post said.

The newspaper also reported Tuesday that the Israeli commission investigating the Gaza flotilla attack requested that the Israeli chief of staff's assistant, Col. Erez Weiner, give the court further information on the May 31 raid.

The Turkel Committee, headed by retired high court judge Yaakov Turkel, asked for electronic data and other materials that a committee headed by Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland analyzed when investigating the military aspect of the Gaza flotilla raid.

Turkel's probe also asked for explanations of the soldiers' behavior on the Mavi Marmara, the ship where

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<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=israel-bracing-for-8216mother-of-all-flotillas...> 9/15/2010

Manual.

- Even if Israel's alleged blockade had not been lacking of legal basis to such an extent, it would still have been unlawful due to the manner in which it is enforced, since Israel has not met various requirements for a naval blockade to be accepted as lawful.

Furthermore, Israel's so-called blockade does not fulfill the requirements of "proportionality", "necessity" and "reasonableness" under international law. Having extended its restrictive policies towards the Gaza Strip far beyond what was required for its actual security needs, Israel has banned even daily consumer goods, none of which could constitute military contraband, in order to punish the civilian population. This clearly demonstrates the arbitrary nature of the so-called blockade.

International law prohibits blockades having aimed at starving the civilian population, or inflicting them with disproportionate damage. Given that numerous international organizations such as the UN Security Council, the UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Program, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Development Program, and the UN Relief and Works Agency have all described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "dire", "unacceptable", "unsustainable" or "illegal", Israel's so-called blockade is clearly in violation of international law in this respect as well.

All personalities, including the high level officials of the Human Rights mechanism, who examined this issue have described the so-called Israeli blockade as collective punishment of civilians. With these practices, Israel has violated humanitarian law and in particular the prohibition of collective punishment.

All these clearly illustrate that Israel's so-called blockade and all practices thereunder are devoid of legitimacy and legal basis. Indeed, the Fact-Finding Mission mandated by the Human Rights Council with respect to the attack, has determined the "blockade" to be illegal and inferred therefrom that the interception of the humanitarian aid convoy by Israel and its subsequent detention of passengers and crew were unlawful.

- All the above show that Israel has violated the "Law of War" which it relies on with respect to the attack it carried out against the international aid convoy. Israel's attack on the international aid convoy also violates international peace time law which should in fact be applicable in this case. The freedom of navigation on the high seas and the principle of the Flag State's exclusive jurisdiction are fundamental rules of the Law of the Sea. Israel has flagrantly violated these rules by carrying out an attack, without any authority and jurisdiction, on the international aid convoy while it was sailing on the high seas.

- Israel's attack against the humanitarian aid convoy, which violated both wartime and peacetime international law, has also trampled all international principles, rules and norms with the manner in which it was conducted.

While it had the possibility of intercepting the convoy carrying unarmed civilians without causing bloodshed, Israel opted for a course which made loss of life inevitable. Instead of employing numerous established means of interdiction such as firing across the bow or disabling the rudder, Israel chose to first intimidate and terrorize the passengers, and then to raid the ships in the darkness with lethal force. While so doing, Israel imposed a total electronic blackout on the vessels so that the terror it anticipated would not be transmitted to the outside world.

While Israel should have re-assessed the situation upon the passengers' exercise of self-defense, and had ample time to do so, it chose, on the contrary, to attack with increased violence.

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## Turkey says ready to help UN team, hopes Israel coop

*Davutoglu said he hoped that Israeli party would also have cooperation with the UN missions.*

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with Sir Desmond de Silva, a member of the International Fact-Finding Mission of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council set up to examine the Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, in capital Ankara on Monday.

Officials from the Foreign Ministry said that Davutoglu and de Silva discussed the raid on Mavi Marmara ship and developments in the following period.

Officials quoted Davutoglu as saying that the stance to be assumed by international community was very important, because it would help the issue to be cleared up and also contribute to peace by showing that no country was superior to international law.

Davutoglu said that Turkey was ready to fully cooperate with UN commissions. "If you have any question, you can ask now. I am ready to share every information with you," he said in the meeting.

Davutoglu said he hoped that Israeli party would also have cooperation with the UN missions.

Members of the international mission are expected to hold a series of talks in Ankara, Istanbul and the southern town of Iskenderun till August 29.

As part of their visit, the delegation will come together with a national investigation commission, listen to those injured in the attack and the witnesses, and meet executives of Turkish ministries and institutions.

Committee members will also examine the "Mavi Marmara", "Defne Y" and "Gazze" aid ships.

Nine people, including eight Turkish and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

AA

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RELEASED IN FULL

K11

## UN team in Turkey to probe Israel aid flotilla attack - UPDATED

*Members of an international fact-finding mission will pay a visit to Turkey to examine the Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.*

### World Bulletin / News Desk

Members of an international fact-finding team established by the UN Human Rights Council began meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara on Monday as part of an investigation into an Israeli attack on an aid flotilla on May 31 that left nine activists dead.

Members of the UN panel met with President Abdullah Gul and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Monday and are due to travel to Istanbul and Iskenderun, where three Turkish ships that were part of the aid flotilla are currently docked, before completing their visit on Sunday, Aug. 29, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released late on Sunday.

The fact-finding mission is composed of British lawyer Desmond de Silva -- a former UN war crimes prosecutor -- Trinidadian judge Karl T. Hudson-Phillips and Malaysian women's rights advocate Mary Shanthi Dairiam. Its mandate is primarily to investigate whether Israel breached international humanitarian or human rights law.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the investigative team will meet with representatives from a national inquiry delegation set up by Turkey, hear witnesses of the Israeli raid, including those injured in the attack, and confer with officials from the Foreign Ministry and other relevant state institutions. The Foreign Ministry also pledged full cooperation with the UN panel, saying "all sorts of assistance and facilitation will be offered" to the team during its work.

Their final report on the May 31 raid, said the statement, "carries great importance in terms of shedding light on the facts about the incident."

The UN Human Rights Council's investigation into the Israeli raid, which took place in international waters, is separate from a higher-profile UN probe announced by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The 47-member council's probe was launched before Ban's announcement of the high-level panel earlier this month.

The president of the Geneva-based council, Sihasak Phuangketkeow, has dismissed claims that Ban's announcement made the Human Rights Council investigation superfluous, saying earlier this month that the fact-finding mission should proceed because there is a clear distinction between the missions and mandates of the two inquiries.

Israel has said it would work with Ban's panel, which is led by former New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer and outgoing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and includes members from Turkey and Israel. But the Jewish state has previously refused to take part in council investigations. Sihasak said it would be "in the interest of Israel to do so."

Both teams are expected to publish their findings in September.

Israeli commandos trying to prevent activists from breaking its blockade of Gaza killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American during the raid on one of the flotilla's six vessels.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

[http://www.worldbulletin.net/news\\_print.php?id=62854](http://www.worldbulletin.net/news_print.php?id=62854)

8/24/2010

K12

# TODAY'S ZAMAN

## UN fact-finding team in Turkey for aid flotilla probe

Members of an international fact-finding team established by the UN Human Rights Council began meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara on Monday as part of an investigation into an Israeli attack on an aid flotilla on May 31 that left nine activists dead.

Members of the UN panel met with President Abdullah Gül and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu on Monday and are due to travel to İstanbul and İskenderun, where three Turkish ships that were part of the aid flotilla are currently docked, before completing their visit on Sunday, Aug. 29, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released late on Sunday.



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Their final report on the May 31 raid, said the statement, "carries great importance in terms of shedding light on the facts about the incident." The UN Human Rights Council's investigation into the Israeli raid, which took place in international waters, is separate from a higher-profile UN probe announced by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The 47-member council's probe was launched before Ban's announcement of the high-level panel earlier this month.

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would be "in the interest of Israel to do so." Both teams are expected to publish their findings in September.

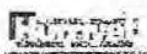
Israeli commandos trying to prevent activists from breaking its blockade of Gaza killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American during the raid on one of the flotilla's six vessels. Israel has said the soldiers acted in self-defense after being attacked as they boarded the Mavi Marmara, owned by a Turkish charity. Turkey, on the other hand, is demanding an apology from Israel and compensation for the families of the victims.

24.08.2010

News

TODAY'S ZAMAN

K13



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# DAILY NEWS & ECONOMIC REVIEW

## Int'l Gaza flotilla committee to visit Turkey

**ANKARA – Anatolia News Agency  
Monday, August 23, 2010**

Members of an international fact-finding mission are scheduled to visit Turkey to examine evidence from Israel's attack in May on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry's statement said members of the independent mission would hold talks in Ankara, Istanbul and the southern town of Iskenderun till Aug. 29. Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu will receive the delegation in Ankara.

The delegation is expected to confer with a domestic Turkish investigation commission, hear testimony from witnesses of the attack, including those who were injured, and meet leaders from Turkish state ministries and institutions.

Members of the international mission will also examine the Mavi Marmara, Defne Y and Gazze aid ships. In its statement, the ministry said the report the international mission would prepare was of vital importance in revealing the facts of what happened during the attack.

Around 30 people were injured when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on May 31. Eight Turkish citizens and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent were killed.

The United Nations Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate the possibility that Israel violated international law – specifically international humanitarian and human rights law – when it attacked the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance supplies.

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URL: [www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/n.php?n=int82171-gaza-flotilla-committee-to-visit-turkey-2010-08-23](http://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/n.php?n=int82171-gaza-flotilla-committee-to-visit-turkey-2010-08-23)

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



R14

### EU-US insensitive to Israel-killed activists disappoint Turkey

*UN draft resolution was adopted by 30 votes against 1 vote (that belonged to USA). EU countries abstained at the voting.*

Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the United States objected and the European Union (EU) member countries abstained against the UN Human Rights Council's draft resolution regarding Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla.

The ministry released a statement and said report of the fact-finding mission established by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the raid in the international waters and its consequences which resulted in death of eight Turkish citizens and a U.S. citizen, was submitted to the Council on September 22.

The draft resolution, submitted to the council by Pakistan on behalf of the 57 OIC-member states, was adopted by 30 votes against 1 vote (that belonged to USA). EU countries abstained at the voting.

The statement said the UN Human Rights Council approved the report of the international fact-finding mission which was prepared in a professional and objective stance and adopted a draft resolution on September 29 pertaining to points on following of the report.

"Despite evident EU principles on human rights, EU member countries, whose citizens were evacuated by Turkey following Israeli raid, used abstained vote and the United States, whose citizen was killed in the attack, used negative vote. Turkey was disappointed and conveyed its sensitivity on the matter to EU and the United States."

The statement said, "assessments of the report that Israel's armed attack in the international waters was evidently illegal, that Israeli troops used excessive, unnecessary and unbelievable violence and the intervention seriously violated human rights law and rules of humanitarian law were important. Turkey expects all the related parties, mainly Israel, to draw necessary lesson from the assessments in question."

Nine people, including eight Turkish citizens and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The UN Human Rights Council set up an international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attack on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

Agencies

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Turkey says can not restore ties as if Israel did not kill aid activists

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[Turkey hopes Israel to learn acting in international law after UN report](#)

[UN report: Israel wilfully killed, tortured Turkish Gaza activists](#)

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R15



[Redacted]

### Gaza flotilla: Statement by PM Netanyahu

31 May 2010

This regrettable incident was the result of an intentional provocation of forces which support Iran and its terrorist enclave, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip.



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

RELEASED IN FULL

[Translated from Hebrew]

Last night a regrettable incident occurred, during which people were killed and others were injured. IDF soldiers who were compelled to defend their lives were also injured. This incident was the result of an intentional provocation of forces which support Iran and its terrorist enclave, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip. This enclave, Hamas, has fired thousands of missiles at the State of Israel, and it is amassing thousands more.

This is a clear case of self-defense. Israel cannot allow the free flow of weapons, rockets and missiles to the terrorist base of Hamas in Gaza. It's a terrorist base supported by Iran; it's already fired thousands of rockets at Israeli cities; it seeks to smuggle in thousands more, and this is why Israel must inspect the goods that come into Gaza. It's also a clear case of self-defense because as our soldiers were inspecting these ships, they were attacked - they were almost lynched. They were attacked with clubs, with knives, perhaps with live gunfire, and they had to defend themselves - they were going to be killed. Israel will not allow its soldiers to be lynched and neither would any other self-respecting country.

Our policy is simple. We say: any goods, any humanitarian aid to Gaza, can enter. What we want to prevent is their ability to bring in war materiel - missiles, rockets, the means for constructing casings for missiles and rockets. This has been our policy and yesterday we told the flotilla - which was not a simple, innocent flotilla - to bring their goods into Ashdod. We told them that we would examine their cargo and allow those goods that could not be used as weapons or shielding materials for Hamas into Gaza.

Five of the six ships accepted these terms without violence. Apparently, the sixth ship, the largest, which had on board hundreds of people, had a premeditated plan to harm IDF soldiers. When the first soldiers dropped down onto the deck of the ship, they were attacked by a violent mob and were compelled to defend their lives. That is when the unfortunate events took place.

We have a simple policy, which will continue. That policy is: we have no argument or fight with the population of Gaza. We are interested in allowing them to continue their regular routines. We want to prevent any humanitarian crisis in Gaza, but we are fighting the

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[http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Speeches+by+Israeli+leaders/2010/Gaza\\_flotilla...](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Speeches+by+Israeli+leaders/2010/Gaza_flotilla...) 10/18/2010

Hamas organization, which threatens the citizens of Israel and fires missiles at Israeli cities. It is our duty to defend the citizens of Israel, protect Israel's cities and ensure the security of the State of Israel - and we will continue to do so.

\*\*\*

**Statement following meeting with Canadian PM Stephen Harper (31 May 2010):**

Gaza has become a base for Hamas terrorists backed by Iran, from which they fire thousands of rockets into Israel. They're amassing thousands more rockets to fire at our cities, at our towns, at our children. Our policy is this: we try to let in all humanitarian goods into Gaza, all peaceful commodities - food, medicine and the like. What we want to prevent coming into Gaza are rockets, missiles, explosives and war materiel that could be used to attack our civilians.

This is an ongoing policy and it was the one that guided our action yesterday. We told the flotilla of ships, we said: "You can take all your cargo. Put it in our port of Ashdod. We'll just ferret out if there are any war materials and the rest will go through." We succeeded doing this peacefully with five of the six ships. The sixth ship, the largest, which had hundreds of people on it not only did not cooperate in this effort, they deliberately attacked the first soldiers that came on the ship. They were mobbed; they were clubbed; they were beaten; they were stabbed and there was even a report of gunfire.

Our soldiers had to defend themselves, defend their lives or they would have been killed, and regrettably, in this exchange at least ten people died. We regret this loss of life. We regret any of the violence that was there. I would like to wish speedy recovery to the wounded, including four of our own soldiers.

Our policy was and will continue to be that we will let humanitarian aid, any kinds of goods that are meant for peace to the civilian population in Gaza. We have no quarrel with the people of Gaza. We do have a conflict with the terrorist regime of Hamas, supported by Iran. We want to maintain a situation where we prevent weapons and raw materials from coming into Gaza. That is our main task.



B158

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

From: [redacted] B6  
 Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:44 PM  
 To: Gordon, Philip H; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted] Silliman, Douglas A; Ross, Dennis B. B6  
 Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J  
 Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

+ Dennis Ross

[redacted] did not commit on the timetable for release of those deemed suspects by the Attorney General. The number was unknown but was estimated at lower than 55 (clearly not all of these are Turks, however). The Israelis were clear with us that those under the AG's authority would only be released subject to legal proceedings, which they hoped would go quickly, but could not promise. Based on what [redacted] reported (directly after speaking with the PM), POTUS was able to tell Erdogan that the deportation process was beginning imminently and the Israelis intended it to proceed quickly, although some political and legal issues remained in some cases. He also asked for patience.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Philip H [mailto:GordonPH@state.gov]  
 Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:33 PM  
 To: Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D.; Brink, Bridget A.; Silliman, Douglas A  
 Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J; Shapiro, Daniel B.  
 Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

[redacted] B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D  
 Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:14 PM  
 To: Gordon, Philip H; Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted] Silliman, Douglas A B6  
 Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura  
 Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

[redacted] just called with the following:

- There are 673 total detainees from the Gaza flotilla.
- Of those, 118 will be deported via Jordan.
- 50 are being expelled via the airport, having signed a consent form.
- 120 others will be sent out via the airport "shortly."
- Israel is "hoping to make the deadline" for releasing Turks, with the deadline being the 11 a.m. Wednesday Turkish security council meeting.
- Three Lebanese are being deported directly via Ras Naqoura.
- 55 of various nationalities are wounded. The wounded are being treated as suspects in the attacks on the IDF by the Israelis. The Attorney General needs to rule on what to do

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

with these 55. Israelis may want to bring court cases against these, which argues against a quick release. But these are in the hands of the Attorney General.

Jeffrey Feltman  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Department of State  
202-647-7209

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Philip H  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:35 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted]; Silliman, Douglas A  
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura  
Subject: RE: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6

Davutolgu very clear today that they wanted all of the passengers out, unconditionally. If all not permitted to leave many others would refuse to leave. Important to get commitment on getting all out or big trouble ahead.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:28 PM  
To: Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; [redacted]; Silliman, Douglas A  
Cc: Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura  
Subject: Re: MFA on cabinet meeting

B6

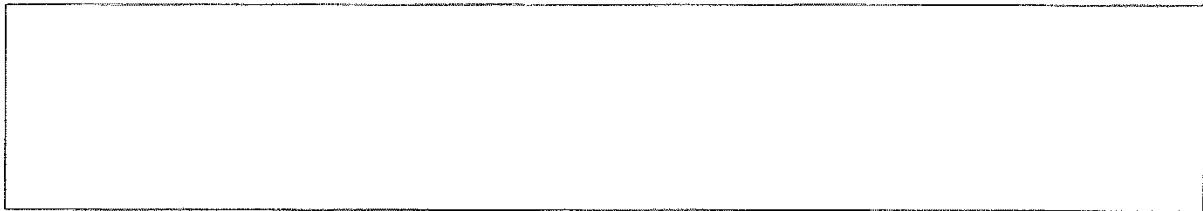
Mfa readout might not square with what [redacted] told me. I think they will try to find a way to get most of the turkish out soon, and all in the near future. [redacted] said [redacted] is tasked to get the deportations working. We'll follow to see if they can make it work. He said decision was to get the Turks back.  
Sent from my BlackBerry

B6

----- Original Message -----

From: Jeffrey, James F  
To: Sievers, Marc J; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; 'elizabeth\_d.\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d.\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Silliman, Douglas A  
Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura  
Sent: Tue Jun 01 23:20:42 2010  
Subject: Re: MFA on cabinet meeting

B5





B5

----- Original Message -----


From: Sievers, Marc J

To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group

Cc: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura

Sent: Tue Jun 01 23:08:22 2010

Subject: MFA on cabinet meeting

 called me to update on deportation authority. Cabinet decided it has authority to expedite departure of all detainees not suspected of attacking Israeli military personnel. This apparently covers all those in detention in Beer Sheva. They will still be asked to sign release form, but oral request to leave Israel will be accepted.

B6

Cabinet decided, however, to support police request to detain for possible investigation and perhaps prosecution those who are suspected of attacking Israeli military. He said this means basically all the wounded currently in hospitals and a small number of those in Beer Sheva will be held at least for a few more days while Attorney General decides how to proceed, it's not clear yet whether they will put any of them on trial. I noted this would scuttle understanding reached with Turks about evacuating Turkish wounded. He said that was correct.

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

J73

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2011 1:37 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Ankara-EXEC  
**Subject:** FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel [redacted] Syria; [redacted] NR  
Turkey!

For AMB's read file pls.

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message.  
**Declassify On:** 2036/10/18

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2011 9:05 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Stafford, Edward G; Fernandes, Anthony C; Letvin, John C  
**Subject:** Tel Aviv Cable: [redacted] Syria; [redacted] Turkey! NR

**SECRET//NOFORN**



**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 1221  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 17, 2011 / 171210Z OCT 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PTER, MOPS, KISL, EG, TU, IS  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 11 TEL AVIV 1207  
**Subject:** NSS Senior Director Simon Engages the GOI on Egypt, Syria, Turkey

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

1. (S) Summary: On October 4, visiting NSS Senior Director Steven Simon told senior GOI interlocutors [redacted]

[Large redacted area]



[Redacted] NR

-----  
Syria  
-----

6. (S) [Redacted]

-----  
Turkey  
-----

9. (S) [Redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(D)

B1

	NR

10. (U) NSS Senior Director Simon cleared this message.

Minimize considered.

**MINIMIZE CONSIDERED**

**Signature:** Shapiro

---

**Classified By:** Name: Daniel Shapiro, Title: Ambassador  
**Reason:** 1.4 (a), (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2036/10/17  
**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Berns, David B  
**Cleared By:** POL:Eussen, Matthew M  
 EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR:Monosson, Danielle H  
 POL:Levin, Jan X  
 POL:Silverman, Robert J  
 EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H  
 NSS:SSimon  
 DAO:TCyril

**Approved By:** EXEC:Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv)

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

**Info:** WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message.  
**Declassify On:** 2036/10/17

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([https://connect.infocentral.state.gov/travel\\_briefs/global-brief/](https://connect.infocentral.state.gov/travel_briefs/global-brief/)) into your browser.

June 22, 2011

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- Iraq**
- Iran**
- Middle East Peace**
- MENA Transition and Reform**
- North Korea**
- Afghanistan and Pakistan**
- Russia**
- Sudan/Darfur**
- Terrorism**
- Detainees**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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[\(back to top\)](#)**IRAQ****Iraq Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

**Iraq Q&A**

**Have the U.S. and Iraq reached an agreement regarding the settlement of claims of U.S. victims of the Saddam Hussein regime?**

- ✓ Efforts by the U.S. and Iraq to settle longstanding claims of U.S. nationals who were victims of the Saddam Hussein regime were brought to conclusion on June 21 in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Claims Settlement Agreement that was signed on September 2, 2010. The settlement is designed to provide fair compensation for American nationals who were prisoners of war, hostages, and human shields during the first Gulf War and U.S. servicemen who were injured in the 1987 attack on the USS Stark, and to confirm Iraq’s immunity in U.S. courts in connection with such claims
- ✓ The resolution of these claims is the product of several years of hard work and careful negotiations between the governments of the U.S. and Iraq. It represents a significant step in Iraq’s efforts to resolve outstanding claims arising from actions of the previous regime.
- ✓ The Department of State will now establish procedures through which eligible U.S. nationals will be able to apply for compensation for their claims. This may include the referral of some claims to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for adjudication. (State Department press statement 06/21/11)

**Could you comment on U.S. efforts to promote a better business environment in Iraq?**

- ✓ The U.S. government believes strongly that expanding economic opportunity is as essential as building democratic institutions. In particular, it’s very important for people going through the changes that are sweeping the region to believe and to see that democracy delivers.

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2

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- ✓ We see too few American companies alongside our soldiers and our diplomats. Iraqis are looking to rebuild every sector of their economy, not only their oil sector but agribusiness, transportation, housing, banking, and many others.
- ✓ There are still significant security challenges, bottlenecks in infrastructure, unclear regulations, and, unfortunately, corruption. But as our Iraqi colleagues will tell you, they are working hard to make it easier to do business in Iraq for Iraqis and foreign investors alike.
- ✓ Each company will make its own decisions about the costs and benefits, but we want to go on record unequivocally in encouraging American business to begin that process, and we will do everything we can to support you in it. Our embassies and consulates will be hubs that support commercial activity in every region of Iraq. The State Department will work hard to champion American companies. USAID, Treasury, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, OPIC, Ex-Im, and many other agencies have unique and proven experience that we can bring to the table.
- ✓ Ambassador Jeffrey is working hard to establish an American Chamber of Commerce in Iraq, which would be another powerful advocate.
- ✓ Ultimately these decisions are up to the Iraqi people: the leaders of the government, the leaders of industry, and, of course, Iraqi men and women who want that better future. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/03/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Doing Business in Iraq (06/03/11)

**Can you provide details on the Department's plan to hire security contractors in Iraq?**

- ✓ The safety of U.S. government personnel is of primary importance. For years, our diplomats have served admirably in challenging environments.
- ✓ In Iraq, we have operated successfully in multiple areas with Diplomatic Security (DS) personnel and private security contractors (PSCs) since 2004. We have high confidence that our capable security professionals will continue to provide a safe and secure platform to support U.S. foreign policy in Iraq.
- ✓ As the military draws down, the Department is implementing its civilian increase in Iraq. As the Department of Defense has done in Iraq, the Department will rely on the use of contractors for a multitude of functions. We use contractors in contingency operations to fill a surge capacity and when it is cost-efficient, as opposed to building up permanent, U.S. direct-hire staff.
- ✓ At most of our diplomatic facilities world-wide, the guard force staff is comprised of local nationals, and our diplomats live on the local economy. As the security environment improves, we will transition to a more traditional mode of operation.
- ✓ The Department takes contract oversight responsibilities seriously, and has worked to enhance oversight of PSCs. For the DS Worldwide Protective Services contract, DS has increased staffing to more than 200 direct-hire personnel to oversee the contract and its task orders, and to ensure contract compliance by approximately 5,100 contract employees currently expected to be working in Iraq after the transition.
- ✓ We are confident that, in close coordination and cooperation with the U.S. military and the Government of Iraq, we will carry out a successful transition beyond 2011 while maintaining security for our personnel.
- ✓ The U.S. and Iraq are rebalancing the relationship while we remain committed to a comprehensive partnership – based on the Strategic Framework Agreement – that will broaden the emphasis on political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural cooperation, while also expanding on success in the realm of security that was the focus of recent years. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

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conscience around the world in condemning the violence of these regimes. (Press Guidance, 06/13/11)

**What is the U.S. response to UN Security Council's extension of the Iran Panel of Experts' mandate for another twelve months?**

- ✓ The United States strongly supports the Iran Panel of Experts and we are pleased the Security Council voted to renew its mandate on June 9.
- ✓ UN sanctions panels are well-established and independent tools to improve implementation of UN sanctions. The Iran Panel of Experts has given the Council and its Iran Sanctions Committee independent, professional, seasoned advice on how to do just that.
- ✓ In light of Iran's ongoing noncompliance, and Iran's latest announcement that it intends to install centrifuges in Qom and to triple its production of nearly 20% low enriched uranium (LEU), the international community must come together urgently to strengthen enforcement of these sanctions.
- ✓ Full implementation of the provisions contained in the Council's resolutions will send a powerful signal to Iran's decision makers, as well as constrain Iran's ability to continue its proliferation sensitive activities.
- ✓ We hope the Security Council will release the Panel's final report soon so that other countries can benefit from the Panel's findings and recommendations. The Panel conducted excellent investigative work and we strongly support its findings. We commend the Panel's professionalism, methodological rigor and high standards. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

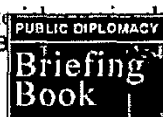
**Could you comment on efforts to hold Iranian human rights abusers accountable?**

- ✓ Nearly two years after Iran's brave citizens took to the streets, the struggle for civil liberties and fundamental rights continues. On June 9, the U.S. sanctioned three Iranian government entities complicit in the ongoing brutal repression – the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Basij Resistance Force, and Iran's Law Enforcement Forces (LEF) – as well as LEF Commander Ismail Ahmadi Moghadam.
- ✓ While Iran's leaders hypocritically applaud protesters abroad calling for self-determination, many of Iran's own citizens – including founding members of the revolution – are being held as political prisoners merely for holding views contrary to Iran's leaders. Iranians are being executed for crimes based on dubious charges and without the due process guaranteed under Iran's constitution. Religious and ethnic minorities are intimidated and imprisoned, while women's rights activists, human rights defenders, clerics, and labor leaders are targeted for retribution for seeking human rights for themselves and other Iranian citizens. By barring many of Iran's most accomplished artists, journalists, and academics from working, and forcing many to flee their homeland, the Iranian government restricts the space where free thought and expression can flourish.
- ✓ The United States stands with all Iranians who wish for a government that respects their human rights, their dignity and their freedom, and we call on the Iranian government to end its systematic human rights abuses and political hypocrisy. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/09/11)
- ✓ This action blocks, or freezes, the property and interests in property of designated persons or designated entities. U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in transactions involving the persons or entities. All designees and members of designated entities are subject to a travel ban by.
- ✓ As we continue to collect additional information and evidence, and as new events unfold in Iran, we anticipate that additional individuals will be designated. (Press Guidance, 06/09/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Sanctions Against Iranian Human Rights Abusers (06/09/11)

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## MIDDLE EAST PEACE

### Israel/Palestine Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.” (05/19/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))

### Israel/Palestine Q&A

- ✓ **What are U.S. expectations going forward for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process?**  
Last month, the President made a significant set of remarks on the region. They included a component on the pursuit of peace between Israelis and Arabs, which he described as a cornerstone of our approach to the region. The President acknowledged that expectations have gone unmet, but he also made clear that regional developments make a peace that ends the conflict and resolves all claims more urgent than ever.
- ✓ **We are working with the parties in coordination with the international community and the Quartet to continue the difficult task of closing the gaps between the parties on how we proceed in a productive way. Our goal in this effort is to – now is to work with the parties toward negotiations on the basis of the President’s remarks. We are consulting the parties, the Quartet, Arab officials and other supporters on the best way to proceed.**
- ✓ **Our focus is on seeing how we can get over the current impasse and back to the negotiating table. This is a difficult task. The circumstances on the ground and the gaps between the parties are challenging.**
- ✓ **Ultimately, it is up to the Israelis and Palestinians to take action. As the President said, no peace can be imposed on them, but endless delay will not make the problem go away. The status quo is unsustainable and return to negotiations, in our view, is the only way forward. But they have to make the decisions on how to do so. (State Department press briefing, 06/21/11)**

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**Is the U.S. working with its allies to initiate a new effort to promote a peace plan?**

- ✓ The United States and our international partners remain active with the parties, most recently continuing to consult the parties on ways to overcome the current impasse.
- ✓ The end goal has not changed: as President Obama said, we want to see a negotiated solution that resolves the core issues of the conflict and results in two states - a viable Palestine, and a secure Israel with secure and recognized borders for each state.
- ✓ We leave it to the Israeli and Palestinian governments to speak to their positions, but what is clear is that our efforts will continue. As part of those efforts, Acting Special Envoy for Middle East Peace David Hale and Special Assistant to the President Dennis Ross met in the region with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli negotiator Yitzhak Molho, and Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Special Envoy Hale also met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.
- ✓ Special Envoy Hale also met with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh in Cyprus. Early this week he will meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil Elaraby and the Head of Egyptian Intelligence Murad Muwafi in Cairo. The Quartet Envoys are also scheduled to meet in Brussels later this week.
- ✓ We appreciate High Representative Ashton's letter to Secretary Clinton. It is another illustration of the resolve of the U.S. and our partners to assist the parties in returning to the negotiating table and ultimately reaching a final agreement. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

**What is the U.S. doing to prevent renewed clashes between flotillas headed for Gaza and Israeli security forces?**

- ✓ Since the tragic events of last year's flotilla, we have consistently engaged with a broad range of governments, including Turkish, Israeli, and other governments.
- ✓ For the past year we have made clear that groups and individuals that seek to enter Gaza by sea are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that entail a risk to their safety. The U.S. Coast Guard issued a warning earlier this month informing mariners that "Previous attempts to enter Gaza by sea have resulted in violent incidents and the detention and deportation of those involved."
- ✓ Mechanisms are in place to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza, and they should be used by those seeking to provide assistance for the benefit of ordinary Gazans. We urge all those wishing to deliver goods to do so through established channels so their cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza - to ensure that Israel's legitimate security needs are addressed even as the Palestinians' humanitarian needs are met.
- ✓ We will continue to make clear both publicly and in private meetings with states, NGOs, and others our concerns about the risks of attempting to sail directly to Gaza.
- ✓ We remain concerned for the people of Gaza and understand while many difficulties remain, life is much improved in Gaza. However, we recognize that more needs to be done to improve the access of goods and people going into and out of Gaza; we are working with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to this end. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

**What is the U.S. position on Palestinian efforts to secure UN recognition as a state?**

- ✓ We vehemently reject attempts to de-legitimize the state of Israel. As the President stated at the UN General Assembly, Israel's existence must not be a subject for debate, and efforts to chip away at Israel's legitimacy will only be met by the unshakeable opposition of the United States.
- ✓ The President has been clear that he supports two states for two peoples, and that it would be a mistake for the Palestinians to pursue a path for statehood at the UN rather than at the negotiating

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table with Israel. We have been frank that we reject counterproductive attempts to resolve permanent status issues at the UN.

- ✓ As the President said on May 19, "For Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations in September won't create an independent state." That is why we are focused on a negotiated outcome that will lead to the establishment of an independent, viable state of Palestine alongside a secure state of Israel.
- ✓ We have been steadfast in our determination to ensure that Israel is treated fairly, that its security is never in doubt, and that Israel has the same rights and responsibilities as all UN member states.
- ✓ We have opposed unbalanced, one-sided resolutions, at the UN General Assembly, the Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, UNESCO, and elsewhere. We have opposed the deeply flawed and biased Goldstone Report, and voted against multiple resolutions on last year's flotilla incident at the Human Rights Council. On the Goldstone Report, we have been clear that we want to see UN action end in relation to the report. Regarding the flotilla issue, we have joined the Secretary-General in his call on Governments to use their respective influence to discourage future flotillas, and avoid unnecessary and unhelpful provocative actions that seek to bypass the effective mechanisms that exist to deliver goods and services to Gaza.
- ✓ Much work still needs to be done at the Human Rights Council. We continue to protest the egregious permanent agenda item on Israel. But we have managed to use every opportunity to shift the focus of the debate at the Council addressing the most serious human rights abusers, rather than unfairly singling out Israel.
- ✓ All these efforts demonstrate that our commitment to defend Israel throughout the UN system, both in countering biased anti-Israeli actions and in opposing those who seek platforms to expand anti-Israel efforts at the UN, remains strong.
- ✓ Israel wants to play a larger role globally, multilaterally and at the UN. It does not want to be viewed solely through the prism of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israelis understand that they not only have rights within the international system; they also have responsibilities, and they want to meet them. To that end, the United States is working with Israel to advance its positive multilateral engagement agenda, and move beyond the focus on contentious political and security issues, with the aim of addressing the issue of delegitimization and Israel's treatment at the UN.
- ✓ Looking ahead, we are committed to building on our efforts with Israel at the UN, including working with Israel to advance its positive global agenda, and continuing to oppose attempts to isolate and delegitimize Israel. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Brimmer, 06/15/11)

**What is U.S. policy on Middle East peace as outlined by President Obama?**

- ✓ A lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace.
- ✓ The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.
- ✓ Every state has the right to self-defense, and Israel must be able to defend itself – by itself – against any threat. Provisions must also be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, to stop the infiltration of weapons, and to provide effective border security. The full and phased withdrawal of

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Israeli military forces should be coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized state.

- ✓ These steps alone will not resolve the conflict, because two wrenching and emotional issues will remain: the future of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees. But moving forward now on the basis of territory and security provides a foundation to resolve those two issues in a way that is just and fair, and that respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- ✓ For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations will not create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.
- ✓ As for Israel, our friendship is rooted deeply in a shared history and shared values. Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakeable. But precisely because of our friendship, it's important that we tell the truth: the status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)

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**MENA TRANSITION AND REFORM****MENA Transition and Reform Message**

- ✓ **Assistant Secretary Posner** – “Our response to the upheaval in the Middle East has been rooted in a consistent set of principles: We have opposed the use of violence against peaceful protesters and supported the universal rights of free expression, assembly, and association and the right to participate in the affairs of the state. We have strongly condemned, including in multilateral fora, the killing, torture, and abuse of peaceful protestors. We have made clear our view that people’s legitimate demands and aspirations must be met by positive engagement from governments, in the form of meaningful political and economic reforms.” (05/05/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Uprisings across the region have exposed myths that for too long were used to justify a stagnant status quo. You know the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people’s aspirations or respecting their rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs do not share universal human aspirations for freedom, dignity, and opportunity.” (04/13/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Democratic change must grow from within. It cannot be implanted from the outside. And let me be among the first of many to say the West certainly does not have all of the answers. The first steps of change have come quickly and dramatically. It is, however, proving tragically difficult in Libya. In other nations, change is likely to be more deliberate and methodical. In all cases, the United States will support citizens and governments as they work for progress.” (02/28/11) ([read transcript](#))

**MENA Transition and Reform Q&A****Could you provide an update on the situation in Syria?**

- ✓ Throughout the continuing violent crackdowns in Syria, President Assad has shown that he cares more about maintaining his own power than he does about his people.
- ✓ Approximately thirteen hundred Syrians have been killed since protests began with many thousands more detained and tortured. There must be an immediate end to violence by Syrian security forces, the immediate release of all political prisoners, and an end to the torture and abuse of those who remain in detention. The Assad regime must allow immediate unfettered access for international humanitarian agencies and international media.
- ✓ President Assad’s regime and its repression of the Syrian people are the sources of the instability we are currently witnessing in Syria. Assad’s actions are causing instability and putting Syria on a clear path to becoming a pariah state.
- ✓ The Syrian people are calling for a change on the ground and they will be the ones to judge whether President Assad is meeting their needs and expectations. As we have stressed, he can lead the transition already under way in Syria or he can get out of the way.
- ✓ The fact that the Syrian people continue to protest every week indicate that President Assad’s words are not enough and that they are losing patience with the mixed messages of the Syrian government. Mere announcements from President Assad on dialogue and timetables are not enough. There needs to be actual dialogue and it must be inclusive, credible, and comprehensive. Genuine reforms speedily implemented are the only way to achieve stability in Syria.
- ✓ We continue to work unilaterally, regionally, and internationally to try to build a broad-based approach increase pressure on Assad’s regime.

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- ✓ Bilaterally, the President has signed two new Executive Orders. He's designated President Assad under this authority as well as other regime officials. We're looking at how we can broaden these sanctions to increase the pressure.
- ✓ Regionally we are in contact with Arab League officials and bilateral partners in the region, including the Turkish government, to build on the pressure for Assad to lead the transition under way or get out of the way.
- ✓ On the international forum, we continue to take steps to pressure and isolate the Assad regime. Last week in Geneva, the United States joined over fifty UN members to deliver a forceful joint statement addressing the deteriorating human rights situation in Syria, calling for an end to the ongoing human rights violations committed by the Syrian authorities, and urging the Government of Syria to allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Office access to Syria to conduct their fact-finding mission. This fact finding mission was established during a special session of the HRC on Syria that the U.S. successfully lobbied for in April. We also successfully worked to lobby other delegations against Syria's hypocritical bid to join the Human Rights Council in May.
- ✓ We continue our efforts to use a broad-based international approach to support what the Syrian people are demanding. The Syrian people are in the lead and we are making every effort to support the Syrian people's demands.
- ✓ We are also looking into whether there are grounds for charges related to war crimes and whether referrals on that issue are appropriate. And we continue to evaluate possible additional economic sanctions, including with the oil and gas sector in Syria. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)
- ✓ Ambassador Ford traveled to northern Syria with a large group of other foreign ambassadors to personally witness the aftermath of the recent situation in Jisr Shughur. The group received briefings from senior Syrian military intelligence officers on the ground.
- ✓ Ambassador Ford's purpose was to gather information for U.S. policymakers, not to deliver a particular message.
- ✓ Ambassador Ford is not restricted to Damascus. Decisions regarding his movements outside Damascus are made based on U.S. security determinations. (Press Guidance, 06/21/11)

**What is the U.S. response to reports of Syrian citizens fleeing to Turkey due to violence?**

- ✓ We condemn the government's use of violence on its people, and call on it to immediately cease all brutality and begin a transition to democracy. The Syrian government must respect the universal human rights and dignity of the Syrian people.
- ✓ Press reports indicate that approximately 10,500 Syrians are sheltered in Turkish Red Crescent Society camps.
- ✓ The Turkish government has stated that the border will remain open, and that Turkey will continue to allow individuals seeking protection to enter.
- ✓ We commend the Government of Turkey's response in coordination with the Turkish Red Crescent Society to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced Syrians in Turkey.
- ✓ The U.S. provides humanitarian assistance to refugees and asylum seekers worldwide through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including in Turkey. Should there be a request to assist in the humanitarian needs of displaced Syrians, the U.S. stands ready to help.
- ✓ The Turkish government has not requested any support and notes that the Turkish Red Crescent Society is capable of assisting a large number of displaced Syrians, up to 30,000 people according to the Director of the Turkish Red Crescent Society.
- ✓ We have not seen an uptick in the number of Syrian nationals seeking access to the U.S. refugee resettlement program. UNHCR/Turkey submitted for U.S. refugee resettlement consideration only five Syrians in 2010 and five in 2011. UNHCR views the current situation as one in which those

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crossing the border require only temporary protection and is not currently looking at resettlement as a protection option.

- ✓ We have no information regarding reports that Turkey is considering the creation of a border security zone on the Syrian side of the border to provide assistance to those fleeing violence. We refer you to the Government of Turkey for this information. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Could you provide an update on the situation in Yemen?

- ✓ Our position has not changed. An immediate, peaceful, and orderly transition is in the best interest of the Yemeni people. We urge all sides to engage in dialogue that peacefully moves Yemen forward.
- ✓ Ambassador Feierstein and embassy personnel in Sana'a continue to meet with a broad cross-section of Yemenis, including Acting President Al-Hadi and senior government officials, as well as members of the opposition.
- ✓ We continue to call for an immediate, nonviolent, and orderly transition that allows the democratic aspirations of the Yemeni people to be realized. Ultimately, the Yemeni people must decide the path Yemen takes toward a peaceful, unified, and stable future.
- ✓ The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a announced on June 19 the arrival of \$10 million worth of food aid in Yemen, provided by the American people through USAID to the World Food Program. The food items, including flour, beans, and vegetable oil, will contribute to the support of 416,000 people in Sa'adah and Harad in the Hajjah governorate.
- ✓ The 6,300 metric tons of food commodities will contribute to the World Food Program's "Emergency Food Assistance to Conflict-Affected Persons in Northern Yemen" operation -- a program intended to address the food security needs of some 300,000 internally displaced and over 100,000 war-affected persons in Yemen's northern governorates.
- ✓ So far this year, the U.S. Embassy has overseen the allocation of approximately \$35 million dollars to Yemen for emergency and humanitarian projects. In addition to food assistance, the United States is providing emergency medical support, shelter, and water and sanitation supplies to recipients throughout the country, including those recently displaced from Zinjibar, capital of the southern Abyan governorate, in partnership with local and international organizations. U.S. Embassy staff in Yemen is providing additional support as needed.
- ✓ We understand President Saleh remains in Saudi Arabia receiving medical treatment. We will not speculate on President Saleh's actions or condition or attempt to speak for the Yemeni people. We refer you to the Yemeni and Saudi governments for more details. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

Can you confirm that the U.S. has sent a second shipment of non-lethal assistance to Libya?

- ✓ We have delivered a second shipment of non-lethal aid to Benghazi, Libya, which was requested by the Transitional National Council (TNC). These items are being provided to support the TNC's efforts to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under threat of attack.
- ✓ The shipment consisted of uniforms, body armor, first-aid kits, tents, and related materials transferred from existing Department of Defense stocks.
- ✓ We are working closely with the TNC on a daily basis to assess additional assistance requirements. No decision to date has been made on future shipments. (Press Guidance, 06/17/11)

Can you provide an update on the situation in Libya?

- ✓ We note NATO's acknowledgement that a military missile site was the intended target of air strikes in Tripoli on June 19. However, as NATO reported, it appears that one weapon did not

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- strike the intended target and that there may have been a weapons system failure, which may have caused a number of civilian casualties.
- ✓ As noted by the Transitional National Council (TNC) to partners and discussed at the Contact Group meetings in Doha, Rome, and Abu Dhabi, the TNC is facing serious financial difficulties. To support the TNC, the Contact Group agreed to fully establish a Temporary Financial Mechanism (TFM) at the June 9 meeting in Abu Dhabi.
  - ✓ We support the efforts of the Libya Contact Group to establish a TFM and a Libyan Information Exchange Mechanism (LIEM) that would facilitate much-needed financial contributions and other in-kind assistance to the TNC. We are strongly encouraging our international partners to assist the TNC directly or through one or both of these mechanisms.
  - ✓ Additionally, the United States is assessing and reviewing options for the types of assistance we could provide to the Libyan people. We are consulting directly with the opposition and our international partners about these matters.
  - ✓ The President has directed up to \$25 million in transfers of non-lethal items from U.S. government stocks to key partners in Libya such as the TNC, and the transportation of these items.
  - ✓ Again, we welcome the U.S. Senate Banking Committee announcement that it will advance a bill soon to allow President Obama to use some of the frozen assets of Muammar Qaddafi's government to be used to provide humanitarian relief to the Libyan people.
  - ✓ Under proposed legislation, this assistance could cover the costs of commodities and subsidies needed to maintain basic living conditions among the population—for example, access to water, sanitation, food, shelter, and health care. Frozen assets would not be used to offset the cost of our military action in Libya.
  - ✓ The question of recognition is one of many policy issues still under review and our envoy Chris Stevens and his team in Benghazi continue to cultivate relationships with TNC leadership as well as our efforts to more fully assess the capacity and needs of the TNC.
  - ✓ As Secretary Clinton said at the most recent Contact Group meeting in Abu Dhabi, the TNC is the legitimate and credible interlocutor for the Libyan people during this interim period. At the same time, it is clear that the Qadhafi regime has lost all legitimacy.
  - ✓ We have taken consistent steps to bolster the legitimacy of the TNC, including meetings of senior TNC officials with the Secretary and at the White House, allowing the TNC to open an office in Washington, and suspending the operations of the Qadhafi regime's embassy here. We have urged other countries to do the same.
  - ✓ We remain committed to working with those who are striving to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people and create a better future for Libya. It will be up to the people of Libya, to choose their new constitution, elect their new leaders, and write the next chapter in their history. (Press Guidance) 06/20/11

Does the U.S. believe that reforms announced by the King of Morocco are sufficient?

- ✓ The U.S. welcomes the proposals outlined on June 17 by King Mohammed VI to transform Morocco's democratic development through constitutional, judicial and political reforms.
- ✓ We fully support the aspirations of the Moroccan people and their efforts to further consolidate the rule of law, raise human rights standards, promote good governance, and work toward long-term constitutional reform that incorporates checks and balances. The people of Morocco are calling for the same basic changes others in the region have called for: a larger voice in how they are governed.
- ✓ The United States values Morocco as a key strategic partner and we stand ready to work with the people and the government of Morocco as the government moves forward to fully implement key

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reforms and satisfy the legitimate democratic aspirations and rights of all Moroccans. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

- Does the U.S. believe that Bahrain has made progress in addressing demands of protestors?
- ✓ Bahrain is an important partner of the United States. We have a long-standing alliance based on shared political, economic and security interests. Both countries benefit from stability and prosperity in Bahrain, and from a society where all people are able to express their views peacefully and contribute to the political process.
  - ✓ We welcome the announcement of the government's intention to begin a national dialogue on reform in Bahrain in July. The challenge will be to initiate a dialogue that involves representative leaders on all sides and to ensure that the dialogue addresses and begins to resolve divisive issues.
  - ✓ We are mindful of the pressing need in Bahrain for everyone to begin an engagement that will start to rebuild tolerance, mutual respect and a process for navigating divisions. We understand the difficulty of this task, and we also know that no outsider can make it happen. It is for the Bahraini people to forge their own future.
  - ✓ The U.S. and Bahrain face constantly evolving security challenges. President Obama and Secretary Clinton have made clear time and again that respect for human rights and pursuit of national security interests are not in conflict; to the contrary, they are best advanced in tandem.
  - ✓ In recent months we have seen a clear link in this region between national stability and security and the ability of governments to meet the legitimate aspirations of their people, including the desire of people everywhere for dignity, justice, economic opportunity, universal human rights, and a voice in shaping their own future.
  - ✓ We welcome the release of some detainees who were not charged, the restoration of some scholarships, and the reinstatement of a number of employees who were wrongfully dismissed from their jobs. We also welcome the announcement by the government that it will investigate deaths of people in custody, including one case where five prison guards are under investigation. The Government of Bahrain also has promised to investigate allegations of mistreatment of detainees in custody.
  - ✓ On the other hand, we continue to receive reports about some students being expelled from universities and some workers being dismissed merely because they have exercised their political rights. We remain concerned about the continued detention of a number of Bahrainis who have neither been charged nor tried, about the treatment of those people in detention, and about reports that some have been subjected to physical abuse during interrogations. We urge Bahrain to abide by its commitments to transparent judicial proceedings conducted in full accordance with both local law and Bahrain's international legal obligations.
  - ✓ Meaningful dialogue can only take place in a climate of respect for the freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly – principles articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a number of treaties that Bahrain has ratified. In the coming weeks, all parties here will need to create an appropriate environment for national dialogue, and all parties must participate to forge a just future for this country.
  - ✓ Throughout the world, we have seen how media freedom raises public awareness, identifies problems, opens discussion, and brings problems to light so that corrective action can be taken. We note with concern the arrest and in some cases continued detention of some journalists. Mindful of the peril of misinformation and misuse of media that can exacerbate divisions within society, we urge all responsible parties in Bahrain to refrain from and denounce hateful speech, which can and often does lead to violence. In order to create positive conditions for national dialogue in Bahrain,

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local media and social media must play a constructive role in reconciliation and cease from actions that are divisive or inciting. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 06/15/11)

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## NORTH KOREA

### North Korea Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

### North Korea Q&A

**What is the Administration’s response to the amendment to the FY 2012 agriculture spending bill that would prevent sending food aid to North Korea?**

- ✓ It has been the United States’ longstanding position, through multiple administrations that the provision of humanitarian assistance is separate from political and security concerns.
- ✓ We have made no decision on providing food aid to North Korea.
- ✓ Any decision will be based on legitimate humanitarian needs, competing needs elsewhere, and our ability to ensure that aid is reliably reaching the people in need.
- ✓ We are analyzing the results of the field team’s assessment and are closely monitoring the food situation. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

**Can you provide any details regarding the recently blocked shipment from North Korea to Burma?**

- ✓ There was a vessel that was suspected of carrying materials prohibited by the UN Security Council resolutions. North Korea bears responsibility to be fully transparent about shipments that may provide grounds for concern and to demonstrate that it is not transferring items prohibited by UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ In this case, the U.S. did receive authorization from the flag state of a North Korean ship to inspect the ship’s cargo and requested that the ship permit such an inspection. The ship’s master denied permission for a consensual boarding and inspection of the ship’s cargo. We consulted closely with states in the region on our shared responsibilities to prevent this shipment. We talked directly with the North Koreans to stress the importance of not engaging in proliferation-related transfers. And we learned that the vessel changed course at sea, and we believe it returned to North Korea. (State Department [press briefing](#), 06/13/11)
- ✓ We have consistently raised our concerns and urged the international community to be vigilant about North Korea’s continued defiance of UN resolutions and to fully and transparently implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ We call on all states to be vigilant and transparent in their dealings with North Korea and to implement their obligations under UNSCRs 1718 and 1874. (Press Guidance, 06/13/11)

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**Do the special economic zones established between China and North Korea violate sanctions?**

- ✓ We urge all United Nations member states to fully implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, which target North Korea's continued involvement in proliferation, nuclear weapons development, and luxury goods procurement.
- ✓ We urge transparency, extreme caution and vigilance in any business dealings with North Korea.
- ✓ The United States remains concerned about the welfare of the North Korean people.
- ✓ We encourage North Korea to take real steps to reform its economy for the benefit the North Korean people. (Press Guidance, 06/09/11)

**Could you comment on the implementation of the North Korean Human Rights Act?**

- ✓ Advancing human rights is a top U.S. priority in our North Korea policy and is among the primary factors that will determine if any long-term improvement between the U.S. and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be possible.
- ✓ The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 and its reauthorization in 2008 demonstrates Congress' commitment to ensuring that the well-being of the North Korean people remains an important foreign policy priority. This legislation created the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.
- ✓ Engaging with DPRK officials is a key requirement of the position of the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights. Ambassador King's recent trip was the first time the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct dialogue about ways North Korea can improve its human rights record.
- ✓ We have also encouraged our partners to include human rights in their North Korea policy. In addition to consulting with other governments, we met with organizations that deal with North Korea human rights issues – think tanks and academic institutions that analyze human rights issues; advocacy organizations that call attention to human right abuses; humanitarian assistance organizations that provide food, medical aid, and other assistance to the DPRK; educational, cultural, and scientific organizations that seek to engage the DPRK; churches and religious organizations; and Korean-American organizations that are interested in family reunions with relatives living in the DPRK.
- ✓ Between FY 2008-2011, the Department received \$9.5 million from the Economic Support Fund to promote rule of law and human rights, increase media freedom, and build civil society in North Korea. These funds also support efforts to build the capacity of the defector and NGO community in the South Korea to better advocate for improved conditions inside the DPRK.
- ✓ Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled 120 North Korean refugees and their families. We remain actively committed to ensuring that each North Korean refugee who is interested and eligible gains access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. remains deeply concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees and asylum seekers. Reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to the DPRK, including victims of human trafficking, remain deeply disturbing, as these returnees often face serious consequences. We continue to urge China to adhere to its obligations as a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including by not expelling or forcibly returning North Koreans who should be protected under those treaties.
- ✓ To increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within the country, the U.S. government funds Korean-language broadcasting into North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and supports independent and defector-run broadcasts through the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

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AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Afghanistan and Pakistan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.” (12/16/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.” (05/22/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.” (03/28/10) (read transcript)

Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A

What is the U.S. response to Afghan President Karzai's recent criticism of the U.S.?

2. We have seen the criticism from the president. We stand by the commitment the U.S. has made to the Afghan people and the Afghan people have expressed their confidence in the U.S. commitment.

2. The U.S. will continue to work with the Afghan government to ensure that the Afghan people have a say in their own future. We will continue to support the Afghan people's efforts to build a more prosperous, more secure, independent Afghanistan.

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**What is the Administration's response to a letter from 27 senators supporting an accelerated drawdown in Afghanistan?**

- ✓ Our strategic objective in Afghanistan remains to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda. The successful operation against Osama bin Laden was a vital step towards achieving that strategic objective. But there is more work to be done to ensure that Afghanistan does not again become a safe haven for terrorists to launch attacks against the United States.
- ✓ As the President has stated, we are committed to begin a drawdown of our forces in Afghanistan in July, but the scope and pace of that drawdown has not yet been determined. The military surge secured significant gains in Afghanistan, but these gains are fragile and reversible.
- ✓ Transition, reconciliation, and reintegration are mutually reinforcing processes, all led by the Afghans. Our aim is to assist in achieving a responsible and irreversible transition of full Afghan responsibility by 2014. Sufficient governance and development must underpin sustainable transition, and the U.S. civilian mission in Afghanistan is shifting away from direct service delivery to focus more on capacity building.
- ✓ It is critical that we maintain our current momentum to ensure security gains are permanent; the transition of security responsibility to the Afghans is irreversible, and conditions for reconciliation progress. We will continue to work with our partners in pursuit of these goals. (Press Guidance, 06/16/11)

**Can you explain the recent revision to the UN sanctions regime against terrorists in Afghanistan?**

- ✓ The United States welcomes and strongly supports the UN Security Council action to strengthen the 1267 regime of international sanctions against terrorists. The updated 1267 sanctions regime reflects the current political circumstances in Afghanistan, which have changed considerably since the regime was originally initiated.
- ✓ The updated sanctions regime will split the 1267 regime into two, one focused on combating those associated with al Qaeda and another focused on Afghanistan. This will not change the fact that those designated for sanctions as Taliban or al Qaeda will continue to be designated. No individuals will be removed from the 1267 sanctions regime by this action.
- ✓ The resolution stresses the importance of a comprehensive political process to support reconciliation among all Afghans, and a political resolution of the conflict that splits the Taliban from al Qaeda. Specifically, the sanctions regime recognizes the need for insurgents to cut ties to international terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for women and persons belonging to minorities.
- ✓ We welcome the strong regional support for this resolution, from countries such as Russia, China and India, which all have voiced support for Afghan-led reconciliation. We will also continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all member states to make global sanctions more effective. (Press Guidance, 06/20/11)

**What is the U.S. policy on the reconciliation of Taliban?**

- ✓ We have consistently said that we support an Afghan-led reconciliation process, and that we would participate in that process.
- ✓ Over the past two years, we have laid out our red lines for the Taliban: They must renounce violence; they must abandon their alliance with al Qaeda; and they must abide by the constitution of Afghanistan. Those are necessary outcomes of any negotiation. This is the price for reaching a

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**What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?**

- ✓ President set out a clear goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, and prevent it from threatening America and our allies in the future.
- ✓ Al Qaeda and the Taliban, along with various associated groups, still maintain an alliance, based largely in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are distinct groups with distinct aims, but they are both our adversaries and part of a syndicate of terror that must be broken.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ We are following a strategy with three mutually reinforcing tracks: a military offensive against al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban insurgents; a civilian campaign to bolster the governments, economies, and civil societies of Afghanistan and Pakistan to undercut the pull of the insurgency; and an intensified diplomatic push to bring the Afghan conflict to an end and chart a new and more secure future for the region.
- ✓ We have laid out unambiguous red lines for reconciliation with insurgents. They must renounce violence, abandon their alliance with al Qaeda, and abide by the constitution of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This summer, ISAF will begin a gradual, responsible transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces with the goal of removing all international combat troops by the end of 2014. As this transition moves forward, the Afghan people should remember that while the U.S. and our coalition partners may draw down our military forces over time, we are committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan. We will continue to train, equip, and support Afghan security forces and do what we can to help the government improve the lives of its citizens.
- ✓ The shift in military momentum provides the Afghan government an opportunity to strengthen the competence of its people through economic development, fair enforcement of the rule of law, attacking corruption and the provision of basic services.
- ✓ From the beginning, we have recognized the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremists' safe havens and enablers in Pakistan. As a result of growing cooperation between our governments, militaries, and law enforcement agencies, and determined action by the Pakistani army, we have been able to dramatically expand our counterterrorism and intelligence efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan government needs to safeguard the rights of all Afghans, especially women and minorities. ([Overview](#) of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10) and ([Remarks](#) by Secretary Clinton, 02/18/11) and ([Remarks](#) by Secretary Gates, 06/05/11)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused

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on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))

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## RUSSIA

### Russia Message

- ✓ **Defense Secretary Gates** – “This last year has seen remarkable progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, a relationship that has evolved from focusing nearly exclusively on traditional global issues, primarily arms control, to our present collaboration at a working level on a range of matters affecting our defense ministries.” (03/22/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

### Russia Q&A

#### How does the U.S. respond to Russia’s statement of displeasure regarding joint U.S.-Ukrainian naval exercises in the Black Sea?

- ✓ Exercise Sea Breeze is an U.S.-Ukraine naval exercise that has taken place annually since 1997. The purpose of Exercise Sea Breeze is to strengthen maritime partnerships in the spirit of multinational cooperation.
- ✓ This year’s training exercise focuses on anti-piracy operations, including counter piracy training operations, non-combatant evacuation operations and search and seizure training. In addition, ground forces will conduct non-lethal weapons training designed to combat unlawful fishing, piracy, trafficking in persons, drugs and illegal weapons.
- ✓ Thirteen countries are participating in this year’s exercise. They include: Ukraine (co-host), the United States (co-host), Azerbaijan, Algeria, Belgium, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Macedonia, Moldova, Sweden, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- ✓ We refer you to the Pentagon for further details about Sea Breeze. (Press Guidance, 06/15/11)

#### Why did NATO reject Russia’s proposal to participate in a European missile defense system?

- ✓ NATO Secretary General Rasmussen said that “NATO cannot outsource to non-members collective defense obligations which bind its members.”
- ✓ The U.S. and NATO have made clear that irrespective of how cooperation with Russia develops, the Alliance alone bears responsibility for defending NATO’s members.
- ✓ The U.S is committed to discussing with Russia ways to strengthen security, confidence and predictability in the region and will continue with our dialogue in this pursuit.

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- ✓ When President Obama announced the European Phased and Adaptive Approach (EPAA) in September 2009, he welcomed Russian cooperation on missile defense, so that each country could develop a stronger defense of our common strategic interests.
- ✓ The goal is for NATO and Russia to jointly develop ways to collaborate on a system that will be better able to defend against the increasing threat posed by ballistic missiles. The U.S. and NATO vision for NATO-Russia ballistic missile defense cooperation comprises two independent, but coordinated, missile defense systems that would augment and enhance each other's system's performance.
- ✓ U.S. officials have consulted with Russian counterparts to provide policy and technical explanations for our vision of cooperation. These consultations illustrate that the EPAA missile defense system is not directed at Russia and will not pose a threat to Russia's strategic nuclear deterrent.
- ✓ Since the Lisbon Summit, the U.S. has maintained an active dialogue with Russia on ballistic missile defense (BMD) cooperation, both bilaterally and in the NATO-Russia Council context.
- ✓ While we believe BMD cooperation will be mutually beneficial, the President, Secretary Gates, and Secretary Clinton have made clear that we will not agree to any constraints or negotiated limitations on U.S. or NATO BMD systems or deployments.
- ✓ The U.S. and NATO have also offered to engage in transparency and confidence-building activities that would demonstrate U.S. and NATO missile defense programs are not directed against Russia.
- ✓ Following their May 26 meeting in Deauville, Presidents Obama and Medvedev committed to continue working together to lay the foundation for future cooperation in missile defense. The U.S. and NATO intend to continue working with Russia on proposals for missile defense cooperation. (Press Guidance, 06/10/11)

**What is the U.S. assessment of the human rights situation in Russia?**

- ✓ President Medvedev has set forth his vision of a democratic, modern and successful Russia governed by the rule of law. President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary Clinton have expressed their strong support for that same vision. The ability of Russian citizens to exercise their basic civil and political rights and access justice and due process will be key to realizing the Russia we all want to see.
- ✓ Despite these aspects of progress, we believe that continued limits and restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of the Russian people – rights guaranteed in international and Russian domestic law – are a larger problem for Russian citizens, businesses, and the government itself. We frequently raise these areas of concern with our Russian counterparts, both in public and in private.
- ✓ Progress has been more limited in the area of freedom of the press. We share the deep concerns expressed within Russia and across the international community over the murders of journalists known for their courageous work defending human rights and fighting corruption.
- ✓ There are still too many unsolved cases, and we continue to call for a full investigation into the unsolved murders of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, among others. We have also expressed our concern that the only judicial action to date in the murder of Natalia Estemirova has been the prosecution of Oleg Orlov for saying out loud what many people suspected to be the case. We welcome the convictions in the murder case of the human rights defenders Stanislav Markelov and Anastasia Baburova.
- ✓ In addition to effective prosecutions by the government, we hope the Russian media and independent Russian organizations and institutions will continue to scrutinize the Russian justice system, to support improvements and address challenges. For example, a representative from the Presidential Council on Human Rights recently indicated that the Council would find that the

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charges against Sergei Magnitsky had been fabricated, so it has now been established that he was unjustly imprisoned. Similarly, the court decision to deny the appeals of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev also reminds us of large issues regarding impartiality, due process and selective prosecution.

- ✓ Outside scrutiny of government actions and the follow-on dialogue with government are key to progress in many areas beyond criminal justice. We remain gravely concerned, about the extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances committed with impunity by the forces of Chechen President Kadyrov and others. We have urged Russia authorities to act upon the many decisions of the European Court of Human Rights addressing human rights abuses in the North Caucasus as a step towards restoring rule of law in the region.
- ✓ Finally, freedom of assembly – to gather together and share ideas and urge change – is another essential element to a stronger Russia that taps into the talent and creativity of the Russia people. Most recently, we were concerned about reports of intimidation and attacks by private security guards, police, and other parties on activists associated with the Khimki Forest campaign. In another concerning move, this month, for the sixth year in a row, Moscow authorities refused permission for an NGO to hold an LGBT parade/rally. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 05/27/11)

**What are the next areas of emphasis for the continued reset of the U.S. relationship with Russia?**

- ✓ The President Obama made it a priority to reset our relationship with Russia. We focused the reset on concrete outcomes that serve both countries' interests.
- ✓ Two years later, the benefits to both our countries – and to international security – are clear, including: the new Start Treaty that further limits strategic nuclear weapons, cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, collaboration on Afghanistan that facilitates the flow of soldiers and supplies, and the most stringent sanctions ever on Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The next frontier in our relationship will be building stronger ties of trade and commerce that match the security cooperation we have achieved. Our trade and investment relationship is nowhere near where it could or should be. One way to realize the potential of that relationship is to bring Russia more fully into the international trading system. That is why we strongly support Russia's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ WTO accession will enable Russia to deepen its trade relations with the U.S. and the world. It will give American companies greater and more predictable access to Russia's growing markets, expanding both U.S. exports and employment. Being a part of the WTO means that Russia will have to play by the rules or face enforcement actions.
- ✓ Once Russia does what is required to join the WTO, we will also work with Congress to terminate the application to Russia of the Jackson-Vanik amendment – a Cold War-era law that tied trade relations with Russia to Jewish emigration, but remains on the books.
- ✓ Russia's business and legal climate and backsliding on democracy will present serious obstacles. At the same time as we have increased our cooperation with the Russian government, our administration has spoken out on allegations of misconduct in the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and of the beating and detention of "Strategy 31" demonstrators – and we will continue to do so in defense of universal values. But real opposition parties, independent media, and impartial courts are also the best tools for fighting corruption – the biggest barrier to economic growth in Russia. (Op-Ed by Vice President Biden, 03/14/11)

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## SUDAN/DARFUR

## Sudan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa’s long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.” (02/07/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

## Sudan Q&amp;A

**Could you comment on the recent agreement to withdraw troops from Abyei?**

- ✓ On June 20, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement signed an agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which will reduce tensions in Abyei and improve the security and humanitarian situation on the ground. These negotiations have not been easy. We commend both parties for resolving their differences peacefully after the outbreak of violence.
- ✓ We also thank the AU High-Level Implementation Panel and its chairman Thabo Mbeki, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles, and UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sudan Haile Menkerios for the important role each played in facilitating dialogue between the parties.
- ✓ The agreement is an important first step – but the real test of the parties’ commitment will be the full implementation of its provisions in the coming days. We will work within the UN Security Council to seek a resolution authorizing the agreed-upon interim security force to support the swift deployment of the Ethiopian peacekeepers. At the same time, we urge all parties to follow through on their commitment to withdraw their military forces and take steps to facilitate the return of the tens of thousands of people displaced by recent fighting.
- ✓ The United States is still concerned about on-going violence in Southern Kordofan and the resulting humanitarian crisis. We call on both sides to allow unfettered access for aid workers to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need. We also urge Sudanese leaders in Addis Ababa to agree on an immediate cessation of hostilities. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/20/11)

**Could you provide an update on the situation in the Southern Kordofan state of Sudan?**

- ✓ The situation in Southern Kordofan is dire, with deeply disturbing reports of attacks based on ethnicity.
- ✓ The United States condemns all acts of violence, in particular the Sudanese Armed Forces’ aerial bombardment of civilians and harassment and intimidation of UN peacekeepers.

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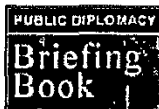
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- ✓ With a ceasefire in Southern Kordofan, alongside the agreement to deploy peacekeepers to Abyei, we can get the peace process back on track. But without these actions, the roadmap for better relations with the Government of Sudan cannot be carried forward, which will only deepen Sudan's isolation in the international community.
- ✓ Without a cease-fire and political negotiations, the people of Southern Kordofan cannot enjoy the right to have their political grievances addressed. The negotiations now under way in Addis Ababa demand the urgent commitment from both sides to peace and to the agreement for immediate help to those civilians caught up in this conflict. (Remarks by President Obama, 06/22/11)
- ✓ President Obama – “The Sudanese people have come too far, and sacrificed too much, to see their dreams of a better future slip from their grasp. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders to show the courage and vision that true leadership demands. Now is the time for Sudanese leaders, north and south, to choose peace.” (06/14/11) (read transcript)

**Can you provide a readout from the President's meeting with Special Envoy for Sudan Lyman?**

- ✓ On June 16, President Obama met with Ambassador Princeton Lyman, his Special Envoy for Sudan, to discuss the status of mediation efforts to end the political and humanitarian crisis in Abyei and the humanitarian crisis and violence in Southern Kordofan.
- ✓ The President expressed deep concern over the violence and the lack of humanitarian access, and he underscored the urgent need to get back to cooperative negotiations to enable full and timely implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including peaceful resolution of the future status of Abyei and the two areas.
- ✓ Ambassador Lyman updated the President on the recent meetings Secretary of State Clinton had with the parties during her trip to Africa. President Obama told Ambassador Lyman he is following the situation closely and gave his full support to Ambassador Lyman's work to press for a successful conclusion of the negotiations to achieve a withdrawal from Abyei and a cessation of hostilities across the region and to support the emergence of two viable states at peace.
- ✓ President Obama noted the important contributions towards peace made by Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and African Union Panel leader Thabo Mbeki.
- ✓ Special Envoy Lyman plans to return to the region this month to help translate political agreements into lasting and credible security arrangements. In a message to Sudan's leaders, the President said they must not throw away the opportunity to move toward the promise of greater peace and prosperity. (White House press statement, 06/16/11)

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**TERRORISM****Terrorism Q&A****What is the U.S. response to the passage of two new Security Council resolutions on sanctions?**

✓ The United States welcomes the passage on June 17 of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1988 and 1989. The resolutions mark a major step forward in the strengthening of the international sanctions regime against terrorists.

✓ Passage of UNSC Resolution 1988, which establishes the Afghanistan sanctions regime, is a tangible sign of support by the international community for Afghan reconciliation efforts. At the same time, the resolution contributes to ongoing efforts to combat the insurgency. The new regime will be an important tool to support the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to reconcile with insurgents who are willing cut ties to international terrorist organizations, including al Qaeda, renounce violence, and respect Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for all Afghan women and men.

✓ Passage of UNSC Resolution 1989 represents the international community's continued commitment to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, on the heels of recent gains against al Qaeda's core leadership. We are pleased by the significant reforms the Council has made to further enhance the fairness and transparency of the 1267 Committee's listing and delisting processes. We hope that these enhancements to the regime will allow the Council, and the 1267 Committee, to turn its attention back to the business of ensuring that these sanctions are fully implemented.

✓ We welcome the strong international support for these resolutions from a diverse array of members of the Security Council – and especially the support of Afghanistan's neighbors and near neighbors. All countries in the region stand to benefit from a responsible political settlement of the Afghan conflict, and also an end to al Qaeda's safe havens and the exporting of extremism into their countries. These resolutions are another important step towards achieving these objectives.

✓ We will also continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all member states to make global sanctions more effective. (State Department press statement, 06/17/11)

**What are the State Department's counterterrorism priorities?**

- ✓ **Reducing Recruitment.** The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth vulnerable to radicalization to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities. Key intents of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.
- ✓ Successful CVE involves more than messaging, however, and we are working with the interagency to develop programs that address the upstream factors of radicalization in communities particularly susceptible to terrorist recruitment overseas.
- ✓ To be effective, CVE work needs to be driven by local needs, informed by local knowledge, and responsive to the immediate concerns of the community. CVE interventions will be highly focused and short-term and will be developed in cooperation with USAID and others in the interagency as well as with international partners. Ultimately, host governments are best positioned to execute truly sustainable CVE efforts.
- ✓ **Capacity Building.** One of the central challenges to our security is that weak states serve as breeding grounds for terrorism and instability. We need to build effective law enforcement capacity, fair and impartial justice and the rule of law, good governance in many places that have

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- never known this. Multiple U.S. Government agencies are mobilized in this effort: Justice, FBI, Treasury, USAID, and the Department of Homeland Security.
- ✓ One of our most effective capacity building programs is the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, the primary provider of U.S. Government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations.
  - ✓ The number of active partner countries is decreasing to about 55 in an effort to ensure we are strategically focusing our resources on building partner CT capacity in the right places. The ATA program is most effective where countries have a combination of political will and basic law enforcement skills to be most receptive to the advanced training ATA provides. Through an emphasis on train-the-trainer courses, we are working with partner nations toward the goal of institutionalization and self-sustainment of capacities.
  - ✓ **Multilateral Engagement.** Building new and strengthening existing partnerships is a cornerstone of this Administration's counterterrorism policy. The U.S. cannot address the threat alone and the UN and other multilateral bodies have resources and expertise that we need to do a better job of leveraging. With our funding support and guidance, we are getting the UN and regional bodies to focus on practical projects that target critical issues and countries.
  - ✓ S/CT has been working to develop a new multilateral counterterrorism initiative, which we believe would not only be an important step forward but would address a significant gap in the international counterterrorism architecture: the lack of a central, reliable inter-governmental platform that allows policymakers and practitioners from different regions to engage on a sustained basis on various counterterrorism issues.
  - ✓ All of this work goes on in the context of vigorous diplomatic engagement. We have formal bilateral counterterrorism consultations with numerous countries. Among them are Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan, Algeria, Russia, and India; these consultations have strengthened our counterterrorism partnerships so we can complement one another's efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to our common challenges.
  - ✓ In conclusion, the threat is formidable but we are making some progress. Countering violent extremism, multilateral engagement, and building local capacity – through our various programs and with our Department and interagency partners – provide us with the tools to make lasting progress in our fight against terrorism. (Remarks by Coordinator Benjamin, 04/14/11)

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## DETAINEES

### Detainees Q&A

#### What is the Administration's position on the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ On March 7, the Secretary of Defense issued an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions had been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy.
- ✓ The Administration has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information.
- ✓ There are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they in effect, remain at war with the U.S. On March 7, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a thorough process of periodic review for these detainees, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.
- ✓ The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the U.S. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the U.S., consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and applicable law. No Guantanamo detainee will be released into the U.S.
- ✓ We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries.
- ✓ In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security.
- ✓ We will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.
- ✓ Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
- ✓ Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol. An extensive interagency review concluded that U.S. military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
- ✓ Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.

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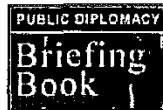
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- ✓ Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. (Fact Sheet on New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy, 03/07/11)
- ✓ Since the beginning of this Administration, we have transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries.
- ✓ Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding transfer options for the remaining detainees so approved, as well as those ordered released by our courts.
- ✓ Today, 172 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. Since 2002, around 600 detainees have departed Guantanamo, including more than 500 during the prior administration. (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

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June 08, 2011

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

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## IRAQ

## Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

## Iraq Q&amp;A

**Could you comment on U.S. efforts to promote a better business environment in Iraq?**

- ✓ The U.S. government believes strongly that expanding economic opportunity is as essential as building democratic institutions. In particular, it’s very important for people going through the changes that are sweeping the region to believe and to see that democracy delivers.
- ✓ We see too few American companies alongside our soldiers and our diplomats. Iraqis are looking to rebuild every sector of their economy, not only their oil sector but agribusiness, transportation, housing, banking, and many others.
- ✓ There are still significant security challenges, bottlenecks in infrastructure, unclear regulations, and, unfortunately, corruption. But as our Iraqi colleagues will tell you, they are working hard to make it easier to do business in Iraq for Iraqis and foreign investors alike.
- ✓ Each company will make its own decisions about the costs and benefits, but we want to go on record unequivocally in encouraging American business to begin that process, and we will do everything we can to support you in it. Our embassies and consulates will be hubs that support commercial activity in every region of Iraq. The State Department will work hard to champion American companies. USAID, Treasury, the Departments of Energy and Agriculture, OPIC, Ex-Im, and many other agencies have unique and proven experience that we can bring to the table.
- ✓ Ambassador Jeffrey is working hard to establish an American Chamber of Commerce in Iraq, which would be another powerful advocate.
- ✓ Ultimately these decisions are up to the Iraqi people: the leaders of the government, the leaders of industry, and, of course, Iraqi men and women who want that better future. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 06/03/11)
- ✓ [Fact Sheet: Doing Business in Iraq \(06/03/11\)](#)

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**What is the status of the transition in Iraq?**

- ✓ The safety of U.S. government personnel is of primary importance, and we are balancing risk with the value of the mission.
- ✓ For years, our diplomats have served effectively in inhospitable environments. In Iraq, we have operated successfully in multiple areas with only Diplomatic Security since 2004. We have high confidence that our capable civilians will continue to meet the diplomatic and security challenges. This is true now and it will be true after the military completes its draw down.
- ✓ The Department of State is well aware of the challenges that still exist in Iraq. Our coordinated transition plan, developed with the military, is being implemented with these challenges in mind and is realistic in its approach.
- ✓ We are confident that, in close coordination and cooperation with the U.S. military and the Government of Iraq, we will carry out a successful transition beyond 2011 while maintaining security for our personnel.
- ✓ In addition, we continue to see progress in the capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, which are already in the lead on security, and judge that this progress will continue.
- ✓ The United States and Iraq are rebalancing the relationship while we remain committed to a comprehensive partnership – based on the Strategic Framework Agreement signed between our two countries – that will broaden the emphasis on political, economic, environmental, technological and cultural cooperation, while also expanding on success in the realm of security that was the focus of recent years. (Press Guidance, 05/17/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Strengthening Iraq (05/19/11)

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## IRAN

## Iran Message

- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran’s leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **National Security Advisor Jones** – “Iran’s continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran’s continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

## Iran Q&amp;A

**How does the U.S. respond to Iranian President Ahmadinejad’s assertion that no incentives would persuade Iran to stop enrichment activities?**

- ✓ We have asked Iran to enter into negotiations on its nuclear program with the international community, represented by the P5+1, in good faith and with sincerity. President Ahmadinejad’s response is therefore disappointing but not surprising.
- ✓ Pursuant to four Chapter VII UN Security Council resolutions, Iran is under an obligation, without delay, to suspend all of its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development.
- ✓ Iran must also cooperate with the IAEA’s investigation into its nuclear program and show transparency to the international community in order to resolve international concerns about the nature of Iran’s nuclear program.
- ✓ We call on Iran to fully comply with its international nuclear obligations, including those to suspend its uranium enrichment activities. ([Press Guidance, 06/07/11](#))

**What is the U.S. reaction to the IAEA Director General’s statements regarding the possible military dimensions of Iran’s nuclear program?**

- ✓ The IAEA Director General’s statement and latest report underscores Iran’s continued refusal to comply with its international nuclear obligations and its sustained lack of cooperation with the IAEA on numerous issues, including the possible military dimensions to its nuclear program.
- ✓ Iran’s continuing non-response to the critical questions that surround a possible military dimension to Iran’s nuclear program is deeply troubling and reinforces the urgent need for Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA.
- ✓ The international community will continue to hold Iran accountable to its international nuclear obligations, including by increasing the international pressure on Iran.
- ✓ We call on Iran to comply fully with its international obligations and cooperate fully with the IAEA. ([Press Guidance, 06/06/11](#))

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**What is the current status of international sanctions on Iran?**

- ✓ Sanctions imposed by the Obama Administration are part of our dual-track strategy of engagement and pressure to address the challenges posed by Iran. Iran has so far not demonstrated a willingness to meet its international obligations or negotiate seriously on its nuclear program, and so we and our international partners have had no choice but to step up pressures in the hope that Iran will reconsider what's in its own best interest.
- ✓ The Administration's sanctions policies have already had a significant impact on Iran's energy sector. Five major oil companies have committed to terminate their involvement in Iran. Major suppliers of refined petroleum and energy traders have stopped sales of refined product to Iran. Jet fuel suppliers are now refusing to supply jet fuel to Iran Air at most destinations in Europe and Asia where Iran Air flies. And now the imposition of sanctions against seven companies under the amended Iran Sanctions Act will send a strong signal to companies around the world about the risks of doing business with Iran. (White House press briefing, 05/24/11)
- ✓ We have emphasized from the start that what is at issue between Iran and the rest of the world is not its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but rather its decades-long failure to live up to the responsibilities that come with that right.
- ✓ We sought to create early opportunities for Iran to pursue a different path and to build confidence in its intentions. This was a serious demonstration of good faith and an investment in partnership with a growing coalition of countries profoundly concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ We will intensify the costs of continued non-compliance and show Iran that pursuit of a nuclear weapons program will make it less secure. In the meantime we will continue to reassure our friends and partners in the Gulf of our long-term commitment to their security.
- ✓ Sanctions and pressure are not an end in themselves. They are a complement, not a substitute, for the diplomatic solution to which we and our partners are still firmly committed. There is still time for diplomacy if Iran is prepared to engage in serious discussions. There is still room for a renewed effort to break down mistrust, and begin a careful, phased process of building confidence between Iran and the international community. (Statement by Undersecretary Burns, 12/01/10)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Holding Iran Accountable (05/19/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Companies Reducing Energy-Related Business with Iran (05/24/11)

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- ✓ Fact Sheet: Seven Companies Sanctioned Under the Amended Iran Sanctions Act (05/24/11)

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MIDDLE EAST PEACE

Israel/Palestine Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.” (05/19/11)([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))

Israel/Palestine Q&A

**What is the U.S. response to the burning of a mosque in the West Bank on June 7?**

- ✓ The United States condemns the burning and vandalizing of a mosque in the West Bank village of Al-Mughayyir on June 7.
- ✓ This attack is the latest of several such acts of violence against West Bank mosques. These incidents have served to undermine efforts to promote a comprehensive peace in the region.
- ✓ We call on the Israeli government to investigate this attack and bring the perpetrators to justice and for calm from all parties. (State Department press statement, 06/07/11)

**What is the U.S. response to the June 5 shootings on the Israeli-Syrian border?**

- ✓ We are deeply troubled by attempts to cross the disengagement line on June 5 in the Golan Heights, resulting in injuries and the loss of life, and condemn the Syrian government's involvement in inciting these events.
- ✓ It is clear that such behavior will not distract attention from the Syrian government's ongoing repression of demonstrators.
- ✓ As we have said, Israel, like any sovereign nation, has a right to defend itself. We call for an end to the violence and for all sides to exercise restraint. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)

**Is the U.S. working to prevent another incident between a flotilla to Gaza and Israeli forces?**

- ✓ For the past year we have made clear that groups and individuals that seek to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that entail a risk to their safety.

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**What is U.S. policy on Middle East peace as outlined by President Obama?**

- ✓ A lasting peace will involve two states for two peoples: Israel as a Jewish state and the homeland for the Jewish people, and the state of Palestine as the homeland for the Palestinian people, each state enjoying self-determination, mutual recognition, and peace.
- ✓ The United States believes that negotiations should result in two states, with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine. We believe the borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps, so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. The Palestinian people must have the right to govern themselves, and reach their full potential, in a sovereign and contiguous state.
- ✓ Every state has the right to self-defense, and Israel must be able to defend itself – by itself – against any threat. Provisions must also be robust enough to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, to stop the infiltration of weapons, and to provide effective border security. The full and phased withdrawal of Israeli military forces should be coordinated with the assumption of Palestinian security responsibility in a sovereign, non-militarized state.
- ✓ These steps alone will not resolve the conflict, because two wrenching and emotional issues will remain: the future of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees. But moving forward now on the basis of territory and security provides a foundation to resolve those two issues in a way that is just and fair, and that respects the rights and aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians.
- ✓ For the Palestinians, efforts to delegitimize Israel will end in failure. Symbolic actions to isolate Israel at the United Nations will not create an independent state. Palestinian leaders will not achieve peace or prosperity if Hamas insists on a path of terror and rejection. And Palestinians will never realize their independence by denying the right of Israel to exist.
- ✓ As for Israel, our friendship is rooted deeply in a shared history and shared values. Our commitment to Israel's security is unshakeable. But precisely because of our friendship, it's important that we tell the truth: the status quo is unsustainable, and Israel too must act boldly to advance a lasting peace. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)

**Can you confirm that the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have completed a reconciliation agreement?**

- ✓ We understand Fatah and Hamas have reached a reconciliation agreement. What is important now is that the Palestinians ensure that implementation of the agreement advances the prospects of peace rather than undermines them.
- ✓ We understand the concerns of some members of Congress. As a new Palestinian government is formed, we will assess it based on its policies and will determine the implications for our assistance based on U.S. law.
- ✓ We are confident President Abbas remains committed to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties.

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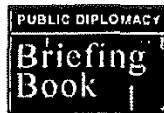
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- ✓ To play a constructive role in achieving peace, any interim Palestinian government formed in the period before elections must ensure its actions fully implement these principles. The U.S. stance toward such a government will be fully consistent with U.S. law.
- ✓ Hamas is well aware of what is at stake and our position is clear and unequivocal: to play a constructive role in achieving peace and building an independent Palestinian state, any Palestinian government must commit to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of the state of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations between the parties. Our position on Hamas has not changed; Hamas is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization.
- ✓ We are speaking with President Abbas and his government as part of our ongoing consultations on these issues. We will continue to seek information on the details of the agreement and to consult with the parties about these issues. We refer you to the Palestinians for the details of the agreement. (Press Guidance, 05/09/11)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – “We’ve made it very clear that we cannot support any government that consists of Hamas unless and until Hamas adopts the Quartet principles.” ([read transcript](#)) (05/05/11)

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**MENA TRANSITION AND REFORM****MENA Transition and Reform Message**

- ✓ **Assistant Secretary Posner** – “Our response to the upheaval in the Middle East has been rooted in a consistent set of principles: We have opposed the use of violence against peaceful protesters and supported the universal rights of free expression, assembly, and association and the right to participate in the affairs of the state. We have strongly condemned, including in multilateral fora, the killing, torture, and abuse of peaceful protesters. We have made clear our view that people’s legitimate demands and aspirations must be met by positive engagement from governments, in the form of meaningful political and economic reforms.” (05/05/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Uprisings across the region have exposed myths that for too long were used to justify a stagnant status quo. You know the myth that governments can hold on to power without responding to their people’s aspirations or respecting their rights; the myth that the only way to produce change in the region is through violence and conflict; and, most pernicious of all, the myth that Arabs do not share universal human aspirations for freedom, dignity, and opportunity.” (04/13/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “Democratic change must grow from within. It cannot be implanted from the outside. And let me be among the first of many to say the West certainly does not have all of the answers. The first steps of change have come quickly and dramatically. It is, however, proving tragically difficult in Libya. In other nations, change is likely to be more deliberate and methodical. In all cases, the United States will support citizens and governments as they work for progress.” (02/28/11) ([read transcript](#))

**MENA Transition and Reform Q&A**

- ✓ **Could you provide an update on the situation in Yemen?**  
We are aware that President Saleh is currently in Saudi Arabia receiving medical treatment. The civilian government remains in power in Yemen with the Vice President currently serving as the acting President in accordance with Yemen’s constitution.
- ✓ **We will not speculate on President Saleh’s actions or condition. The situation remains volatile and we refer you to the Yemeni and Saudi governments for more details.**
- ✓ **Ambassador Feirstein and other Embassy personnel continue to meet with a broad cross section of the Yemeni population, including Vice-President Hadi, to better assess the current situation and steps moving forward.**
- ✓ **The United States continues to call for a peaceful and orderly transition immediately, consistent with Yemen’s constitutional processes. Our position has not changed and we continue to believe an immediate transition is in the best interest of the Yemeni people.**
- ✓ **The instability and lack of security in Yemen cannot be fully addressed until the aspirations of the Yemeni people are realized. We will continue to consult and coordinate with our friends and partners on Yemen, including the Gulf Cooperation Council member states.**
- ✓ **Sana’a has been relatively quiet since June 4 with clashes taking place in other cities throughout Yemen. We understand the airport is open and functioning with respect to scheduled flights. We continue to monitor the volatile situation in Yemen.**
- ✓ **The violence on June 5 further adds to the instability and lack of security in Yemen. We condemn this violence in the strongest terms and call on all sides to cease violence and exercise maximum restraint moving forward.**

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- ✓ The U.S. Embassy in Sana'a remains open for emergency services. Routine consular services have been suspended. We remain on ordered departure.
- ✓ We have seen reports of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) activities in south Yemen and we continue to gather facts to paint a clearer picture of the situation on the ground in Yemen. It is clear that AQAP remains a major threat to the U.S. homeland, as well as to Yemen's stability and that of the region. We continue to do everything in our power to ensure we address that threat.
- ✓ AQAP takes advantage of the lack of security and poor governance in regions of Yemen that suffer from ongoing internal conflicts, resource challenges, insufficient delivery of services, and ineffective security architecture.
- ✓ Counterterrorism cooperation is in Yemen's interest as well as the interest of the U.S. While the current situation in Yemen is volatile, our shared interest with the Yemeni government in fighting terrorism, particularly defeating AQAP, does not rely solely on one individual; we expect that any Yemeni successor government will be a solid counterterrorism partner. (Press Guidance, 06/06/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Transition and Reform in Yemen (05/19/11)

**What is the U.S. response to the shutdown of Internet service in Syria?**

- ✓ The U.S. is deeply concerned by reports that Internet service has been shut down across Syria.
- ✓ We condemn in the strongest terms any effort to suppress the Syrian people's exercise of their rights to free expression, assembly, and association. This includes intimidation or violence against peaceful protestors and restrictions on the Internet and connection technologies.
- ✓ Even in the face of significant obstacles, the Syrian people will find a way to make their voices heard.
- ✓ The United States stands for universal rights and believes that all governments, including the Syrian government, must respect them. (Press Guidance 06/06/11)
- ✓ On May 16, the White House released the International Strategy for Cyberspace, which noted that "states should not arbitrarily deprive or disrupt individuals' access to the Internet or other networked technologies." We condemn such shutdowns in the strongest terms. (Statement by Secretary Clinton, 06/04/11)

**Can you provide an update on the situation in Syria?**

- ✓ As Secretary Clinton said, the torture and murder of Hamza Ali al-Khateeb – a 13 year-old boy – symbolizes the total collapse of any effort by the Syrian government to work with and listen to their own people. We condemn this barbaric violence to a child and call on the Syrian government to immediately cease all brutality and begin a transition to real democracy.
- ✓ It is increasingly clear that empowered publics throughout the region are making clear their demand to see an end to the kind of government brutality that leads to the torture and death of a child, as well as an overall end to governance by coercion and not consent.
- ✓ The Syrian government must respect the human rights and dignity of the Syrian people. As we have said, President Assad can either lead the transition currently underway in Syria or get out of the way. Secretary Clinton recently said that the legitimacy that is necessary for anyone to expect change to occur under this current government is, if not gone, nearly run out.
- ✓ Although Ambassador Ford has regularly met with Syrian government officials throughout his tenure in Damascus, the Syrian government has refused his most recent requests for meetings with Syrian officials. Ambassador Ford continues to meet with a variety of Syrians to explain our views and to urge that they develop and work for a vision for Syria that allows freedom of expression, the right to be free from fear of arrest or torture, and the right for peaceful marches, and a real political transition process.

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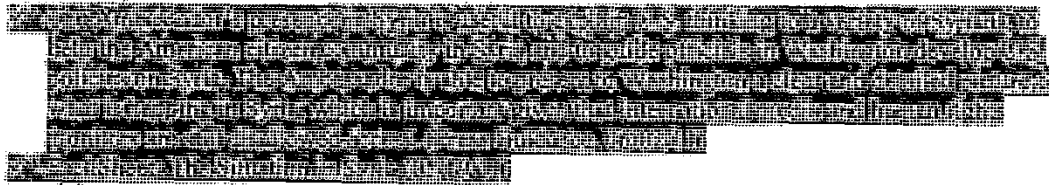
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**Can you provide an update on the situation in Libya?**

- ✓ We welcome the decision by NATO allies to extend the mandate of Operation Unified Protector for 90 days beyond June 27. This decision sends a clear message that NATO, and the entire international community, stands with the people of Libya. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)
- ✓ The President has made very clear what we want to see. The attacks on civilians must stop. President Qadhafi must stop his troops' advance, pull them back from areas they have forcibly entered, and establish water, electricity, and gas supplies to all areas. Humanitarian assistance must be allowed to reach the people of Libya. These terms are nonnegotiable.
- ✓ We also note the numerous ceasefire pledges President Qadhafi has made since the crisis began, only to flagrantly violate them each time. Any political process would have to be broad-based and inclusive and lead to a transition that reflects the will of the Libyan people and the departure of President Qadhafi from power and Libya.
- ✓ Our decision to provide non-lethal U.S. government assistance to Libya was based on our assessment of the needs of the Transitional National Council (TNC) at that time as well as international appeals and in keeping with U.S. law.
- ✓ The immediate focus of any vesting action by the President would be approximately \$200 million that is composed of cash held in the United States in the name of the Government of Libya-related entities.
- ✓ The abysmal human rights record of the Qadhafi regime means assistance to Libya is provided on the basis of a notwithstanding or other special authorities. (Press Guidance, 05/31/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: Transition and Reform in Libya (05/19/11)

**Is the U.S. encouraged by recent developments in Bahrain?**

- ✓ Lifting the state of emergency marks the beginning of a process that will unfold in the weeks and months ahead. We will work cooperatively with the government in taking additional steps to restore confidence and restore human rights as the process moves forward.
- ✓ We welcome the King's May 31 announcement that a comprehensive and unconditional dialogue will begin in July.
- ✓ We trust that lifting the state of emergency, in conjunction with the King's announcement about the resumption of dialogue and other steps the government has taken, will help to foster an atmosphere in which dialogue can take place and respect for human rights can be fostered.
- ✓ In the coming weeks, the Bahraini government should focus on creating a positive environment for reconciliation and credible political dialogue, as well as addressing human rights concerns. Leadership is needed from all sides to make such a dialogue possible.
- ✓ We recognize that the Bahraini government has the sovereign right to ask for the deployment of Gulf Cooperation Council forces. That said, we continue to emphasize that there is no security solution to the political problems facing Bahrain; there must be a credible political process that addresses the legitimate concerns of all Bahrainis. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Democratic Reform in Bahrain (05/19/11)

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**What is the U.S. response to the recent events in the Middle East and North Africa?**

- ✓ The nations of the Middle East and North Africa won their independence long ago, but in too many places their people did not. In too many countries, power has been concentrated in the hands of a few. In too many countries, a citizen has no honest judiciary to hear his case; no independent media to give him voice; no credible political party to represent his views; no free and fair election where he could choose his leader.
- ✓ The events of the past six months show us that strategies of repression and strategies of diversion will not work anymore. Through the moral force of nonviolence, the people of the region have achieved more change in six months than terrorists have accomplished in decades.
- ✓ The question before us is what role America will play as this story unfolds. For decades, the U.S. has pursued a set of core interests in the region: countering terrorism and stopping the spread of nuclear weapons; securing the free flow of commerce and safe-guarding the security of the region; standing up for Israel's security and pursuing Arab-Israeli peace.
- ✓ We will continue to do these things, with the firm belief that America's interests are not hostile to people's hopes; they're essential to them. Yet we must acknowledge that a strategy based solely upon the narrow pursuit of these interests will not fill an empty stomach or allow someone to speak their mind. Moreover, failure to speak to the broader aspirations of ordinary people will only feed the suspicion that has festered for years that the United States pursues our interests at their expense.
- ✓ We face a historic opportunity. We have the chance to show that America values the dignity of the street vendor in Tunisia more than the raw power of the dictator. There must be no doubt that the United States of America welcomes change that advances self-determination and opportunity.
- ✓ Not every country will follow our particular form of representative democracy, and there will be times when our short-term interests don't align perfectly with our long-term vision for the region. But we can, and we will, speak out for a set of core principles – principles that have guided our response to the events over the past six months: 1) the U.S. opposes the use of violence and repression against the people of the region; 2) the U.S. supports a set of universal rights, which include free speech, the freedom of peaceful assembly, the freedom of religion, equality for men and women under the rule of law, and the right to choose your own leaders; and 3) we support political and economic reform in the Middle East and North Africa that can meet the legitimate aspirations of ordinary people throughout the region.
- ✓ It will be the policy of the United States to promote reform across the region, and to support transitions to democracy. That effort begins in Egypt and Tunisia, where the stakes are high. But our support must also extend to nations where transitions have yet to take place. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/19/11)
- ✓ Fact Sheet: A "Moment of Opportunity" in the Middle East and North Africa (05/19/11)

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**NORTH KOREA****North Korea Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) (read transcript)

**North Korea Q&A**

- Could you comment on the implementation of the North Korean Human Rights Act?**
- ✓ Advancing human rights is a top U.S. priority in our North Korea policy and is among the primary factors that will determine if any long-term improvement between the U.S. and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be possible.
  - ✓ The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 and its reauthorization in 2008 demonstrates Congress’ commitment to ensuring that the well-being of the North Korean people remains an important foreign policy priority. This legislation created the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.
  - ✓ Engaging with DPRK officials is a key requirement of the position of the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights. Ambassador King’s recent trip was the first time the Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct dialogue about ways North Korea can improve its human rights record.
  - ✓ We have also encouraged our partners to include human rights in their North Korea policy. In addition to consulting with other governments, we met with organizations that deal with North Korea human rights issues – think tanks and academic institutions that analyze human rights issues; advocacy organizations that call attention to human right abuses; humanitarian assistance organizations that provide food, medical aid, and other assistance to the DPRK; educational, cultural, and scientific organizations that seek to engage the DPRK; churches and religious organizations; and Korean-American organizations that are interested in family reunions with relatives living in the DPRK.
  - ✓ Between FY 2008-2011, the Department received \$9.5 million from the Economic Support Fund to promote rule of law and human rights, increase media freedom, and build civil society in North Korea. These funds also support efforts to build the capacity of the defector and NGO community in the South Korea to better advocate for improved conditions inside the DPRK.
  - ✓ Since 2004, the U.S. has resettled 120 North Korean refugees and their families. We remain actively committed to ensuring that each North Korean refugee who is interested and eligible gains access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The U.S. remains deeply concerned about the plight of North Korean refugees and asylum seekers. Reports of the involuntary return of North Koreans from China to the DPRK, including victims of human trafficking, remain deeply

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disturbing, as these returnees often face serious consequences. We continue to urge China to adhere to its obligations as a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, including by not expelling or forcibly returning North Koreans who should be protected under those treaties.

- ✓ To increase the flow of independent information into, out of, and within the country, the U.S. government funds Korean-language broadcasting into North Korea by the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and supports independent and defector-run broadcasts through the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. The BBG continues to explore avenues to expand broadcast capability into North Korea, and the Department of State is exploring opportunities using new media to reach North Koreans. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

Did Ambassador King discuss human rights with North Korean officials while he was there?

- ✓ Ambassador King had discussions on human rights issues with DPRK officials in North Korea.
- ✓ The United States remains deeply concerned about the human rights situation in the DPRK. Human rights are a top U.S. priority.
- ✓ This is a significant first step toward substantive discussions on human rights concerns. This was the first time the United States' Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights was granted entry to the DPRK and the first time we were able to engage in a direct discussion on how North Korea can improve its human rights record. We welcome a continued dialogue with the DPRK on human rights issues. (Press Guidance, 06/01/11)

What were the findings of the U.S. food assistance assessment team in North Korea?

- ✓ The field team of food security experts conducted assessments throughout the country and remained in North Korea until June 2. We will evaluate their findings after their mission before making any decision to provide assistance.
- ✓ Special Envoy for North Korea Human Rights Robert King and USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Jon Brause met with First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan, Vice Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, and Director General for North American Affairs Ri Gun in Pyongyang, North Korea.
- ✓ Ambassador King and Deputy Assistant Administrator Brause discussed monitoring terms necessary to assure that if the United States provides humanitarian aid to the DPRK, it will reach those for whom it is intended.
- ✓ The United States remains concerned about the well-being of the North Korean people. (Press Guidance, 05/31/11)
- ✓ The U.S. government's policy on the provision of food assistance is based on three factors: 1) the level of need in a given country; 2) competing needs in other countries; and 3) our ability to ensure that aid is reliably reaching the people in need. This policy is consistent with our long-standing goal of providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of countries around the world where there are legitimate humanitarian needs. (Remarks by Ambassador King, 06/02/11)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN****Afghanistan and Pakistan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.” (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.” (03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

**Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&A****Can you provide any information on the efforts to reintegrate Afghan insurgents?**

- ✓ The Afghan government is actively reaching out to insurgents who may wish to re-enter society and are willing to renounce violence, break with al Qaeda, and abide by Afghanistan’s laws and Constitution, including provisions that protect the rights of all Afghan men and women, and we are supporting those efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program (APRP) is still a relatively new program, and was unveiled as a concept in July 2010. There have been some obstacles to overcome, and some structures to support APRP are still standing up. To date, 1,267 re-integreees have enrolled in the program and additional insurgents are currently in negotiations with the government. Thirty-three Provincial Peace Councils have been established and seven more are standing up.
- ✓ The Afghan government is in the lead in this program and we are working closely with them to support their efforts.
- ✓ It is not true that the reintegration process has been hampered by a lack of funding. Foreign assistance funding for reintegration is pending a certification by the Secretary of State as required by Section 1004(d) of the FY10 Supplemental Appropriations Act.
- ✓ To date, the FY 2010 National Defense Authorization Act provided authority for a \$50 million transfer from the Department of Defense (DoD) Commanders’ Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds to support stability operations – which include reintegration activities. To make this transfer, the DoD transferred \$50 million in CERP funds to USAID.

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- ✓ USAID used its existing agreement with the World Bank to put the money toward community recovery programs via the World Bank's Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF). These funds benefit local communities, as well as ex-combatants, by improving basic services, providing more technical and vocational training, and initiating other vital development projects. Community recovery is a key aspect of the APRP.
- ✓ The U.S. government, through the DoD, also has the authority to utilize up to \$50 million in Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds to support further the Government of Afghanistan's reintegration efforts in the field. (Press Guidance, 05/20/11)

**Can you confirm reports that the U.S. is considering changes to its policy on drone strikes in Pakistan?**

- ✓ We cannot comment on that report, but our continued cooperation with Pakistan is the best way forward against the shared threat posed by insurgents.
- ✓ Our partnership with Pakistan is about ensuring a brighter and safer future for both the Pakistani people and the American people. One way we do this by fighting the brutal extremists that threaten all of us.
- ✓ We are working closely with Pakistan to the find common ground towards achieving our shared goal of defeating insurgents. And we will continue to work closely together in the face of this common threat to ensure the safety of our people today and in to the future. (Press Guidance 06/06/11)

**What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?**

- ✓ President set out a clear goal: to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda, and prevent it from threatening America and our allies in the future.
- ✓ Al Qaeda and the Taliban, along with various associated groups, still maintain an alliance, based largely in the border region between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Taliban and al Qaeda are distinct groups with distinct aims, but they are both our adversaries and part of a syndicate of terror that must be broken.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ We are following a strategy with three mutually reinforcing tracks: a military offensive against al Qaeda terrorists and Taliban insurgents; a civilian campaign to bolster the governments, economics, and civil societies of Afghanistan and Pakistan to undercut the pull of the insurgency; and an intensified diplomatic push to bring the Afghan conflict to an end and chart a new and more secure future for the region.
- ✓ We have laid out unambiguous red lines for reconciliation with insurgents. They must renounce violence, abandon their alliance with al Qaeda, and abide by the constitution of Afghanistan.
- ✓ This summer, ISAF will begin a gradual, responsible transition of security responsibilities to Afghan forces with the goal of removing all international combat troops by the end of 2014. As this transition moves forward, the Afghan people should remember that while the U.S. and our coalition partners may draw down our military forces over time, we are committed to a long-term strategic partnership with Afghanistan. We will continue to train, equip, and support Afghan security forces and do what we can to help the government improve the lives of its citizens.

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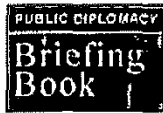
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- ✓ The shift in military momentum provides the Afghan government an opportunity to strengthen the competence of its people through economic development, fair enforcement of the rule of law, attacking corruption and the provision of basic services.
- ✓ From the beginning, we have recognized the fundamental connection between our war effort in Afghanistan and the extremists' safe havens and enablers in Pakistan. As a result of growing cooperation between our governments, militaries, and law enforcement agencies, and determined action by the Pakistani army, we have been able to dramatically expand our counterterrorism and intelligence efforts.
- ✓ The Afghan government needs to safeguard the rights of all Afghans, especially women and minorities. (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10) and (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 02/18/11) and (Remarks by Secretary Gates, 06/05/11)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) (read transcript)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**RUSSIA****Russia Message**

- ✓ **Defense Secretary Gates** – “This last year has seen remarkable progress in the U.S.-Russia relationship, a relationship that has evolved from focusing nearly exclusively on traditional global issues, primarily arms control, to our present collaboration at a working level on a range of matters affecting our defense ministries.” (03/22/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

**Russia Q&A****What is the U.S. assessment of the human rights situation in Russia?**

- ✓ President Medvedev has set forth his vision of a democratic, modern and successful Russia governed by the rule of law. President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary Clinton have expressed their strong support for that same vision. The ability of Russian citizens to exercise their basic civil and political rights and access justice and due process will be key to realizing the Russia we all want to see.
- ✓ Despite these aspects of progress, we believe that continued limits and restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of the Russian people – rights guaranteed in international and Russian domestic law – are a larger problem for Russian citizens, businesses, and the government itself. We frequently raise these areas of concern with our Russian counterparts, both in public and in private.
- ✓ Progress has been more limited in the area of freedom of the press. We share the deep concerns expressed within Russia and across the international community over the murders of journalists known for their courageous work defending human rights and fighting corruption.
- ✓ There are still too many unsolved cases, and we continue to call for a full investigation into the unsolved murders of the journalist Anna Politkovskaya, among others. We have also expressed our concern that the only judicial action to date in the murder of Natalia Estemirova has been the prosecution of Oleg Orlov for saying out loud what many people suspected to be the case. We welcome the convictions in the murder case of the human rights defenders Stanislav Markelev and Anastasia Baburova.
- ✓ In addition to effective prosecutions by the government, we hope the Russian media and independent Russian organizations and institutions will continue to scrutinize the Russian justice system, to support improvements and address challenges. For example, a representative from the

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Presidential Council on Human Rights recently indicated that the Council would find that the charges against Sergei Magnitsky had been fabricated, so it has now been established that he was unjustly imprisoned. Similarly, the court decision to deny the appeals of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Platon Lebedev also reminds us of large issues regarding impartiality, due process and selective prosecution.

- ✓ Outside scrutiny of government actions and the follow-on dialogue with government are key to progress in many areas beyond criminal justice. We remain gravely concerned, about the extrajudicial killings, torture, and disappearances committed with impunity by the forces of Chechen President Kadyrov and others. We have urged Russia authorities to act upon the many decisions of the European Court of Human Rights addressing human rights abuses in the North Caucasus as a step towards restoring rule of law in the region.
- ✓ Finally, freedom of assembly – to gather together and share ideas and urge change – is another essential element to a stronger Russia that taps into the talent and creativity of the Russia people. Most recently, we were concerned about reports of intimidation and attacks by private security guards, police, and other parties on activists associated with the Khimki Forest campaign. In another concerning move, this month, for the sixth year in a row, Moscow authorities refused permission for an NGO to hold an LGBT parade/rally. (Remarks by Assistant Secretary Posner, 05/27/11)

**What is the status of our negotiations with Russia on missile defense?**

- ✓ Our discussions are ongoing. Under Secretary Ellen Tauscher departed for Moscow on May 18 to continue talks on missile defense cooperation with her Russian counterpart Sergey Ryabkov beginning May 19. The Under Secretary has been leading these talks with her Russian counterpart.
- ✓ Our missile defenses are not directed at Russia nor do they threaten Russia's strategic deterrent.
- ✓ We believe that cooperation is the best way for Russia to gain confidence that U.S. and NATO missile defenses are not directed at it.
- ✓ President Obama has been clear that the United States will not accept any limits or constraints on its missile defense programs, including those with NATO.
- ✓ Our vision for missile defense cooperation between NATO and Russia is two independent but coordinated systems whereby NATO is responsible for the defense of NATO and Russia is responsible for the defense of Russian. (Press Guidance, 05/18/11)

**What are the next areas of emphasis for the continued reset of the U.S. relationship with Russia?**

- ✓ The President Obama made it a priority to reset our relationship with Russia. We focused the reset on concrete outcomes that serve both countries' interests.
- ✓ Two years later, the benefits to both our countries – and to international security – are clear, including: the new Start Treaty that further limits strategic nuclear weapons, cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy, collaboration on Afghanistan that facilitates the flow of soldiers and supplies, and the most stringent sanctions ever on Iran and North Korea for their pursuit of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The next frontier in our relationship will be building stronger ties of trade and commerce that match the security cooperation we have achieved. Our trade and investment relationship is nowhere near where it could or should be. One way to realize the potential of that relationship is to bring Russia more fully into the international trading system. That is why we strongly support Russia's effort to join the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ✓ WTO accession will enable Russia to deepen its trade relations with the U.S. and the world. It will give American companies greater and more predictable access to Russia's growing markets,

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- expanding both U.S. exports and employment. Being a part of the WTO means that Russia will have to play by the rules or face enforcement actions.
- ✓ Once Russia does what is required to join the WTO, we will also work with Congress to terminate the application to Russia of the Jackson-Vanik amendment – a Cold War-era law that tied trade relations with Russia to Jewish emigration, but remains on the books.
  - ✓ Russia's business and legal climate and backsliding on democracy will present serious obstacles. At the same time as we have increased our cooperation with the Russian government, our administration has spoken out on allegations of misconduct in the trial of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and of the beating and detention of "Strategy 31" demonstrators – and we will continue to do so in defense of universal values. But real opposition parties, independent media, and impartial courts are also the best tools for fighting corruption – the biggest barrier to economic growth in Russia.
  - ✓ Russians and Americans inside and outside of government have worked hard to overcome decades of mistrust, to identify common ground, and to foster a more secure and more prosperous future for both countries. (Op-Ed by Vice President Biden, 03/14/11)

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**SUDAN/DARFUR****Sudan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “After decades of conflict, the images of millions of southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the world and another step forward in Africa’s long journey toward justice and democracy. Now, all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement must be fully implemented and outstanding disputes must be resolved peacefully. At the same time, there must be an end to attacks on civilians in Darfur and a definitive end to that conflict.” (02/07/11) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

**Sudan Q&A****Is the U.S. concerned about escalating violence in the Southern Kordofan state of Sudan?**

- ✓ The United States is deeply troubled by reports of violent clashes between military units in Southern Kordofan state in Sudan. Such violent acts not only result in the loss of innocent lives but they further throw into jeopardy the peace that both sides had worked so hard to build.
- ✓ We call for an immediate halt to all military actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations on future political and security arrangements for Southern Kordofan and neighboring Blue Nile state.
- ✓ Both parties to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) must maintain their commitment to the security arrangements in that agreement and work expeditiously to conclude new arrangements to govern their post-CPA relationship. The parties must make good on their commitment to the Sudanese people and the international community to stay on the path of peace.
- ✓ We call on Sudanese leaders from these areas to meet immediately to resolve these issues peacefully and expeditiously, and to refrain from further actions that could cause further violence and human suffering by destabilizing Southern Kordofan or Blue Nile. We also call on Sudanese leaders to provide the United Nations Mission in Sudan the full and unimpeded access required to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, and contribute to efforts to maintain the fragile peace between Sudan’s north and south. (State Department press statement, 06/07/11)

**What did the U.S. and the rest of the UN Security Council decide with regard to the Abyei region of Sudan?**

- ✓ The UN Security Council (UNSC) expresses grave concern about the ongoing violence and rapidly deteriorating situation in Abyei. The UNSC strongly condemns the Government of Sudan’s taking and continued maintenance of military control over the Abyei area and the resulting displacement of tens of thousands of residents of Abyei.
- ✓ The Council calls on the Sudanese Armed Forces to ensure an immediate halt to all looting, burning, and illegal resettlement. The Council stresses that all those responsible for violations of

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- international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, as well as those who ordered those acts, will be held accountable.
- ✓ The continued military operations of the Government of Sudan and militia activities in Abyei constitute a serious violation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the Kadugli agreements.
  - ✓ The Council expresses grave concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the area and praises the efforts of the humanitarian community to deliver emergency assistance, including food, health care, shelter and water, to those affected by the conflict, despite continued insecurity in the region and despite severe limitations on access.
  - ✓ The UNSC calls on all parties to respect humanitarian principles and allow all humanitarian personnel timely and unfettered access to vulnerable individuals and communities affected by the fighting.
  - ✓ The Security Council strongly condemns all attacks against the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), which are criminal acts against a UN mission and its personnel and which threaten to undermine the commitment of the parties to avoid a return to war.
  - ✓ The Security Council recalls the commitments made by Vice-President Ali Osman Taha and First Vice-President Salva Kiir that both parties shall remove any unconditional claims to Abyei in their draft national constitutions, and urges the parties to avoid inflammatory rhetoric. (UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Sudan, 06/04/11)

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## TERRORISM

### Terrorism Q&A

**What is the U.S. response to Pakistan's formation of a committee to investigate Osama bin Laden's presence there?**

✓ Both U.S. and Pakistani officials have acknowledged that there must have been some sort of support network for bin Laden inside of Pakistan. However, both Secretary Clinton and Secretary Gates have said there is absolutely no evidence that anyone at the highest levels of the Pakistani government knew that Osama bin Laden was living in Abbottabad.

✓ We share with the Government of Pakistan a profound interest in finding out what kinds of support networks bin Laden might have had. We also believe Pakistan shares the importance we place on a credible investigation.

✓ We refer you to the Pakistani government for any information about the committee. (Press Guidance: 06/01/11)

### Could you comment on the operation that led to the death of Osama bin Laden?

- ✓ On May 1, the U.S. has conducted an operation that killed Osama bin Laden, the leader of al Qaeda, and a terrorist who is responsible for the murder of thousands of innocent men, women, and children.
- ✓ For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda's leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our nation's effort to defeat al Qaeda.
- ✓ Yet his death does not mark the end of our effort. There is no doubt that al Qaeda will continue to pursue attacks against us. We must – and we will – remain vigilant at home and abroad.
- ✓ As we do, we must also reaffirm that the United States is not – and never will be – at war with Islam. Bin Laden was not a Muslim leader; he was a mass murderer of Muslims.
- ✓ It is important to note that our counterterrorism cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to bin Laden and the compound where he was hiding. Indeed, bin Laden had declared war against Pakistan as well, and ordered attacks against the Pakistani people.
- ✓ We will be relentless in defense of our citizens and our friends and allies. We will be true to the values that make us who we are. And we can say to those families who have lost loved ones to al Qaeda's terror: justice has been done. (Remarks by President Obama, 05/01/11)
- ✓ In the wake of this major counterterrorism success, the intelligence community remains squarely focused on the safety of the American people. We will sustain intense pressure on al Qaeda and other terrorist groups. Al Qaeda is damaged by bin Laden's death, but the group remains dangerous. (Department of Defense press statement, 05/07/11)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – "All over the world we will press forward, bolstering our partnerships, strengthening our networks, investing in a positive vision of peace and progress, and relentlessly pursuing the murderers who target innocent people. The fight continues, and we will never waver." (read transcript) (05/02/11)

### What are the State Department's counterterrorism priorities?

- ✓ **Reducing Recruitment.** The Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) work of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism (S/CT) focuses on three main lines of effort that will reduce terrorist recruitment: delegitimizing the violent extremist narrative in order to diminish its "pull"; developing positive alternatives for youth vulnerable to radicalization to diminish the "push" effect of grievances and unmet expectations; and building partner capacity to carry out these activities.

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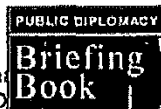
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- Key intents of CVE programming are to diminish the drivers of radicalization and demonstrably reduce the effectiveness of terrorist propaganda, thus leading to lowered numbers in recruitment.
- ✓ Successful CVE involves more than messaging, however, and we are working with the interagency to develop programs that address the upstream factors of radicalization in communities particularly susceptible to terrorist recruitment overseas.
  - ✓ To be effective, CVE work needs to be driven by local needs, informed by local knowledge, and responsive to the immediate concerns of the community. CVE interventions will be highly focused and short-term and will be developed in cooperation with USAID and others in the interagency as well as with international partners. Ultimately, host governments are best positioned to execute truly sustainable CVE efforts.
  - ✓ **Capacity Building.** One of the central challenges to our security is that weak states serve as breeding grounds for terrorism and instability. We need to build effective law enforcement capacity, fair and impartial justice and the rule of law, good governance in many places that have never known this. Multiple U.S. Government agencies are mobilized in this effort: Justice, FBI, Treasury, USAID, and the Department of Homeland Security.
  - ✓ One of our most effective capacity building programs is the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program, the primary provider of U.S. Government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations.
  - ✓ The number of active partner countries is decreasing to about 55 in an effort to ensure we are strategically focusing our resources on building partner CT capacity in the right places. The ATA program is most effective where countries have a combination of political will and basic law enforcement skills to be most receptive to the advanced training ATA provides. Through an emphasis on train-the-trainer courses, we are working with partner nations toward the goal of institutionalization and self-sustainment of capacities.
  - ✓ **Multilateral Engagement.** Building new and strengthening existing partnerships is a cornerstone of this Administration's counterterrorism policy. The U.S. cannot address the threat alone and the UN and other multilateral bodies have resources and expertise that we need to do a better job of leveraging. With our funding support and guidance, we are getting the UN and regional bodies to focus on practical projects that target critical issues and countries.
  - ✓ S/CT has been working to develop a new multilateral counterterrorism initiative, which we believe would not only be an important step forward but would address a significant gap in the international counterterrorism architecture: the lack of a central, reliable inter-governmental platform that allows policymakers and practitioners from different regions to engage on a sustained basis on various counterterrorism issues.
  - ✓ All of this work goes on in the context of vigorous diplomatic engagement. We have formal bilateral counterterrorism consultations with numerous countries. Among them are Australia, Canada, China, Israel, Egypt, Japan, Pakistan, Algeria, Russia, and India; these consultations have strengthened our counterterrorism partnerships so we can complement one another's efforts in pursuit of a comprehensive approach to our common challenges.
  - ✓ In conclusion, the threat is formidable but we are making some progress. Countering violent extremism, multilateral engagement, and building local capacity – through our various programs and with our Department and interagency partners – provide us with the tools to make lasting progress in our fight against terrorism. (Remarks by Coordinator Benjamin, 04/14/11)

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## DETAINEES

### Detainees Q&A

#### Has the U.S. has lost track of Guantanamo detainees sent to the Middle East and North Africa?

- ✓ This Administration has worked comprehensively to keep track of and mitigate the threat, if any, posed by former Guantanamo detainees, and will continue to do so. However, efforts to monitor and coordinate with other countries on post-transfer activities of former Guantanamo detainees are not a matter we discuss publicly.
- ✓ Post-transfer monitoring of detainees by receiving countries has varied. We continue to have excellent exchanges with some countries. However, this Administration suspended transfers to Yemen more than a year ago and has subsequently not transferred any detainees to Yemen unless ordered released by U.S. federal courts.
- ✓ In this Administration, every decision to transfer a detainee to a foreign country was based on unanimous approval by all agencies involved in the Task Force after a full assessment of intelligence and threat information. This includes the Departments of Defense, State, Justice, Homeland Security, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- ✓ The previous Administration transferred 25 detainees to countries cited in the recent *Wall Street Journal* article – Egypt (2), Tunisia (2), Libya (2), Bahrain (5), and Yemen (14), and 120 detainees to Saudi Arabia. This Administration has not transferred any detainees to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, or Bahrain, and transferred three detainees to Saudi Arabia and eight to Yemen (including 2 ordered released by federal courts). (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

#### What is the Administration's position on the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

- ✓ On March 7, the Secretary of Defense issued an order rescinding his prior suspension on the swearing and referring of new charges in the military commissions. New charges in military commissions had been suspended since the President announced his review of detainee policy.
- ✓ The Administration has successfully enacted key reforms, such as a ban on the use of statements taken as a result of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, and a better system for handling classified information.
- ✓ There are certain Guantanamo detainees who have not been charged, convicted, or designated for transfer, but must continue to be detained because they in effect, remain at war with the U.S. On March 7, the President issued an Executive Order establishing a thorough process of periodic review for these detainees, so that any prolonged detention is carefully evaluated and justified.
- ✓ The periodic review established by this order will help to ensure that individuals who we have determined will be subject to long-term detention continue to be detained only when lawful and necessary to protect against a significant threat to the security of the U.S. If a final determination is made that a detainee no longer constitutes a significant threat to our security, the Secretaries of State and Defense are to identify a suitable transfer location outside the U.S., consistent with the national security and foreign policy interests of the U.S. and applicable law. No Guantanamo detainee will be released into the U.S.
- ✓ We are grateful to all of our allies and partners who have worked with the Administration to implement the transfers undertaken thus far in a secure and humane manner, especially those who have resettled detainees from third countries.
- ✓ In December, Congress enacted restrictions on the prosecution of Guantanamo detainees in Federal courts. The Administration opposes these restrictions as a dangerous and unprecedented challenge

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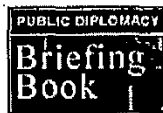
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- to Executive authority to select the most effective means available to bring terrorists to justice and safeguard our security.
- ✓ We will seek repeal of the restrictions imposed by Congress, so that we can move forward in the forum that is, in our judgment, most in line with our national security interests and the interests of justice.
  - ✓ Because of the vital importance of the rule of law to the effectiveness and legitimacy of our national security policy, the Administration is announcing our support for two important components of the international legal framework that covers armed conflicts: Additional Protocol II and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.
  - ✓ Additional Protocol II, which contains detailed humane treatment standards and fair trial guarantees that apply in the context of non-international armed conflicts, was originally submitted to the Senate for approval by President Reagan in 1987. The Administration urges the Senate to act as soon as practicable on this Protocol. An extensive interagency review concluded that U.S. military practice is already consistent with the Protocol's provisions.
  - ✓ Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, which sets forth fundamental guarantees for persons in the hands of opposing forces in an international armed conflict, is similarly important to the international legal framework. Although the Administration continues to have significant concerns with Additional Protocol I, Article 75 is a provision of the treaty that is consistent with our current policies and practice and is one that the United States has historically supported.
  - ✓ Our adherence to these principles is also an important safeguard against the mistreatment of captured U.S. military personnel. (Fact Sheet on New Actions on Guantánamo and Detainee Policy, 03/07/11)
  - ✓ Since the beginning of this Administration, we have transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries.
  - ✓ Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding transfer options for the remaining detainees so approved, as well as those ordered released by our courts.
  - ✓ Today, 172 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. Since 2002, around 600 detainees have departed Guantanamo, including more than 500 during the prior administration. (Press Guidance, 03/21/11)

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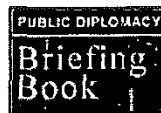
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IRAQ

Iraq Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Going forward, a transitional force of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq with a different mission: advising and assisting Iraq’s Security Forces, supporting Iraqi troops in targeted counterterrorism missions, and protecting our civilians. Consistent with our agreement with the Iraqi government, all U.S. troops will leave by the end of next year. As our military draws down, our dedicated civilians – diplomats, aid workers, and advisors – are moving into the lead to support Iraq as it strengthens its government, resolves political disputes, resettles those displaced by war, and builds ties with the region and the world.” (08/31/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “Even as we transition to an Iraqi lead and bring our troops home, our commitment to the Iraqi people endures. We will continue to advise and assist Iraqi security forces, who are already responsible for security in most of the country. And a strong American civilian presence will help Iraqis forge political and economic progress. This will not be a simple task, but this is what success looks like: an Iraq that provides no haven to terrorists; a democratic Iraq that is sovereign and stable and self-reliant.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Vice President Biden** – “[This] administration is absolutely committed to a successful, stable, representative, and just Iraq. And we are committed to building an enduring partnership between Iraq and the United States... As President Obama made clear last year, we will end our combat mission of our troops this summer and draw down our forces in compliance with the U.S.-Iraqi security agreement. But even as we draw down our military... we will ramp up our political, diplomatic, and economic engagement with Iraq.” (01/23/10) ([read transcript](#))

Iraq Q&A

What is the U.S. reaction to continuing terrorist violence in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad and the central and southern provinces? The U.S. remains committed to the Iraqi people and to the Iraqi government's efforts to bring about a national partnership government, political and economic progress, and to the security of the Iraqi people. The U.S. remains committed to the security of the Iraqi people and to the Iraqi government's efforts to bring about a national partnership government, political and economic progress, and to the security of the Iraqi people. The U.S. remains committed to the security of the Iraqi people and to the Iraqi government's efforts to bring about a national partnership government, political and economic progress, and to the security of the Iraqi people.

What is the U.S. reaction to the formation of a new Iraqi government?

- ✓ We congratulate the new Iraqi government and Prime Minister Maliki on the formation of a national partnership government. This is a victory for the democratic political process, national unity, and a decisive repudiation of violence.
- ✓ Iraq’s parliament has approved a broadly inclusive government reflecting the results of the election and the will of the Iraqi people. All of Iraq’s ethnic and sectarian communities are represented in a meaningful way.

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- ✓ The National Council on Higher Policy is an important part of the agreement that was struck to bring this government together and we have supported the creation of this Council.
- ✓ The political blocs have agreed that Ayad Allawi will be the President of the Council and we expect to see action in Parliament in the near future to legally enshrine the Council as part of the new government.
- ✓ The U.S. has been playing an active but patient and supporting role. We supported the Iraqi elections, we supported the Iraqi government formation process, and we support the outcome.
- ✓ With this significant accomplishment now behind them, Iraqi political leaders should move forward expeditiously on an agenda that will meet the needs and expectations of the Iraqi people.
- ✓ We support women's rights in Iraq and believe women should be represented in the Iraqi government. Iraq has had a good record in this area. (Press Guidance, 12/22/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – "I congratulate Iraq's political leaders, the members of the Council of Representatives, and the Iraqi people on the formation of a new government of national partnership." (12/21/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – "The formation of this government is a milestone in the emergence of the new Iraq. It constitutes a resounding rejection of the extremists who sought to derail the democratic process and sow discord among Iraqis. Iraq is a great nation with a promising future, and we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the new government to help our Iraqi friends build on what they have already achieved." (12/21/10) ([read transcript](#))

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## IRAN

## Iran Message

- ✓ Secretary Clinton – “The prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran concerns us all. And to address that threat, together we have pursued a dual-track approach of engagement and pressure, aimed at encouraging Iran’s leaders to change course. The draft resolution agreed to by all of our P-5+1 partners and circulated at the Security Council sends a clear message to the Iranian leadership: Live up to your obligation, or face growing isolation and consequences. As we continue to cooperate in New York, the burden is on Iran to demonstrate through its actions that it will uphold its responsibility.” (05/21/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ National Security Advisor Jones – “Iran’s continued defiance of its international obligations on its nuclear program and its support of terrorism represents a significant regional and global threat. A nuclear-armed Iran could transform the landscape of the Middle East, precipitating a nuclear arms race, dramatically increasing the prospect and danger of local conflicts, fatally wounding the global non-proliferation regime, and emboldening the terrorists and extremists who threaten the United States and our allies. Therefore, we are now working actively with allies and partners to increase the costs of Iran’s continued failure to live up to its international obligations. This includes a U.N. Security Council sanctions resolution.” (04/21/10) (read transcript)

## Iran Q&amp;A

Can you comment on the reported hanging of two members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq for broadcasting the 2009 Iranian election protests?

✓ We are aware of reports of the hanging of Jafar Kazemi and Mohammad Haj Aghaei in Iran on January 24.

✓ Secretary Clinton expressed our concern about the fate of these two men in August 2010, urging a halt to their executions for exercising their right to free expression after the June 2009 elections.

✓ We condemn their execution and continue to call on Iran to follow due process as required by its own constitution and to adhere to its obligations under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

Is the U.S. considering additional sanctions on Iran in light of the disappointing Istanbul talks?

✓ The Iranian nuclear issue remains an urgent challenge for all of us. Iran is going to continue to face pressure unless and until it seriously addresses the international community’s concerns about its nuclear program.

✓ As Lady Ashton stressed in Istanbul, the U.S. and its P5+1 partners remain committed to pursuing a diplomatic solution. The door remains open, and the choice is Iran’s to make.

✓ We will certainly continue to consult with and work closely with our P5+1 partners on next steps based on our continuing dual track approach of engagement and pressure.

✓ We are continually evaluating the effectiveness of our strategy, including our approach on the pressure track. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

What does the U.S. expect from the Hong Kong government following the designation of 20 entities based in Hong Kong as contributors to Iranian proliferation efforts?

✓ As part of its dual-track strategy toward Iran, the Administration encourages all governments to adopt strong measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1929, which imposes sanctions on Iran for non-compliance with its international nuclear obligations.

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**What is the current status of international sanctions on Iran?**

- ✓ We have emphasized from the start that what is at issue between Iran and the rest of the world is not its right to a peaceful nuclear program, but rather its decades-long failure to live up to the responsibilities that come with that right.
- ✓ We sought to create early opportunities for Iran to pursue a different path and to build confidence in its intentions. This was a serious demonstration of good faith and an investment in partnership with a growing coalition of countries profoundly concerned about Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ UN Security Council Resolution 1929 broke important new ground in curbing arms transfers to Iran; targeting the central role of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in Iran's proliferation efforts; banning for the first time all Iranian activities related to ballistic missiles that could deliver a nuclear weapon; sharply limiting Iran's ability to use the international financial system to fund and facilitate nuclear and missile proliferation; and for the first time highlighting formally potential links between Iran's energy sector and its nuclear ambitions.
- ✓ A week after passage of 1929, the EU announced by far its most sweeping collection of measures against Iran. Canada, Australia, Norway, Japan, and South Korea have followed the EU's example.
- ✓ When the President signed into law the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA) in early July, the Administration and Congress sent an unmistakable signal of American resolve and purpose, expanding significantly the scope of our domestic sanctions and maximizing the impact of new multilateral measures.
- ✓ Faced with new international concerns, and the choice between doing business with Iran and doing business with America, more and more foreign companies are pulling out of the Iranian market.
- ✓ We also emphasize that we take very seriously CISADA's provisions regarding human rights concerns in Iran.
- ✓ We will intensify the costs of continued non-compliance and show Iran that pursuit of a nuclear weapons program will make it less secure. In the meantime we will continue to reassure our friends and partners in the Gulf of our long-term commitment to their security.
- ✓ Sanctions and pressure are not an end in themselves. They are a complement, not a substitute, for the diplomatic solution to which we and our partners are still firmly committed. There is still time for diplomacy if Iran is prepared to engage in serious discussions. There is still room for a renewed effort to break down mistrust, and begin a careful, phased process of building confidence between Iran and the international community. (Statement by Undersecretary Burns, 12/01/10)

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(back to top)**MIDDLE EAST****Israel/Palestine Message**

- ✓ **Special Envoy Mitchell** – “The best outcome is an agreement which results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and the only way that can be achieved is through direct negotiations between the parties in which the United States will be an active and sustained participant, and with the full support of our many friends and allies around the world.” (08/20/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “We support a two-state solution, with Israelis and Palestinians co-existing peacefully and with mutual security. We believe that through good-faith negotiations, the parties can mutually agree on an outcome which ends the conflict and reconciles the Palestinian goal of an independent and viable state based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps, and the Israeli goal of a Jewish state with secure and recognized borders that reflect subsequent developments and meet Israeli security requirements. And we recognize that Jerusalem is a deeply important issue to Israelis and Palestinians, to Jews, Muslims, and Christians everywhere. We believe it is possible to reach an outcome that both realizes the aspirations of all parties for Jerusalem, and safeguards its status for the future.” (02/14/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The United States can be a partner in solving the problem, but ultimately the parties involved are going to have to make a decision that the prosperity and security of their people is best served by negotiations and compromise, and we can't force them to make those difficult decisions. What we can do is to provide them a framework and a forum and the support for such an outcome to be achieved.” (06/05/09) (read transcript)

**Israel/Palestine Q&A**

**What is the U.S. reaction to the Turkel Commission report, which appears to clear Israel of wrongdoing for the 2010 Gaza flotilla incident?**

- ✓ This is the first part of a two-part report; it is an important step forward in the overall investigative process regarding the Mavi Marmara flotilla investigation, and as such we welcome it. We understand the second half of the report will be released in the coming months.
- ✓ The process undertaken by the UN Secretary General continues. Israel is submitting part one of its report and will later submit its full report to the UN Secretary General's panel.
- ✓ We look forward to the process continuing at the UN, which will give the international community the opportunity to fully review the circumstances surrounding the incident. We again express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to establish the panel, and to the governments of Turkey and Israel for their constructive participation in it.
- ✓ Immediately following the May 31 incidents, we noted the importance of a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into these events. We continue to hold that view and believe we must resist the tendency to reach conclusions without the opportunity for a full examination of the facts and perspectives from all sides. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

**What is the U.S. reaction to Al-Jazeera's release of alleged negotiations documents related to Middle East peace efforts?**

- ✓ These are not U.S. documents. We cannot vouch for their veracity.
- ✓ We do not plan to comment on any particular document.
- ✓ None of this changes our understanding of what is at stake and what needs to be done. A framework agreement that resolves the core issues remains possible and necessary.

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**What is U.S. policy regarding the Middle East peace process?**

- ✓ Over recent months, Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have met face to face multiple times. These were meaningful talks that yielded new clarity about the gaps that must be bridged. Significantly, both sides decided to pursue a framework agreement that would establish the fundamental compromises on all permanent status issues and pave the way for a final peace treaty.
- ✓ The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and Arab neighbors is a source of tension and an obstacle to prosperity and opportunity for all the people of the region. Continuing conflict also strengthens the hands of extremists and rejectionists across the region while sapping the support of those open to coexistence and cooperation.
- ✓ America's commitment to Israel's security and its future is rock solid and unwavering, and that will not change. The Obama Administration has reaffirmed this commitment.
- ✓ The lack of peace and the occupation that began in 1967 continue to deprive the Palestinian people of dignity and self-determination. This is unacceptable and unsustainable.
- ✓ We will deepen our strong commitment to supporting the state-building work of the Palestinian Authority and continue to urge the states of the region to develop the content of the Arab Peace Initiative and to work toward implementing its vision. The Arab states have a pivotal role to play in ending the conflict.
- ✓ The differences between the two sides are real and they are persistent. But the way to get there is by engaging, in good faith, with the full complexities of the core issues and by working to narrow the gaps between the two sides.
- ✓ On borders and security, the parties must agree to a single line drawn on a map that divides Israel from Palestine and to an outcome that implements the two-state solution with permanent Palestinian borders.
- ✓ The status of refugees is a difficult and emotional issue, but there must be a just and permanent solution that meets the needs of both sides.
- ✓ The fate of existing settlements is an issue that must be dealt with by the parties along with the other final status issues. The position of the U.S. on settlements has not changed and will not change. We do not accept the legitimacy of continued settlement activity.
- ✓ There will surely be no peace without an agreement on Jerusalem.
- ✓ Palestinians must appreciate Israel's legitimate security concerns. And Israelis must accept the legitimate territorial aspirations of the Palestinian people. Ignoring the other side's needs is, in the end, self-defeating.
- ✓ To demonstrate their commitment to peace, all parties should avoid actions that prejudge the outcome of negotiations or undermine good faith efforts to resolve final status issues.
- ✓ A just and lasting peace will transform the region. Israelis will finally be able to live in security, at peace with their neighbors, and confident in their future. Palestinians will at last have the dignity and justice they deserve with a state of their own and the freedom to chart their own destiny. Across the Middle East, moderates and advocates of peace and coexistence will be strengthened, while old arguments will be drained of their venom and the rejectionists and extremists will be exposed and marginalized. (Remarks by Secretary Clinton, 12/10/10)

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**NORTH KOREA**

**North Korea Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We will work with allies and partners to hold North Korea accountable, including at the United Nations Security Council, making it clear that security and respect for North Korea will never come through aggression, but only by upholding its obligations.” (06/02/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “The path that will lead North Korea to security and prosperity is to stop its provocative behavior, halt its policy of threats and belligerence toward its neighbors, and take irreversible steps to fulfill its denuclearization commitments, and comply with international law.” (05/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Secretary Clinton** – “North Korea can still choose another path. Instead of isolation, poverty, conflict, and condemnation, North Korea could enjoy integration, prosperity, peace, and respect. Its people could finally experience a better life... North Korea’s future depends on the choices that its leaders make today.” (05/26/10) ([read transcript](#))

**North Korea Q&A**

Has the U.S. taken any steps to hold North Korea accountable for its actions? The U.S. has taken several steps to hold North Korea accountable for its actions, including:

- 2. Imposing North Korea sanctions, including UN Security Council resolutions, to pressure North Korea to stop its nuclear and missile programs, including the testing of nuclear weapons and the testing of long-range missiles.
- 2. We have made the importance of North Korea’s compliance with its international obligations clear to the North Korean leadership, including the need to stop its nuclear and missile programs.
- 2. We have worked to improve U.S.-North Korea relations, including the U.S.-North Korea dialogue and the U.S.-North Korea Track II dialogue.
- 2. We have worked to improve U.S.-North Korea relations, including the U.S.-North Korea dialogue and the U.S.-North Korea Track II dialogue.

**Does the State Department agree with Defense Secretary Gates’ assessment that North Korea will be a direct threat to the U.S. in five years?**

- ✓ We share the view that North Korea continues to present one of the most enduring challenges to the Asia-Pacific region’s security and prosperity.
- ✓ We continue to employ our two-track approach of being open to engagement with North Korea on denuclearization, while calling for full and transparent implementation of UNSCRs 1718 and 1874.
- ✓ Ambassador Bosworth had consultations with senior officials in Seoul, Beijing, and Tokyo on recent developments and next steps on the Korean Peninsula.
- ✓ We will continue close coordination and consultation with our allies and partners in the Six-Party process to ensure we send a clear and unified message to North Korea that leads to concrete progress. (Press Guidance, 01/12/11)

**How is the U.S. responding to the reports on North Korea’s uranium enrichment program?**

- ✓ We have long suspected North Korea of having this kind of capability, and we have regularly raised it with them directly and with our partners. We will continue to consult closely with our allies and partners.

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- ✓ We regard this development with great seriousness. We believe that the North Koreans are in violation of a substantial number of international agreements that they have entered into and are in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.
- ✓ We continue our coordination of moves designed to lead eventually to the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. The situation does not, however, in our view call for a reassessment of our entire strategy toward the DPRK and its nuclear programs.
- ✓ We call on North Korea to take concrete, irreversible steps toward fulfillment of the 2005 Joint Statement; comply with international law, including UNSCRs 1718 and 1874; cease provocative behaviors; and take steps to improve relations with its neighbors. (Remarks by Ambassador Bosworth, 11/22/10 and 11/23/10) and (Press Guidance, 11/24/10 and 12/14/10)

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## AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

## Afghanistan and Pakistan Message

- ✓ **President Obama** – “In Afghanistan, we remain focused on the three areas of our strategy: our military effort to break the Taliban’s momentum and train Afghan forces so they can take the lead; our civilian effort to promote effective governance and development; and regional cooperation, especially with Pakistan, because our strategy has to succeed on both sides of the border.” (12/16/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “This war has changed over the last nine years, but it’s no less important than it was in those days after 9/11. We toppled the Taliban regime – now we must break the momentum of a Taliban insurgency and train Afghan security forces. We have supported the election of a sovereign government – now we must strengthen its capacities. We’ve brought hope to the Afghan people – now we must see that their country does not fall prey to our common enemies... There will be difficult days ahead. We will adapt, we will persist, and I have no doubt that together with our Afghan and international partners, we will succeed in Afghanistan.” (05/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “I want to send a strong message that the partnership between the United States and Afghanistan is going to continue. We have seen already progress with respect to the military campaign against extremism in the region. But we also want to continue to make progress on the civilian process of ensuring that agricultural production, energy production, good governance, rule of law, anticorruption efforts – all these things end up resulting in a Afghanistan that is more prosperous, more secure, independent; is not subject to meddling by its neighbors; a transition will be able to occur so that more and more security efforts are made by the Afghans.” (03/28/10) ([read transcript](#))

## Afghanistan and Pakistan Q&amp;A

Can you provide an update on the seating of Afghanistan’s parliament?

- ✓ The United States welcomes the understanding reached between the Parliament and President Karzai to inaugurate the National Assembly on January 26.
- ✓ After a healthy and constructive debate between Afghan institutions, the outcome ultimately reached demonstrates respect for democratic governance and for the separation of powers set forth in the Afghan Constitution. The outcome of these discussions also recognizes the importance of the timely seating of the nation’s parliamentarians so they can begin their vital work of serving the Afghan people.
- ✓ Ambassador Elkenberry plans to attend the opening of the National Assembly, along with other members of the international community.
- ✓ While the United States welcomes this outcome, we will continue to closely monitor this situation. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as the executive, legislative and judicial branches carry out their respective functions under Afghan law. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

Can you confirm that the Afghan government is planning to ban more security contractors?

- ✓ The United States fully supports effective implementation of Presidential Decree 62 to dissolve private security contractors (PSCs) and transition more control over security to the Afghan government. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul is working closely with the Ministry of Interior and other representatives from the international community to develop the way forward for implementation.

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- ✓ We have welcomed the Ministry of Interior's recent statements that PSCs will be permitted to continue providing security for diplomatic work, international organizations, and military installations. We also welcome their statements that current security for development contracts can continue until the end of their contracts.
- ✓ There are, however, a number of very complicated questions still to work through as we move towards implementation. These questions are being worked through together, with the shared goals in mind of increasing Afghan security, strengthening Afghan sovereignty and leadership, and ensuring the continued delivery of international development assistance.
- ✓ We will continue working in the weeks and months ahead to ensure that development workers are safe and project sites have adequate security. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)

**Is the U.S. concerned by a recent UN report that warns of the potential for increased poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2011?**

- ✓ As the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes, increased opium prices in Afghanistan are affected by increased pressure on drug traffickers by the Afghan government, law enforcement, and the international forces that support their efforts, as well as a crop disease that lowered the amount of opium entering the market last year.
- ✓ We remain concerned about the possible impact of higher opium prices in Afghanistan, but remain committed to strengthening agricultural development and drug interdiction support to Afghanistan.
- ✓ Our efforts to fight Afghanistan's drug trade remain a top priority. Agricultural development and drug interdiction remain the cornerstones of U.S. counternarcotics assistance to the Afghan government.
- ✓ U.S. assistance also supports counternarcotics public information, building the capacity of key counternarcotics ministries, rule of law, and demand reduction and drug treatment activities.
- ✓ The U.S. also commends the work of the Afghan Ministry of Counternarcotics and the Counternarcotics Police of Afghanistan to introduce risk to drug traffickers, insurgents, and farmers that disobey the rule of law. This naturally drives prices up as the drug market becomes more competitive.
- ✓ We also look forward to UNODC's upcoming Opium Rapid Assessment Survey, which will help us to better understand – and respond to – likely opium poppy planting trends in 2011. The United States has funded and commissioned these studies to better inform our programs in Afghanistan. (Press Guidance, 01/20/11)

**What is the current U.S. strategy concerning Afghanistan and Pakistan?**

- ✓ The core goal of the U.S. strategy in the Afghanistan and Pakistan theater remains to disrupt, dismantle, and eventually defeat al Qaeda in the region and to prevent its return to either country.
- ✓ U.S. and international troops are focused on: (1) reversing the Taliban's momentum; (2) providing security for the Afghan people, and (3) partnering with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) so that the Afghans can increasingly assume responsibility for Afghanistan's security. This will allow us to deny al Qaeda a safe-haven.
- ✓ In Afghanistan, the surge in coalition military and civilian resources, along with an expanded special operations forces targeting campaign and expanded local security measures at the village level, has reduced overall Taliban influence and arrested the momentum they had achieved in recent years in key parts of the country, although these gains remain fragile and reversible.
- ✓ In July 2011, we will begin a responsible transition to an Afghan security lead by reducing our combat troop levels. The size and pace of our troop reductions will depend upon a careful assessment of conditions on the ground, and the capacity of ANSF to sustain security gains.

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- ✓ We also remain relentlessly focused on Pakistan-based al Qaeda because of the strategic nature of the threat posed by its leadership, and in particular the group's continued pursuit of large-scale catastrophic anti-Western attacks and its influence on global terrorism.
- ✓ In Pakistan, we are laying the foundation for a strategic partnership based on mutual respect and trust, through increased dialogue, improved cooperation, and enhanced exchange and assistance programs. We must support the Government of Pakistan's efforts to strengthen its economy, improve governance and security, and respond to the development needs of the Pakistani people.
- ✓ In 2011, we will intensify our regional diplomacy to enable a political process to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, to include Afghan-led reconciliation, taking advantage of the momentum created by the recent security gains and the international consensus gained in Lisbon. (Press Guidance, 05/10 – 06/16/10) and (White House fact sheet, 05/27/10) and (Overview of the Afghanistan and Pakistan Annual Review, 12/16/10)
- ✓ President Obama – "I've been very clear about our core goal. It's not to defeat every last threat to the security of Afghanistan, because, ultimately, it is Afghans who must secure their country. And it's not nation-building, because it is Afghans who must build their nation. Rather, we are focused on disrupting, dismantling and defeating al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and preventing its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future." (12/16/10) (read transcript)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – "President Obama has said that we will begin a responsible, conditions-based transition to Afghan security leadership in July 2011. Toward this end, the Afghan Government, working with NATO, has developed a broad framework for the process that will help create conditions for transition, province by province, district by district, so the Afghan security forces can assume full responsibility for security in the transitioned areas." (07/20/10) (read transcript)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**RUSSIA****Russia Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges – from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Deputy Secretary Steinberg** – “We have, I think, been successful in building a degree of civility and conversation between the two countries that we can have our honest disagreements where we have them, to sustain our principled positions where they exist, but not for that to be a barrier to working together. And whether it’s transit through Russia to Afghanistan, whether it’s START, whether it’s working on both North Korea and Iran, the tangible benefits are there.” (05/19/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Press Secretary Gibbs** – “The Obama administration stands in solidarity with the many people in the Russian government, in the legal system, and in civil society who are committed to strengthening the rule of law and deepening the commitment to universal values enshrined in the Russian constitution. Russia’s failure to keep this commitment to universal values, including the rule of law, impedes its own modernization and ability to deepen its ties with the United States.” (12/27/10) ([read transcript](#))

**Russia Q&A****What is the U.S. reaction to the January 24 bombing in Moscow’s Domodedovo Airport?**

- ✓ The United States stands in solidarity with Russia in the face of today’s appalling terrorist attack. We extend our condolences to the people of the Russian Federation and, especially, to those injured and to the families of the dead from today’s tragic bombing.
- ✓ The United States stands ready to support the Russian government in their investigation of the attack if so requested, and will continue to cooperate with Russia in the struggle against violent extremism around the world.
- ✓ The United States condemns terrorism and all forms of violence against the innocent, wherever it occurs. We will continue to work with the international community to combat violent extremism that threatens peace-loving people everywhere. (Press Guidance, 01/24/11)
- ✓ At this time, the Government of Russia has not requested assistance. We remain ready to help to bring to justice the perpetrators of this terrorist act. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

**What is the U.S. response to the Russian Duma’s approval of the New START Treaty?**

- ✓ We welcome the news that the Duma passed a law approving ratification of the New START Treaty on January 25.
- ✓ Russia’s upper house, the Federation Council, must also pass the law approving ratification of the Treaty. The Federation Council is expected to vote on January 26.
- ✓ We look forward to bringing the Treaty into force, delivering the benefits of New START to global security. (Press Guidance, 01/25/11)

**What are the U.S. priorities for future arms control talks with Russia?**

- ✓ With the New START Treaty taking each side down to 1,550 strategic warheads, we are at the point where it is hard to envisage further strategic reductions without reducing the large number of tactical nuclear weapons, which are not constrained.

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- ✓ Negotiation with the Russians on tactical weapons will include some difficult issues. First, there is a large numerical disparity between the U.S. and Russian tactical arsenals. By unclassified accounts, the Russians have anywhere from three to eight times as many tactical nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Second, over the last 10 to 15 years Russians military doctrine has placed much more weight on tactical nuclear forces, because they see these weapons as necessary to offset what they regard as conventional force disadvantages vis-à-vis NATO and China.
- ✓ Third, verification is difficult because you probably will not be talking about limiting the delivery systems, whose primary missions are conventional. So you're talking about limiting actual warheads and perhaps even designing schemes where inspectors might have to go into storage bunkers and count weapons.
- ✓ Russian President Medvedev recently said that either we come to an agreement on missile defense, or there will be a resumption of the arms race. The primary Russian concern is not the system which currently protects the U.S. from limited numbers of ballistic missile launches, but rather the European Phased Adaptive Approach policy, which is a policy to create a missile defense shield over all of Europe.
- ✓ The Obama Administration has done a lot through the presidential bilateral working group at the NATO-Russia Council to explain that these systems will not threaten Russia's ICBM force.
- ✓ There can be an agreement about joint threat assessments. There can also be a shared early warning of all ballistic missile launches. There can also potentially be cooperation on shared radars, which includes integrating some of the Russian radar capabilities in southern Russia into the U.S. phased adaptive approach missile defense system for Europe. (Remarks on U.S.-Russia Nuclear Cooperation, 01/13/11)

**What is the State Department's reaction to the ratification of the New START Treaty?**

- ✓ On December 22, the Senate voted 71-26 to approve the Resolution of Advice and Consent to ratification of the New START Treaty. The New START Treaty strengthens American national security and is an important step forward in President Obama's foreign policy agenda.
- ✓ Just as was the case during the recent U.S. Senate debate over the Treaty, Russia's ratification process can be expected to reflect various viewpoints both for and against the Treaty. Such debate is a natural and necessary part of the legislative process.
- ✓ We welcome the recent positive statements by Russian leaders, including President Medvedev, Prime Minister Putin, Foreign Minister Lavrov, and leading Russian lawmakers, encouraging prompt approval by the Russian legislative bodies, the Duma and the Federation Council.
- ✓ Ratification of this treaty will strengthen American leadership on nonproliferation issues, reinforce our relationship with Russia, and promises to make our country safer.
- ✓ New START is the most extensive nuclear arms control agreement in nearly two decades. It reduces by 30% the maximum limit of strategic nuclear warheads that the United States and Russia can deploy, while allowing the U.S. to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent.
- ✓ It puts into effect a verification regime to track Russia's strategic nuclear weapons, which will include placing U.S. inspectors on the ground, access we have not had since the original START treaty expired over a year ago.
- ✓ New START will include up-to-date exchanges of information on numbers, locations, and technical characteristics of weapons systems and facilities that are subject to the Treaty.
- ✓ From the beginning, this Administration has made it a priority to exercise American leadership in reducing the threats of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. Once this Treaty enters into force we will put the world's two largest nuclear arsenals on more stable, predictable footing. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

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- ✓ New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “We’ll continue to advance our relationship with Russia, which is essential to making progress on a host of challenges -- from enforcing strong sanctions on Iran to preventing nuclear weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists. And this treaty will enhance our leadership to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and seek the peace of a world without them.” (12/22/10) ([read transcript](#))

**What are U.S. expectations regarding its relationship with Russia going forward?**

- ✓ We hope that the relationship between Russia and the U.S. – and between Russia and NATO and Europe – will continue to improve. These relationships are in a much better place than they were several years ago, certainly before this Administration took office.
- ✓ The NATO-Russia relationship had not been moving forward as practically and positively as the U.S.-Russia relationship until recently, but at Lisbon NATO and Russia agreed on a joint assessment of 21st century security challenges, agreed to resume theater missile defense cooperation, and agreed to cooperate more broadly on missile defense in the future.
- ✓ We have already said in many other contexts that we believe the U.S.-Russia relationship is on increasingly solid ground as we continue to find areas of cooperation, be they in nuclear nonproliferation or the economic area or Afghanistan.
- ✓ We will continue to work with this. We obviously still have some differences and we’re clear about our differences as well. At the OSCE summit we had a significant difference over the question of Georgia and other unresolved conflicts, but we are expressing them frankly, and believe that in the long run the U.S. and Russia and Russia and Europe have so many common interests that we are and should be partners. ([Briefing](#) by Assistant Secretary Gordon, 12/07/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**SUDAN/DARFUR****Sudan Message**

- ✓ **President Obama** – “Two paths lay ahead: one path taken by those who flout their responsibilities and for whom there must be consequences – more pressure and deeper isolation. The other path is taken by leaders who fulfill their obligations, and which would lead to improved relations between the United States and Sudan, including supporting agricultural development for all Sudanese, expanding trade and investment, and exchanging ambassadors, and eventually, working to lift sanctions – if Sudanese leaders fulfill their obligations.” (09/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended the civil war must be fully implemented. The referenda on self-determination scheduled for January 9th must take place – peacefully and on time, the will of the people of South Sudan and the region of Abyei must be respected, regardless of the outcome.” (09/24/10) ([read transcript](#))
- ✓ **Special Envoy Gration** – “While much of the international attention has been focused on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently, and certainly the upcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, we cannot and we must not forget about the people of Darfur. These people have suffered too long. And they continue to live with daily reminders of conflict, insecurity, displacement, banditry. Most of the Darfuris have seen little change in their living conditions over the past seven years. They currently see little hope for a brighter future. Internally displaced people continue to live in temporary housing. They depend on emergency assistance. And they don’t even know when or if they’ll be able to return to their historical homelands in safety and dignity, should they choose to do so.” (12/13/10) ([read transcript](#))

**Sudan Q&A****Is the U.S. satisfied with how the Southern Sudanese referendum was conducted?**

- ✓ The completion of a peaceful, orderly Southern Sudan referendum marks a significant achievement for the Sudanese people and a historic step toward full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).
- ✓ The U.S. commends the millions of Southern Sudanese people who participated in this historic process, and applauds both northern and southern leaders for creating conditions that allowed voters to cast their ballots freely and without fear, intimidation, or coercion. The successful vote was also a credit to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau, and more than 40 countries and international organizations.
- ✓ We welcome the positive statements issued in recent days by international observer missions from the African Union, Arab League, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, European Union, and the Carter Center.
- ✓ As we await the official results of the referendum, we reaffirm our commitment to remain a steadfast partner to both parties as they continue to work toward full implementation of the CPA and to develop their post-CPA relationship. The parties have an opportunity to forge a durable peace between the North and the South, and to build positive relationships with the international community. We hope they will seize this moment, and the U.S. supports their efforts to ensure a peaceful, more prosperous future for all Sudanese. ([Statement](#) by Secretary Clinton, 01/17/10)
- ✓ **President Obama** – “The past week has given the world renewed faith in the prospect of a peaceful, prosperous future for all of the Sudanese people – a future that the American people long to see in Sudan” (01/17/11) ([read transcript](#))

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**What is the U.S. assessment of Southern Sudan's capacity to govern itself should it gain independence?**

- ✓ The Government of Southern Sudan has made remarkable progress since its establishment in 2005. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, Southern Sudan requires significant capacity building to develop the legal, justice, banking, and other basic governance systems essential to the welfare of the southern Sudanese people.
- ✓ The United States has been a committed partner to southern leaders helping to build this capacity since prior to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and will continue this partnership after the referendum.
- ✓ The U.S. continues to support projects in Southern Sudan dedicated to improving access to health care, education, clean water, and sanitation; improving infrastructure; boosting agricultural productivity and trade; expanding opportunities for women and ending gender-based violence; and helping local governments improve their ability to manage resources and meet citizens' needs.
- ✓ We are examining our own posture in Southern Sudan. We are also engaging with states in the region, members of the Sudan Contact Group, and international institutions, like the UN, World Bank, and IMF, to ensure that our efforts to south are coordinated and effective.
- ✓ We call upon the leaders of the south to prepare to govern responsibly, no matter the outcome of the referendum. In particular, we urge Government of Southern Sudan leaders to proactively address any evidence of corruption at any level of government.
- ✓ We welcome recent efforts by the Government of Southern Sudan to promote political reconciliation and inclusiveness among all political parties, and we encourage continued efforts in this direction for the sake of peace. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

**What does the U.S. believe is the way forward on Abyei given that an on-time referendum will not happen?**

- ✓ Despite lengthy discussion, the parties were unable to agree on the composition of the Abyei Arca Referendum Commission, which is responsible for determining criteria for Abyei referendum voter eligibility. As such, it was not possible to hold the Abyei referendum as scheduled on January 9.
- ✓ The AU High-Level Implementation Panel has put forward proposals on the political resolution of Abyei's status to the parties and elevated the issue to President Bashir and Vice President Kiir. We urge the parties to continue to engage seriously in discussions to break the impasse and reach agreement on a way forward.
- ✓ We fully expect they will resume their talks immediately after the conclusion of the Southern Sudan referendum and resolve the issue before the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) interim period in July.
- ✓ We believe it is possible for the parties to reach a solution for Abyei that addresses the deeply held aspirations, needs, and rights of all communities in the region, consistent with the CPA's Abyei Protocol and the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
- ✓ We urge the parties to make a clear public statement that calls on local communities to maintain calm and refrain from any inflammatory unilateral actions, and that commits the parties to resolve the Abyei issue after the referendum. We urge both parties to do everything in their power – including by cooperating with UNMIS – to maintain peace in the area. (Press Guidance, 01/07/11)

**Can you provide an update on the current situation in Darfur?**

- ✓ The Obama Administration is as equally committed to resolving the Darfur conflict as it is to full and timely implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The appointment of

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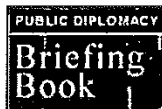
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Ambassador Dane Smith comes at a crucial time in Sudan's history that requires high level attention on both Darfur and North-South issues.

- ✓ The United States has long supported on-going international efforts to reach a durable peace in Darfur. Appointing a Senior Advisor expands on that work in an effort to re-energize the UN-AU-led peace process, and improve security and humanitarian access.
- ✓ We have consistently called on the Government of Sudan to cease aerial bombardments. It is essential that these kinds of attacks end, and we call on all parties to the Darfur conflict to recommit to an immediate ceasefire.
- ✓ We also call on the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to refrain from any action that may raise tensions or provoke the spread of violence.
- ✓ We continue to express concern regarding such abuses, which have included the arrests of opposition leaders, journalists, and other peaceful demonstrators. The U.S. reminds the Sudan of its obligation to respect human rights, including freedom of assembly. (Press Guidance, 12/14/10)

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TERRORISM

Terrorism Q&A

[REDACTED]

**What actions has the Department of State taken in the year since the 2009 December 25 bombing attempt?**

- ✓ The Department has worked closely with our interagency partners to strengthen the U.S. Government's Watch Listing Guidance to make it more flexible and responsive to emerging threats.
- ✓ During 2010 the Department designated al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. Furthermore, the Department designated AQAP and its senior leaders, Nasir al-Wahishi and deputy leader Said al-Shihri, as well as operational leaders Fahd al-Quso and Qasim al-Rimi as Specially Designated Global Terrorists under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224. The U.S. government has also designated Anwar al-Aulaqi under E.O. 13224, and the U.S. spearheaded the listing of AQAP and its senior leaders in the UN Security Council 1267 (al Qaeda/Taliban) Sanctions Committee.
- ✓ The consequences of these domestic designations include prohibitions against the provision of material support or resources to AQAP; the freezing of all property and interests in property of the organization that are in the United States, or come within the United States, or the control of U.S. persons; and travel restrictions.
- ✓ Since the President's ordered security review, individuals have been added to the terrorist screening database, no fly, and selectee lists to counter the specific vulnerabilities observed on December 25, 2009. The number of visa revocations has increased substantially as a result.
- ✓ Since 2001, we have revoked over 57,000 visas for a variety of reasons, including over 2,800 for suspected links to terrorism. We use our revocation authority actively as we run our data against updated watch list information provided by our partner agencies.
- ✓ We worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a fully automated process to prevent a person with a revoked visa from boarding an aircraft, even if the visa has not been physically cancelled.
- ✓ We have strengthened our own internal watch listing process (known as "Visa Viper") to improve the manner in which names are added and the information that is provided. (Press Guidance, 12/23/10)

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[\(back to top\)](#)**DETAINEES****Detainees Q&A****What is the State Department's response to recent Congressional action barring the movement of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the U.S.?**

- ✓ We are aware of the Guantanamo provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress on December 26.
- ✓ We are closely looking at the Guantanamo provisions to determine how this will impact the transfer of detainees to foreign governments, but we remain determined to continue the difficult work required to close Guantanamo.
- ✓ As the President has said, "One of the most powerful tools we have to keep the American people safe is not providing al Qaeda and jihadists recruiting tools for fledgling terrorists." Closing Guantanamo will remove a major recruiting tool for al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, while also living up to our values, ideals, and principles.
- ✓ Many friends and allies have joined our efforts to close the detention facility, and we continue to engage with additional foreign partners in pursuit of the detention facility's closure.
- ✓ Today, 173 detainees remain at Guantanamo. There were 242 at the facility on January 21, 2009. (Press Guidance, 12/27/10)

**Is the U.S. still committed to closing Guantanamo Bay?**

- ✓ President Obama remains committed to closing the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay, which has served as a recruiting tool for al Qaeda.
- ✓ The Administration has instituted the most comprehensive review process ever applied to detainees at Guantanamo, with significant improvements including halting the "stove-piping" of classified intelligence and for the first time compiling in a single repository the best information available relating to Guantanamo detainees.
- ✓ The Administration has made remarkable progress working with our friends and allies to resettle many detainees in third countries. Since the beginning of this Administration, the U.S. has transferred 67 detainees to 24 different destinations, including the transfer of 40 detainees to third countries. Today, 173 detainees remain at Guantanamo.
- ✓ The list of countries resettling detainees continues to grow, and we are encouraged by the assistance of the international community who continues to support this Administration's closure effort. Pursuant to our effort to close Guantanamo, we are in ongoing discussions with a number of foreign partners regarding repatriation and resettlement options for detainees approved for transfer. (Press Guidance, 01/22/11 and 01/06/11) and (White House [fact sheet](#), 05/27/10)
- ✓ Secretary Clinton – "In one of his first acts as president, President Obama directed that the detention facility at Guantanamo be closed, recognizing that Guantanamo had become a symbol of the wrong way to make America more secure. Now, we had hoped that this task would be completed within a year. That has proven impossible. But we will close Guantanamo. And we will close it in a way that is both responsible and consistent with basic standards of justice. Our progress has been slow because this is difficult. It depends in part on the willingness of other nations to take in detainees, and we are very grateful to those nations that have already done so, and we ask others to please considering doing so, in order to help us expedite the closing of Guantanamo." (02/14/10) ([read transcript](#))

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**ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE****Climate Change Q&A****Could you explain the purpose of the ongoing Ninth Session of UN Forum on Forests?**

- ✓ Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development Daniel Reifsnyder will lead the U.S. delegation to the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF9) in New York which takes place from January 23 to February 3.
- ✓ The delegation will include officials and experts from the Department of State, U.S. Forest Service, USAID, and the National Association of State Foresters. Deputy Assistant Secretary Reifsnyder will also moderate a ministerial-level roundtable discussion on "Forests and Rio+20" during the High-Level Segment.
- ✓ The UNFF9 meetings will officially launch 2011 as the International Year of Forests, with the theme "Celebrating Forests for People." The theme for the UNFF9 meetings will be "Forests for People, Livelihoods, and Poverty Eradication." The meetings provide the opportunity for governments to discuss the cultural and social values of forests, governance, and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders.
- ✓ The U.S. will highlight its forest-related activities and initiatives over the course of the two weeks, including a January 31 side event on "Urban Greening in America." This event will feature experts from the private sector and government to discuss city and state-level greening initiatives.
- ✓ USAID spends \$110 million annually in developing countries in support of the UNFF 9 themes of community forest management and improved livelihoods. Forest-related issues have been a priority on the international policy and political agendas since the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The UN Forum on Forests was established in October 2000 to promote and strengthen long-term commitments to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests. (State Department press statement, 01/25/11)

**What was accomplished at the recent climate talks in Cancun?**

- ✓ On November 29, the U.S. joined the nations of the world in Cancun for a new round of talks aimed at mobilizing common action to meet the shared global challenge of climate change.
- ✓ The meeting resulted in the Cancun Agreement, a set of balanced international decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which represent meaningful progress in our global response to climate change.
- ✓ This result was fundamentally consistent with U.S. objectives. Throughout the year, our strategic vision was to consolidate and elaborate on the progress made last year in Copenhagen and to have the outcome fully endorsed by all the nations to the Climate Treaty.
- ✓ The Cancun Agreement advances each of the core elements of the Copenhagen Accord. Specifically, it anchors the accord's mitigation pledges by both developed and developing countries in a parallel manner. It outlines a system of transparency with substantial detail and content, including international consultations and analysis; that was the negotiated phrase from the Copenhagen Accord. This will provide confidence that a country's pledges are being carried out and help the world keep track of the track that we're on in terms of reducing emissions.
- ✓ The agreement in Cancun also launches a new Green Climate Fund with a process for setting it up; creates a framework to reduce deforestation in developing countries; establishes a so-called technology mechanism, which will include a new technology executive committee and a climate

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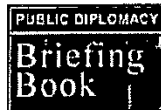
technology center and network; and sets up a framework and committee to promote international cooperation and action on adaptation.

- ✓ The Cancun Agreement represents a balanced and significant step forward. The United States will continue to work with our friends and partners to keep the world focused on this urgent challenge and to continue building on this progress. (Statement by Secretary Clinton, 12/11/10) and (Briefing by Special Envoy Stern)

**How does the U.S. intend to address global climate change?**

- ✓ President Obama has made it clear that we must take bold action to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, address the growing threat of global warming challenges, and to create clean energy jobs and technologies. The Administration has already taken unprecedented steps to address these problems - through Recovery Act investments in clean energy, through tough new fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks, and through many other actions.
- ✓ The President remains committed to the broad clean energy vision that he has put forward, and the Administration will continue to use the tools that we have to make progress. We will continue to work with Congress to achieve the comprehensive legislation that the President has called for.
- ✓ Moreover, the U.S. is not backing away from the commitments made during international climate change negotiations in Copenhagen. As the administration works with Congress to pass comprehensive legislation, we will use the administrative authorities we have to reduce emissions.
- ✓ The U.S. will continue to work with partners around the world to build on the progress made in Copenhagen and Cancun toward meeting the climate and clean energy challenge. (Press Guidance, 07/23/10)

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Author: OSINT - Open Source Intelligence (CCJ2-JOWO)

On Tuesday, one of the owners of the Amalthea said that the crew would unload its humanitarian goods at El-Arish if refused permission to reach Gaza.

"If this is the only option put forward by the Israeli authorities, we will choose to sail to the port of El-Arish and transfer the assistance by ground to Gaza," Greek businessman Aleksei Angeolopoulos said in an interview with the London based Arabic newspaper Asharq Alawsat.

Angeolopoulos said the ship was "carrying humanitarian aid and food and there are no weapons or prohibited materials, as claimed by Israel."

He added, "If Israel wants, the Israeli navy is invited to board the ship and to search it so that they can see with their own eyes that it is only carrying food and allow it to continue to the port of Gaza."

A spokesman in the Prime Minister's Office said that if indeed the ship was carrying only civilian cargo, there should be no problem with it docking at the Ashdod port.

"We will guarantee that all civilian goods will be allowed in [to Gaza]," the official said.

However, the information put out by the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday painted a picture of a vessel that was interested in far more than just the delivery of rice and corn oil. The packet sent by email included a link to an Al-Jazeera report from Saturday in which a Moroccan volunteer on the ship said, "We as Muslims are not afraid of death. On the contrary, we love martyrdom."

The packet included a reminder that Libya's involvement in terrorism was "something well-known."

Everyone remembers the Lockerbie tragedy, where 270 people were killed when a Pan Am plane exploded [over] southern Scotland in 1988. An international investigation found a direct link between the Libyan government and the terrorist incident, and it even extradited two suspects for planning the attack."

The information included reference to Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal's view of the blockade busting ships as an important brick in bringing about Israel's delegitimization.

"Breaking the siege is a priority, and we must compel it by all means, including new flotillas which will be organized in the coming weeks and months, with the help of Allah," Mashaal said in a speech in Damascus on June 28.

"I call on the Arab and Muslim people and other lovers of freedom in the world to multiply the number of participants," he said.

"Together with us, all freedom loving people around the world have begun to understand how much of a curse Israel is to the world, to its security and interests, and to what extent it is a heavy burden on the interests of both West and East."

The information sent out by the Prime Minister's Office also included the cabinet decision last month to ease restrictions on what is allowed into Gaza, the Quartet's positive reaction to this step, and statements





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Author: OSINT – Open Source Intelligence (CCJ2-JOWO)

from the US State Department and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton expressing concern about further ships.

The Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, meanwhile, has recommended to the IDF that for public diplomacy reasons, it would be preferable to commandeer the ship once it enters Israel's territorial waters, though intercepting it out of that 20-km. zone would be legal if it were clear that the ship was headed for Gaza.

A similar recommendation was made prior to the May flotilla's arrival, but that recommendation – according to government sources – was not heeded because of operational reasons. The IDF's argument in May, according to the sources, was that since that flotilla included six ships, the navy would need sufficient time to commandeer all of them and, as a result, needed to begin the job outside the country's territorial waters.

**12 July 2010**

**Jerusalem Post**

**Bishara reportedly meets Gaddafi**

**Committee debates suspending former MK's pension benefits.**

Former MK Dr. Azmi Bishara (Balad) was reported on Sunday to have arrived Saturday night in Libya for a meeting with Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

The two were said to have discussed issues pertaining to the Arab world and the Palestinian struggle.

While Bishara was reportedly in Libya, the Knesset's Ministerial Committee for Legislation approved a bill on Sunday that would suspend his government pension benefits.

The proposed bill will suspend any pension or salary payments normally due to Knesset members if they are under investigation or indicted for a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment or more, committed during their tenure, and they seek to evade justice by refusing to appear before a court or investigators.

Knesset and former Knesset members' payments would only be reinstated upon their appearance in court or compliance with the investigator's requests.

The passing of the bill, commonly known as the "Bishara Law," would strip former MK Bishara (Balad) of the pension payments he currently receives while living outside Israel.

Bishara was under investigation for allegedly aiding Hezbollah while serving as an Israeli MK when he fled the country in 2007.

The bill was sponsored by MK Yariv Levin (Likud) and MK Yisrael Hasson (Kadima).

"I want to end this situation where betraying the State of Israel has become a profitable business that supports the traitor Bishara to the tune of thousands of shekels a month," said Levin.

The bill will now have to be brought to a vote in front of the entire Knesset before it can become law.

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B6

452

Law, Rosemary C

From: [redacted] B6  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:43 AM B3 OTHER  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Flotilla reports

Categories: Working

Hi, Todd: Please plan on having a [redacted] 3 p.m. debrief on last night's SVTS. 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conf room.

[redacted] and I have access to your IIRs and continue to read them with keen interest.

B3 OTHER  
B6

Thanks,

[redacted]

B3 OTHER  
B6

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: [redacted] B3 OTHER  
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2011 12:19 PM B6  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Flotilla reports

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Sir,  
Below are titles of [redacted] reports on the Finch and flotillas -- let us know if you are interested in any of the [redacted] B3 OTHER  
can forward you the full text. Also, if you would like we can have [redacted]

[redacted] Please let us know when we need to support further VTCS or other meetings on this topic.

FINCH info--

[redacted] M/V FINCH, single blockade runner, is navigating toward Gaza on 23 May 2011 with intent B3 OTHER  
penetrate Gazan waters

[redacted] Unsuccessful attempt by M/V FINCH to enter Gaza on 16 May 2011, details on Israeli Navy deterrence  
efforts

B3 OTHER

Flotilla efforts-

[redacted] Possible Turkish escort to the Gaza Flotilla while Turkish-Israeli Relations Remain Strained  
Israel Lessons Learned During Boarding of MAVI MARMARA, Preparation for Free Gaza Flotilla II  
Israel implements new tactics and equipment to disable propulsion system of ships in Gaza Flotilla

V/R

[redacted]

B3 OTHER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



B3 OTHER

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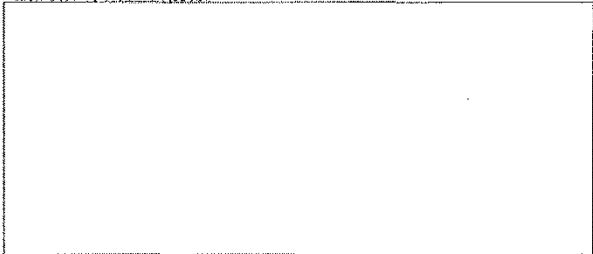
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Osman, Amany A

From: Dayton, Win (Istanbul)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 7:00 AM  
To:



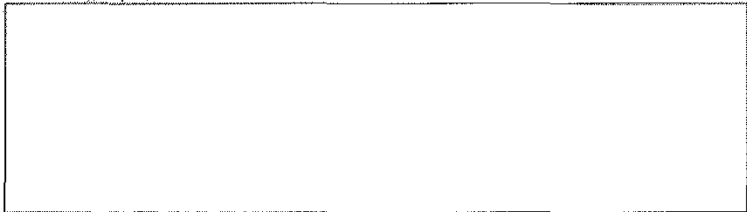
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

B3 OTHER

Turkish television (quoting Israeli media) is reporting 10 dead and more wounded in the Israeli Defense Forces' interception and boarding of the flotilla. Film clips purporting to be from the flotilla depict chaotic scenes from the deck of one ship and apparent wounded civilians. We are trying to contact IHH reps in Istanbul for comment, including on status of US citizens on board.

Turkish TV is showing a live feed of a crowd of hundreds in front of the Israeli consulate in Istanbul. Earlier reports indicated some stone throwing there but current videos show a peaceful crowd with Palestinian flags and a bullhorn or two.

From: Marwaha, Brianne C  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 9:02 PM



Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

B3 OTHER

If All - please see the below e-mail from [redacted] I am able to respond intelligently regarding the assistance to American Citizens if they are detained...however, if they are U.S. owned boats, does NEA or DOD know what we can expect will happen with their property?

B6

Thanks,  
Brianne  
CA/OCS Weekly Duty Officer

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From: Macris, Gregory P  
To: CA-Staffers Mailbox; CA-OCS-Duty-Principals; Harwaha, Brienne C; Scott, Pamela F  
Sent: Sun May 30 13:13:02 2010  
Subject: FW: Assistance for American Humanitarians

CA colleagues --hoping you could take a crack at responding. Greg Macris, SWO

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 1:02 PM  
To: Operations Center  
Subject: Assistance for American Humanitarians

B6

State Department Operations Center:

This morning I offered a prayer in my Baptist Church for the safe landing of the humanitarian flotilla bringing needed goods to the refugees in Gaza. Several of my Baptist colleagues asked how our State Department would aid of American citizens on American-owned boats should the Israeli armed forces make arrests and/or seize property. I called (202) 647-4000 for answers and the operator suggest I email you for prompt answers.

Because we are following the event by the hour, your prompt response is appreciated.

[Redacted]  
First Baptist Church  
Hamilton NY

B6

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 7:04 AM

B3 OTHER

[Redacted]

B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Sunday

Recirculating update below from USDAO Tel Aviv to this list. Also adding some additional US military addresses.

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 8:24 AM

B3 OTHER

Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

R/  
[Redacted]

B3 OTHER

B3 OTHER



From: Goodman, Ian A  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:22 AM  
 To: Reisser, Wesley J; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Touh, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Stevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schiereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givokid, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H  
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

I've added my contact numbers, in case I need to be reached.

Ilan Goodman  
 EUR/SE  
 C: 413-530-1358  
 BB: 202-485-2407

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:05 AM  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Touh, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Stevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schiereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givokid, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H  
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

Also, please note that weekend POCs are listed in the spreadsheet as well. I will be out of town and only reachable via State Ops; Karlene Frelch and Jeff Glauque will be in town and also can be reached with any NEA related concerns.  
 Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:29 AM  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Touh, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Stevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett,

David R; Baron, Deslee A; Adams, Jelle D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zerobaveby, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chene, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weisfeld, Nill I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finer, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Magg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; D'worth, Alison E; Osman, Amery A; Netos, Elictherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glaucque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H  
Subject: One More Free Gaza Update

Everyone-- Here is one last update as we move into the holiday weekend. Em5, Tel Aviv is standing by and the duty officers in DC have been briefed in and are on this message. I have once again pasted the link to the spreadsheet, which is now as updated as possible. It has a link to press guidance as well for your reference. Thanks to all for your assistance on this big effort!

Wes

<http://opa.e.state.gov/sites/opa/Shared%20Documents/Free%20Gaza%20May%202010.xlsx>

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/IFA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2847  
Fax (202) 735-4451

This message is UNCLASSIFIED according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

Law, Rosemary C

N6

From: Reisser, Wesley J RELEASED IN PART B5, B6  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM  
 To: Frelch, Karlene H  
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza  
 Attachments: 052410-Israel-Palestinians - Israel Blockade of Gaza.docx

---

From: Frelch, Karlene H  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM  
 To: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Can you send me the press guidance too? Thanks.

---

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM  
 To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
 Cc: Sindle, James M; Frelch, Karlene H; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A  
 Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

---

From: Frowick, George H  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM  
 To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J  
 Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy, Deborah A  
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoní flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US-flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [redacted] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizen [redacted]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

---

From: Netos, Eleftherios E  
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM  
 To: Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
 Cc: 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlattelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa



5

**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Goodman, Ilan A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI - Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are ver confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Sent:** Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank – Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B5

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on.

Thanks,  
Kevin

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin –

Wes

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A

**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered.

[Redacted]

B5

Wes

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes – it is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

[Redacted]

Thanks,  
Kevin

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to “break the Israeli blockade.” The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.

The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).

[Redacted]

Thanks!  
Wes

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy –  
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels –Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hananla, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
**Subject:** Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be departed and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

N7


**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 9:09 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Sievers, Marc J; Richter, Kim B  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Levin, Jan; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Usher, William R; Hoyer, Kurt J; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Frowick, George H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Thanks for the ship manifests. Tel Aviv consular section is ready to respond as required over the long weekend. Officer and LES volunteers met this afternoon to share information and coordinate our response. If Amcits are brought to the Port of Ashdod and then disbursed to the airport or detention facilities in Beersheva or elsewhere, we will visit them as soon as allowed. We will do our best to have contact with all Amcits who land at Ashdod, though access to dual nationals may be more difficult. We will stand by for reports from the Naval attaché, media and other sources and will arrange visits to Amcits through the MFA Operations Center, which is coordinating access to foreign nationals.

Points of contact:  
ACS chief Elisa Greene  
[greenec@state.gov](mailto:greenec@state.gov)  
+972-57-420-6715

and

Andrew C. Parker  
Consul General  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel. +972-3-519-7671  
Cell +972-54-324-4153  
Fax +972-3-519-0315  
[parkerac@state.gov](mailto:parkerac@state.gov)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 3:26 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

---

**From:** Frowick, George H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Sciarlatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Deborah A  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoni flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [REDACTED] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citiz: B6 [REDACTED]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM  
**To:** Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Goodman, Ilan A  
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**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU  
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FYI – Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

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**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

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**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
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Frank – Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.  
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**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
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**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on. B5



[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin

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**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

[Redacted]

Wes

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**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
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**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Wes

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**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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Thanks,  
Kevin

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The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).



B5

Thanks!  
Wes

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy –  
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V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

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**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels—Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM

To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S

Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

**Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.**  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

N8

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frellich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza  
**Attachments:** Scanned Lists

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. I has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

**From:** Frowick, George H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy, Deborah A  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoní flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [redacted] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizen [redacted]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM  
**To:** Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Goodman, Ilan A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI – Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are ver confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Sent:** Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank – Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios

E

**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios  
E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza B5

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on.

Thanks,  
Kevin

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios  
E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered.

Wes

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes – it is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows). B5

Thanks,  
Kevin

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to “break the Israeli blockade.” The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.

Thanks!  
Wes

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy –  
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels—Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American Flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American Flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desirée A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolea B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gislvoed, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
**Subject:** Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aid to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/PA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.



RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

N14

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 7:40 PM  
**To:** Connelly, Maura; Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Giaque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]; Johnson, Clifton M  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

**From:** Connelly, Maura  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]; Johnson, Clifton M  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 18:38:02 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]; Johnson, Clifton M  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 16:49:48 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

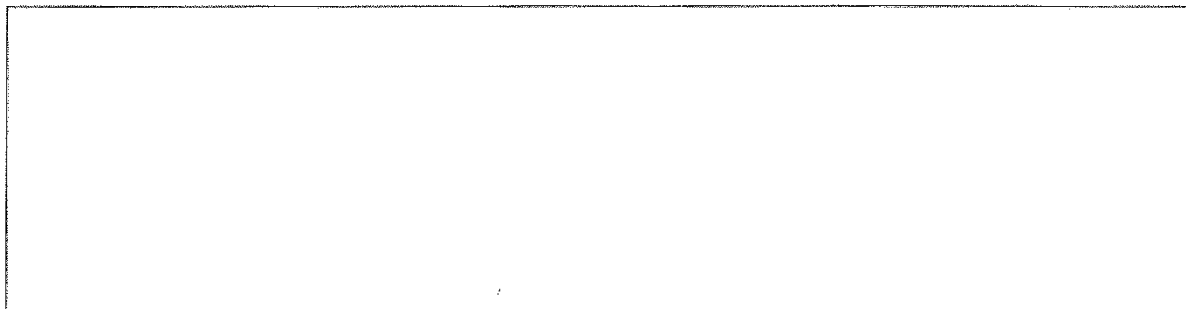
B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 12:19 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6



B5

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio.L.Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel.B.Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem.G.Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6



B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

B5

[redacted]

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Redacted]

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Redacted]

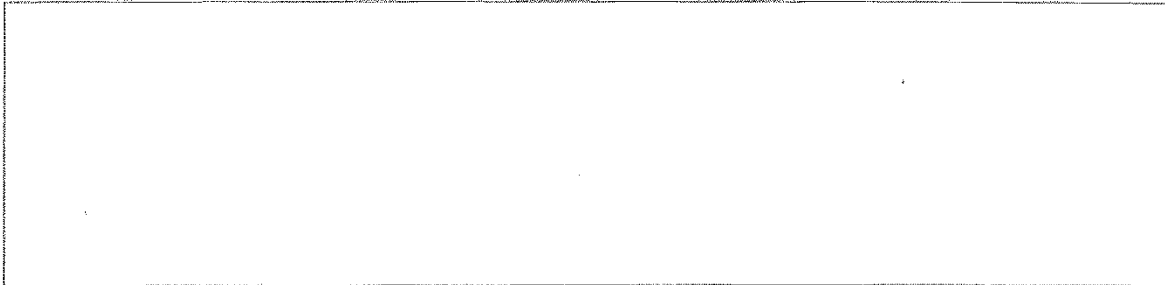
B5

**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI  
**Importance:** High

B6

[Redacted]

B5



Clearances requested:

State/L

OSD

NSC

J-5

State/NEA

State/EUR

State/CA

State/P

State/D(S)

**Jim Sindle**

Pol-Mil Officer

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov

Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

N15

Law, Rosemary C

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
 Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 6:24 AM  
 To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
 Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

R/  
 LCDR Frank Schlereth  
 Assistant Naval Attache  
 USDAO Tel Aviv  
 E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
 Office: 972-03-519-7486  
 Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Sindle, James M  
 To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
 Sent: Sat May 29 19:18:45 2010  
 Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Large redacted block]

B5

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
 To: Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

<Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

B6

[redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]

Sent: Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010

Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[redacted] B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

From: Schlereth, Frank G

Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM

To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; 'Alan [redacted]

B6

[redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

[redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.

LCDR Frank Schlereth

Assistant Naval Attache

USDAO Tel Aviv

E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov

Office: 972-03-519-7486

Cell: 972-50-645-2288

From: Baumert, Kevin A

To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A;

B6

[redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B;

[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL;

Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[redacted] B5

[redacted]

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

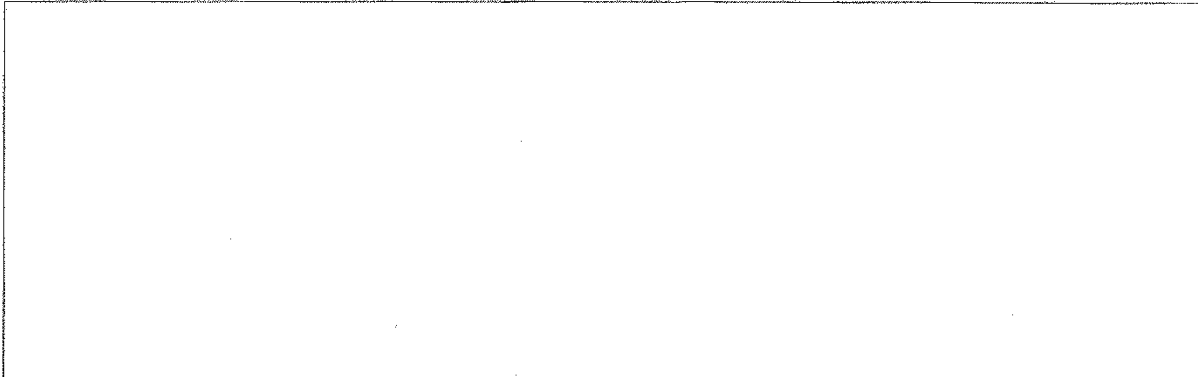
**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, [redacted]

B6



Gautam A; Sims, [redacted]; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.;  
Aquirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J.; Schlereth, Frank G.; Baumert, Kevin A.; Hickey, Mary E.; Schwartz, Jonathan B;  
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan,  
JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI  
**Importance:** High

B6



B5

Clearances requested:

State/L  
OSD  
NSC  
J-5  
State/NEA  
State/EUR  
State/CA  
State/P  
State/D(S)

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5,B3 OTHER,B6

Law, Rosemary C

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Grubb, Jason B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 5:43 AM  
To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Rejsser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Rudman, Mara; Waters, John R; Pelton, Erin; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan  
Subject: FW: Flotilla Update

-----Original Message-----

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:41 PM  
To: [redacted]  
CC: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]; Foggo, James G. RDML  
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Gentlemen,

First vessels are currently arriving in Ashdod. No access granted to US Embassy at this time. Hour of phone call with the Chairman is now being discussed.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:38 PM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P;  
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Joe -- thanks.  
John, Mike, Gerry -- FYI.  
Harry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

VADM Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN  
Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet  
Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO Joint Force Maritime Component Commander  
EUROPE

B6  
B3 OTHER

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:55 AM  
To: SchlerethFG@state.gov; [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; PicaTM@state.gov; MurphyMP@state.gov;  
[redacted]; GrubbJB@state.gov; CNE-CNA-C6F IWO; Dumont, Mike J. SES  
EUCOM  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Thanks Frank. Will call Moses shortly.

VR, JER

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M <PicaTM@state.gov>;  
Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted] Grubb, Jason B  
<GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:48:56 2010  
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Gentlemen,

IDF reporting that 2 pistols were taken from boarding IDF forces and found on two "violent" activists after apparently firing on soldiers. Magazines of the pistols were found emptied. FYI. IDF COS will speak via phone with Chairman at 1330L (Israeli Time) to personally update him. IDF is providing a briefing to the foreign attaché community at the same time. Will keep all updated of any additional details.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M  
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:13:24 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Formal statement from IDF-

May 31st, 2010 IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla  
 Early this morning, IDF Naval Forces intercepted six ships attempting to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. This happened after numerous warnings from Israel and the Israel Navy that were issued prior to the action. The Israel Navy requested the ships to redirect toward Ashdod where they would be able to unload their aid material which would then be transferred over land after undergoing security inspections. During the intercept of the ships, the demonstrators onboard attacked the IDF Naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance for this specific purpose. As a result of this life-threatening and violent activity, naval forces employed riot dispersal means, including live fire. According to initial reports, these events resulted in over ten deaths among the demonstrators and numerous injured, in addition, more than four naval personnel were injured, some from gunfire and some from various other weapons. Two of the soldiers are moderately wounded and the remainder sustained light injuries. All of the injured, Israelis and foreigners are currently being evacuated by helicopter to hospitals in Israel. Reports from IDF forces on the scene are that it seems as if part of the participants onboard the ships were planning to lynch the forces. The events are ongoing, and information will be updated as soon as possible. Israeli Naval commander, Vice Admiral Eliezer Marom is overseeing the events. In the coming hours, the ships will be directed to the Ashdod port, while IDF naval forces will perform security checks in order to identify the people on board the ships and their equipment. The IDF Spokesman conveys that this event is currently unfolding and further details will be provided as soon as possible. This IDF naval operation was carried out under orders from the political leadership to halt the flotilla from reaching the Gaza Strip and breaching the naval blockade. The interception of the flotilla followed numerous warnings given to the organizers of the flotilla before leaving their ports as well as while sailing towards the Gaza Strip. In these warnings, it was made clear to the organizers that they could dock in the Ashdod sea port and unload the equipment they are carrying in order to deliver it to the Gaza Strip in an orderly manner, following the appropriate security checks. Upon expressing their unwillingness to cooperate and arrive at the port, it was decided to board the ships and lead them to Ashdod. IDF naval personnel encountered severe violence, including use of weaponry prepared in advance in order to attack and to harm them. The forces operated in adherence with operational commands and took all necessary actions in order to avoid violence, but to no avail. LCDR Frank Schlereth Assistant Naval Attache USDAO Tel Aviv  
 E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
 Office: 972-03-519-7486  
 Cell: 972-50-645-2298

B6  
B3 OTHER

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
 To: Schlereth, Frank G; Rocco, Michael A. BGen <Michael.Rocco@eucom.mil>; Gardner, John D.  
 [redacted]  
 Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted]  
 [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]  
 Sent: Mon May 31 10:01:17 2010  
 Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
 To: [redacted]  
 [redacted]

B6

Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M  
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]

B6 .  
B3 OTHER

Sent: Mon May 31 08:59:10 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Israel Navy has confirmed to me that vessels are going to Ashdod despite some reports indicating Haifa.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted]  
[redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]  
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; [redacted]  
[redacted]

Sent: Mon May 31 07:17:58 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Thanks Frank. Please keep us posted.

VR, JER

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] Col Richard J. Burgess; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M  
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J <SieversMJ@state.gov>; Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 06:13:15 2010  
Subject: Flotilla Update

As of 0700L (Israeli Time), the IDF has informed me that the operation involving the flotilla has been underway for approx 2.5 hours. The Israeli forces were met in a "violent" manner. No confirmation of press reports of injured and killed. Expected formal IDF response should be released soon.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J;  
Michael P; [REDACTED] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy,  
Jason B Sievers, Marc J; Grubb,

Sent: Mon May 31 00:14:26 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

The Israel Navy is monitoring and "escorting" the flotilla at this time. As they travel further south, additional steps will be taken to have them arrive in Ashdod.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J;  
[REDACTED] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy,

Michael P; Schlereth, Frank G

Sent: Sun May 30 16:17:09 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

As of 1550L, the Israel Navy assesses the flotilla is headed south. They expect to intercede in the morning hours of Monday 31 May.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Schlereth, Frank G; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J

Sent: Sun May 30 14:22:55 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Looping the BWC in.

R/s  
Badfinger

B6  
B3 OTHER

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: 'SchlerethFG@state.gov' <SchlerethFG@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Sent: Sun May 30 12:26:20 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Thanks Frank... Jack Gardner

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Sent: Sun May 30 12:23:17 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Sir,  
Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine  
flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to  
head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.  
V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
[redacted] Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Sat May 29 23:11:40 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

DCOM - responded on NIPR. This is a report from the Israelis. Have received NO confirmation  
from any US source that the vessels have indeed re-flagged. Disussed with Moses and Frank  
Schlereth, and they will continue to update us as they get new information. For now, we have  
policy guidance on how we are to proceed, and COS has issued clear guidance to CNE on what  
actions they must take in the event of a distress call.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

VR, Joe

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
'schlerethfg@state.gov' <schlerethfg@state.gov>  
Sent: Sat May 29 21:33:16 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Charlie/ Joe - did we confirm this is true ... Not US flagged? Didn't see anything on SIPR.  
Jack

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] J.  
'schlerethfg@state.gov' <schlerethfg@state.gov> B6  
Sent: Sat May 29 12:30:21 2010 B3 OTHER  
Subject: FW: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Chief- FYI. It appears that those 2 vessels that had been flying US flags are no longer flying them. One is flying a Greek flag and the other the St Vincent and Grenada flag. Reported by the Israeli Navy.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

[redacted]

Deputy Director, JS Plans & Policy  
U.S. European Command

-----Original Message-----

From: Schlereth, Frank G [mailto:SchlerethFG@state.gov]  
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 11:36 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]  
Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov; Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov; [redacted] Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]  
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted]  
[redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]  
[redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]



[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle;  
Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Mauna; Harris, Robert K; MoB6ock, David  
JL; [Redacted] B3 OTHER  
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>;  
Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'  
<Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E;  
Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle;  
Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Mauna  
Sent: Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M;  
Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'  
<Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E;  
Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

B6  
B3 OTHER

Sent: Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>  
To: Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem  
G. <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A;  
Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]

[Redacted] Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010  
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

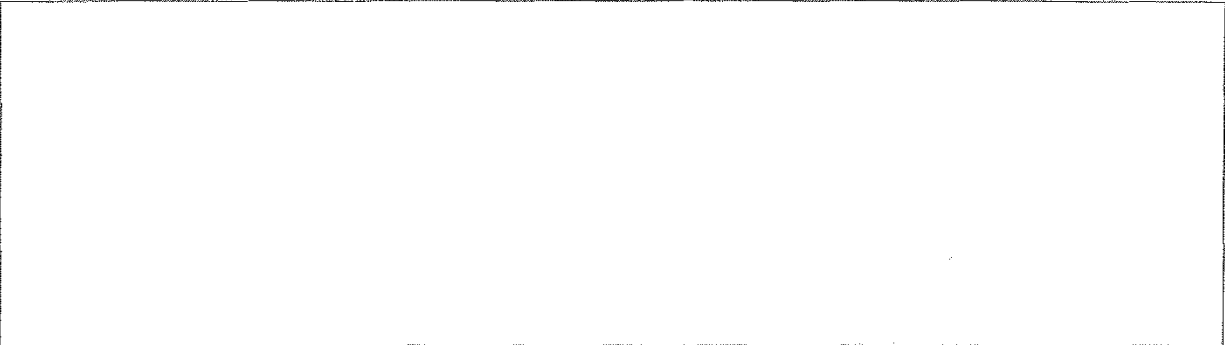
B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM  
To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Lynn, [Redacted]  
Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J;  
Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B;  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J;  
Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI  
Importance: High

[Redacted]

B5



Clearances requested:

State/L

OSD

NSC

J-5

State/NEA

State/EUR

State/CA

State/P

State/D(S)

Jim Sindle

Pol-Mil Officer

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov

Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5, B3 OTHER, B6

Law, Rosemary C

B6  
B3 OTHER

N18

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 30, 2010 5:12 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Connelly, Maura; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov; Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

The Israel Navy is monitoring and "escorting" the flotilla at this time. As they travel further south, additional steps will be taken to have them arrive in Ashdod.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Connelly, Maura; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M  
**Sent:** Sun May 30 01:56:21 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Large redacted area]

**From:** Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 6:38 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Clifton M

B5

**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn

**To:** Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]

[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted] Johnson, Clifton M

**Sent:** Sat May 29 16:49:48 2010

**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Sindle, James M

**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 12:19 PM

**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]

[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]

[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]

**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted]  
Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL;

B6

'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil' <Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil>  
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Lynn, Eric CIV OSD POLICY [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]; Shapiro, Daniel B. [Redacted]  
[Redacted] B6  
[Redacted] B3 OTHER

<Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

B6

Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010

B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]

B6

B3 OTHER

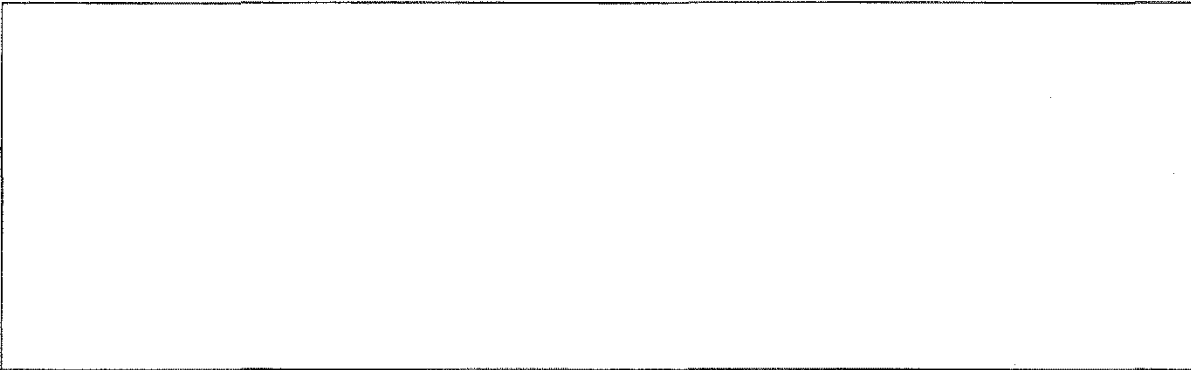
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM

To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan,

JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Importance: High



B5

Clearances requested:

- State/L
- OSD
- NSC
- J-5
- State/NEA
- State/EUR
- State/CA
- State/P
- State/D(S)

**Jim Sindle**

Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)



Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6

NZZ

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:04 PM  
 To: Burgess, Richard J; Sindle, James M; Gordon, Phillip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreia; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
 Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

B6

I have added Stephen Pomper and Alexandra Perina who are handling for L/PM and are in the best position to coordinate with DOD lawyers.

-----Original Message-----

From: Burgess, Richard J  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:59 PM  
 To: Sindle, James M; Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreia; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
 Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Jim, all

FYI, when Frank Schlereth and I met with IDF J5 this afternoon, and then with some of his staff afterwards, it was clear to them (their opinion) that they had legal authority to intercept an inbound force in international waters whose "stated intentions" and demonstrated actions were to attempt to break a blockade which is in place via a recognized interim agreement.

Richard J. "Moses" Burgess, Col, USAF  
 US Senior Defense Official, Defense and Air Attache to Israel US Defense Attache Office  
 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel, 63903  
 Work: +972-3-519-7333  
 Cell: +972-50-523-2542

-----Original Message-----

From: Sindle, James M  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:53 PM  
 To: Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreia; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J;

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] JCS J5 AO'; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

B6

According to attachment and in several statements, GOI believes that they are in armed conflict with Hamas in Gaza and have the right to enforce blockade, including interdicting ships in international waters that intend to break that blockade. [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Philip H  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:35 PM  
To: Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreaia; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Isr Amb Oren told D-Steinberg that Israel would release/deport all the people forthwith. Did not address plans for the ships.

----- Original Message -----

From: Jeffrey, James F  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andreaia; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:27:49 2010  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Aside from stressing as Amb Tan did to Phil Gordon need for Am 'condemnation' of Israel Mercan-who can speak usually better for AKP leadership and Erdogan than MFA, Told Codel Delahunt and me that of particular importance for Turks is immediate release of Turkish ships and all personnel. He asserted and we need to look at, that under international law enforcing a blockade does not convey the right to seize people/property. [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Schlereth, Frank G; Clay, Andrea  
Sent: Mon May 31 19:27:09 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

All,

The DATT and I met with the IDF J5 MG Amir Eshel. The majority of the conversation involved details already provided via multiple sources. Additional highlights below -

- MG Eshel stressed link between IHH organization and Muslim Brotherhood. Clear action on part of individuals on MAVI MARMARA to incite violence. Beat first wave of soldiers who arrived on board via Fast Rope. Several Rhibs and 3 Blackhawks were used in action against MAVI MARMARA. Took approximately an hour for INF forces (Flotilla 13(Navy Seals)) to gain control of the vessel. All 6 boats were boarded at approximately the same time(0400-0500L) in international waters. Violence isolated to MAVI MARMARA. Medical attention rendered to all injured.
- As of 1700L 3-4 of the vessels are in port Ashdod. MAVI MARAMRA to arrive soon.
- All IDF forces are monitoring for reaction, but currently no heightened activity on borders or in Gaza. Some minor incidents involving Israeli Arabs within Israel (stone throwing). Israeli Arab protests and strike expected tomorrow. IDF continuing to monitor situation to determine reactions.
- Several meetings and conversations with Turkish officials have taken place. There is concern for safety of Israeli representatives in Turkey.
- Air exercise that has been taking place in Crete with Greeks has been stopped by the Greeks and the IAF assets have been asked to leave.
- GOI and IDF focused on getting the facts out. Multiple video clips depicting violence against IDF forces being released. They will review the operation internally.
- No decision on reaction to any additional vessels that may attempt to head to Gaza.
- We are awaiting response on CHALLENGER I Flag and any status of AMCITs.
- At this time, unclear if any riot related gas, etc was used.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Murphy, Michael P  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:37 PM  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese,

Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Hale, David M  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

Ma'am, Sir,

Notes from briefing by BG Yossi Heymann, Deputy J-5 at 1400 31 May 2010.

BG Heymann-

"There was a significant event this morning, we don't have all the details, and we are still in the event. We will continue to update you."

BG Heymann then moved to a prepared, written statement beginning with the assertion that the Gaza Strip is ruled by a hostile enemy, HAMAS, that does not recognize the State of Israel. HAMAS encourages and executes hostile activity against Israel and is currently holding an Israeli citizen, Gilad Shalit, against international convention.

The naval blockade was established prevent smuggling that supports terrorist activity.

The Free Gaza flotilla was organized by the Turkish IHH which is belligerent towards Israel and supports the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel tried different avenues to prevent the flotilla from launching to include communications with the ships' owning countries and companies to no avail. Israel expressed willingness to transfer any non-contraband supplies via established land procedures and Israel continues to look for ways to ameliorate the human conditions in Gaza. Israel assesses that there is no Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza.

When the organizers of the flotilla showed no desire to divert to Ashdod when requested by the Government of Israel (GoI), the GoI made the decision to board the ships in strict accordance with international law and with a desire to minimize damage to the ships and injury to passengers.

Boarding of the ships.

During boarding of the ship Mavi Marmara, Israel Navy (INF) Personnel encountered "severe physical violence" including knives, clubs and firearms. 1 INF weapon was seized by passengers. Due to a clear and present danger to INF personnel, the INF initiated contact using riot control systems (NFI) then transitioned to live fire. The injured in the event, both Israeli and foreign, have been transferred to "4-5 hospitals."

Short term future actions.

Provision of Medical attention to the wounded.

Non-contraband supplies, after inspection and processing, will be transferred to Gaza.

An IDF investigation will be initiated.

The GoI continues to see HAMAS as a terrorist group. (Note: this seemed out of place in the context of the current topic of the briefing).

Israel is taking action to prevent escalation of the situation.

Israel will "respond heavily" to any entity seeking to provoke escalation.

Legal Aspects

BG Heymann indicated that a separate briefing would be provided on the legal aspects of the operation. This was the attachment provided on LCDR Schlereth's earlier summary. A copy is attached as well to this email.

Questions from the assembled group.

What are the nationalities of the casualties?

No information yet, should have details in "a few hours." This information will be transmitted via "diplomatic" channels, not military.

Where are the ships?

2 ships are at Ashdod, to include the Challenger I (as of 1415). The Challenger has US citizens, European citizens and at least one Israeli citizen. The Mavi Marmara should arrive to Ashdod between 1700-1800.

What will happen to passengers?

Passengers will have 2 options. Accept immediate extradition or be jailed by Israeli authorities. By "tonight," all personal details should be known.

Any information on nationalities?

Information will be passed to the Ambassador.

What time and where did boarding occur?

Between 0500-0600, 70 NM from Israel in international waters. All 6 ships were boarded. Only on the Mavi Marmara was serious violence encountered. One other minor incident occurred on a second ship. All casualties were on the Mavi Marmara.

Was permission granted to board the ships?

Unknown at this time.

What weapons were encountered?

One INF sailor was seriously wounded by rifle or pistol fire. 2 pistols were seized from dead passengers. One INF weapon was seized by the passengers during boarding.

What international reaction has occurred?

HAMAS has declared 3 days of mourning. Turkey has recalled its Ambassador. Israeli Ambassador to Turkey was summoned to the Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and was passed a "serious message."

BG Heymann spoke with UNIFIL, and MFO to coordinate for de-escalation efforts in Lebanon and Egypt.

The INF assesses that there were Jordanians on the ships, but no details were given. If there are Syrian or Lebanese citizens on the ships, then they will be transferred via the Red Cross and UN to their respective countries.

The MoD and IDF sent messages to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Arab Community to not escalate the situation. At least one Palestinian passenger may have been wounded.

BG Heymann pointed out that there has been no US reaction as of yet.

Casualties?

10-14 passengers severely wounded or killed, all on the Mavi Marmara. A total of 30 passengers now at 4-5 Israeli hospitals.

10 INF wounded, 1 seriously, one moderately

Why were the ships boarded in international waters?

BG Heymann started by saying the organizers were warned that the GoI would respond to any provocation and the Free Gaze flotilla was meant only as a provocation. He then said he would not get into operational details, but the INF intercepted at 70 NM in accordance with international law as the flotilla made it clear that its intention was to violate the Israeli exclusion zone.

Did the INF know what was on board?

Only through press accounts, but INF assessed contraband items such as concrete, and iron.

Intentions for the ships?

The ships will remain at Ashdod until further notice.

Very Respectfully,

LTC Michael Murphy  
Acting Army Attaché

-----Original Message-----

From: Schlereth, Frank G

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:08 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Schlereth, Frank G

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

I have spoken with LTC Mike Murphy, USDAO, who attended a briefing given by BG Yossi Heymann. Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific Highlights

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

LTC Murphy will write a formal summary upon his return to the Embassy. DATT and I will attend briefing with J5 at 1700L.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from Gen. Dangot, the COGAT, who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

Dangot reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning he and Barak made the following calls/contacts:

--Turkish FM and MoD (Barak); Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh (Dangot). He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan  
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010  
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.

-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.

-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.

-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.



RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B5, B6

A/47

Law, Rosemary C

From: Sindle, James M  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:35 PM  
 To: Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Knopf, Payton L; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)  
 Baumert, Kevin A; Maggi, Robert W; Maxwell, Raymond D; EUR-SE-DAR-DL; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan  
 Subject: DoD Contacting Gaza Flotilla Ships  
 Importance: High

According to the below email from DoD's National Military Command Center (their version of OPS), DoD DID NOT/NOT deliver the maritime warning to U.S. vessels on Friday, May 30 before the Israeli boarding. Furthermore, DoD does not believe that they have equities in contacting U.S. vessels.

Jim Sindle

-----Original Message-----

From: NJOIC POLICY JCS J-5 JCS J-3 B6  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:13 PM B3 OTHER  
 To: [redacted]  
 Cc: [redacted] NJOIC POLICY JCS J-5 JCS J-3; [redacted]  
 AO  
 Subject: Contacting Gaza Flotilla Ships B3 OTHER  
B6

[redacted] Follow-up to your phonecon with the Battle Capt a few minutes ago. BLUF: Recommend the tasker to contact US ships participating in the Gaza Flotilla be directed to State Dept. (They don't know what they are talking about here because we never got this bounced back to us.)

- Over the weekend, NJOIC attempted to comply with J5 instruction to contact US flagged/owned vessels participating in the Gaza Flotilla to forward the NSS approved message regarding Israeli sovereignty and shipping to Gaza, despite the lack of Joint Staff or OSD equities in the matter.

[redacted] They could broadcast a general notice to all mariners. B5

[redacted] B5

- USCG had difficulty verifying Challenger I and II identity and ownership (many ships by that name). They had no success in contacting the parent company (in Delaware) of the suspected vessels.

- EUCOM was contacted, and EUCOM Chief of Staff determined that this was an Israeli Law Enforcement issue - not a DoD lane - and that even so, [redacted] B5

- NJOIC concluded, based on Open Source Internet sites reporting on the Free Gaza Flotilla, that all ships involved were well aware of the purpose and risks involved in approaching Israeli naval boundaries.

At this point, NJOIC recommends against DoD being responsible for contact with potential US vessels still involved with the Free Gaza movement. [redacted] B5

V/R,  
NJOIC Policy Desk - Pentagon

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

National Joint Operations Intelligence Center (NJOIC)



B6

RELEASED IN PART B6

Law, Rosemary C

N33

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; Tel Aviv POL Section  
**Subject:** FW: NOTMAR on Gaza  
**Attachments:** GazaNotice.pdf; GazaHYDROLANT.pdf

**Categories:** Working

Colleagues,

Attached is the USCG Notice to Mariners regarding the Gaza flotilla that went out yesterday. (Paul: I've already sent separately to NEA/PPD).

V/R,  
Jim Sindle

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil [mailto:Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 7:36 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Kumar, Prem G.; Connors, Timothy CDR; [redacted] Cook, Pauline F CAPT;  
Christensen, Eric CAPT; Sollosi, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Mr. Sindle:

The Gaza notice has been published in all Coast Guard Local Notices to Mariners (LNM) except the 11th District (California). I expect the 11th District's LNM to be published today. A copy of the notice as it appeared in the 8th District's (Gulf of Mex) LNM is attached. The notice also appears on the Coast Guard's Navigation Center website (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>).

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has issued the notice as a NAVAREA IV (Atlantic), NAVAREA XII (Pacific), HYDROLANT, and HYDROPAC warning. A copy of the HYDROLANT warning is attached.

V/R,  
Frank Parker  
Commandant (CG-5531)  
Office of Navigation Systems

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)  
US COAST GUARD  
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580  
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580  
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil  
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.l@uscg.smil.mil  
Tel: (202) 372-1551  
Fax: (202) 372-1992

-----Original Message-----

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 4:50 PM  
To: Parker, Frank; Connors, Timothy CDR; [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT;  
Christensen, Eric CAPT; Sollosi, Mike  
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.  
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

USCG Colleagues:

I just wanted to follow-up and find out what the status was on the Gaza flotilla NOTMAR going out. Any updates?

Thanks,

Jim Sindle

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: Sindle, James M  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 7:45 AM  
To: 'Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil'; 'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil'  
Cc: [REDACTED] 'Pauline.F.Cook@uscg.mil'; 'Eric.P.Christensen@uscg.mil';  
'Mike.M.Sollosi@uscg.mil'  
Subject: Re: NOTMAR on Gaza

Colleagus,

State will release a press statement in early June shortly before the flotillas prepare to leave. But it seemed understood at the IPC that USCG was going to get the cleared NOTMAR out in April (the IPC was APR 4). Several principals, including SecState, have already referenced it as already being transmitted. Anything that USCG can do to expedite this would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Jim Sindle  
NEA/IPA

----- Original Message -----

From: Parker, Frank [mailto:Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 12:07 PM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR <Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil>  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT  
<Pauline.F.Cook@uscg.mil>; Christensen, Eric CAPT <Eric.P.Christensen@uscg.mil>; Sindle, James M; Sollosi, Mike <Mike.M.Sollosi@uscg.mil>  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

CDR:

There is a process in place to issue these types of notices. I have attached a 2-page extract from our Aids to Nav Admin Manual (COMDTINST M16500.7A). I do not mind sending the notice to NGA and the Districts, but I don't want to step on any toes at State or NGA.

Frank Parker  
Commandant (CG-5531)  
Office of Navigation Systems

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)  
US COAST GUARD  
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580  
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580  
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil  
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.1@uscg.smil.mil  
Tel: (202) 372-1551  
Fax: (202) 372-1992

-----Original Message-----

From: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 11:46 AM  
To: Parker, Frank; SindleJM@state.gov  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT; Christensen, Eric CAPT; Connors, Timothy CDR  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Frank,

Attached is the final version of the notice that cleared through State and here in the building. I wasn't at the IPC, so I'm not certain what MARAD has planned. I think State has already issued a warning on the issue, and the language of the notice is synchronized with the State warning. Included Jim Sindle on this e-mail to confirm that.

V/R,

TPC

CDR Tim Connors  
Chief, Operations Law Group  
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)  
Office: (202) 372-3798  
Cell: (202) 441-4971  
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil  
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Parker, Frank  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 7:27 AM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT; Christensen, Eric CAPT  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

Cdr Connors:

I haven't seen a copy of the notice, but I can push one through to the districts and NGA. Do you know whether MARAD is going to issue anything? Should the notice go through State and be issued as a Special Warning?

Frank Parker  
Commandant (CG-5531)  
Office of Navigation Systems

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)  
US COAST GUARD  
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580

WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580  
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil  
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.l@uscg.smil.mil  
Tel: (202) 372-1551  
Fax: (202) 372-1992

-----Original Message-----

From: Christensen, Eric CAPT  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 7:20 AM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Cc: [redacted] Parker, Frank; Cook, Pauline F CAPT  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Tim,

Frank Parker in CG-553 was the coordinator for the release of the Japan radiation advisory, so he can assist here also. If we have a text to go out please pass to Frank.

Eric P. Christensen  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
CG-543

-----Original Message-----

From: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:51 PM  
To: Christensen, Eric CAPT  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza

Sir,

Appears as if there was some disconnect on the NOTAM. Not sure who would send the NOTAM, but it appears as if it has cleared and is ready to go.

V/r

TPC

CDR Tim Connors  
Chief, Operations Law Group  
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)  
Office: (202) 372-3798  
Cell: (202) 441-4971  
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil  
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: prvs=1174c06b8=Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov  
[mailto:prvs=1174c06b8=Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov] On Behalf Of Kumar, Prem G.  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:42 PM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR; SindleJM@state.gov; [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR;  
Baumert, Kevin A  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

Can we release it now? We at NSS thought it would go out per the IPC several weeks ago.

Thanks,

Prem G. Kumar  
Director for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs National Security Council  
Tel: 202-456-9121  
Fax: 202-456-9120  
Email: pkumar@nsc.eop.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil [mailto:Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:30 PM  
To: SindleJM@state.gov; [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Jim,

Our understanding is that the request from NSS never came.

Thanks

Tim Connors

CDR Tim Connors  
Chief, Operations Law Group  
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)  
Office: (202) 372-3798  
Cell: (202) 441-4971  
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil  
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:27 PM  
To: [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Connors, Timothy CDR; Kumar, Prem G.  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

[redacted]

Why wasn't the NOTMAR sent out? I understand that it was supposed to have been sent out in response to a request by the NSS.

Thanks,

Jim Sindle  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs U.S. Department of State  
Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov  
202-647-4386 (office)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:24 PM  
To: Sindle, James M; Polizzotto, Susan; Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Mr. Sindle,

The latest on this is that it has not been sent out.

Very respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Operations Law Group  
Commandant (CG-09412)  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters  
2100 Second St., SW Stop 7121  
Washington, DC 20593-7121

[REDACTED]

(NCC for duty matters 24/7) 202-372-2100

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 11:00 AM  
To: Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A; [REDACTED]  
Subject: NOTMAR on Gaza  
Importance: High

Colleagues:

Does anyone know if this NOTMAR has gone out yet? If so, when was it sent out and can I please get a final version?

Thanks,

Jim Sindle  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)



This email is UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

N58

Law, Rosemary C

From: Netos, Eleftherios E  
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 5:34 PM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus

To reduce confusion, please note the following information based on reporting from Embassy Nicosia and USCG contacts with Cypriot port authorities:

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger II has suffered extensive damages and is on the ground in Limassol. It arrived in Cyprus after showing ingress of water and will remain out of the water for at least a month.

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger III (formerly, the Greek-flagged Dimitris K) is in the water at Limassol new port, but without crew or passengers and is chained to the pier by port and marine police.

--Both vessels are U.S.-flagged. The Challenger II had previously been Greek-owned, flagged in Honduras and known as the Nitta II. The Challenger III, had previously been the Cyprus-flagged and owned Dimitris K.

--Cypriot port authorities in Limassol have told Embassy Nicosia they do not intend to let any vessel depart to participate in the flotilla.

*Terry Netos*  
Cyprus Desk Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of European Affairs/Office of Southern Europe  
Tel.: +1-202-647-6760  
Fax: +1-202-647-5087

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

P2

NotesTele (3).txt

Jeffrey G Giauque 05/13/2010 09:22:38 AM From DB/Inbox: Jeffrey G Giauque

Cable  
Text:

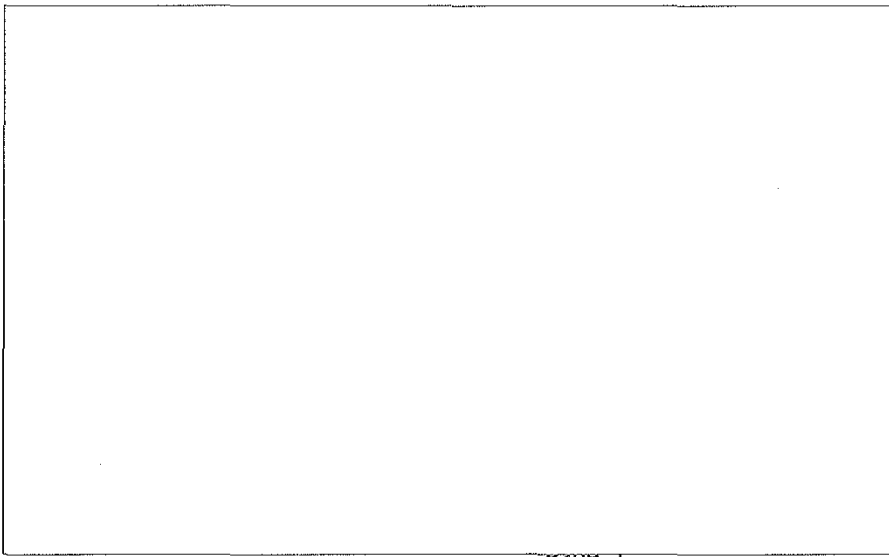
CONFIDENTIAL  
TELEGRAM

May 13, 2010

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE  
Action: NEA  
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV (TEL AVIV 1086 - IMMEDIATE)  
TAGS: KWBG, PHUM, PREL, IS, TU  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Subject: ISRAELI OFFICIALS PLAN TO BLOCK "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA  
Ref: A. ANKARA 680 B. ANKARA 565

Classified By: A/DCM Marc Sievers. Reasons 1.4(b)(d)

1. (SBU) The self-proclaimed "Free Gaza Movement" is planning to run a flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian supplies to Gaza in an effort to "break the blockade" of Gaza (reftels). The group's website says that the "Freedom Flotilla" is the result of a collaboration between the Turkish human rights organization IHH, European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, the Perdana Global Peace Organization from Malaysia, the Greek and Swedish Ship to Gaza campaigns, and the International Coalition for Lifting the Siege on Gaza. The ships are tentatively scheduled to approach Gaza on or about May 25.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NotesTele (3).txt



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

CUNNINGHAM

Additional Addressees:  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

CC:  
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE  
NSC WASHDC  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

Distribution:

TED6981  
ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	EUR-00
	VCI-00	DIAS-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00
	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	SAS-00	FA-00	/000w				

-----60C5ED 131029Z /02  
O 130814Z MAY 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6891  
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 001086

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2020  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, KWBG, TU, IS  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OFFICIALS PLAN TO BLOCK "FREE GAZA"  
FLOTILLA

REF: A. ANKARA 680  
B. ANKARA 565

End Cable Text

Jeffrey G Giauque 05/13/2010 09:22:38 AM From DB/Inbox: Jeffrey G Giauque

NotesTele (3).txt

Recipient/Profile Information

Cable Recipients:

Daniel H Aaron  
Nisha M Abraham  
Abraham Abu-Ghannam  
Casey L Addis  
Michael Adler  
Faiza Ali  
Christopher M Alkhoury  
Wael N Alzayat  
David Amini  
Matthew Amitrano  
Gary L Anderson  
Amy Norris  
Sophia T Ansari  
Alice Armitage  
Peter J Auger  
Anthony J Babin  
Jessica Baker  
David Benze  
Jeremy R Berndt  
Matthew H Blong  
Catherine Bourgeois  
Wendy Brayer  
Laura Breslin  
Gloria Brokaw  
Jillian L Burns  
Jennifer Butte-Dahl  
Kristin B Cairns  
Stephen J Carrig  
Marcus E Cary  
Elisa Catalano  
William Cavness  
Douglas A Chamberlain  
Rina Chatterji  
Farah N Chery-Medor  
Brenda Chinn  
Michelle E Cloud  
Donald B Cofman  
Lea M Coley  
Daniel E Collier  
NEAFONEA2 COMMON  
Common NEAFO  
Maura Connelly  
Sara Crowe  
Lakiya Culley  
Juliana C Darwiche  
Joshua Davis  
Carlos DeJuana  
Alboino Deulus  
Terri P Diggs  
Peter Dixon  
Alexander M Djerassi  
Melissa Dorsey  
Calvin E Dubose  
Stephen Epstein  
Faye Fagg  
Jeffrey Feltman  
John Fleming  
Maura Forno  
Annie L Freeman  
Karlene H Frelich  
Cornelia Garner

NotesTele (3).txt

Kelly M Georgens  
Jeffrey G Giauque  
Ida Giusti  
Thomas Goldberger  
Thomas Gramaglia  
Meghan Gregonis  
Sandra Grigola  
Brian M Grimm  
Stephanie L Hallett  
Joshua M Harris  
Brent R Hartley  
Molly E Hayes  
Amy S Heath  
Carlos Hernandorena  
Dolores A Hicks  
Margaret A Hillmann  
Sirlí P Hill  
Thomas Hill  
Frederic C Hof  
Martin Hohe  
Lavenia Holland  
Sara Horner  
Peter M Howard  
Gloria K Hubbard  
William D Huggins  
Adnan I Hurreh  
Maria C Huscilowitc  
Colleen E Hyland  
Matt Irwin  
Julia I Jacoby  
Catherine B Jazyuka  
Sandra L Johnson  
Kali C Jones  
Patricia K Kabra  
Heather Kalmbach  
Carleen G Kaurin  
Ambreen S Kayani  
Matt Keene  
Lisa Kenna  
Charles Kiamie  
Andrew Kim  
Sahar Khoury-Kincannon  
Payton Knopf  
Lisa A Langevin  
Andrew Lentz  
Lee Lohman  
Andrew T MacDonald  
Shaun Mandelkorn  
Melissa A Mangold  
Brianna C Marwaha  
Amit Mathur  
Raymond D Maxwell  
Iris Mayo  
Helen-Mary B McGovern  
Jennifer McIntyre  
Denise M McKinney  
Heremia I McLaurin  
Robert Means  
Aysa M Miller  
Benjamin J Mills  
Farid A Mohamed  
Marie Moser  
Michael J Murphy

Page 4

NotesTele (3).txt

Margaret Nardi  
Jeremy Nice  
John D Nordlander  
Alexis S Olive  
John W Osborne  
Michelle Paison  
John B Parker  
Cheryl L Parker  
Jessica Patterson  
Bryan P Payne  
Lucinda Petersen  
Palmer Y Phillips  
Michael B Philpy  
Aaron D Pina  
Gina Pinzino  
Allison N Poole  
Heidi M Ramsay  
Roopa Rangaswamy  
Michael A Ratney  
Wesley J Reisser  
Justin E Reynolds  
Leshawnda V Riley  
Matthew Root  
Douglas B Rose  
Falana Salley  
Janet A Sanderson  
Mark S Sarfati  
Julie L Sawyer  
Gina E Scarsella  
Miriam Schwedt  
Joseph Scovitch  
Nicole Shampaine  
Jill R Shaunfield  
Margaret Sheppard  
James M Sindle  
Maria Sisk  
Mona B Skardon  
Stephen T Smith  
Debra SmokerAli  
James V Soriano  
Steven M Soucek  
Marta Sparago  
Linda Specht  
Madelyn E Spirnak  
Edward Stafford  
Olwyn Staples  
Marita X Starr  
Andrew Steinfeld  
Matthew Stephenson  
James P Stover  
Rebecca Struwe  
Rebecca L Struwe  
Cassie C Sullivan  
Elizabeth Sullivan  
Paul R Sutphin  
Erica Thibault  
Mary C Thompson  
Heather A Townsend  
Lindsay Treworgy  
Jason H Ullner  
Adam Vaccaro  
Joshua Volz  
Rajeev M Wadhvani

NotesTele (3).txt

Brittany C Wagner  
Danika L Walters  
Jonathan T Ward  
Patricia Weaver  
Christopher Wells  
Anne Wennerstrom  
Matthew B West  
Cory D Wilcox  
Mark J Wildermuth  
Tamara C Wittes  
Joshua W Yaphe  
Raouf N Youssef LMDS Profiles/Office Symbols:

NEA\_ALL\_A1  
NEA\_ARP\_A1  
NEA\_ARP\_A2  
NEA\_ENA\_A1  
NEA\_EX\_A1  
NEA\_EX\_A3  
NEA\_HR\_A1  
NEA\_IRAQ\_A2  
NEA\_MEPI\_A1  
NEA\_MEPI\_A2  
NEA\_NEAFO\_A1  
NEA\_PMO\_A1  
NEA\_PMO\_A2  
NEA\_PPD\_A1  
NEA\_RA\_A1  
NEA\_SAPAB\_A1

Cablexpress Folders:  
NEA/FO

NEA/IAI  
CIA/IAI  
CIA/NEA  
DIA/IAI  
DIA/NEA  
MILITARY  
NEAPOSTS  
NEA/IAICTAGS  
NEA/P  
NEA/PPR  
NEA/SA/EX  
PMO  
MILITARYcatch



RELEASED IN FULL

P5

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 4:44 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** Going to visit IHH today at 1:15. Do you have any questions?

**Categories:** Working

Hi Jerry and Michael,

I will be leaving today at 1:15 to have an introductory meeting with IHH at their office.

Please let me know if you have any specific questions you would like me to ask them. I plan to ask about the flotilla and the Amcits who are planning to join.

Cheers,

Sal

Salvatore Amodeo  
Senior Political Officer/Deputy Pol-Econ Section Chief  
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul  
(90) 212-335-9389

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 10:03 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Istanbul Pol Econ - DL; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Meeting with IHH President in Istanbul HQ  
**Categories:** Working

I just met with IHH President F. Bulent Yildirm and English speaking Huseyin Oruc who is a member of the IHH Administrative Board.

Below are the highlights of the notes of my meeting. Please let me know if you would like to incorporate them into your next cable or if you think there is enough new info to warrant a separate cable sent from Istanbul.

Flotilla Update:

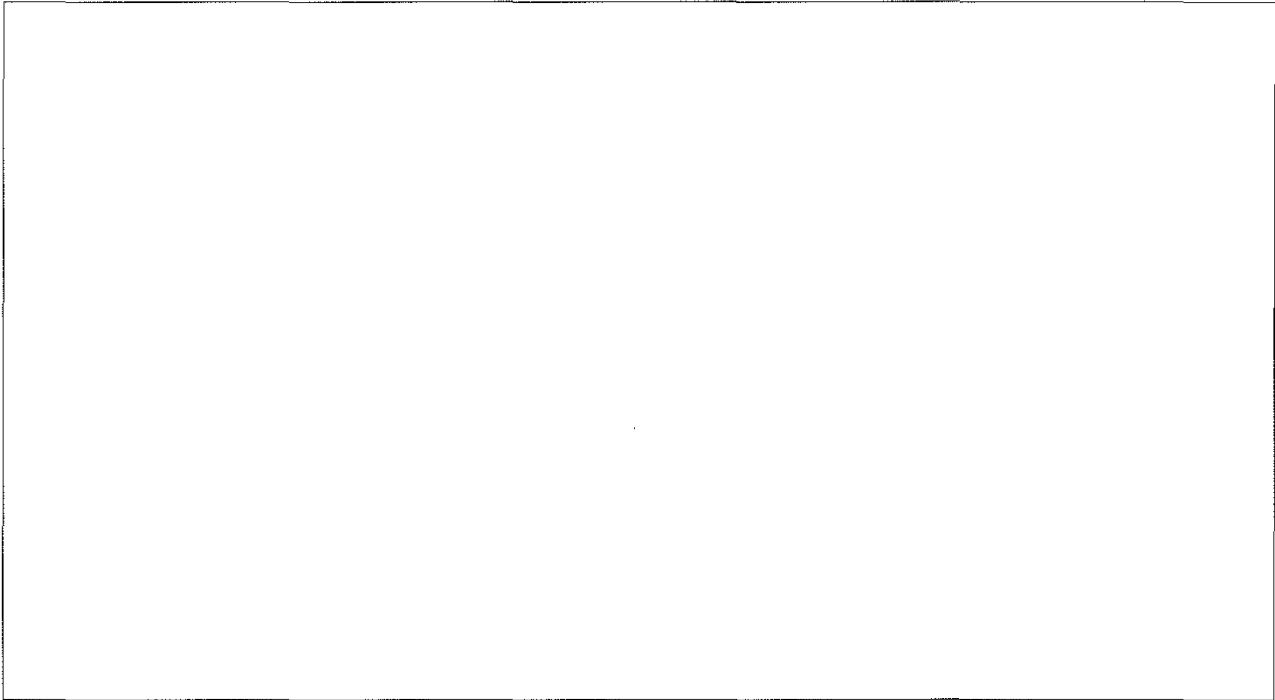
- The IHH passenger ship that will participate in the flotilla will depart Istanbul this Saturday May 22 at 11:00.
- It will then sail to Antalya where it will pick up additional passengers and depart on May 25.
- As many as 10 Amcits may board the passenger boat in Istanbul and other Amcits may board in Antalya. However, they said they are not sure how many will actually show up.
- The passenger ship as well as 2 cargo ships, which will leave from Mersin, will rendezvous near Cyprus with six other ships from Europe and then attempt to break the blockade.
- "We will not stop" said Yildirim when asked what the flotilla planned to do if the Israeli's planned to enforce its blockade.
- Composition of Cargo – Construction materials to build 12 apartments, play ground equipment, medical equipment, 120 different types of medicine, generators.
- Yildirim said the passenger ship and cargo will be open for inspection by diplomatic community to show that they are not shipping arms.
- Media will broad cast live interaction with IDF.
- IHH web site will provide updates on the status of the Flotilla.

IHH President called on the USG to:

- Call on Israel to end its blockage on Gaza

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- Speak out against Israel if they "behave like pirates" and attempt to board the ships of the flotilla or use force against it.
- Support their campaign to bring an end to the embargo.



NR

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2010 2:00 PM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Go for it, Sal. We meet with them here.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2010 12:23 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Hi Jerry,



1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

Please advise.

Thanks,

Sal

This document is SECRET when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

Classification: SECRET

Classified by: Salvatore Amodeo, Deputy Pol/Econ Chief, State

Reason: 1.4(d)

Declassify On: 2020/05/14

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2010 9:22 AM  
**To:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Win, Sal: We think the Gaza flotilla focus may shift to IHH headquarters in Istanbul. --Jerry

---

This email is UNCLASSIFIED  
**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 7:20 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Victoria J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv

Also – per your emails last week, any update on this will be greatly appreciated. This might have come up as well in the S-Dav call today.

Cheers,

Denise

---

**From:** Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 11:47 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv  
**Importance:** High

In case you haven't see these cables from Tel Aviv.

---

**From:** Giauque, Jeffrey G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2010 9:31 AM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** Gaza flotilla cables from Tel Aviv  
**Importance:** High

A couple of cables that I wanted to flag for you all on what we have coming our way the week after next.

<< File: (CO) TEL AVIV 1086 >> << File: (SE) HOTRWASHIN 5121421 >>

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (d)

**Declassify On:** 2020/05/14

RELEASED IN PART B5,NR

P7

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 10:38 AM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Istanbul Pol Econ - DL; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with IHH President in Istanbul HQ  
**Categories:** Working

Sal:

This is worth a cable.

B5

Please include the same addressees that we had listed in our last cable on the flotilla.

Thank you.

-- Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2010 5:03 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Istanbul Pol Econ - DL; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Meeting with IHH President in Istanbul HQ

I just met with IHH President F. Bulent Yildirm and English speaking Huseyin Oruc who is a member of the IHH Administrative Board.

Below are the highlights of the notes of my meeting. Please let me know if you would like to incorporate them into your next cable or if you think there is enough new info to warrant a separate cable sent from Istanbul.

Flotilla Update:

- The IHH passenger ship that will participate in the flotilla will depart Istanbul this Saturday May 22 at 11:00.
- It will then sail to Antalya where it will pick up additional passengers and depart on May 25.
- As many as 10 Amcits may board the passenger boat in Istanbul and other Amcits may board in Antalya. However, they said they are not sure how many will actually show up.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- The passenger ship as well as 2 cargo ships, which will leave from Mersin, will rendezvous near Cyprus with six other ships from Europe and then attempt to break the blockade.
- "We will not stop" said Yildirim when asked what the flotilla planned to do if the Israeli's planned to enforce its blockade.
- Composition of Cargo – Construction materials to build 12 apartments, play ground equipment, medical equipment, 120 different types of medicine, generators.
- Yildirim said the passenger ship and cargo will be open for inspection by diplomatic community to show that they are not shipping arms.
- Media will broad cast live interaction with IDF.
- IHH web site will provide updates on the status of the Flotilla.

IHH President called on the USG to:

- Call on Israel to end its blockage on Gaza
- Speak out against Israel if they "behave like pirates" and attempt to board the ships of the flotilla or use force against it.
- Support their campaign to bring an end to the embargo.

NR

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:47 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

**Categories:** Working

I don't understand, they are on the distribution. See bottom.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/01

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:28 PM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:51 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

Please put Istanbul on all of these Gaza-related cables.

I just sent it to Sharon and Win by e-mail.

Thanks,

Doug

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/01

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 03:1:18  
**To:** Pistana, Robert ; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M;

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



Hessler, Robert E

Cc: [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Eppler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Roundy, Brian A; Deblauw, Kim J; B7(C)  
Hamilton, Elizabeth H

Subject: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

CONFIDENTIAL



Action Office: POL  
Info Office: EAC

MRN: 10 ANKARA 779  
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 011159Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PGDV, PREL, MOPS, TU, IS  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Reference: A) 10 ISTANBUL 195  
B) 10 ISTANBUL 199  
C) 10 ANKARA 772  
D) 10 ANKARA 774  
E) 10 ANKARA 776  
F) 10 ANKARA 778  
G) 10 ANKARA 777

Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
Subject: Turkey: Sitrep 5 on IHH Flotilla

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1. (C) [redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (SBU) The Israel Defense Force's boarding and seizure of the six-ship Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla May 31 remains the almost exclusive focus of media reporting and GoT public statements. According to Turkish contacts the Turkish casualties – as many as nine deaths according to the Turkish and international press – were confined to Turkish-registered Mavi Marmaris. The Turkish MFA estimated a total of 560 passengers on board that ship, 353 of those Turkish. MFA claims 33 Algerians, 31 Jordanians, 28 British nationals, between 10-20 passengers from Malaysia, Indonesia and Kuwait, respectively, and three AMCI's were also on board. The Mavi Marmaris and five other ships in the flotilla have been diverted to Ashdod. [Redacted]

B6

[Redacted] told visiting CODEL Delahunt that the GoT is determined to have its citizens and the Turkish ships returned quickly to Turkey. One complicating factor, according to [Redacted] is the refusal of many of the Turkish activists to return voluntarily to Turkey; Israel has offered voluntary return to 100 of them who have refused; 200 more were to be offered voluntary return but Turkey feared they would also refuse. Meanwhile, [Redacted] continued, the Israelis were interrogating those refusing, 'treating them like terrorists or criminals.' We infer the activists' hope to continue their protest of the Gaza embargo and their pursuit of media publicity by remaining in detention in Israel (see septel on the IHH charity that organized this flotilla). [Redacted] said that Turkey would ask if Turkish officials could come to Israel to convince the activists to return to Turkey. The Israeli Embassy told us the GoT also wants to dispatch two "hospital planes" to pick up the wounded Turks in Israel. The embassy told us the GoT will likely accede to this latter GoT request.

4. (C) [Redacted]

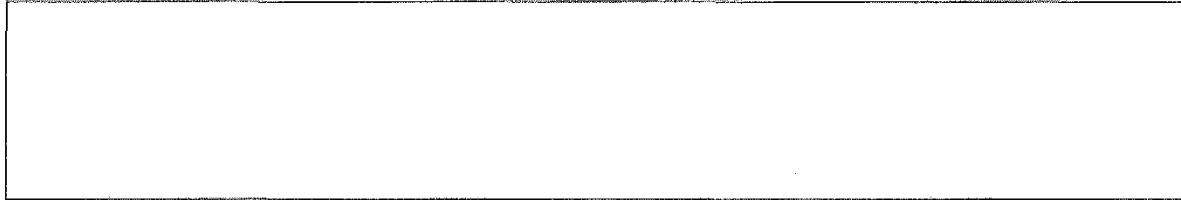
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

5. (SBU) The Israeli Embassy tells us it is operating under "emergency procedures," with officers and dependents staying away from the Embassy. The Turkish National Police (TNP) has ramped up its protection of the Israeli Embassy and all US diplomatic facilities. Deputy Prime Minister Arinc publicly reassured Turkey's Jewish population that it faces no hostility from fellow Turkish citizens. PM Erdogan, departing Chile on May 31, helpfully, echoed Arinc's reassurances to Turkey's Jewish citizens, but also labeled the Israeli operation "state terrorism" and said Turkey would not remain passive or silent in the face of such a provocation. He recounted in detail a version of the boarding that emphasized the peaceful intent of the Mavi Marmaris' passengers: "They were waving white flags." "This is a national cause," he said, "we will take it up. Israel never pays for the sins it commits. That is unacceptable. There are hundreds of Security Council resolutions. Israel ignores them all. No longer!" FonMin Davutoglu strongly condemned Israeli actions in a statement to the UN Security Council May 31.

6. (SBU) GOT and public reactions to the UN Security Council President's statement have been positive. National newspaper Hurriyet called it "the strongest statement so far." Many Turks are looking for a stronger condemnation of Israel, especially from the US. In reaction to the Department's May 31 statement on the issue, ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) spokesman Huseyin Celik

said "the U.S. has only expressed their grief. This is not something that is expected from the United States. This is the end result of vetoes by the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Israel has been spoiled by them. We hope that it will be a lesson for the entire world. And, it will raise long awaited voices by humanity against Israel, which should have been louder earlier."

PKK ATTACK A FURTHER COMPLICATION



NR

COMMENT

8. (C) Most senior Turkish politicians have been quick to condemn Israel as wholly responsible for the flotilla incident, and all Turks are looking to the US to condemn Israeli actions. The UNSC President's Statement was received well. [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] We are somewhat heartened by quiet cooperation between Turkey and Israel 1.4(D) to defuse the crisis, as well as by columns by some Turkish writers today who question whether Turkey B1 d can do all it could to prevent this confrontation (see septel media reaction).

Signature: JEFFREY

Classified By: Jeremiah Howard, Acting POLCOUNS  
Political  
State  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)  
Declassify on: 2020/06/01  
Drafted By: POL:Laura de Ojalvaro  
Cleared By: Howard, Jeremiah H  
Approved By: Silliman, Douglas A  
Released By: ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah H  
Info: ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL IMMEDIATE; CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE; AFOSI DET 521 ANKARA TU IMMEDIATE; MNF-1 C2X BAGHDAD IQ IMMEDIATE; CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMEMBASSY PODGORICA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: POL, EAC

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN FULL

P10

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 5:19 AM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

**Categories:** Working

Shannon:

I infer from Sal's message immediately below that the GoT may now be viewing the manifests as "evidence" to be conserved for an investigation. I don't think we'll be able to get a hold of them easily .

--Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:22 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

IHH said that copies of the official manifest should be requested from the Turkish Foreign Ministry or the Directorate of Customs. They said that they were aware that the GOI stated that other items were in the cargo but think they may have planted them.

When I met with them they did invite me and other diplomats to inspect the cargo before it was sealed.

Sal

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:19 AM  
**To:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla cargo

Hey, Sal:

Any chance you could deploy your considerable charm to spring a cargo manifest out of IHH?

PRM is asking.

-- Jerry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor

Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:13 AM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** Quinn, Shannon D; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

Can one of you help Shannon? Thanks

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Quinn, Shannon D  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:37 PM  
**To:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla cargo  
**Importance:** High

Hi Barbara,

I'm trying to gather as much detail as I can on the cargo that was aboard the Gaza Aid Flotilla when it was intercepted in international waters. I was reading your Daily Briefs and I wonder if you would if anyone at Embassy Ankara might have cargo manifests from the flotilla ships that departed from Turkey. I'll reach out to our friends in Athens to see if they have anything on the ships that joined from Greece. We are trying to compare what was supposed to be onboard vs the GOI accounting to see if there are any discrepancies. For example, Hamas and others are alleging that the cargo included cement and the GOI has said there was none aboard.

Whatever help you could give me in tracking this info down would be very much appreciated.

Best,

Shannon

**Shannon Quinn**

Palestinian Refugees Program Officer  
Office of Assistance for Asia and the Near East  
Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration  
Office: (202) 453-9295 Mobile: (202) 569-1722

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P11

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 10:13 AM  
**To:** Schrank, Alexander D; de Otaivaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

--Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:05 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otaivaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J  
**Subject:** FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Dear Jerry,

[Redacted]

Many thanks,  
Alex.

---

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:53 AM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J; Goodman, Ilan A  
**Cc:** Bailly, Jess L  
**Subject:** FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

[Redacted]

**Robert J. Riley**  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)  
U.S. Department of State  
Office: 202-647-5120  
Cell: 202-374-0849  
rileyrj@state.gov

---

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 2:11 AM

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**To:** Riley, Robert J; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** RE: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

Sensitive

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 2:39 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Ambassador and Doug,

[Redacted]

B5

As always, if we could have this by our OOB, it would be much appreciated. Many thanks, Bob

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 11:08 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Brink, Bridget A.'; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hof, Frederic C; Cunningham, James B; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'  
**Subject:** RE: MFA ON IHH GAZA CONVOY: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/05/28

**Robert J. Riley**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)**  
**U.S. Department of State**  
**Office: 202-647-5120**  
**Cell: 202-374-0849**  
**rileyj@state.gov**

P13

**Logg, Cristina A**

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:24 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); [redacted]  
[redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN'; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN'  
**Subject:** Notes from Meeting with [redacted] B6  
**Categories:** Working

B6

[redacted]

B6

IHH flotilla

[redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Iran

[redacted]

NR

Const. Ct review of referendum

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[redacted]

NR

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

NR

Hamas

- [Redacted]

Turkey-Israel Relations

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Laura H. de Otaľvaro  
Internal Unit Chief and Labor Attaché  
Political Section  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
Tel: 90.312.457.7171  
Cell: 90.533.523.3592  
IVG: Switch 295, ext. 7191  
♻ Please consider the environment before printing this email

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Laura H. de Otaľvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section, U.S. Embassy Ankara  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/10

P15

**Logg, Cristina A**

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:10 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Hood, Courtney M (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Notes from meeting with [redacted]  
**Categories:** Working

B6

B6

[redacted]

NR

Israel

[redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Iran

[redacted]

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Laura H. de Otalvaro  
Internal Unit Chief and Labor Attaché  
Political Section  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
Tel: 90.312.457.7171

Cell: 90.533.523.3592

IVG: Switch 295, ext. 7191

☻ Please consider the environment before printing this email

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Classified by:** Laura de Otalvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section, U.S. Embassy Ankara

**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)

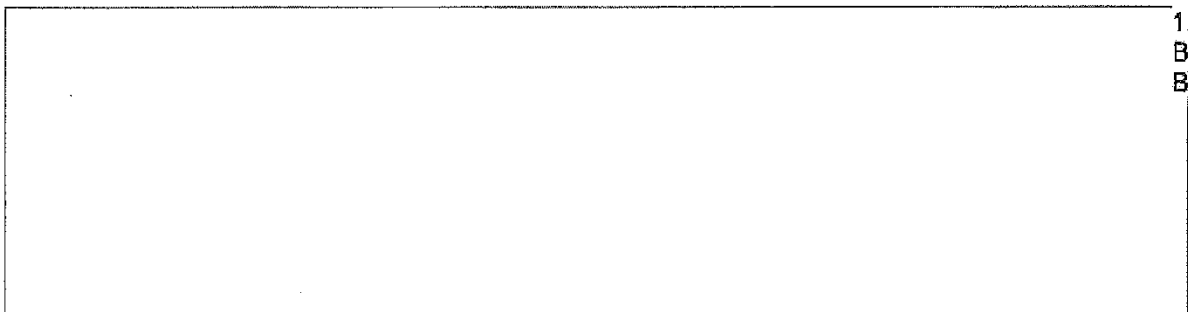
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/16

P16

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 10:11 AM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY  
**Categories:** Working

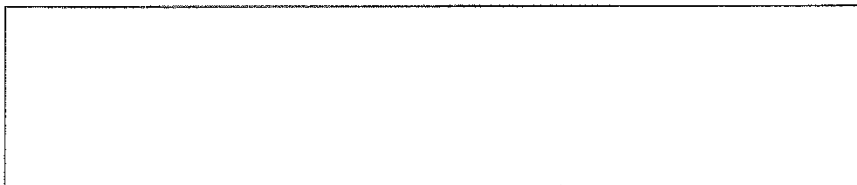


1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:47 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY



1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 09:46:16  
Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Eppler, Dale B; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Litke, Sara L; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Turner, Courtney L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Apgar, Julia E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; McCarter, Jennifer L; Hessler, Robert E; Howard, Jeremiah H

Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL  
Sensitive



Action Office: POL, ECON

---

MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1326  
 Date/DTG: Jun 17, 2010 / 110853Z JUN 10  
 From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
 E.O.: 12958  
 TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAP, TU, IS  
 Captions: SIPDIS  
 Sensitivity: Sensitive  
 Reference: A. TEL AVIV 1285 B. ANKARA 827 C. TEL AVIV 597 D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526  
 Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 001326

SIPDIS

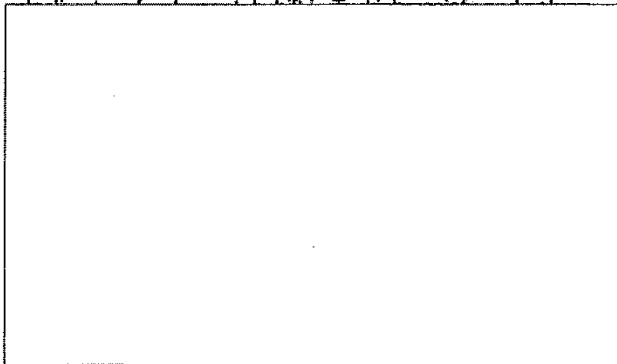
E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2020  
 TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAP, TU, IS  
 SUBJECT: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1285  
 B. ANKARA 827  
 C. TEL AVIV 597  
 D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526

Classified By: A/DCM Marc J. Sievers, reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Israel officials see the rapid decline in relations with Turkey following their raid on the Mavi Marmara as part of a drawn-out process. [redacted]

NR



[Redacted]

NR

Mavi Marmara Just the Spark

2. (C) A/DCM and A/PolCouns met June 9 with Naor Gilon, MFA Deputy Director General for Western Europe (A/S equivalent), Irit Lillian, Director of the Turkey desk, and Amir Maimon, Minister Counselor for Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to discuss Israel-Turkey bilateral relations in the wake of the Gaza flotilla crisis. Gilon said that the future of the relationship would be determined by Turkey.

NR

[Redacted]

3. (C) Therefore, the crisis had been there already, and had just needed a spark. The Mavi Marmara provided the proximate cause.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

4. (C)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

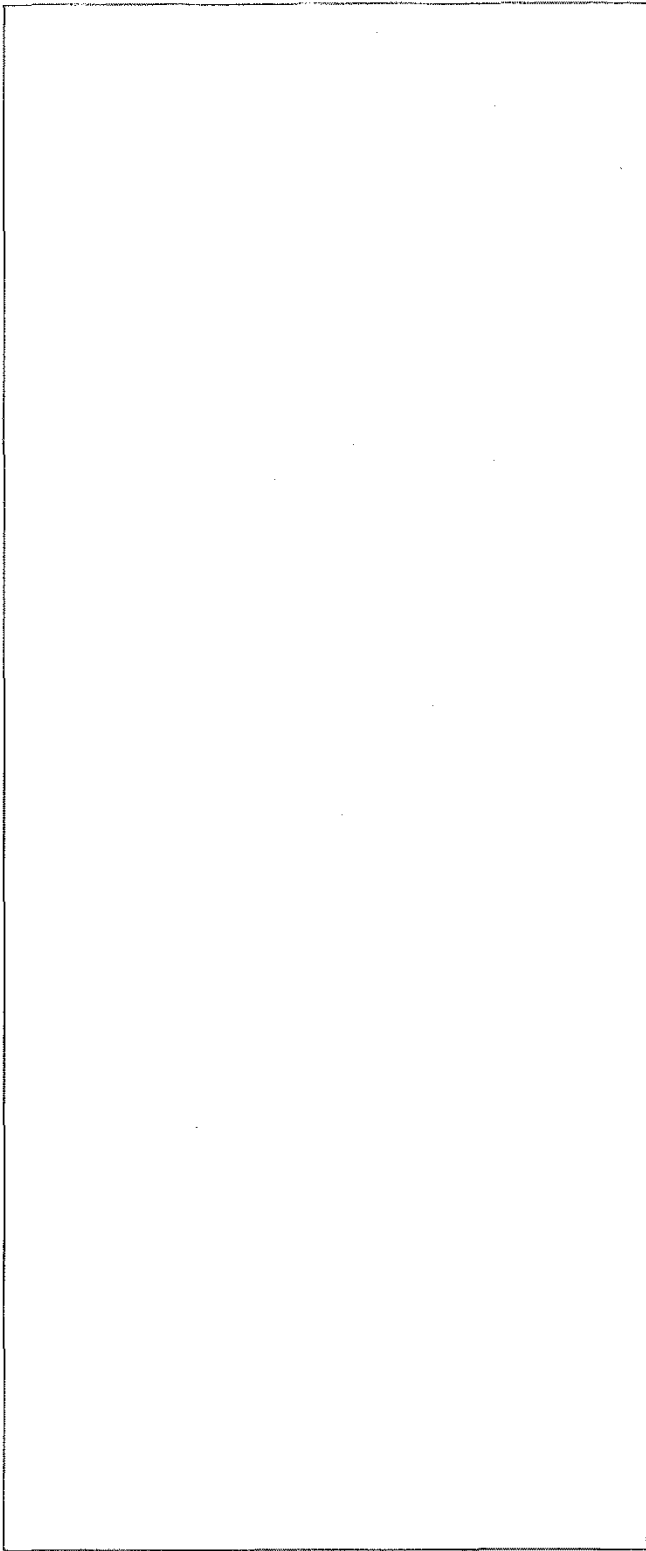
5. (C)

NR

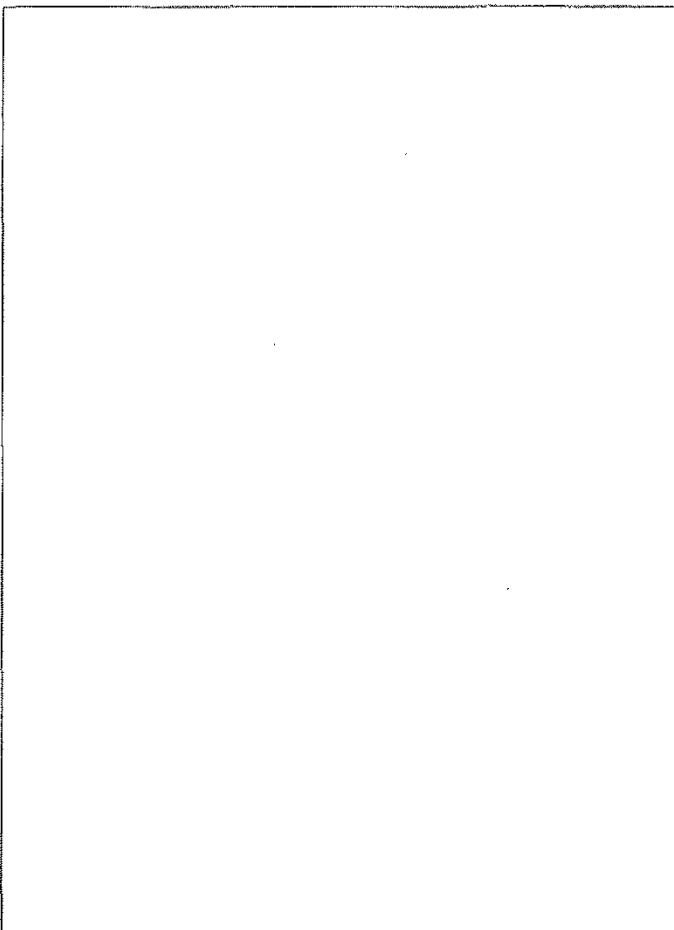
[Redacted]



NR



NR



CUNNINGHAM

**Signature:** CUNNINGHAM

---

**Classified By:** A/DCM Marc J. Sievers,

**Reason:** 1.4 (b),(d)

**Declassify on:** 06/11/2020

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY PRIORITY; NSC WASHDC PRIORITY; ARAB ISRAELI  
COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA

**Dissemination Rule:** POL, ECON

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Sensitive

P17

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

Logg, Cristina A

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 11:09 AM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** RE: FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:47 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Ahn, Michael; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** FW: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

[Redacted]

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 09:46:16  
Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Eppler, Dale B; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna;  
Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Litke, Sara L; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Turner,  
**To:** Courtney L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter,  
Rodney M; Apgar, Julia E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de Otalvaro, Laura H;  
Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; McCarter, Jennifer L; Hessler, Robert E; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Sensitive



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Action Office: POL, ECON

---

MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1326  
 Date/DTG: Jun 17, 2010 / 110853Z JUN 10  
 From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
 E.O.: 12958  
 TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAF, TU, IS  
 Captions: SIPDIS  
 Sensitivity: Sensitive  
 Reference: A. TEL AVIV 1285 B. ANKARA 827 C. TEL AVIV 597 D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526  
 Subject: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 001326

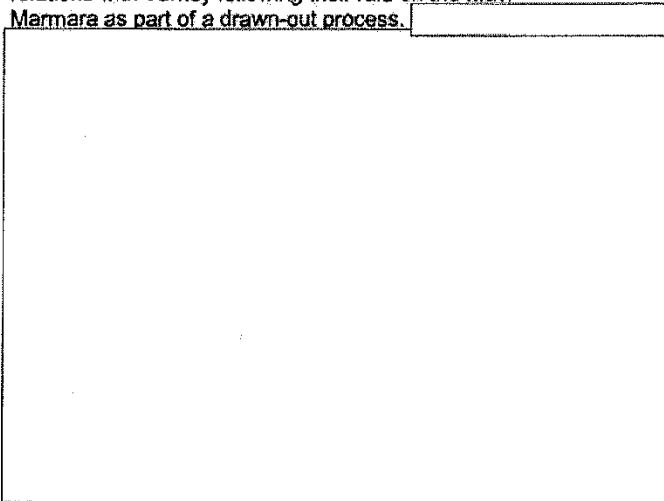
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/11/2020  
TAGS: PREL, ECON, MCAF, TU, IS  
SUBJECT: GOI: FLOTILLA JUST SYMPTOM OF PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1285  
B. ANKARA 827  
C. TEL AVIV 597  
D. 09 TEL AVIV 2526

Classified By: A/DCM Marc J. Sievers, reasons 1.4 (b),(d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Israel officials see the rapid decline in relations with Turkey following their raid on the Mavi Marmara as part of a drawn-out process.



NR

Mavi Marmara Just the Spark

2. (C) A/DCM and A/PolCouns met June 9 with Naor Gilon, MFA Deputy Director General for Western Europe (A/S equivalent), Irit Lillian, Director of the Turkey desk, and Amir Maimon,

Minister Counselor for Turkey, Greece and Cyprus to discuss Israel-Turkey bilateral relations in the wake of the Gaza flotilla crisis. Gilon said that the future of the relationship would be determined by Turkey. [redacted]

NR

[redacted]

3. (C) Therefore, the crisis had been there already, and had just needed a spark. The Mavi Marmara provided the proximate cause [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted]

4. (C) [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted]

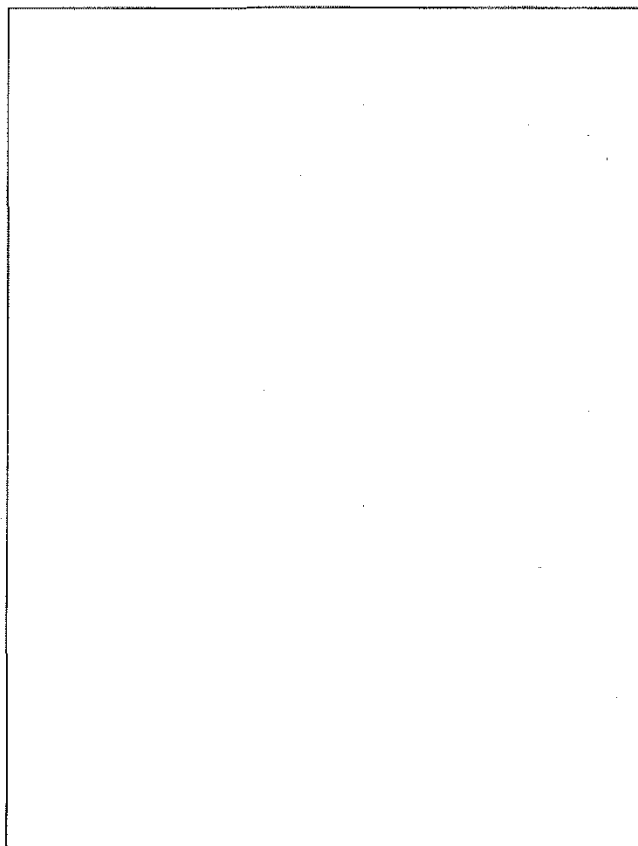
5. (C) [redacted]

NR  
NR

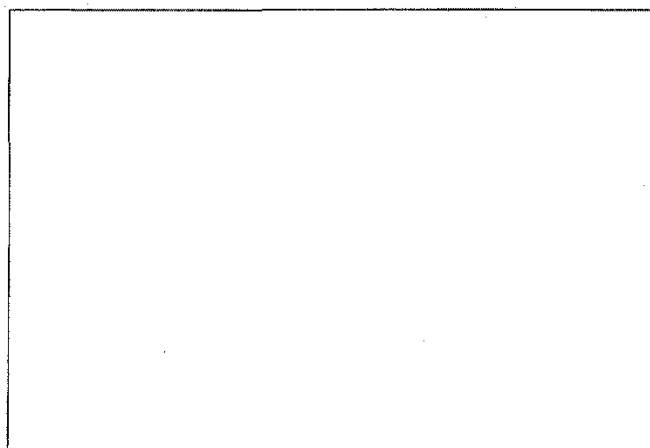
[redacted]

Security Relationship Affected

NR

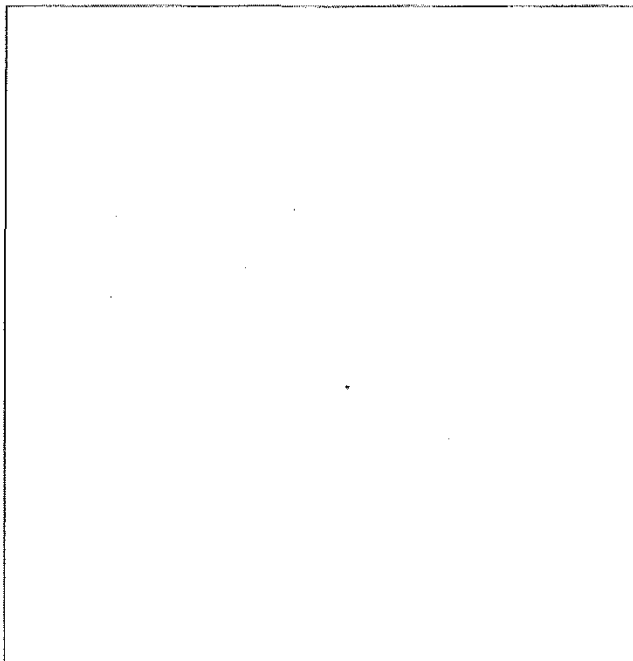


Intelligence Issues



Trade Relationship in Doubt

NR



CUNNINGHAM

**Signature:** CUNNINGHAM

---

**Classified By:** A/DCM Marc J. Sievers,

**Reason:** 1.4 (b),(d)

**Declassify on:** 06/11/2020

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *PRIORITY*; NSC WASHDC *PRIORITY*; ARAB ISRAELI  
COLLECTIVE *PRIORITY*

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA

**Dissemination Rule:** POL, ECON

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,B7(C),1.4(D),B6

P18

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Arvey, Jason M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 3:55 AM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** RE: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 10:34 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Arvey, Jason M  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 8:36 AM  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Rich, Dan,

[Redacted]

Thanks, **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



Doug

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

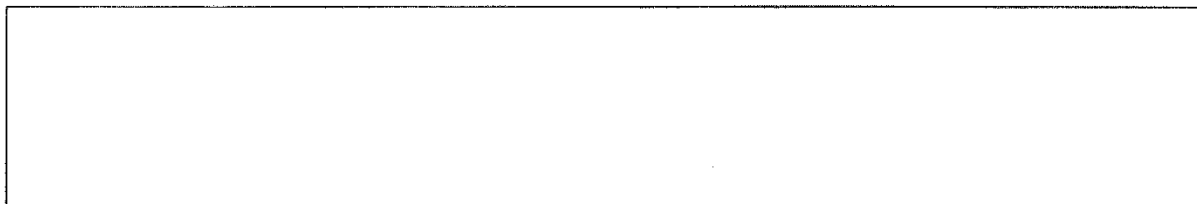
This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/18

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 2:33 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Kaidanow, Tina S; Marsh, Denise M  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Doug, thanks for this.



B5

Jess

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Jess Baily, Director, EUR/SE, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

---

**From:** Holmstrom, Todd  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:00 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Wallis, Jacob  
**Subject:** RE: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Thanks, Jess. Jake replaced Maura.

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 5:24 PM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd  
**Subject:** FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Sending to you Todd as Maura and Tom have left.

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 9:01 AM  
**To:** EUR-SE-DL; Brink, Bridget A.; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

IHH account of Gaza flotilla and other topics given to ConGen Istanbul.

Doug

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 d  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

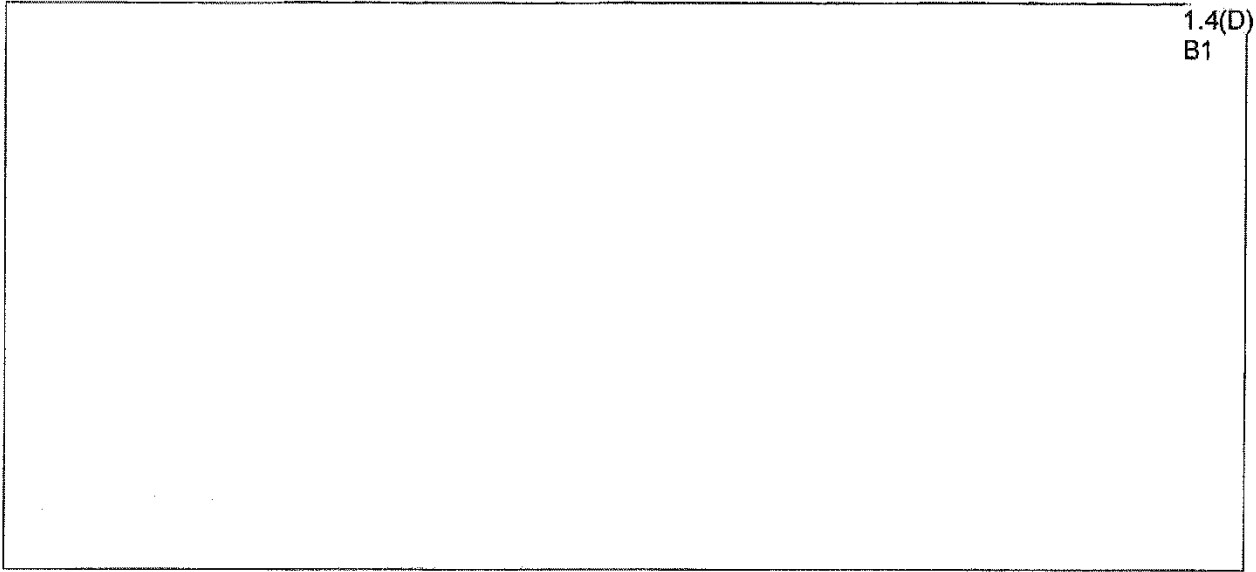
---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 02:45:10  
**To:** Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Ogle, Karen L.; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; Yountchi, Suzanne M; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Appleton, Richard H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; MassoudAnsari, Kurosh; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Eppler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Brooks, Judith A; Roundy, Brian A; B7(C) Klopp, Deborah A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H  
**Subject:** IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

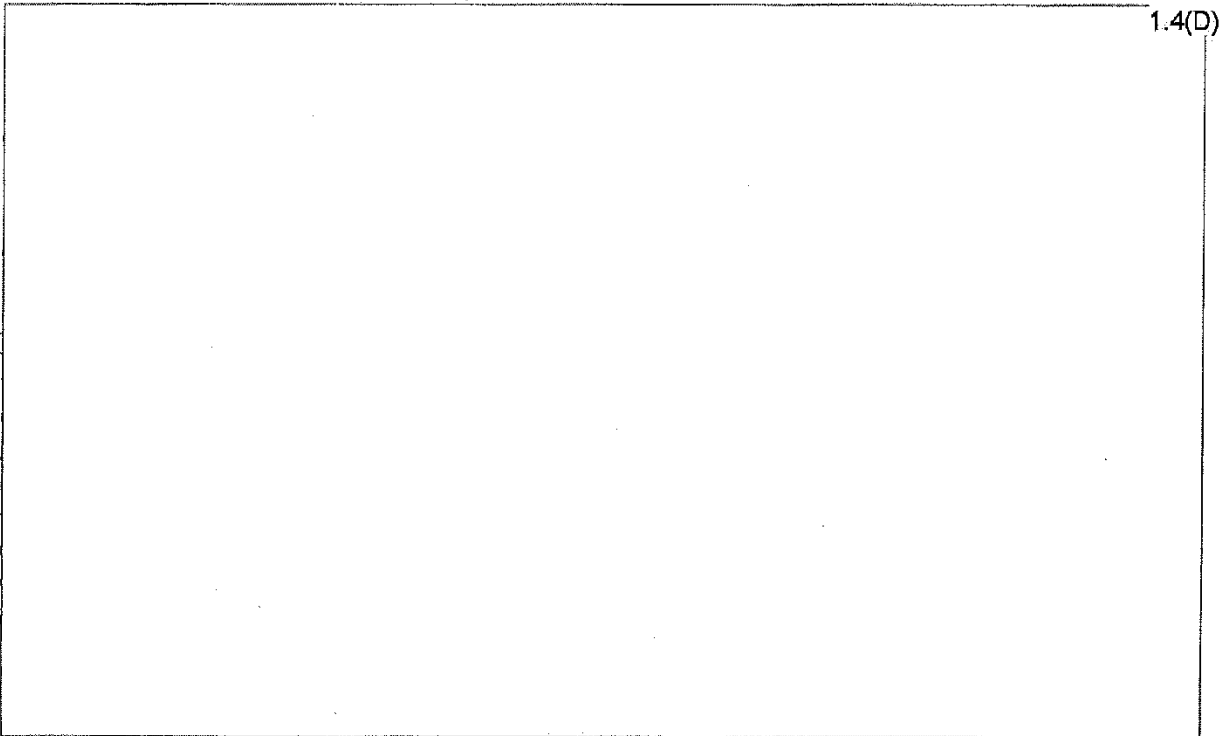
**CONFIDENTIAL**



Action Office: POL\_MIL, POL, CONS, CONGEN  
Info Office: EAC, AMB\_INFO



1.4(D)  
B1

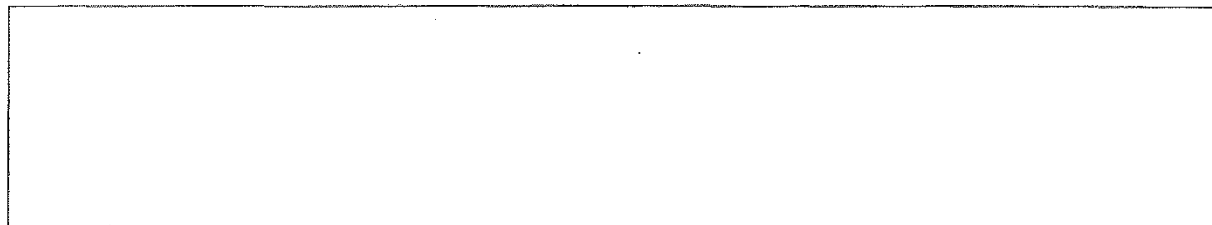


1.4(D)

B6

**Page Denied**

B1



**Signature:** Dayton

---

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (d)

**Declassify on:** 2020/06/17

**Drafted By:** ISTANBUL:Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

**Cleared By:** Howard, Jeremiah H

**Approved By:** POL/ECON:Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)

**Released By:** POL/ECON:Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)

**Info:** ISTANBUL:Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

ANKARA, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; EUCOM POLAD VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE; CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; DIA DHP-1 WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMEMBASSY PODGORICA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA

**Dissemination Rule:** POL\_MIL, POL, EAC, AMB\_INFO, CONS\_ACTION, CONGEN

**CONFIDENTIAL**

P19

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 10:39 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted]  
**Categories:** Working

B6

Wow.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 5:25 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted]

Dan,

According to Suheyla, [redacted]

B6

Michael

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:43 PM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted]

Nice work. I forwarded this to the AMB.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

[REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer]

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:23 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J

Cc: Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L  
Subject: [redacted]

B6

Dan,

[redacted] told us today IHH has not/not endorsed the launching of a new flotilla.

He said he attended a press meeting in Strasbourg two days ago where a representative from a French (?) NGO announced a new flotilla would be launched in the second half of April. [redacted] said he did not make a statement about IHH's joining the new flotilla, but did acknowledge his presence at the meeting (as the official IHH representative) could have been misconstrued by the media as an endorsement. He said IHH leaders are currently trying to pursue legal action against Israel and asked for USG support.

[redacted] confirmed the Mavi Marmara embarked under a Comoros flag. He said IHH purchased the previously Turkish-flagged ship directly from the municipality. According to the IHH website, IHH purchased the ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc (IDO).

[redacted] asked for information regarding his U.S. visa. He was unable to attend a meeting in New York because his [redacted] visa is only good for transit. He said he has another valid visa in an expired passport, which he will try to find. Diana Kramer confirmed [redacted] has a valid [redacted] visa (Sept. 2010 expiration date). However, [redacted] visas are only issued to [redacted]. [redacted] Diana said his visa application lists him as [redacted]. This is news to me. I will ask Diana and [redacted] for clarification.

Michael

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

P20

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 12:20 PM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** IHH Denies July Flotilla Launch.docx  
**Attachments:** IHH Denies July Flotilla Launch.docx

**Categories:** Working

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

pa

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** de Otaivaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2010 8:34 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Hood, Courtney M (Istanbul); [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted] Civ USAF  
**Subject:** Notes from meeting with [redacted] 1.4(B)  
**Categories:** Working 1.4(D)  
 B1

B6

This was a regular quarterly meeting.

- [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- Davutoglu will visit Paris, London and Berlin soon, mostly to clarify Turkey's position on the investigation into the Mavi Marmara, and anti-Israel statements.

- [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- Germany is going through a Presidential election right now. [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- The European Heads of Mission are meeting with [redacted] today. [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- Interesting that CHP is up to 102 deputies as of last night, [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- He has heard the CHP and BDP are meeting to discuss the potential for a coalition in the next elections. [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- [redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Laura

Sensitivity: Sensitive

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Classified by:** Laura de Otalvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section, U.S. Embassy Ankara

**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2020/06/24

P22

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2010 8:59 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: FW: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**Categories:** Working

Thanks. Turkey is being consistent, at least.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/24

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 24, 2010 1:28 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

FYI

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/24

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 23, 2010 07:51:53  
**To:** Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** Brooks, Judith A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H  
**Subject:** TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

**CONFIDENTIAL**



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Office:** POL  
**Info Office:** AMB\_INFO

---

**MRN:** 10 JEDDAH 187  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 23, 2010 / 230410Z JUN 10

From: AMCONSUL JEDDAH  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, GY, GZ, IS, KPAL, KPAO, KWBG, PBTS, SA, TU  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Pass Line: NEA (JFELTMAN); NEA/ARP (JHARRIS AND JBERNDT); INR  
Subject: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL: "THIS CANNOT STAND"

CONFIDENTIAL JEDDAH 000187

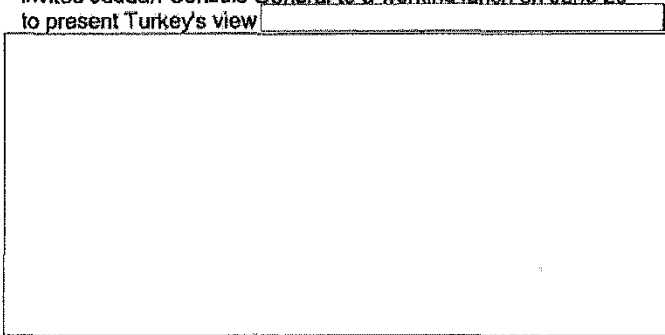
SIPDIS

NEA (JFELTMAN); NEA/ARP (JHARRIS AND JBERNDT); INR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/22/2020  
TAGS: PREL, GY, GZ, IS, KPAL, KPAO, KWBG, PBTS, SA, TU  
SUBJECT: TURK TO JEDDAH CGS ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND ISRAEL:  
"THIS CANNOT STAND"

Classified By: Acting CG Jeffrey Hill for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Summary and comment: Turkish CG Salih Mutlu Sen invited Jeddah Consuls General to a working lunch on June 20 to present Turkey's view



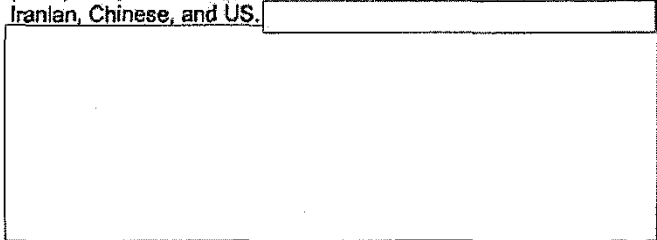
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Lunch participants expressed a desire and commitment to the quest for Middle East peace, but several expressed doubts that Israelis share this commitment. End summary and comment.

GERMAN [redacted]

B1

2. (C) On June 20, Turkish CG Salih Mutlu Sen hosted a lunch briefing for Jeddah CGs to present GOT's views on Israel's May 31 attack on a flotilla of six ships carrying aid to Gaza. About 20 CGs attended, including all of the Arab CGs (except Libya and Iraq), and German, French, Indonesian, Iranian, Chinese, and US.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

GOT'S POSITION

3. (C) CG Sen began his presentation by saying [Redacted]

[Redacted]

4. (U) Sen then presented the centerpiece of his briefing: GOT's "3 2" conditions that the GOI must meet before GOT would consider resuming normal bilateral relations:

The three:

- Formal apology for GFI;
- Admission of commission of crime; and
- Compensation plan ("moral and material") for victims and families of victims of GFI and the shipowners.

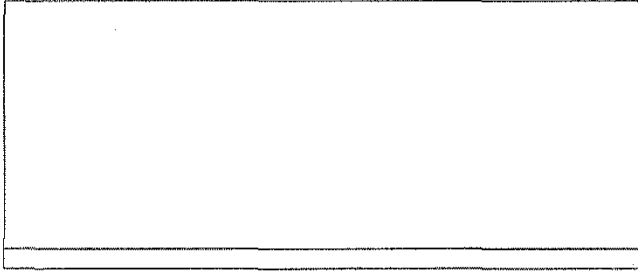
The two:

- Agreeing to a "credible, transparent" international investigation of GFI; and
- Release of all six GFI ships to their countries of origin.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

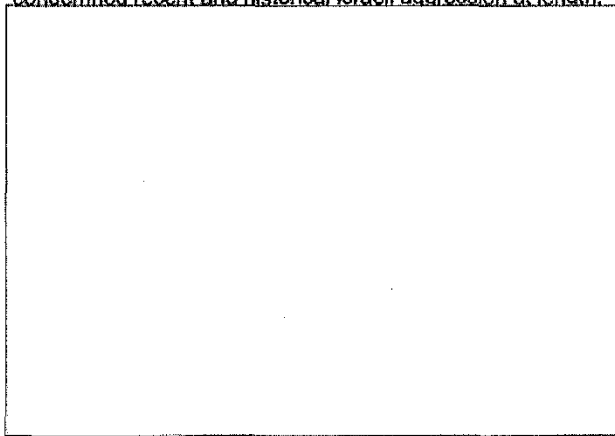
[Redacted]



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

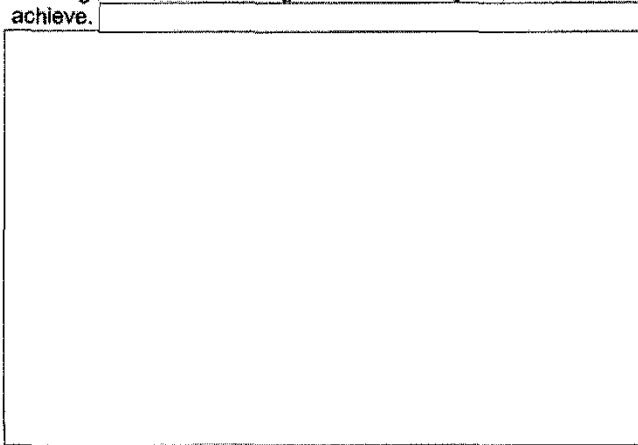
ARAB WORLD: SUPPORT TURKEY,  
CONDEMN ISRAEL, BUT LOOK AHEAD

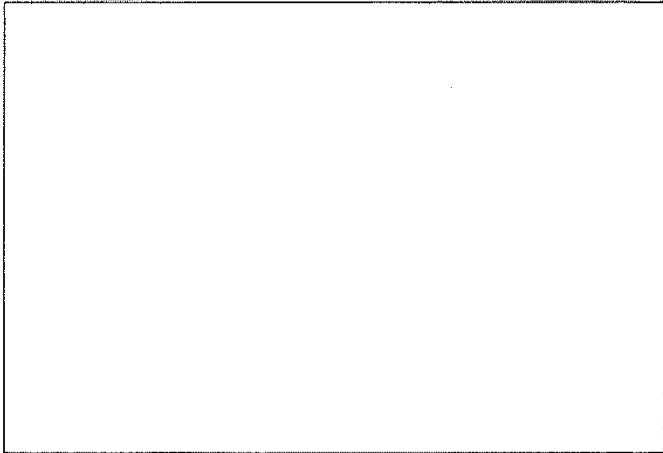
8. (C) In turn, the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Egyptian CGs spoke. All offered their strong support for Turkey and condemned recent and historical Israeli aggression at length.



ARAB WORLD NEEDS BETTER PR TO COUNTER ISRAEL...

9. (C) [redacted] CGs advised Arab and Muslim colleagues that they need to do "better PR" and look at the full range of issues in the region and what they want to achieve. [redacted]





1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

EYES ON THE PRIZE: MIDDLE EAST PEACE

11. (C) A/CG Hill thanked CG Sen for hosting the working lunch and frank discussion of the GFI and peace in the region, reiterated the USG,s deep regret over the violence and loss of life in the GFI, praised Turkey,s positive role in the quest for peace and prosperity in the Middle East and Central Asia, and underscored other CGs, observations that all parties needed to look ahead and focus on the peace process, easing the suffering of Gazans and other Palestinians, and ensuring peaceful and mutually beneficial relations for all parties in the region. Echoing the Ambassador,s emphasis in his Jeddah Town Hall meeting earlier this month, A/CG urged everyone to "keep our eyes on the prize" of peace in the region and how to get there.

ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE STILL KEY

12. (C) CG Sen [redacted]  
[redacted] He added that he appreciated U.S. efforts with the GOI for the same-day release of Turkish citizens to return to Turkey, [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

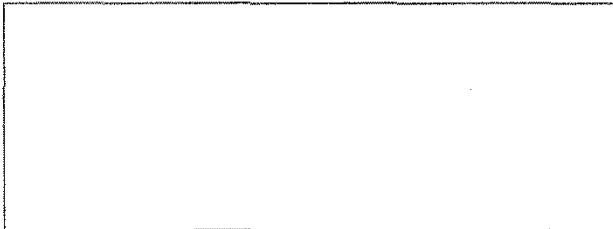
TURKEY [redacted]

13. (C) CG Sen summed up Turkey,s views on the GFI aftermath  
[redacted]



B1

CRISIS BEGETS BOTH DANGER AND OPPORTUNITY



B1

COMMENT



1.4(D)  
B1

HILL

**Signature:** HILL

---

**Classified By:** Acting CG Jeffrey Hill,  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b) and (d)  
**Declassify on:** 06/22/2020  
**Info:** BEIJING, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; BERLIN, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; DHAHRAN, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, AMB\_INFO

**CONFIDENTIAL**



P23

RELEASED IN PART B6

Logg, Cristina A

From: O'Grady, Daniel J  
Sent: Sunday, July 04, 2010 7:56 AM  
To: Ahn, Michael  
Subject: RE: Meeting with [redacted]  
Categories: Working

B6

Excellent. Thanks. I passed to the AMB.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Ahn, Michael  
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 2:37 PM  
To: O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
Cc: Miles, Barbara J  
Subject: Meeting with [redacted]

I met with [redacted] today. The key points mentioned are listed below.

- Contrary to what Today's Zaman reported today, the GoT will not close its airspace to commercial Israeli flights. [redacted] said this was never seriously considered. He said [redacted] is very optimistic that Turkey-Israel relations are on the rebound.
- [redacted] has seen new video footage of the Mavi Marmara incident which suggests shots were fired before the IDF commandos began fast-roping from the helicopters. He will send me a link to the video.
- As far as [redacted] knows, IHH is not planning to launch a new flotilla in the near future (and almost certainly not in late-July).
- [redacted] said TRT showed video footage of the mysterious "pamphlets" some of the IDF troops dropped. (The IHH's [redacted] told us earlier these booklets had photos and descriptions of various Mavi Marmara passengers.) [redacted] said [redacted] is trying to get a hold of one of these booklets or the original video from TRT.

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B), B1, B5, 1.4(D)

24

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Arvey, Jason M.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 10:13 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Turkey Daily Brief - July 7, 2010

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/07/07

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:35 PM  
**To:** Arvey, Jason M  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey Daily Brief - July 7, 2010

[Redacted]

B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/07/07

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 07, 2010 12:39 PM  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Brief - July 7, 2010



CONFIDENTIAL

July 7, 2010

- (C) Women's Issues Range from [Redacted]
- (C) ICC Releases Its Report on the Gaza Flotilla
- (C) Istanbul AKP Officials Disassociate US from Flotilla Attack

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

(U) Media Highlights: Başbuğ Tables Three Proposals and Sends a Last Warning to Barzani; Turkey Ready to Explode; Davutoğlu Makes Adjustment in Turkish Conditions for Israel; Obama Meets Netanyahu; Israeli Ambassador Likely to Leave Ankara Soon; BDP Deputy Poses in Front of Provocative Placard Calling for Revenge; MIT Improves Exchange of Intelligence with the Army; Knife Edge Balance in Constitutional Court

1.4(B)

(U) Upcoming Events: FM Davutoğlu to Visit UK; PM Erdogan to Visit Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia; PM Erdoğan Participate in Commemoration of Srebrenica Massacre; Meeting in Istanbul on Turkey-EU Relations

1.4(D)

B1

**Women's Issues Range from**

(C) Over 180 applications from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from across Turkey for the S/GWI's Small Grants Initiative Program offered us some insights into issues facing women in the country. Together with GWI's Ambassador-at-large Rene Renick's visit to Turkey, the submitted projects indicate

[Redacted]

(Ankara 977, Berna Keen, POL)

[Return to Top](#)

**ICC Releases Its Report on the Gaza Flotilla**

(C) International Humanitarian Help – the organization better known by its acronym, IHH – has published a report recording its version of what occurred on the "Gaza Peace Flotilla" intercepted by Israeli soldiers, leaving nine people dead. The English-language report is

[Redacted]

The reports also state that lawyers in a number of countries intend to bring legal cases against the state of Israel to the International Criminal Court on behalf of the participants in the flotilla. (Ankara 979, Jason Arvey, POL)

[Return to Top](#)

**Istanbul AKP Officials Disassociate US from Flotilla Attack**

[Redacted]

(Istanbul 245, Salvatore Amodeo, POL/ECON)

[Return to Top](#)

**Media Highlights**

- *Milliyet* reports on an interview with soon-to-retire Chief of the General Staff Ilker Başbuğ in which he indicates that Turkey is growing impatient for decisive action by the US and by the Kurdish regional government in Northern Iraq against the PKK.
- A *Radikal* columnist reports that Turkey may soon launch a cross-boarder operation against the PKK in Northern Iraq that would not be as limited as such ventures have been in the past.
- *Hurriyet* reports in a column that confusion in Turkey about Turco-Israeli relations is on the rise, and compares the conditions for normalization listed by Prime Minister Erdogan with the slightly different conditions mentioned by Foreign Minister Davutoğlu.
- A *Zaman* report on President Obama's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu states that the meeting failed to reduce tensions between Israel and Turkey, as Israel has continued to refuse to apologize.
- *Referans* speculates on the progression of deterioration in bilateral ties between Turkey and Israel, including the possibility that Israel will recall its Ambassador to Turkey.
- *Valan* reports on an incident in which BDP deputy Ibrahim Birinci attended the funeral of a terrorist at which posters calling for revenge were displayed. Chief of the General Staff Ilker Başbuğ has condemned the act, saying that a call for revenge is a call for killing of Turkish soldiers and that Birinci should resign.

- Miliyet reports that the new intelligence undersecretary, Hakan Fidan is making important changes in the fight against terror, included better intelligence sharing between MIT and the Turkish military. The paper also notes that in time, MIT will be restructured.
- Vatan reports that it is unclear how the Constitutional Court will vote regarding the annulment of constitutional reforms. If the reforms are annulled, it will be by a narrow margin.

[Return to Top - Read the Latest PAS-Ankara Media Reaction](#)

#### Upcoming Events

- July 8 – Foreign Minister Davutoglu to visit the UK
- July 10-12 – Prime Minister Erdoğan will pay an official visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia
- July 11 – Saadet Party Conference in Ankara.
- July 11 – Erdoğan and FM Davutoglu will participate in commemoration of the Srebrenica massacre
- July 13 – FM Davutoglu and chief EU negotiator will meet with EU officials in Istanbul to discuss Turkey-EU relations.

[Return to Top](#)

#### Links to More Info on Turkey

Embassy Ankara's SIPRNet Website: [Embassy Ankara](#)  
Turkey Page on Intellipedia: [Turkey Page](#)  
Turkey Human Rights Portal on Intellipedia: [Turkey Human Rights Portal](#)  
Latest Biographies on Turkey's Leaders: [Turkey Bios](#)  
Turkey Daily Brief Archives: [TDB Blog](#)

Please direct inquiries or report problems to Barbara J. Miles ([Milesbj@state.sgov.gov](mailto:Milesbj@state.sgov.gov)).

Today's TDB Editor was Stephanie Kiel, PMA, Embassy Ankara

Classified by Political Counselor Dan O'Grady, E.O. 12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

P25

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2010 10:25 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Huge IHH flotilla possible in Sept.

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Categories:** Working

Interesting.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2010 5:23 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Arvey, Jason M  
**Cc:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** Huge IHH flotilla possible in Sept.

[redacted] told me today of his meeting with IHH representatives last week.

B6

The IHH's [redacted] told [redacted] HH was planning a 50-ship flotilla in September (pending political developments).

This is somewhat contrary to what IHH [redacted] told [redacted] Embassy [redacted] [redacted] on July 8. [redacted] told [redacted] IHH had no plans for a new flotilla "at the moment."

In a previous meeting, [redacted] told us IHH had no plans for a July launch but did say the next flotilla (no date given) would involve "10,000 passengers."

I wish we could talk to IHH to get some clarification on the matter.

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5, NR

P26

Logg, Cristina A

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 05, 2010 6:21 AM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Potus Call to Erdogan [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]  
**Categories:** Working

Middle East Peace

[Redacted]

NR

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:32 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Potus Call to Erdogan [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]  
**Importance:** High

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Collins, Jeffrey S. [mailto:JCollins@nss.eop.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 05, 2010 3:36 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L  
**Subject:** Potus Call to Erdogan [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]  
**Importance:** High

Doug and Dan: [Redacted]

Gaza Flotilla

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Talking points:

- I was pleased that the UN established a panel to investigate the Gaza flotilla tragedy.

- We think it is important that both Turkey and Israel will be involved in the UN inquiry. This is an opportunity for you and Israel to begin to rebuild your relationship.
- We support the panel fully and we look forward to the participation of Israel and Turkey.

Background: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced August 2 that the UN will launch a panel of inquiry to investigate the May 31 Gaz flotilla incident that left nine dead. The panel will be led by Geoffrey Palmer, former prime minister of New Zealand, as chairman and Alvaro Uribe, outgoing Colombian president, as vice-chair. Representatives from Israel and Turkey will be the panel's other two members. In announcing the panel, Ban said he hopes the panel's work will "impact positively on the relationship between Turkey and Israel as well as the overall situation in the Middle East." Emotions continue to run high in Turkey regarding the flotilla. Turkish press has reacted [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

Middle East Peace

[redacted]

Thanks very much.

Jeff

pa7

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 10:37 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Miles, Barbara J; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** RE: CDA's a.m. meeting, August 24

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Working

On the first item

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 4:57 PM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** RE: CDA's a.m. meeting, August 24

[Redacted]

The Turkish commission, headed by Amb. Mithat Rende, will include members of the MFA, Prime Ministry Inspection Board, Justice Ministry, Security Directorate General, Interior Ministry Investigation Board, and the Maritime Undersecretariat.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Turning this into a cable.

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



P28

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 12:04 PM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B), B1, B5, 1.4(D)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 6:11 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 6:08 PM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** FW: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

[Redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 6:01 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5



Douglas A Silliman  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:48 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:48 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation



Douglas A Silliman  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:44 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Gregonis, Meghan E; Schrank, Alexander D; Riley, Robert J  
**Subject:** RE: Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation

Jess: [redacted]  
[redacted]

B5

We don't know much. Michael Ahn reports that the commission is headed by Amb. Mithat Rende, and includes members of the MFA, Prime Ministry Inspection Board, Justice Ministry, Security Directorate General, Interior Ministry Investigation Board, and the Maritime Undersecretariat. [redacted]  
[redacted]

B5

Dan

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Monday, August 23, 2010 9:32 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H 1.4(B)  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Gregonis, Meghan E; Schrank, Alexander D; Riley, Robert J 1.4(D)  
**Subject:** Israeli Embassy comment on Turkish investigation B1

Dan, Jerry:

In a meeting last week, [redacted]  
[redacted]

Two questions: [redacted] only recall seeing coverage in the press summary earlier this month.

B5

Jess

Jess L. Baily  
Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs  
Department of State  
202-647-6112  
[bailyjl@state.gov](mailto:bailyjl@state.gov)

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Jess Baily, Director, EUR/SE, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/08/23

paq

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Mineo, Mark R  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 26, 2010 1:18 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Bits and pieces from my European contacts  
  
**Categories:** Working

Great stuff Michael,

[Redacted]

NR

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2010 7:57 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Mineo, Mark R  
**Subject:** Bits and pieces from my [Redacted] contacts

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(D)  
B1

A couple interesting points raised during my [Redacted] lunch today:

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

NR

Michael  
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)

Declassify On: 2020/08/25

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),B6

P30

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2010 11:18 AM  
**To:** Schrank, Alexander D; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Ahn, Michael; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council  
**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

Jess

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2020/09/13

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2010 11:13 AM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Ahn, Michael; Baily, Jess L; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

Dear all,

[Redacted]

Thanks,  
Alex.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2020/09/13

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d

Declassify On: 2020/09/13

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 10:11:02  
**To:**

Hilton, Robert B; Brush, Jennifer L; Kangar, Leila J; Stickles, Mary P; Sommers, Scott E; Doherty, Kathleen X; Kotheimer, Erin E; Hornbostel, Charles P; O'Flanagan, Liam J; Yakhedts, Anya ; Silverman, Lawrence R; Frantz, Amanda G; Goodman, Ian A; Osinaga, Claudia W; Riley, Robert J; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Schrank, Alexander D; Saint-Andre, Yvette; Bistransky, Sheryl J; Bocchetti, Mark W; Roberts, Bernadette E; Fogo, Michael K; Miller, Deborah A; Fooks, Michael D; Savage, Caroline X; Sheow, Melissa; Sims, Tiffany K; Buzbee, John R; Abbaszadeh, Nirna; Bofill, Mariju L; Jackson, Roscoe; Hackworth, Jason K; McKnight, Alexandra K; Pipkin, Alisande L.; Reidhead, Van E; Surampudi, Rakesh X; Froman, David M; Birner, Timothy D; Espinoza, John L; Goldrich, Ethan A.; Dean, Nathaniel P; Deretic, Zoja; Johnson, Seneca E; Konick, Elizabeth J; McCusker, Breeann M; Nardi, Alessandro P; Wolfe, Rachel E; Berry, Agnel H; Collins, Ronald; Norberg, Chad R; Pratt, Qiana L; Robinson, Sharon; Swann, Sarah J; Tervakoski, Mark A; Weathers, Kamala N; Katsoulos, Athena O; Kerr, Robert C; Wyatt, Courtni A; Cope, Aaron M; Hamilton, Joseph A; Pahigian, Anthony A; Pope-Murray, Pamela; Prosen, Richard L; Cunningham, Thomas R; Eldridge, Jennifer A; Has-Ellison, John T; Ostfield, Marc L; Poisson, Beth L; Reasor, Lonni H; Davis, Bridget M; Moore, Kristian G; Efird, Cynthia C; Farmer, Kellee; Smith, Jennifer L; Marshall, Lisa R; Smith, Sammie; Toussaint, Marianne S; Westley, Catherine J; Cavey, Michael J; Treloar, Jay B; Loth, Linda F; Waller, Robert P; Vovchuk, Dmitry; O'Brien, Valerie C; Knutson, Kallie; O'Donnell, Patrick D; Mckenzie, Kelly; Gregonis, Meghan E; McCawley, David

**Subject:** Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Info Office:**

EUR\_PRESS, RUS\_DEP\_DIR, SCE\_PRIN, EUR\_FO\_STAFF, PGI\_CVE, PGI\_BLACK\_SEA, WE\_PORTUGAL, ERA\_POL\_USEU\_DESK, ERA\_DIR, SCE\_BOSNIA, RPM\_OSCE\_ELECTIONS, UMB\_BELARUS, GEORGIA, UMB\_PRIN, SE\_PRIN, SE\_GREECE, EUR\_FO\_WE\_PPD, SE\_CYPRUS, SE\_TURKEY, PGI\_CT, UMB\_PD, RUS\_POL, WE\_UK, WE\_FRANCE, SCE\_MONTENEGRO, WE\_IRELAND, WE\_PD, WE\_ITALY, ACE\_SECURITY, CARC\_CONFLICT\_ADV, CARC\_Deputy\_DIR, CARC\_DIR, ERA\_POL\_MIDDLE\_EAST, ERA\_ECON, ERA\_POL\_DEM, ERA\_POL\_CENTRAL\_ASIA, EUR\_FO\_RUS\_UMB, EUR\_FO\_AS, SCE\_CROATIA, EUR\_FO\_PDAS, RPM\_NATO\_AFGAN, RPM\_OSCE\_DESK, PGI\_CIVIL\_NGO, ACE\_HUMANITARIAN, SCE\_MACEDONIA, EUR\_FO\_CARC\_SE

**MRN:** 10 ANKARA 1327  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 08, 2010 / 081410Z SEP 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PHUM, PREL, UN, TU, IS

**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
 AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG 1.4(B)  
**Subject:** Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council 1.4(D)  
 B1

1. (C) Turkey's [redacted] told CDA and PolOff September 7 that the GoT expects a "strong report" critical of Israel actions against the Free Gaza flotilla from the Human Rights Council (HRC). [redacted] said the HRC's investigation will focus on Israel's alleged violations of human rights, the right to life, and to the freedom of expression surrounding the May 31 Mavi Marmara incident, both during the raid and in the aftermath. The HRC, he said, would not examine the legality of the blockade or the Israeli raid. Having submitted Turkey's own investigation report to the UN on September 2, [redacted] said he has some idea of what he expects to appear in the final HRC report, including a catalog of "inhumane treatment" of the flotilla passengers by Israeli authorities. CDA expressed US concern that the HRC group would focus on elements critical of Israel, but might not examine the voracity of those claims or countervailing arguments with much vigor, which could ultimately lead to an unbalanced report.

2. (SBU) [redacted] spoke highly of the group of lawyers and experts of the fact-finding mission appointed by the President of the HRC, which visited Turkey August 22-29 to inspect the Mavi Marmara and interview witnesses and government officials. The fact-finding mission is chaired by K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and also includes Desmond de Silva, chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

B6

**Signature:** SILLIMAN

---

**Classified By:** Doug Silliman, CDA  
 EXEC  
 State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2020/09/08  
**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Ahn, Michael  
**Cleared By:** Political:O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Approved By:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Released By:** ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A  
**Info:** USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE; DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD ROUTINE;  
 COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT ROUTINE; CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE;  
 CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; EUCOM POLAD  
 VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL  
 SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
 ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY;  
 ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY  
 MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG;



ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

Attachments: Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:**

DIS\_EUR\_PRESS, DIS\_RUS\_DEP\_DIR, DIS\_SCE\_PRIN, DIS\_EUR\_FO\_STAFF,  
DIS\_PGI\_CVE, PASS\_BLACK\_SEA, DIS\_WE\_PORTUGAL,  
DIS\_ERA\_POL\_USEU\_DESK, DIS\_ERA\_POL\_DEM\_HR, DIS\_SCE\_BOSNIA,  
DIS\_RPM\_OSCE\_ELECTIONS, DIS\_UMB\_BELARUS, DIS\_GEORGIA, DIS\_UMB\_PRIN,  
DIS\_SE\_PRIN, DIS\_SE\_GREECE, DIS\_EUR\_FO\_WE\_PPD, DIS\_SE\_CYPRUS,  
DIS\_SE\_TURKEY, DIS\_PGI\_CT, DIS\_UMB\_PD, DIS\_RUS\_POL, DIS\_WE\_UK,  
DIS\_WE\_FRANCE, DIS\_SCE\_MONTENEGRO, DIS\_WE\_IRELAND, DIS\_WE\_PD,  
DIS\_WE\_ITALY, DIS\_ACE\_SECURITY, DIS\_CARC\_CONFLICT, DIS\_CARC\_DEP\_DIR,  
DIS\_CARC\_DIR, DIS\_ERA\_POL\_MIDDLE\_EAST, DIS\_ERA\_ECON,  
DIS\_ERA\_POL\_CENTRAL\_ASIA, DIS\_EUR\_FO\_RUS\_UMB, DIS\_EUR\_FO\_AS,  
DIS\_SCE\_CROATIA, DIS\_EUR\_FO\_PDAS, DIS\_RPM\_NATO\_AFGAN,  
DIS\_RPM\_OSCE\_DESK, DIS\_PGI\_CIVIL\_NGO, DIS\_ACE\_HUMANITARIAN,  
DIS\_SCE\_MACEDONIA, DIS\_EUR\_FO\_CARC\_SE

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B7(C),NR

P31

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 2:26 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

**Categories:** Working



NR

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 9:09 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** RE: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2010 6:37 PM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2010 6:28 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.  
Declassify On: 2035/09/25

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 25, 2010 03:51:35  
**To:** Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Hunter, Rodney M; Hessler, Robert E; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Price, Adam P; Witmer, Kami A; Arvey, Jason M; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; Roundy, Brian A; Proctor, Tony A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Sapp, Susan J; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Pistana, Robert; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Gardner, Janet M; Donelson, Lale; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Ogle, Karen L.; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Tanner, Alfred C; Pierce, Thomas JN  
**Subject:** MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

B7(C)

**CONFIDENTIAL**



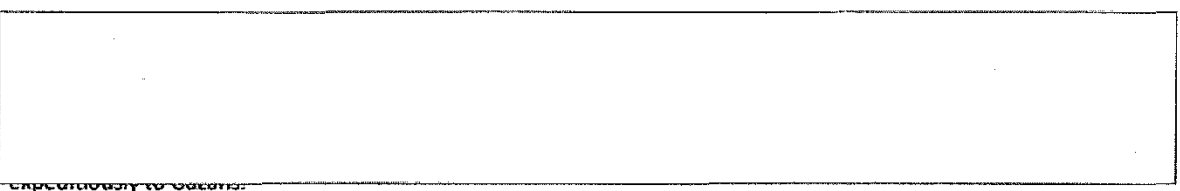
**Action Office:** POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA, POL\_MIL  
**Info Office:** CONS\_INFO, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**MRN:** 10 ANKARA 1401  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 25, 2010 / 251248Z SEP 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PTER, PHUM, TU, SY, IS, EG  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 10 ANKARA 1327  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** MFA Statement on the UN Human Rights Council's Gaza Flotilla Report; Another Gaza-bound Convoy

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The MFA issued a statement September 23 on the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) fact-finding mission report on the May 31 Gaza flotilla interdiction (See para 6 for unofficial embassy translation) . The statement supports the report's findings, which are highly critical of GoI actions, and reiterates calls for an Israeli apology and compensation. The NGO Viva Palestina has launched its fifth and most ambitious truck convoy to break Israel's "siege" of Gaza. This "Lifeline 5" convoy will transit Turkey. The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), which played a leading role in the May 31 Gaza flotilla, will host the convoy while it is in Turkey, but the GoT seems to have pressed IHH not to participate in the convoy as it continues southward. Lifeline 5's meandering route to Gaza appears designed not to deliver humanitarian aid expeditiously to Gazans, but to attract maximum media coverage. AMCITs may be considering joining the convoy. END SUMMARY

2. (U) On September 23, the MFA released a statement endorsing the UN Human Rights Council's fact-finding mission report on the May 31 Gaza flotilla interdiction. The MFA describes the report as consistent with the GoT's own National Investigation and Examination Commission Report of September 1 (reftel). The statement repeats calls for an Israeli apology and compensation to the families of the nine Turkish-origin Mavi Marmara activists who were killed and to other participants suffering damages.

3. (SBU) According to media reports, Viva Palestina, the NGO behind the January truck convoy to Gaza that ended in violence, launched its fifth convoy from London on September 18, again with the goal of "breaking the siege of the Gaza Strip." Viva Palestina expects this "Lifeline 5" convoy to grow to 200 vehicles by the time it reaches Latakia in Syria. From there, the convoy is to be transported by ship to the Egyptian port of El Arish. Viva Palestina will try to enter Gaza via the Rafah crossing. Lifeline 5 is scheduled to arrive in Istanbul on September 27. In Turkey, the convoy will pass through Ankara, Kayseri, Adana, Gaziantep, and Killis en route to Syria. The Egyptian Embassy here, which is tracking the convoy's progress, told us September 20 Viva Palestina has, so far, failed to contact Egyptian authorities about its intentions. 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



COMMENT

5. (C) As we expected, the MFA's statement on the HRC report adheres closely to the public line established by the GoT within days of the interdiction.



6. (U) BEGIN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MFA STATEMENT

No: 206 September 23, 2010

ANNOUNCEMENT

As one would recall, the UN Human Rights Council tasked an HRC mission on June 2, 2010 to collect data and find out the facts in order to study the attack and its consequences following the death of eight Turkish and one American citizen when Israel attacked a humanitarian assistance convoy destined for Gaza in international waters on May 31, 2010. The mission visited our country on August 22-29, 2010.

We are pleased to see that the fact-finding mission presented its report to the HRC on September 22, 2010.

It is understood that the report, which was based on the testimonies of the witnesses, autopsy reports and the views of the experts, was a product of a comprehensive and detailed work. The report can also contribute to meeting the expectation of the international community that the investigation should be in line with international standards, fast, unbiased, acceptable and transparent, as mentioned in the Security Council Presidency announcement on June 1, 2010.

The basic assessments in the report were in line with the data and evaluations in our national report, prepared by the National Investigation and Examination Commission and presented to the UN Investigation Panel on September 1, 2010.

We noted carefully the assessments that in its report the fact-finding mission stated that the blockade on Gaza by Israel was illegal and thus the armed intervention of Israel into the convoy in international waters, too, was clearly illegal; that the Israeli troops used disproportional, unnecessary violence and incredible force; and that the intervention was a severe violation of human rights law and humanitarian law provisions and that the national investigation that Israel initiated at the national level was far from being credible.

With this report, Israeli public opinion may for the first time be getting information from an independent source concerning the violence and inhumane treatment by Israeli security forces against the members of the convoy on board the ship and later when they were under detention. We expect the Israeli authorities to draw the necessary conclusion from the report, apologize by accepting responsibility, and pay compensation to the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives during the offensive and to the passengers whose money and personal belongings were seized during the intervention.

In the future phases we will find it useful for the UN HRC to evaluate and follow appropriately the fact-finding mission report and also the UN Investigation Panel, too, in its work to evaluate carefully this report, which was prepared in line with international standards and in an unbiased way under UN auspices.

END TEXT

**Signature:** SILLIMAN

---

**Classified By:** Doug Silliman, CDA  
EXEC  
State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2035/09/25

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A

**Approved By:** Silliman, Douglas A

**Released By:** ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A

**Info:** ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT ROUTINE; CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE; CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE; CDR USEUCOM INTEL VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ODC ANKARA TU ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: POL, RSO, CONS\_INFO, LEGAT, AMB\_INFO, ORA, POL\_MIL, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**CONFIDENTIAL**

P32

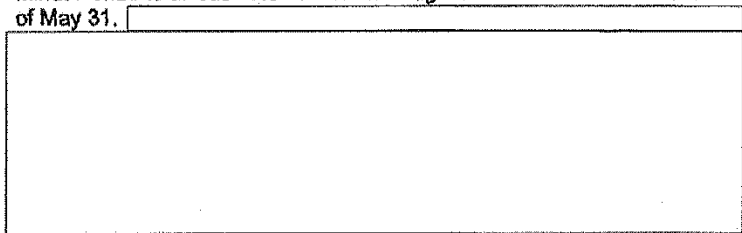
**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 3:38 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

**Categories:** Working

C) SUMMARY: IO A/S Brimmer met with Turkish Ambassador Mihai Rende to discuss the two UN investigations of the flotilla incident of May 31.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

END SUMMARY.

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/09/28

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 11:45:08  
Miles, Barbara J; Hunter, Rodney M; Hessler, Robert E; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Price, Adam P; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A; Arvey, Jason M;  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Godfrey, Anthony F; Pistana, Robert; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Guido, Deborah L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M  
**Subject:** IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Office:** POL, POL\_MIL

---

**MRN:** 10 STATE 100840  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 27, 2010 / 271932Z SER 10  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; GENEVA, USMISSION ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PHUM, PGOV  
**Captions:** SIPDIS

Pass Line: , PASS TO IO/FO  
Correction Reason: Additional Drafter and/or Approver  
Subject: IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

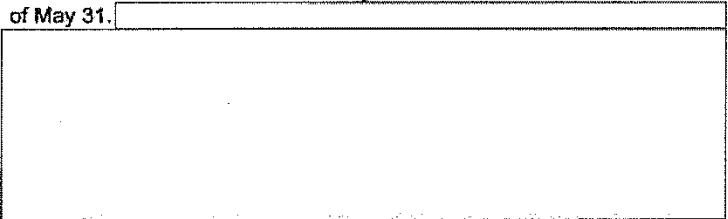
CONFIDENTIAL STATE 100840

SIPDIS, PASS TO IO/FO

E.O. 13526; DECL: 2020/09/27  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV  
SUBJECT: IO A/S Brimmer's Meeting with Turkish Ambassador

Classified by: Esther Brimmer, A/S  
IOReason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: IO A/S Brimmer met with Turkish Ambassador  
Mihat Rende to discuss the two UN investigations of the flotilla incident  
of May 31.

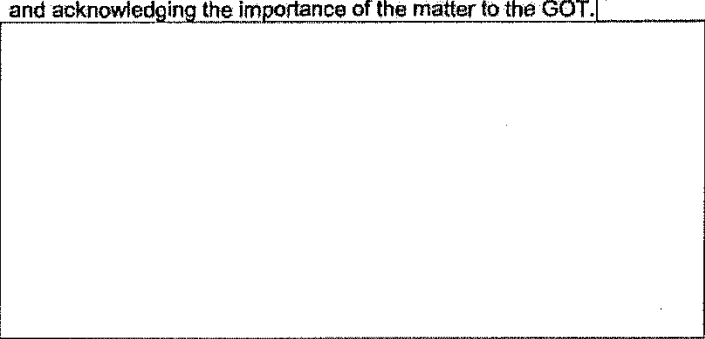


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

END SUMMARY.

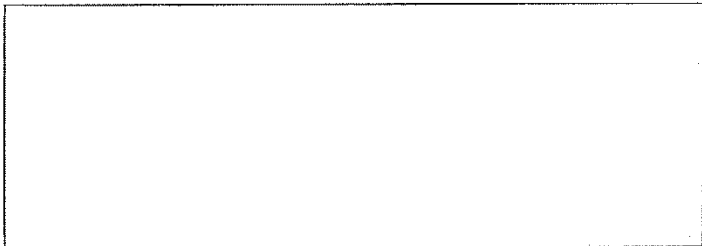
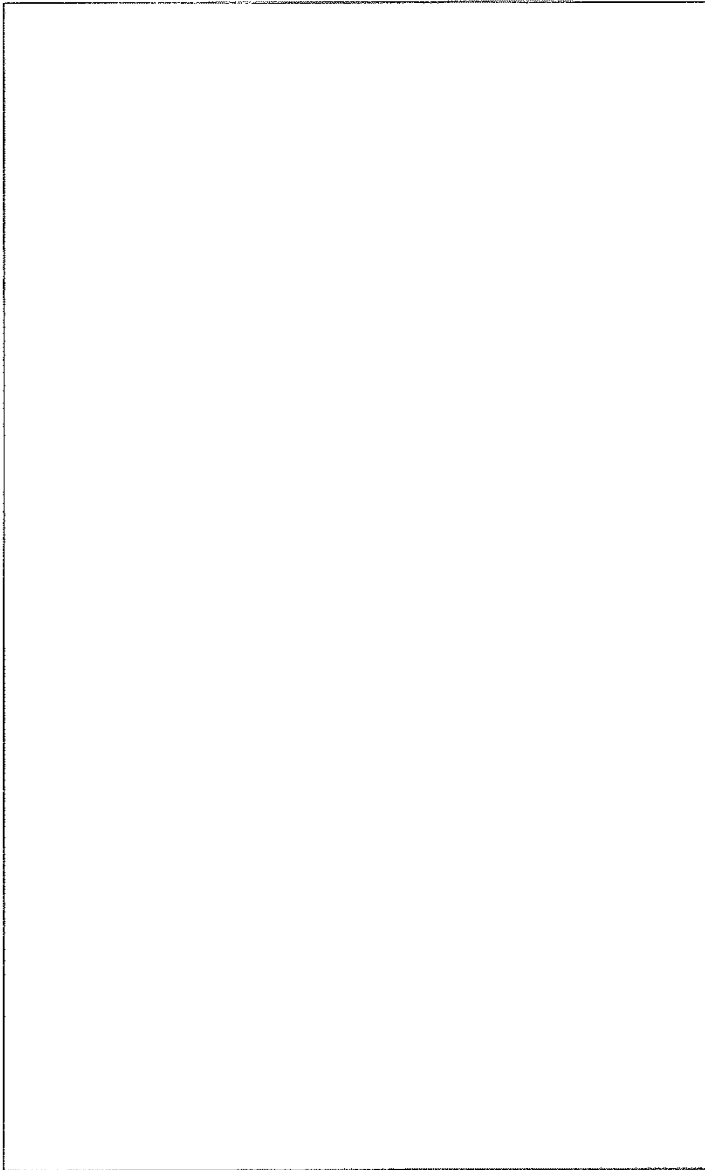
2. (C) On September 22, IO A/S Brimmer met with Turkish  
Ambassador Mihat Rende to discuss the various inquiries into the events  
related to the May 31 boarding by the Israeli Defense Forces of a  
Gaza-bound flotilla. A/S Brimmer was joined by IO DAS Nossel and  
EUR/SE Office Director Baily. Accompanying Amb. Rende was First  
Counselor Can Dizdar.

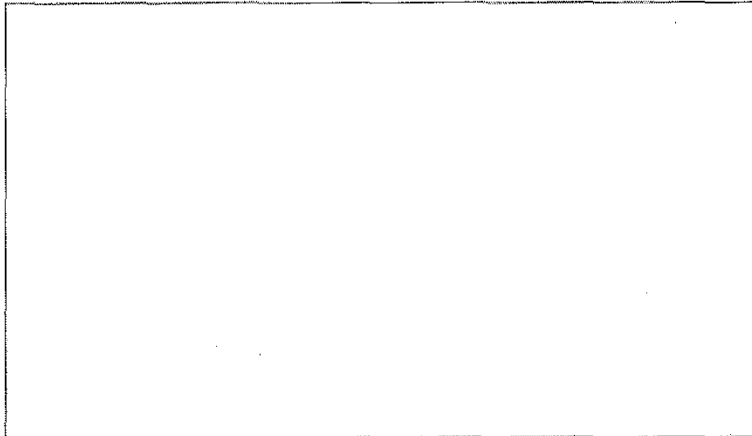
3. (C) Brimmer began the meeting by thanking Amb. Rende for  
taking time to speak about the inquiries into the May 31 flotilla incident  
and acknowledging the importance of the matter to the GOT.





1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1





1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

CLINTON

**Signature:** CLINTON

---

**Classified By:** Esther Brimmer, A/S IO.

**Declassify on:** 2020/09/27

**Drafted By:** IO/MPR:GLOCKNER, MATT -- 09/27/10

**Approved By:** BRIMMER, ESTHER D.

**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Action Post:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA

**Dissemination Rule:** POL, POL\_MIL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART B6

P33

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 10, 2010 1:38 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Tel Aviv Cable: FLOTILLA FACT-FINDING REPORT: WHAT NEXT?

**Categories:** Working

The entire three-paragraph cable is worth a scan.

2. (SBU) Separately, the Turkel Commission appears to be winding up its work, and is hearing its final witnesses.

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 08:7:24  
Miles, Barbara J; Hunter, Rodney M; Hessler, Robert E; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Price, Adam P; Witmer, Kami A; Arvey, Jason M; O'Grady, Daniel J; de  
**To:** Otalvaro, Laura H; Godfrey, Anthony F; Pistana, Robert ; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Guido, Dcborah L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Kokko, Christopher  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA FACT-FINDING REPORT: WHAT NEXT?

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Sensitive



**Action Office:** POL, POL\_MIL

---

**MRN:** 10 TEL AVIV 2296  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 08, 2010 / 081505Z OCT 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PHUM, TU, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA FACT-FINDING REPORT: WHAT NEXT?

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 002296

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, TU, IS

SUBJECT: FLOTILLA FACT-FINDING REPORT: WHAT NEXT?

Flotilla Report in New York

1. (SBU) [redacted]

[redacted] told Post October 7 that [redacted] was unhappy with the referral of the HRC report of the Flotilla Fact Finding Mission to the General Assembly. Israel had reluctantly agreed to participate in the Palmer Commission under the auspices of the Secretary General precisely to avoid this result, and the Gol assumes that Turkey will raise the issue at the Third Committee. Israel had been quite unhappy with the behavior of the Turks in Geneva, as the Turks were not willing to negotiate. Israel was concerned about the possibility that the UNGA could ask the Palmer Commission to report to the UNGA rather than just to the Secretary General.

[redacted] also said that the Gol had heard that IHH, the Turkish sponsor of the Mavi Marmara, was looking to raise the issue at the International Court of Justice. The Gol was concerned that the UNGA might try to establish a compensation fund like the registry it had created on the security fence.

B6

Turkel Commission

2. (SBU) Separately, the Turkel Commission appears to be winding up its work, and is hearing its final witnesses. Commission chairman Yaakov Turkel will be granted a "double vote" in the commission's final deliberations as no new member will be appointed to replace Shabtai Rosenne. Post will observe the testimony of two Israeli citizens who were aboard the Mavi Marmara October 13. [redacted]

[redacted] told us October 8 that while [redacted] could not predict when the commission would wrap up its work, the fact that the commission was still hearing testimony suggested [redacted] that Turkel was not likely to be done before mid-November, at the earliest. [redacted] complained that the Turkish submission that was rushed to the Palmer panel was simply a Turkish Ministry of Justice document, with "no pretense of independence." [redacted] characterized the Turkish behavior at the recent Human Rights Council session as "vicious" and suggested that, under the circumstances, he resented the Turkish implication that the Turkel Commission work was not credible.

Indian "Flotilla"

3. (SBU) [redacted] also told us that the MFA was concerned about a new Indian "flotilla" that is currently being organized and scheduled to leave India December 7. That caravan would include over 500 people and would travel overland via Iran, Syria and Turkey. [redacted] had no further details on this flotilla at this time.

CUNNINGHAM

**Signature:** CUNNINGHAM

---

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *PRIORITY*; NEW DELHI, AMEMBASSY *PRIORITY*; GENEVA, USMISSION *PRIORITY*; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *PRIORITY*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *PRIORITY*

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** POL, POL\_MIL

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Sensitive

P34

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R  
**Subject:** RE: Tuesday PDB on Turkey-Israel

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

Classification Extended ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 01/28/2021

B5

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 1:56 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Mineo, Mark R  
**Subject:** RE: Tuesday PDB on Turkey-Israel

This looks really good.

[Redacted]

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2036/01/29

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2011 12:16 PM  
**To:** Mineo, Mark R; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Tuesday PDB on Turkey-Israel

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 29, 2011 9:27 PM  
**To:** Witmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Cheryl L

Classification Extended ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(D), B1 ~  
Declassify on: 01/28/2021

Cc: O'Grady, Daniel J  
Subject: Tuesday PDB on Turkey-Israel

**SECRET**

[Redacted]

B5

**Political**

What Happened

[Redacted]

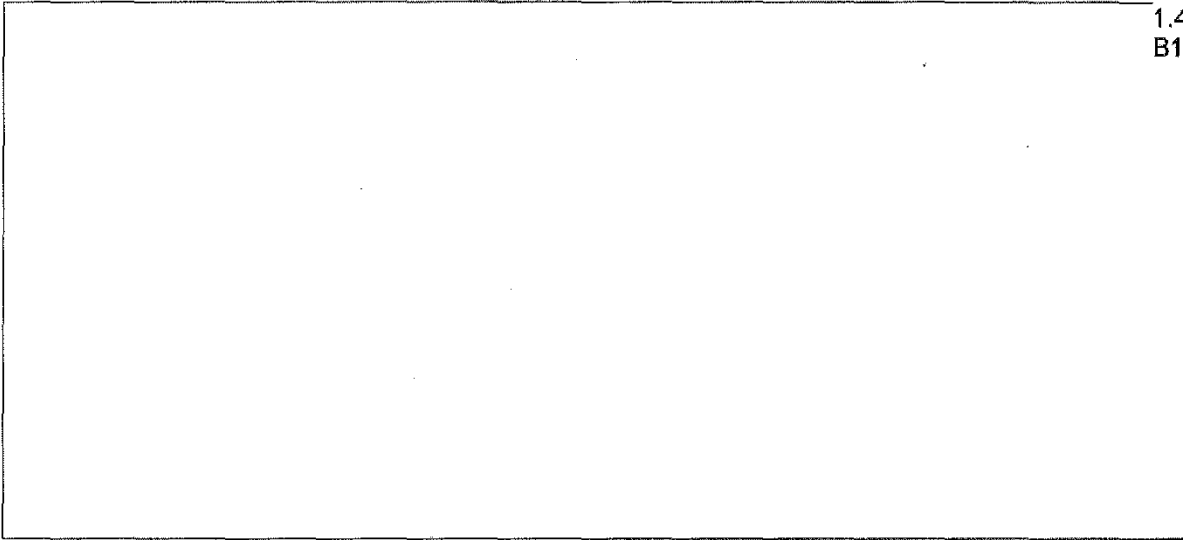
NR

- May 31, 2010: The Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) violent interdiction of the Gaza embargo-running "Free Gaza Flotilla" flagship Mavi Marmara leaves eight Turks and one Turkish-American dead. The Turkish MFA did attempt to dissuade the flotilla organizers, the Turkish Islamist NGO, IHH, from its course, but to no avail. The IDF claims IHH attacked its boarding party without provocation.
- Demonstrations erupt in Istanbul and Ankara against Israel. The GoT does not send out its replacement ambassador; its embassy is to this day run by a charge. The GoT demands compensation, some sort of international adjudication of Israeli culpability for the deaths and a GoI apology.
- A low-profile effort to resolve the dispute by Davutoglu and, I think, Labor Minister Ben Eliazar, fails when Israeli media break news of their contact.
- Turkey seeks condemnation of Israel in the UN Human Rights Committee.
- Ban Ki Moon secures Turkish and Israeli agreement to the Palmer Panel. The GoI sees the panel as doing no more than assessing its Turkel Commission investigation's compliance with "international standards." The GoT may see the panel's responsibility as developing a common narrative for the events and decisions leading up to the deaths aboard the Mavi Marmara and identifying culpable parties.
- The Turkel Commission asks Turkish witnesses to the Mavi Marmara interdiction to give testimony. They do not.

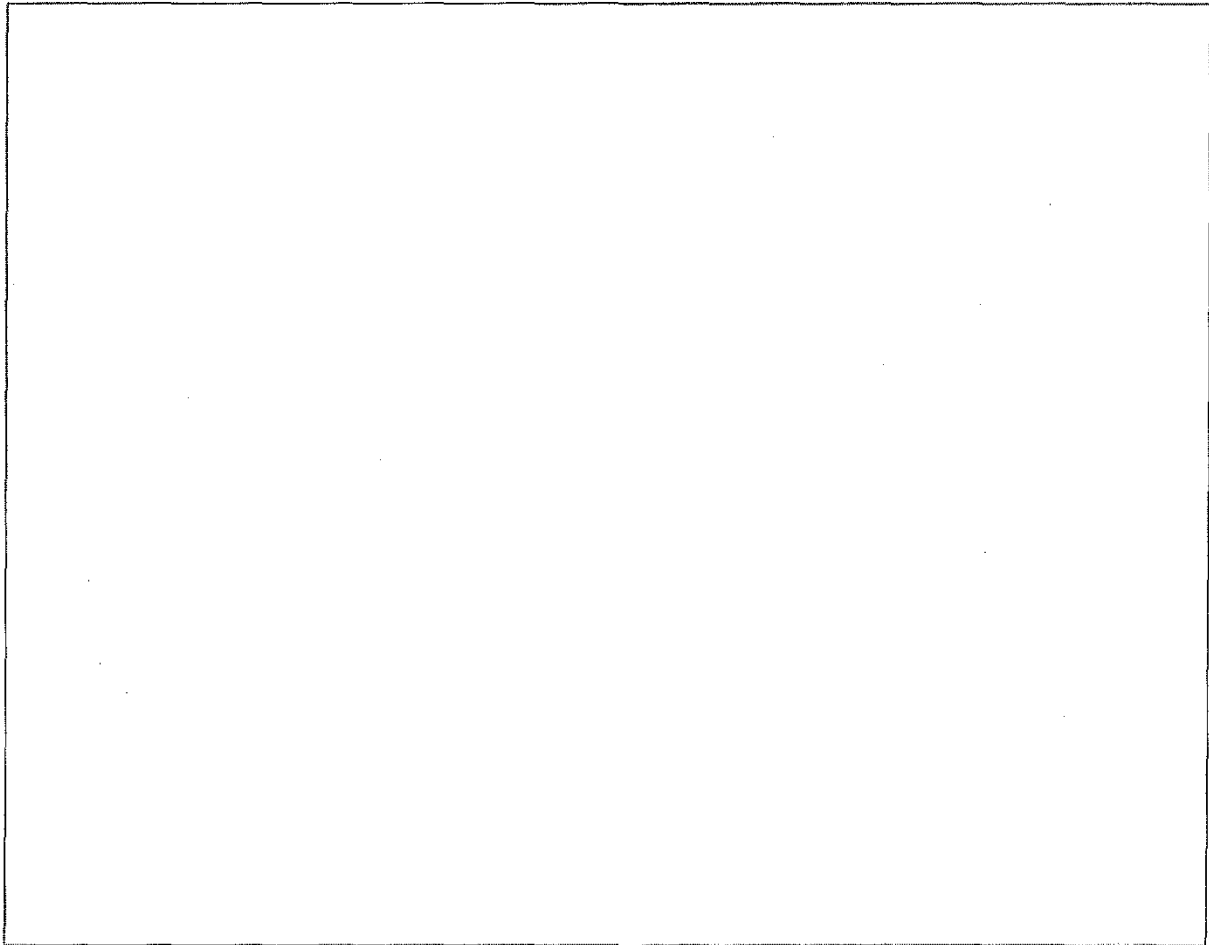
What's Happening

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(D)  
B1



NR

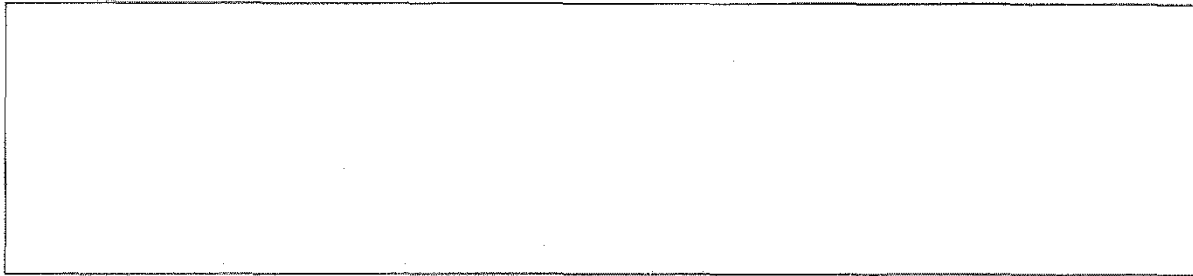


**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 10:06 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Update on Israel-Turkey Ties: Waiting for Palmer Commission, Assessing Erdogan's Regional Appeal in Light of Egypt Unrest

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B), B1, 1.4(D), NR, B6

**Categories:** Working



NR

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/02/07

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, February 07, 2011 03:27:33  
Miles, Barbara J; Hunter, Rodney M; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Bema; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Pistana, Robert; Leary, Thomas M; Sanderson, Mary A; Treiber, Laird D; Minco, Mark R; Walston, Melissa L; Guido, Deborah L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Icenogle, Christi L; Lally, Michael A; Fernandes, Cheryl L; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Letvin, John C; Bruns, Scott T; Bijanki, Ashwin; Coleman, Thomas M; Durn, Patrick M;  
**To:** [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Gibbs, Jennifer H; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Hettinga, Benjamin E  
**Cc:** Hamilton, Elizabeth H; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil  
**Subject:** Update on Israel-Turkey Ties: Waiting for Palmer Commission, Assessing Erdogan's Regional Appeal in Light of Egypt Unrest

B6

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Office:** ECON, POL, POL\_MIL  
**Info Office:** AMB\_INFO, ECON\_INFO

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 157

**Date/DTG:** Feb 07, 2011 / 071326Z FEB 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, KWBG, TU, IS, ECON  
**Captions:** SIPDIS 1.4(B)  
**Reference:** A) TEL AVIV 2669 1.4(D)  
**Subject:** Update on Israel-Turkey Ties: Waiting for Palmer Commission, Assessing Erdoğan's Regional Appeal in Light of Egypt Unrest B1

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

Turkey Gains From Unrest in Egypt

[Redacted]

NR

MFA: Palmer Commission a Chance for Rapprochement

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Turkey Remains Mistrustful of Netanyahu's Government**

[Redacted]

NR

**Possible Movement on Tourism**

[Redacted]

NR

**Commentators See Turkey as a Contrasting Model for Egypt**

[Redacted]

NR

**Comment:**

\_\_\_\_\_



1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** CUNNINGHAM

---

**Derived From:** DSCG 06-1 b, d  
**Declassify on:** 2021/02/07  
**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Parsell, Benjamin C  
**Cleared By:** POL:Silverman, Robert J  
POL:Levin, Jan X  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Parsell, Benjamin C  
**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE, ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** ECON, POL, AMB\_INFO, ECON\_INFO, POL\_MIL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

P36

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, February 25, 2011 12:59 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Dunn, Patrick M; Godfrey, Anthony F; Treiber, Laird D; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Combs, James D; Kolega, Alen; Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Fernandes, Cheryl L  
**Subject:** Israelis; 2/25 - Security; IHH; Trade; Regional Instability

**Categories:** Working

**SECRET**

[Redacted]

NR

With regard to substance:

- [Redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1
- (SBU) Commerce volumes between Turkey and Israel increased again in January. Year-on-year imports from Turkey to Israel rose 40% last month. Exports to Turkey from Israel rose 15%. My contact said: "Turkish businessmen aren't bothered much by our political problems."
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

NR

**Jeremiah Howard**  
 Deputy Political Counselor  
 Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
 T: 90 312 457-7149  
 IVG: 295-7149

**Classification: SECRET**  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/02/25

P37

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B7(C),B6

Logg, Cristina A

From: Howard, Jeremiah H  
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 5:37 AM  
To: Jaworski, Richard E; O'Grady, Daniel J  
Cc: Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Fernandes, Anthony C  
Subject: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

Categories: Working

[Redacted] Turkey is mentioned throughout this cable.

- 1. (C) Summary: Israeli officials are alarmed at the prospect of a late May flotilla to Gaza [Redacted] 1.4(B)

[Redacted] 1.4(D)  
B1

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.  
Declassify On: 2021/03/24

From: SMART Core  
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 05:54:36  
Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; Roundy, Brian A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Sanderson, Mary A; Mineo, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Combs, James D; Walston, Melissa L; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; [Redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; karlo [Redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M; Downs, Jeffrey J  
Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Donelson, Lale ; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN  
Subject: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

CONFIDENTIAL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

Action Office: POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA  
Info Office: CONS\_INFO, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 365  
Date/DTG: Mar 23, 2011 / 231553Z MAR 11  
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE 1.4(B)  
E.O.: 13526 1.4(D)  
TAGS: PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, TU, IS B1  
Subject: Israel Alarmed by Plans for May Flotilla

2. (C) Summary: Israeli officials are alarmed at the prospect of a late May flotilla to Gaza

[Redacted]

What Israel Knows of the Flotilla Plans

3.

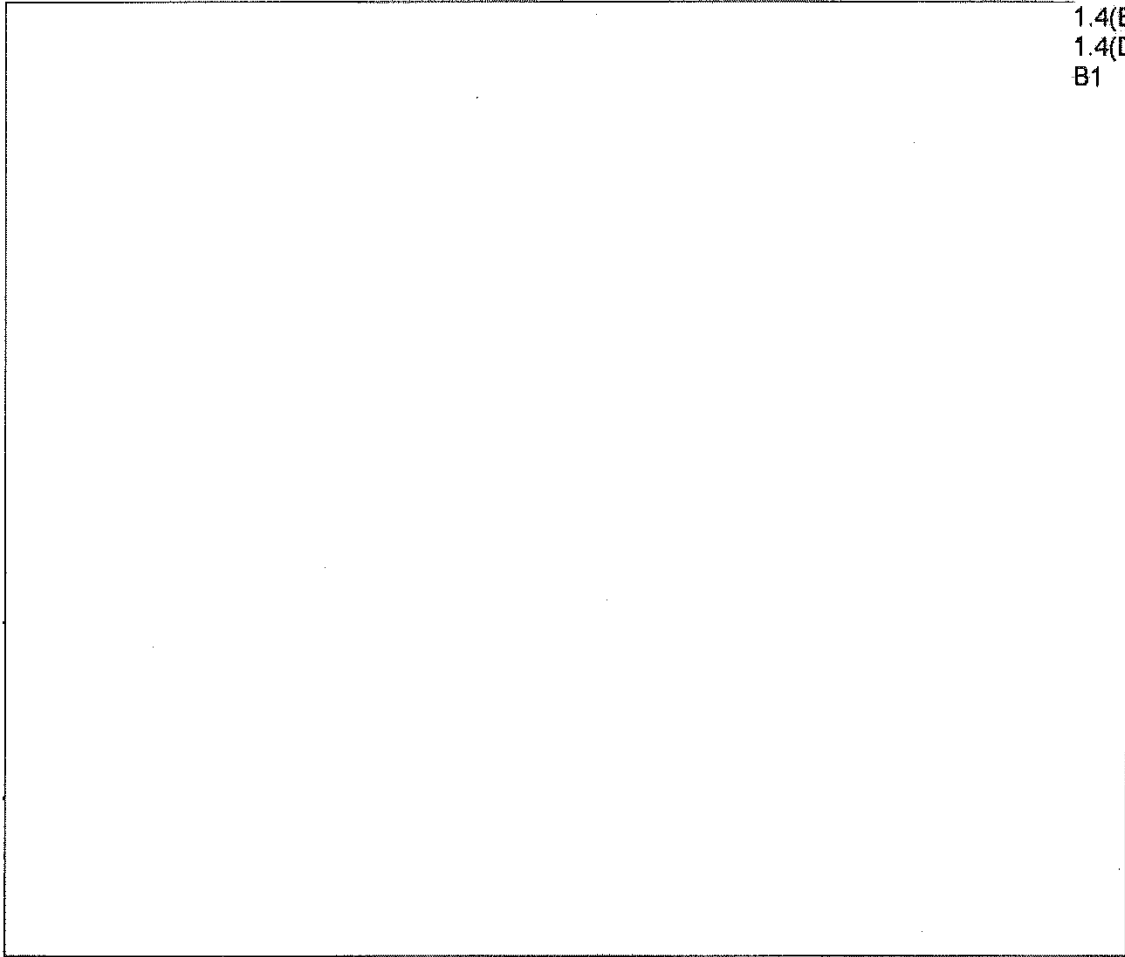
[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[Redacted]

4. (C) In the last two days, senior officials in the Israeli MFA, MOD, and NSC approached us in a coordinated effort to get U.S. help on a public campaign to discourage the flotilla.

[Redacted]



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

5  
6

**Signature:** Cunningham

---

**Classified By:** Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Deputy Chief of Mission  
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Agency: Dept of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/03/23

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Cleared By:** POL:Silverman, Robert J

**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE, USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** POL, RSO, CONS\_INFO, LEGAT, AMB\_INFO, ORA, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**CONFIDENTIAL**





P38

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 7:32 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** Tel Aviv Cable: MFA Asks for Specific USG Assistance to Counter May Flotilla

**Categories:** Working

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),B6

Michael: The AMB should see this. --Jerry

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**SMART Core**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 02:19:00  
**To:** Levin, Jan X  
**Cc:** Cairo-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; TELAVIV-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Aims, Clifford A  
**Subject:** MFA Asks for Specific USG Assistance to Counter May Flotilla

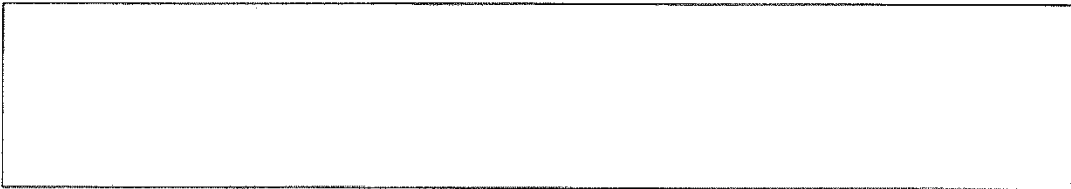
B6

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 423  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 06, 2011 / 061118Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE 1.4(B)  
**E.O.:** 13526 1.4(D)  
**TAGS:** PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, TU, IS B1  
**Reference:** A) 11 TEL AVIV 365  
**Subject:** MFA Asks for Specific USG Assistance to Counter May Flotilla

1. (C) Summary: MFA officials asked us April 6 for specific assistance following on reftel discussion to support their efforts to counter plans for another flotilla in late May. [redacted]



1  
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

End Summary.

2. [Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3.

4.

5. (C) [Redacted] pointed to an open source website as the basis for his report, cited in reftel, that an IHH delegati had travelled to Tehran in February 2011 to seek Ahmadinejad's support. The website can be viewed at [http://www.thememriblog.org/turkey/blog\\_personal/en/34568.htm](http://www.thememriblog.org/turkey/blog_personal/en/34568.htm).

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (C) Post notes that many of these issues were discussed at the April 1 IPC and would appreciate guidance on how to respond to the GOI [Redacted]

B5

Signature: GOLDBERGER

**Classified By:** Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Agency: Dept of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/06

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Cleared By:** POL:Silverman, Robert J

**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Info:** CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE, USUN NEW YORK,

**Attachments:** USMISSION *ROUTINE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*  
Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

P40

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2011 2:57 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Mineo, Mark R; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** Tel Aviv Cable: INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA [redacted] 1.4(D)  
B1  
**Categories:** Working

1. (C) On April 18, MFA [redacted] welcomed refel points, and thank [redacted] Washington for this "important effort." [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] 1.4(D)  
[redacted] B1

**Classification: CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d**  
**Declassify On: 2021/04/19**

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**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 03:44:34  
Jones, Stacey L; Miles, Barbara J; Read, Anthony M; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Combs, James D; Walston, Melissa L; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M  
**To:** [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN; Alexander, Banu  
**Cc:** [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN; Alexander, Banu  
**Subject:** INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Action Office:** POL, RSO, LEGAT, ORA  
**Info Office:** CONS\_INFO, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 505  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 18, 2011 / 181242Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS  
**Reference:** A) STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF 1.4(B)  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG 1.4(D)  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG B1  
**Subject:** INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA [REDACTED]

2. (C) Summary: During brief pre-Passover conversations, MFA officials made clear they remain actively involved in efforts to prevent the upcoming flotilla scheduled to correspond with the one-year anniversary of the Mavi Marmara's interdiction. [REDACTED]

3. (C) On April 18, MFA [REDACTED] welcomed refuel points, and thanked Washington for this "important effort." [REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

7. (SBU) We will follow up with [Redacted] on April 26 once the Passover holidays conclude.  
B6

**Signature:** CUNNINGHAM

---

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/18  
**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Grubb, Jason B  
**Cleared By:** POL:Silverman, Robert J  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Grubb, Jason B  
**Info:** USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE; ZEN/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, RSO, CONS\_INFO, LEGAT, AMB\_INFO, ORA, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P41

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2011 11:15 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Treiber, Laird D; Gregonis, Meghan E; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** STATE 36240; Flotilla Demarche Delivered

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Working

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CONFIDENTIAL**



AMBs Sanberk, Rende and Department Head Ali Riza Guney will be in New York Monday and Tuesday for two days of Palmer panel meetings. They and Israeli counterparts will, separately, deliver to Palmer their reservations and questions about the other side's submission.



B5

-- Jerry

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/22



P43

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2011 6:45 AM  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Brief - April 27, 2011

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**Categories:** Working

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**



**SECRET**

April 27, 2011

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

[Redacted]

NR

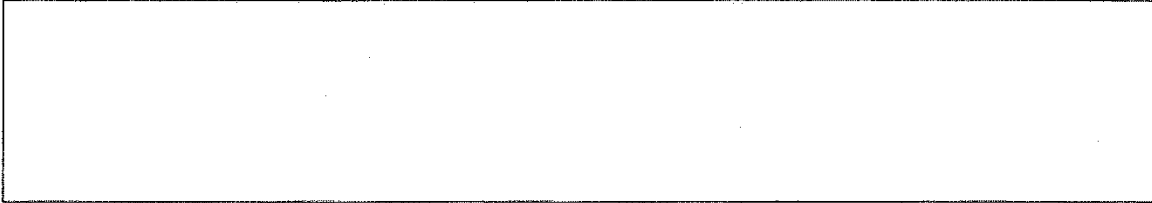
TO: [Redacted] : Davutoglu  
sends warning to Israel: [Redacted]

[Large Redacted Area]

NR

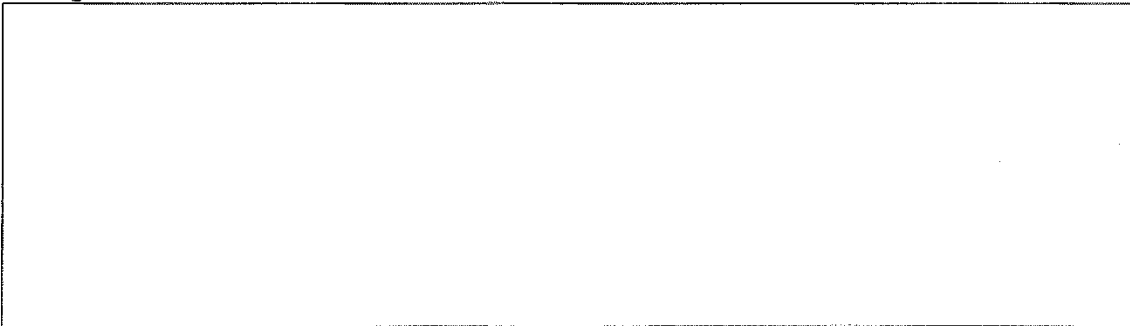


- Haberturk daily reported FM Davutoglu's warnings on Israel against repeating the same mistake and taking action against a flotilla to Gaza next month. Davutoglu stressed that Turkey has no control over the flotilla and that no one nation owns Mediterranean. He added that the Israeli blockade of Gaza is illegal.



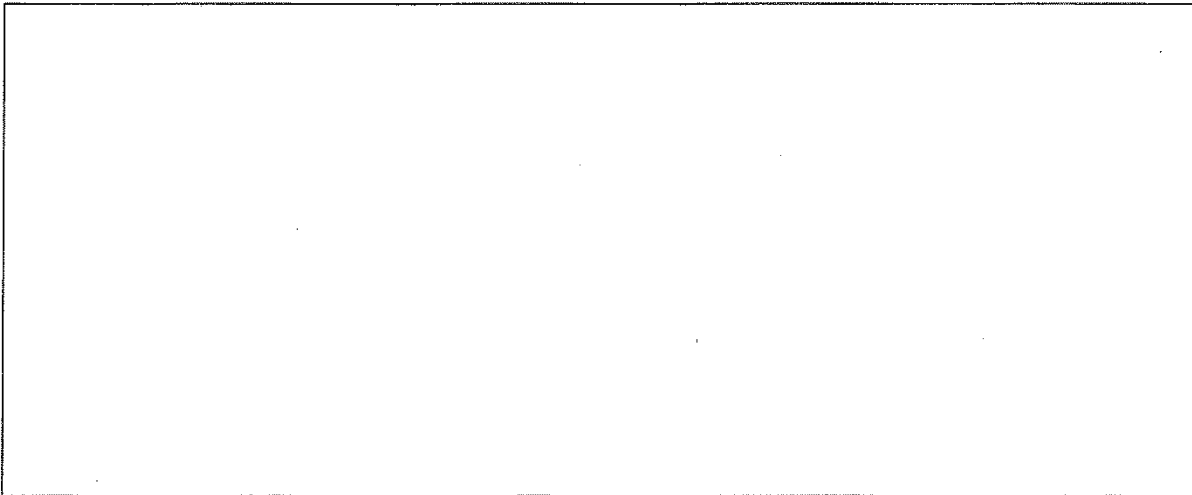
[Return to Top](#) -- Read the Latest Media Reaction ([Ankara 580](#))

**Upcoming Events**



[Return to Top](#)

**Links to More Info on Turkey**



RELEASED IN FULL

P44

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: (C/NF) EUR Daily Activity Report for Mon, May 9, 2011  
**Categories:** Working

Thank you. Always nice to be read.

I sent the first half to EUR/SE in an email. ☺

Sensitive

This email is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN  
**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2011 3:05 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: (C/NF) EUR Daily Activity Report for Mon, May 9, 2011

Jerry,

At least the second half of this is likely from your recent cable.

m.

Sensitive

This email is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN  
**From:** Harris, Rian H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 10, 2011 1:45 AM  
**Subject:** (C/NF) EUR Daily Activity Report for Mon, May 9, 2011

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN  
DECL: 05/09/2016

**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Monday, May 9, 2011**

- **(SBU) Turkey: Gaza Flotilla To Sail Third Week of June:** The international steering committee for the Gaza "Freedom Flotilla II" met in Paris May 9 and announced ships will depart the third week of June from various European ports, including Marseille.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Organizers also announced the recent addition of a Swiss-German vessel to the flotilla. Separately, Turkish Islamist NGO IHH announced plans to send a 1,000 ton ship laden with construction materials, textile products, and medicine destined for Gaza to Egypt's El-Arish port on May 31; IHH will also participate in the "Freedom Flotilla II."

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

P47

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2011 11:23 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Jaworski, Richard E  
**Subject:** TEL AVIV Cable: IHH Reaches out to Israel

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Categories:** Working

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/13

---

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2011 5:21 PM  
**To:** Levin, Jan X; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** Grubb, Jason B; Silverman, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; 'ssimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; [redacted] SecNav, Front Office'; [redacted] CIV OSD POLICY'; [redacted] CIV DUSN, DUSN B6 Foreign Affairs'; [redacted] @osd.smil.mil'; Howard, Jeremiah H; Blome, Donald A; Burnett, David R  
**Subject:** RE: FW: IHH Reaches out to Israel

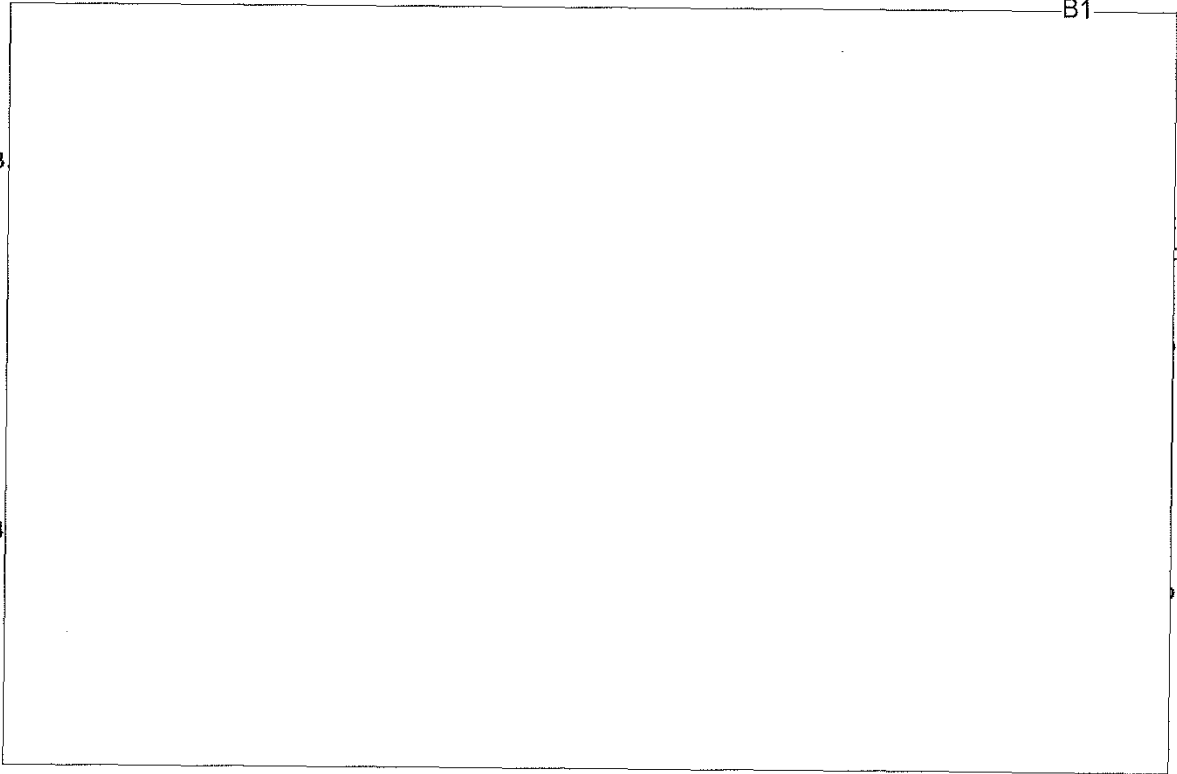
This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/13

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

---

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2011 4:50 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** Grubb, Jason B; Silverman, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; 'ssimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; [redacted] B6 [redacted] SecNav, Front Office'; [redacted] CIV OSD POLICY'; [redacted] CIV DUSN, DUSN Foreign Affairs'; [redacted] @osd.smil.mil'; Howard, Jeremiah H; Blome, Donald A  
**Subject:** FW: IHH Reaches out to Israel





**Signature:** GOLDBERGER

---

**Classified By:** Name: Thomas Goldberger, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: Political section, U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Agency: Dept of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/06/13

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Info:** NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; OSD WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

P48

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Godfrey, Anthony F. [AGodfrey@nss.eop.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 8:33 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Hay, Andrew W  
**Subject:** RE: (SBU) No IHH Participation in Freedom Flotilla 2 [CONFIDENTIAL, Record]  
**Categories:** Working

That's good news. Thanks.

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H [mailto:HowardJH@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 7:49 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Godfrey, Anthony F.; EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Hay, Andrew W  
**Subject:** (SBU) No IHH Participation in Freedom Flotilla 2

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Citing a meeting he had had last Tuesday at IHH, [redacted] told me June 30 none of the 1.4(D) NGO's members will be participating in Freedom Flotilla 2. IHH representatives plan to hail some flotilla vessels at B1 European departure ports, but they won't board.

An apparently chafing IHH official also [redacted] the NGO had been instructed not to speak publicly about its disengagement from the flotilla. The IHH official would not identify the source of that instruction.

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Political Counselor, Acting  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, A/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/30

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



949

**Logg, Cristina A**

RELEASED IN FULL,  
Non-responsive deleted  
NR

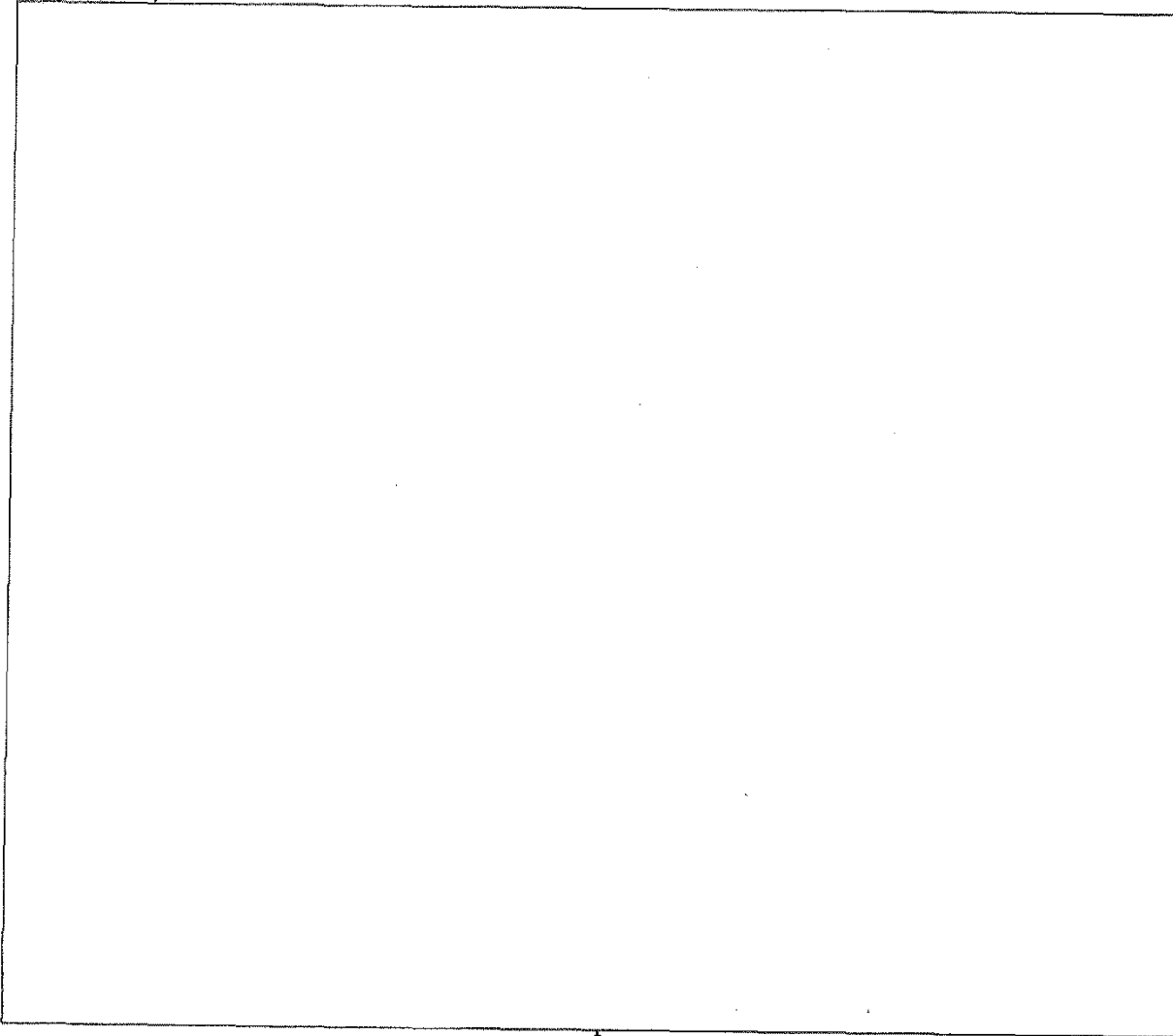
**From:** Fernandes, Anthony C  
**Sent:** Friday, September 09, 2011 6:33 AM  
**To:** Fernandes, Anthony C  
**Subject:** Turkey Daily Brief - September 9, 2011



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL

September 9, 2011



NR

NR

[Redacted]

**Media Highlights**

- (U) Numerous media outlets report on President Gul's comments on Israel calling it "ungrateful." According to Gul, Israeli officials four times contacted Turkey with apology offers and each time before FM Davutoglu could obtain Turkish agreement, the Israelis stepped back at the last minute.

- [Redacted]

- According to *Hurriyet* and *Zaman* during an Al Jazeera television interview, PM Erdogan said "Turkish warships are authorized to protect our ships that carry humanitarian aid to Gaza. From now on, we will not let these ships be attacked by Israel, as happened with the Mavi Marmara." PM also said Israel has no right to carry out economic activities in the Mediterranean. Moreover, Turkey has taken steps to address this. However, *Zaman* notes the remarks did not appear in the parts of the interview broadcast by Al Jazeera.

- [Redacted]

[Return to Top](#)

[Return to Top](#) – Read the Latest Media Reaction (11 ANKARA 1336)

[Redacted]

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

P51

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 10, 2011 7:10 AM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Stafford, Edward G; Fernandes, Anthony C; Hansen, Ralph S; Jaworski, Richard E  
**Cc:** Kim, Yuri J; Hay, Andrew W; Ahn, Michael; Witmer, Kami A NR  
**Subject:** Israeli Embassy: Another Flotilla, [redacted]

**CONFIDENTIAL**

A short chat November 10 with the Israeli Embassy here revealed:

- Gol concern about a report of a new Gaza-bound "flotilla," originating in Tunisia. [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] 1.4(D)  
[redacted] B1  
[redacted] NR

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, A/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/11/10

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Logg, Cristina A**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2010 1:31 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; Kramer, Diana L; Price, Adam P  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** FW: Mitchell-Davutoglu Mtg

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:38 PM  
**To:** Kaidanow, Tina S; Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Lawson, Christine M; Knopf, Payton L  
**Cc:** Hof, Frederic C; Jeffrey, James F; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** Mitchell-Davutoglu Mtg

All -  
Below please find a readout of S/E Mitchell's meeting with Turkish FM Davutoglu on April 14. Participants included Special Advisor Fred Hof, AMB Jeffrey, EUR/SE Director Jess Baily and Turkish AMB Tan (former Turkish Ambassador to Israel).

**On improving Turkey-Israel relations:**

[Redacted content]

NR

**On restarting Turkish mediation of indirect talks:**

[Redacted content]

NR

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

[Redacted]

NR

**On weapons transfers from Syria to Hezbollah:**

[Redacted]

NR

**On the Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) convoy of ships to Gaza:**

Mitchell urged Dav to work with senior Turkish political figures to dissuade or shape positively the IHH's shipping plans. Stressing that the Turkish government was not providing any encouragement or support to IHH, Dav said he had already "warned" IHH, but ultimately cannot prevent them from sailing. He emphasized that IHH domestically was under pressure to provide humanitarian assistance in key areas such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, and the Palestinian territories. With the assumption that Israeli approval of the Turkish pre-fabricated housing project would be forthcoming shortly, Dav pointed out that he could share the housing project approval with IHH, which could help dissuade the group from moving forward with its planned flotilla to Gaza.

**On Turkey's role in the Middle East:**

[Redacted]

NR

Denise M. Marsh  
Senior Turkey Desk Officer  
EUR/SE  
(202) 647-9749

P54

RELEASED IN PART NR,B6

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 1:22 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Price, Adam P  
**Cc:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] ON ISRAELS

B6

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2010 7:11 PM  
**To:** Hof, Frederic C; Silliman, Douglas A; Sievers, Marc J; Mitchell, George J  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; Marsh, Denise M; Pounds, Timothy J; Baily, Jess L; Kaidanow, Tina S; Marsh, Denise M; McEldowney, Nancy E; Gordon, Philip H; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; O'Grady, Daniel J; Riley, Robert J  
**Subject:** [redacted] ON ISRAELS

B6

NR



- (ISRAELIS WOULD ALSO LIKE A CLEARER LINK BETWEEN ANY FACILITATION ON CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND TURKISH FACILITATION ON THE 'PEACE CONVOY' SET TO LEAVE FROM ISTANBUL TO GAZA. TURKS SEEM TO BE TAKING POSITION PER ISRAELIS—I DIDN'T GET INTO THIS WITH [redacted]—THAT CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS WOULD BE A NECESSARY BUT PERHAPS NOT SUFFICIENT ISRAELI ACTION TO GET GOT TO MAKE THE PEACE CONVOY GO AWAY SOMEHOW.)
- I WILL RUN DOWN ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IF POSSIBLE ON ALL OF THIS TONIGHT.

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P58

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:27 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political  
**Subject:** FW: GUL, ERDOGAN NOW ON A MORE CONCILIATORY LINE [SECRET, Record]

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth [mailto:ESherwood-Randall@nss.eop.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:12 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Brink, Bridget A.; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Marsh, Denise M; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Levin, Jan X; Sievers, Marc J; Operations Center; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otafvaro, Laura H; Daalder, Ivo H; Heffern, John A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hof, Frederic C; Wells, Alice G  
**Subject:** RE: GUL, ERDOGAN NOW ON A MORE CONCILIATORY LINE [SECRET, Record]

Jim,

[Redacted]

B5

Liz

Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall  
Special Assistant to the President and  
Senior Director for European Affairs  
National Security Council

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

(202) 456-9151

**From:** Jeffrey, James F [mailto:jeffreyj@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:57 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Brink, Bridget A.; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Marsh, Denise M; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Levin, Jan X; Sievers, Marc J; Operations Center; Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otafvaro, Laura H; Daalder, Ivo H; Heffern, John A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Cunningham, James B; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hof, Frederic C; Wells, Alice G  
**Subject:** GUL, ERDOGAN NOW ON A MORE CONCILIATORY LINE

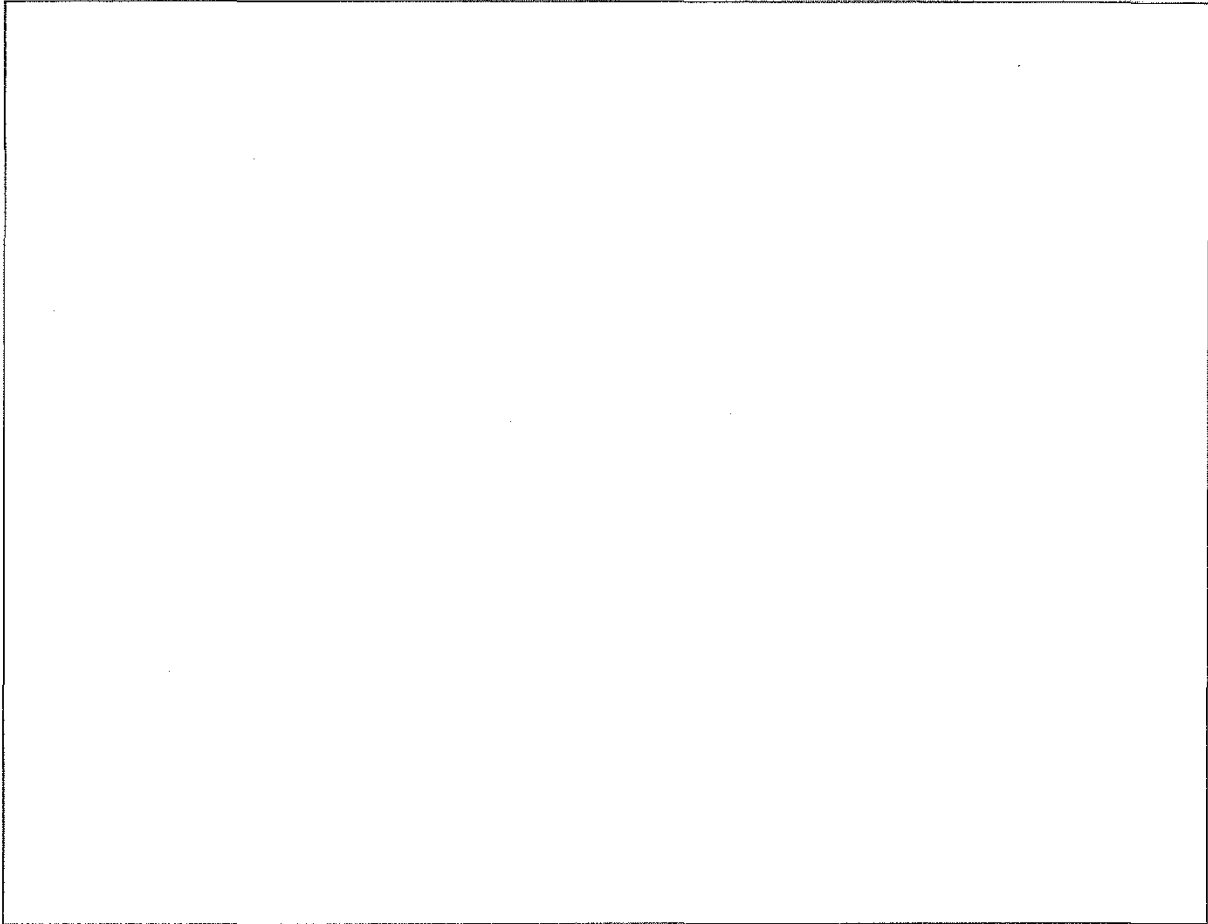
1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

[Redacted]





**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** ~~SECRET~~//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/01

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

RELEASED IN PART B5

PGO

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 1:19 AM  
**To:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Quinn, Shannon D  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla cargo  
  
**Categories:** Working

Hey, Sal:

[Redacted]

B5

PRM is asking.

-- Jerry

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:13 AM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** Quinn, Shannon D; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza Flotilla cargo

Can one of you help Shannon? Thanks

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

---

**From:** Quinn, Shannon D  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:37 PM  
**To:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla cargo  
**Importance:** High

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Hi Barbara,

I'm trying to gather as much detail as I can on the cargo that was aboard the Gaza Aid Flotilla when it was intercepted in international waters. I was reading your Daily Briefs and I wonder if you would if anyone at Embassy Ankara might have cargo manifests from the flotilla ships that departed from Turkey. I'll reach out to our friends in Athens to see if they have anything on the ships that joined from Greece. We are trying to compare what was supposed to be onboard vs the GOI accounting to see if there are any discrepancies. For example, Hamas and others are alleging that the cargo included cement and the GOI has said there was none aboard.

Whatever help you could give me in tracking this info down would be very much appreciated.

Best,

Shannon

**Shannon Quinn**  
Palestinian Refugees Program Officer  
Office of Assistance for Asia and the Near East  
Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration  
Office: (202) 453-9295 Mobile: (202) 569-1722

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

PG1

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 1:31 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla  
**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 2:39 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Ambassador and Doug,

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 11:08 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Phillip H; McElDowney, Nancy E; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Brink, Bridget A.'; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hof, Frederic C; Cunningham, James B; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'  
**Subject:** RE: MFA ON IHH GAZA CONVOY: [Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/05/28

**Robert J. Riley**  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)  
U.S. Department of State  
Office: 202-647-5120  
Cell: 202-374-0849  
[riley.ri@state.gov](mailto:riley.ri@state.gov)

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P62

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 2:17 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 9:15 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Jerry,

[Redacted]

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 9:11 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Bally, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** RE: Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

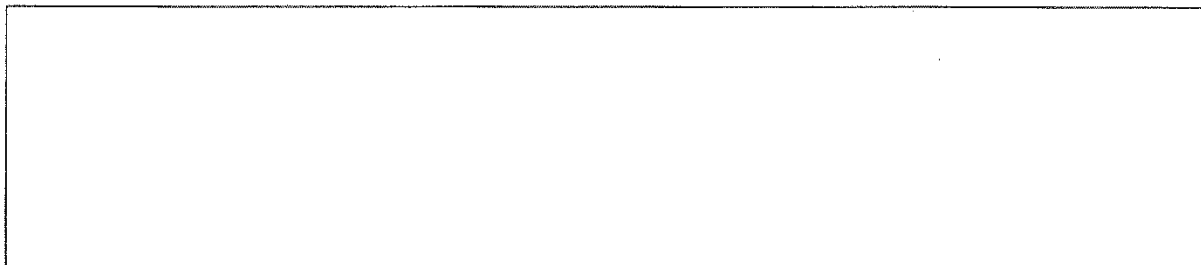
Sensitive

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 2:39 AM

**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Marsh, Denise M; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** Short-fuse request for info on conversations with Turks pre-flotilla

Ambassador and Doug,



B5

As always, if we could have this by our OOB, it would be much appreciated. Many thanks, Bob

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 11:08 AM  
**To:** Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; 'esherwood-randall@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Brink, Bridget A.'; Kaidanow, Tina S; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hof, Frederic C; Cunningham, James B; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'  
**Subject:** RE: MFA ON IHH GAZA CONVOY: MESSAGE THEY WANT PASSED TO ISRAELIS

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)



B1

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/05/28

Robert J. Riley  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)

U.S. Department of State  
Office: 202-647-5120  
Cell: 202-374-0849  
rileyv@state.gov



RELEASED IN PART B5

P63

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 3:56 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Jeffrey, James F  
**Subject:** FW: S IM tasker

**Categories:** Working



B5

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/07

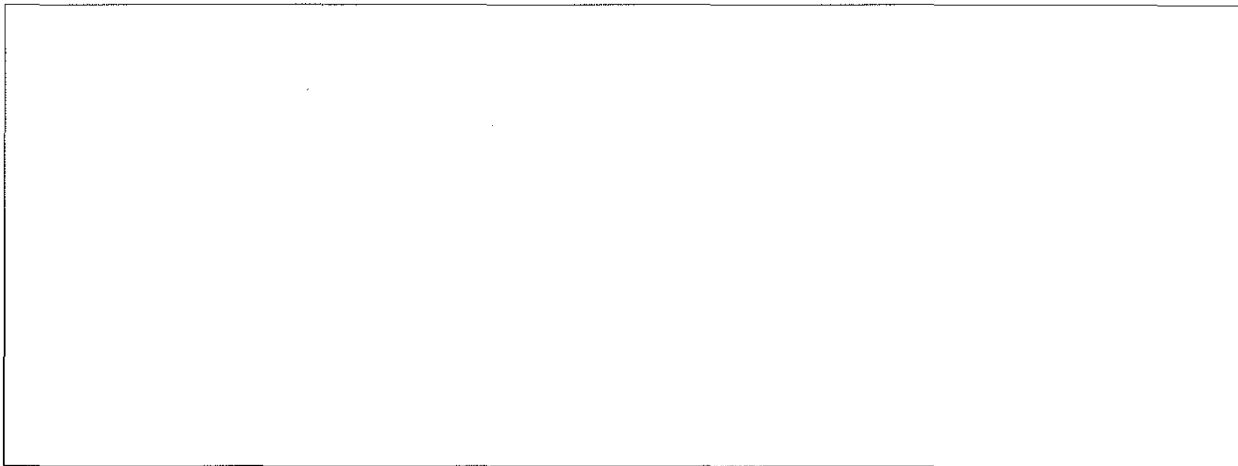
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**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 10:16 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** FW: S IM tasker



---

**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:08 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** S IM tasker



Thanks,  
Denise

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P64

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 7:47 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** FW: IHH flotilla tick tock (revised)  
**Attachments:** IHH Flotilla tick tock 2.docx

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

Thank you.

-- Jerry

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/04

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on:  
06/03/2020

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 2:23 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** IHH flotilla tick tock (revised)

[Redacted]

B5

April 9

IHH Ankara told us two Turkish ships would join the Gaza-bound flotilla. (ANKARA 565)

April 12

The Israel Embassy [Redacted] (ANKARA 565)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

The MFA told us [Redacted] (ANKARA 565)

May 4

The Embassy and Consulate Istanbul received a letter from IHH calling for solidarity and support for the flotilla.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

May 6

The Israeli Embassy told Deputy POL Counselor [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (ANKARA 680)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

May 10

IHH Ankara told us at least four or five AMCITS are expected to join the flotilla. (ANKARA 680)

Sinirlioglu told the AMB that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

May 17

IHH President Bulent Yildirim told Consulate Istanbul POL/ECON Chief 10 AMCITS are expected to join the flotilla. (ISTANBUL 179)

May 21

Sinirlioglu told the AMB [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

(ANKARA 733)

May 27

The outgoing and incoming Israeli DCMs told our DCM [REDACTED]

IHH told Consulate Istanbul the Mavi Marmara would depart at 5pm (May 27) with at least one AMCIT on board. (ISTANBUL 195)

May 28

The IHH Deputy President told Consulate Istanbul three IHH ships were en route to rendezvous with other ships near Cyprus. (ISTANBUL 199)

May 31

Israeli AMB told AMB Jeffrey [REDACTED]

Sinirlioglu told AMB Jeffrey [REDACTED]

AMB Jeffrey and the entire Dip Corps (Amb level) were called in by the MFA. The MFA said all the violence occurred on the Mavi Marmaris.

Murat Mercan told AMB Jeffrey and codel Delahunt that the Turks wanted an immediate release of Turkish ships and personnel.

June 1

IHH told Consulate Istanbul that IHH was seeking the return of the confiscated materials. (ANKARA 777)

President Gul told AMB Jeffrey and Congressman Delahunt  
[redacted] (ANKARA 783)

[redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

June 3

The MFA told Acting POL Chief they were formally reviewing Turkey-Israeli bilateral relations.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/04

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

PG5

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 12:45 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Mineo, Mark R (Monterrey, Mexico); Ahn, Michael; Price, Adam P  
**Cc:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] Comments 1.4(B)  
 1.4(D)  
**Categories:** Working B1

fyi

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/07

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 7:21 PM  
**To:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Hood, Courtney M (Istanbul); O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Jeffrey, James F  
**Subject:** [redacted] Comments

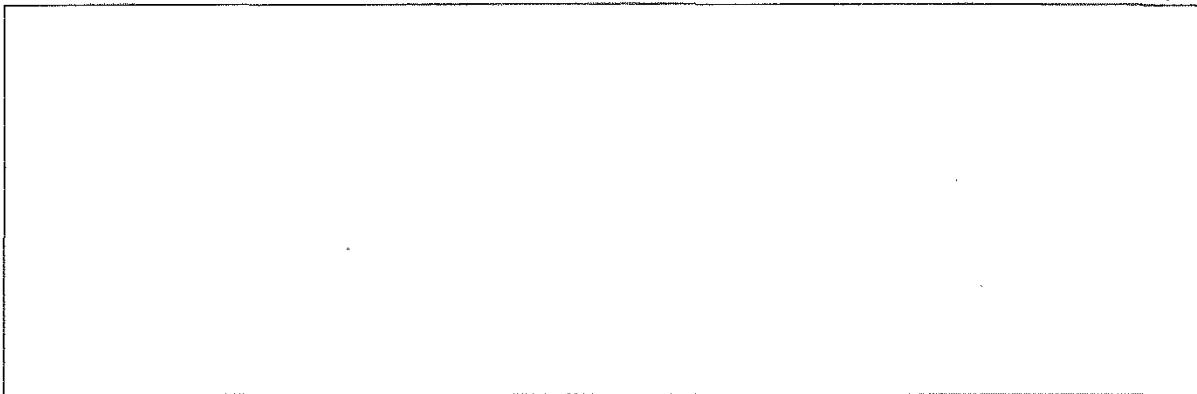
On Sunday, June 6, we hosted [redacted] on the Hiawatha. Following are some notes of our conversation:

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Flotilla incident: Bagis said [redacted]

NR

NR



**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Classified by:** Sharon Wiener, Principal Officer/Consul General, Exec, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/07

RELEASED IN PART B6

P66

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2010 1:12 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; Price, Adam P; Mineo, Mark R  
**Cc:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Meeting

**Categories:** Working

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 11:56 PM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L.; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Meeting

Susan, Rich – many thanks to you and your sections for your help with Amcits in the Free Gaza flotilla. Jess

---

**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:54 PM  
**To:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L.; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Meeting

All – please see below from NEA/IPA – it is the interview CA and NEA conducted today with [redacted] who was aboard the Challenger I. There are a couple of mentions of CONGEN Istanbul.

B6

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:17 PM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Meeting

Denise, Wanted to share this with you and for you to share with the ConGen as well.  
Wes

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

6/14/2010

---

## (SBU) Meeting with Free Gaza Participant

Edit

CA/OCS and NEA/IPA met today with [redacted] who was on board the Challenger I and arrested as part of the Free Gaza flotilla. [redacted] previously has visited Gaza three times since Operation Cast Lead and was involved in the failed Gaza Freedom March last year, which ended in Cairo with Egyptian refusal to enter at Rafah.

[redacted] made several requests to the Department including:

- To press the GOI to release the ships to their owners;
- Have a U.S. investigation into the death of Amcit Furkan Dogan;
- Gain the return of personal possessions from the Challenger and Svendoni ([redacted] believes that only possessions on the Mavi Marmara were transferred to Turkey and ConGen Istanbul is working to confirm if any belongings of Amcits remain unclaimed);
- Request that consular officers visit the ships to ensure no personal property remains on board;
- Request that Israel return electronic equipment to its owners (she stated that it was fine if the memory was wiped clean on them, but that the equipment should be returned);
- Have international participation in the investigation, which she understood may already have been announced by Israel.

[redacted] described the conditions at Ben Gurion prior to her removal as "brutal." She stated that along with 11 other female detainees, she was forced to remain in a prison van for 5 hours with no water or ability to use a bathroom. There were many altercations between deportees and security officials, which she claimed were started when security officials struck individuals.

Finally, [redacted] expressed her thanks to both Embassy Tel Aviv and ConGen Istanbul consular staff, for their assistance to Free Gaza participants!

Posted at 3:00 PM by Reisser, Wesley J << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

**Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.**  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
(202) 647-2647 (Unclass phone)



P68

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 3:34 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Arvey, Jason M  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

RELEASED IN PART  
B1,B5,B7(C),1.4(D),B6

**Categories:** Working



B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 8:36 AM  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Rich, Dan,



Thanks,

Doug

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Douglas A. Silliman  
 Deputy Chief of Mission  
 US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
 90-312-455-5555 x7190

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/18

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 2:33 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Kaidanow, Tina S; Marsh, Denise M  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Doug, thanks for this.



B5

Jess

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Jess Baily, Director, EUR/SE, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

---

**From:** Holmstrom, Todd  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:00 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Walles, Jacob  
**Subject:** RE: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Thanks, Jess. Jake replaced Maura.

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 5:24 PM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd  
**Subject:** FW: FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

Sending to you Todd as Maura and Tom have left.

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 9:01 AM  
**To:** EUR-SE-DL; Brink, Bridget A.; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** FW: IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

IHH account of Gaza flotilla and other topics given to ConGen Istanbul.

Doug

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 d  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/17

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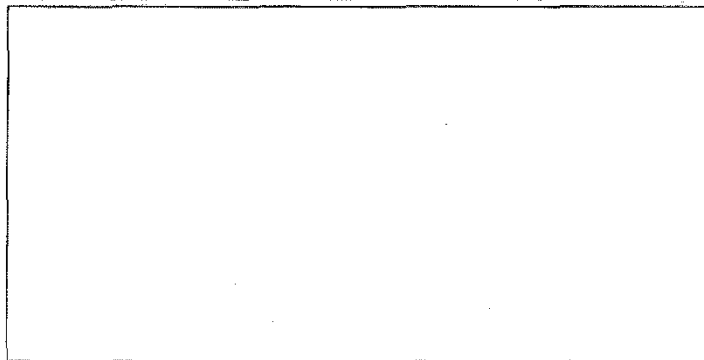
**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 02:45:10  
**To:** Pistana, Robert ; Mineo, Mark R; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Keen, Berna; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Kiel, Stephanie; Godfrey, Anthony F; Basso, Dianne L; Ahn, Michael; Reynolds, Carol T; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A; Hunter, Rodney M; Ogle, Karen L.; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Arvey, Jason M; Price, Adam P; Deblauw, Kim J; Yountchi, Suzanne M; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Appleton, Richard H; Miles, Barbara J; Leary, Thomas M; Hessler, Robert E; MassoudAnsari, Kurosh; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Eppler, Dale B; Kolega, Alen; Brooks, Judith A; Roundy, Brian A; Klopp, Deborah A; Hamilton, Elizabeth H  
**Subject:** IHH WAITING FOR INVESTIGATION RESULTS TO DECIDE ON FUTURE FLOTILLA

B7(C)

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Action Office:** POL\_MIL, POL, CONS, CONGEN  
**Info Office:** EAC, AMB\_INFO



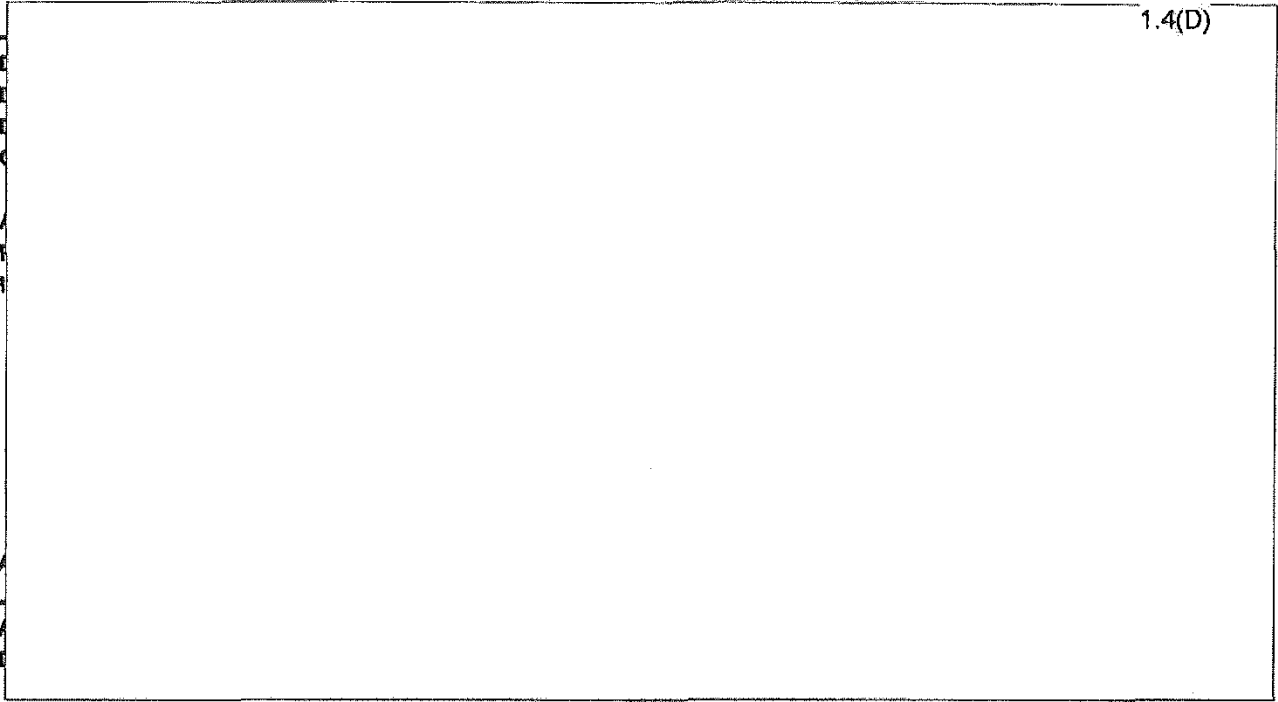
B1

**Page Denied**

B6

B6

**Page Denied**



1.4(D)

CONFIDENTIAL

P69

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 10:43 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] (IHH) meeting, June 18

RELEASED IN PART B5,NR,B6

**Categories:** Working

[redacted]

B6

B5

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/18

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 5:42 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; Jeffrey, James F  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] (IHH) meeting, June 18

[redacted]

B6

B5

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/18

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:43 PM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted] (IHH) meeting, June 18

B6

AMB: FYI. Dan

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Ahn, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:23 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah H; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Miles, Barbara J; Kramer, Diana L  
**Subject:** [redacted]

B6

Dan,

[redacted] told us today IHH has not/not endorsed the launching of a new flotilla.

B6

He said he attended a press meeting in Strasbourg two days ago where a representative from a French (?) NGO announced a new flotilla would be launched in the second half of April. [redacted] said he did not make a statement about IHH's joining the new flotilla, but did acknowledge his presence at the meeting (as the official IHH representative) could have been misconstrued by the media as an endorsement. He said IHH leaders are currently trying to pursue legal action against Israel and asked for USG support.

B6

[redacted] confirmed the Mavi Marmara embarked under a Comoros flag. He said IHH purchased the previously Turkish-flagged ship directly from the municipality. According to the IHH website, IHH purchased the ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc (IDO).

B6

[redacted]

NR

Michael

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



---

**From:** Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** 8/3/2010 11:26:44 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTCrossLow  
**Subject:** FW: Re Flotilla — H Res 1599 (McCarthy) Israel - friend/strategic partner

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

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**From:** Trejo, Marla  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 03, 2010 10:00 AM  
**To:** EUR-SE-DAR-DL; EUR-PGI-CONGRESSIONAL-DL; Kaidanow, Tina S  
**Subject:** Re Flotilla — H Res 1599 (McCarthy) Israel - friend/strategic partner

BILL TEXT  
H Res 1599  
VERSION: INTRODUCED IN HOUSE  
July 30, 2010

111th CONGRESS

2d Session

H. RES. 1599

Reaffirming support for Israel as a longtime friend, ally, and strategic partner of the United States and Israel's right to defend itself.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself and Mrs. MYRICK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

### RESOLUTION

Reaffirming support for Israel as a longtime friend, ally, and strategic partner of the United States and Israel's right to defend itself.

Whereas, on May 22, 2010, a Gaza-bound flotilla, sponsored by the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, Insani Yardım Vakfı (IHH), set sail from Istanbul, Turkey, with hopes to direct international attention to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip through a violent confrontation;

Whereas 600 passengers, including radicals with ties to terrorist groups, boarded the Mavi Marmara ship in Antalya, Turkey, the lead vessel in the "Free Gaza" flotilla;

Whereas, on May 31, 2010, after repeated warnings and assurances that aid would be delivered, Israeli forces intercepted the flotilla that was attempting to break through its naval blockade of Gaza;

Whereas five of the six ships involved in the flotilla cooperated peacefully, but activists on the Mavi Marmara, reacted violently according to a premeditated plan to incite violence;

Whereas when the first Israeli soldier was lowered by helicopter onto the Mavi Marmara, militants onboard tried

connecting the steel cables from the overhead helicopters to the boat's antenna, in order to cause the helicopters to crash;

Whereas when Israeli soldiers boarded the ship, Mavi Marmara passengers began severely beating the soldiers with iron rods, chairs, and wooden poles, stabbing them with knives, and trying to lynch them, throwing one soldier off the deck, and taking pistols from the soldiers and firing at them with deadly intent;

Whereas the Turkish aid group that sent out the flotilla, IHH, belongs to a Saudi-based umbrella organization known as the Union of Good which was established to finance the foreign terrorist organization Hamas;

Whereas the United States Treasury Department has designated the Union of Good as supporting terrorism and has included the organization as part of both the "Designated Charities and Potential Fundraising Front Organizations for FTOs" list and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) list of "Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons";

Whereas, on June 14, 2010, the Government of Israel approved and launched a credible investigation into the flotilla incident with two international observers, Lord William David Trimble of Northern Ireland, a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and Ken Watkin, a former judge advocate general of the Canadian Armed Forces;

Whereas Israel's naval blockade of Gaza was put in place as a response to thousands of rocket attacks on Israel from Hamas terrorists in Gaza, is fully compliant with international law, and has succeeded in stopping terrorists from smuggling weapons into Gaza from the sea that can be used to murder innocent Israeli civilians;

Whereas Israel has offered to fully deliver all aid intended for Gaza, following close inspection of any ship that attempts to cross its naval blockade; and

Whereas Iranian Revolutionary Guard spokesman Ali Shirazi stated that the naval wing of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard is ready to assist further "peace flotillas" to Gaza with all its effort and capabilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms its strong support for Israel as a longtime friend, ally, and strategic partner of the United States;

(2) supports Israel's right to defend itself;

(3) condemns the violent, premeditated actions of the Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH);

(4) calls upon other nations to express their support for Israel's right to defend itself and condemn the actions of the IHH;

(5) expresses its hope that—

(A) the recent incident does not derail the Israeli-Palestinian peace process;

(B) other nations continue to work toward steps to have direct negotiations, advance a two-state solution, and advance the peace process; and

(C) the recent incident does not stop ongoing efforts to confront the on-going attempts of delegitimizing Israel at the United Nations;

(6) denounces efforts by the naval wing of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard to escort future flotillas and

escalate future violent confrontations;

(7) commends President Barack Obama's strong support for Israel's security and his unwavering support for Israel at the United Nations;

(8) calls for continued strong United States leadership at the United Nations, including the utilization of its veto power, to prevent any one-sided and politically tainted "internal investigation" from proceeding; and

(9) encourages the Administration to consider whether the IHH should be placed on the list of foreign terrorist organizations and under a visa ban, after an examination by the intelligence community, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Source: Government Printing Office  
From CQ Bill Text Service  
*Providing government documents on demand, in context.*  
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RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P71

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2010 5:44 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: Isrealis Draw a Line in the Water

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Working

Michael:  --Jerry

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2010 12:22 PM  
**To:** Pistana, Robert  
**Subject:** Isrealis Draw a Line in the Water  
**Importance:** High

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 06, 2010 12:20 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Lee, Robert D  
**Subject:** Isrealis Draw a Line in the Water  
**Importance:** High

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**DECL:04052015**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

We'll put out the above as a cable.

CONFIDENTIAL

-- Jerry

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

P72

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2010 4:48 AM  
**To:** Mineo, Mark R; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Categories:** Working

Just FYI for now.

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**Sensitivity:** Privacy/PII  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/08/20

**From:** Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2010 10:27 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Sutphin, Paul R; Walles, Jacob; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Grubb, Jason B; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut); Cornforth, Jeremy A; Shampaine, Nicole D; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** 'DShapiro@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; NEA-IPA-DL; Schlicher, Ronald L  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

B1

[redacted]

B5

Jonathan

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Friday, August 20, 2010 8:50 AM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Walles, Jacob; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Grubb, Jason B; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut); Cohen, Jonathan R; Cornforth, Jeremy A; Shampaine, Nicole D; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** 'DShapiro@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; NEA-IPA-DL; Schlicher, Ronald L  
**Subject:** RE: GOL Seeking to Prevent the Departure of the Mariam Flotilla

Paul,

[redacted]

B5

Jonathan,

[redacted]

B5

Doug

Douglas A Silliman

Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

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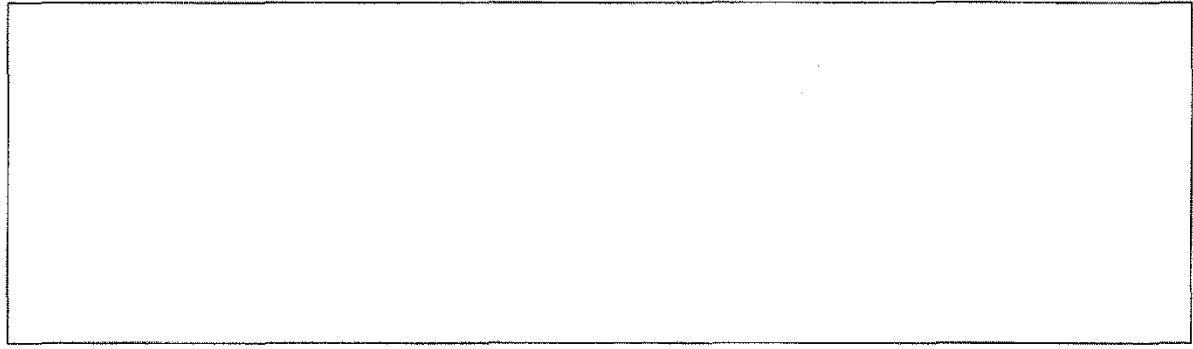
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Doug Silliman, DCM, EXEC, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2035/08/20

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**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2010 9:15 PM  
**To:** Walles, Jacob; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Grubb, Jason B; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut); Cohen, Jonathan R; Cornforth, Jeremy A; Shampaine, Nicole D  
**Cc:** 'DShapiro@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; NEA-IPA-DL; Silliman, Douglas A; Schlicher, Ronald L  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**



**Paul R. Sutphin**  
Director  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

Rm 6251, U.S. Department of State  
(T) 202-647-3672 (F) 202-736-4461

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**



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**MRN:** 10 BEIRUT 723  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 19, 2010 / 191551Z AUG 10

From: AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, MARR, KPAL, LE, IS, CY 1.4(B)  
Captions: SIPDIS, NOFORN 1.4(D)  
Reference: A) 10.BEIRUT 719 B1  
Subject: [Redacted]

1. (C) SUMMARY: The organizers of the *Mariam* flotilla announced on August 19 that the ship will sail for Cyprus on the evening of Sunday, August 22, en route to Gaza. Although they received a permit from the Lebanese transportation ministry on August 18 to sail, Cyprus has reportedly announced that it will not allow the ship to dock there. [Redacted]  
[Redacted] End Summary.

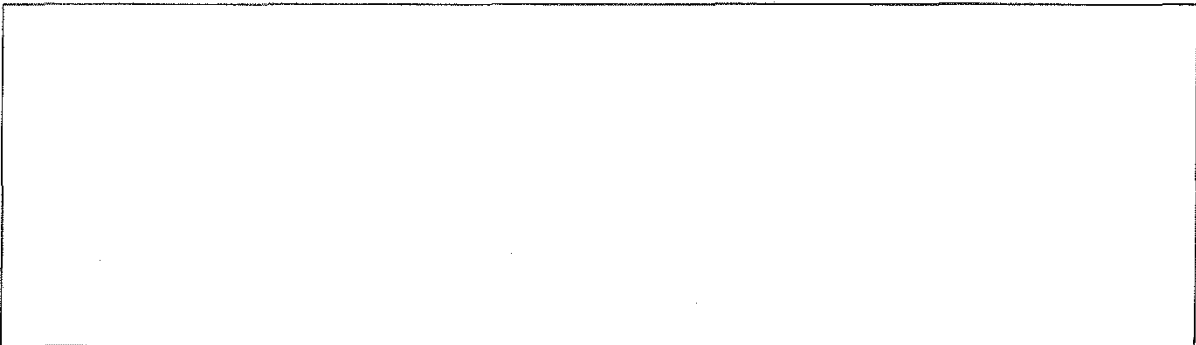
Organizers Announce Departure on August 22

2. (U) In a truncated press conference on August 19, the head of the *Mariam* Flotilla Committee, Samar el-Hajj, announced that the *Mariam* (aka the *Jounieh Star*), a ship intending to break the Gaza blockade, will set sail from the port of Tripoli at 2200 hours on Sunday, August 22, for Cyprus and from there to Gaza. El-Hajj added that the *Mariam's* sister ship, the *Naji al-Ali* (aka the *Julia*), would join it on its trip. The press conference was delayed and relocated to the entrance of the port after the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) prevented the entry of journalists into the port to see the *Mariam* on the pretext that they lacked the necessary permissions. As a result of the LAF action, there was no live coverage of the press conference and only the Hizballah-owned TV station Al-Manar taped it.

3. (U) El-Hajj bitterly complained that the organizers' efforts were being hampered internally, even as they were being hampered outside of Lebanon. Later on August 19 she referred to the port as being "under a blockade" because of the heavy LAF presence, adding, "I hope this is not the situation on Sunday and if it is, I hope it's not because of our boat." According to Al-Manar, another organizer of the flotilla, Yasser Kashlak, explained that the *Mariam* will head to Cyprus first because the authorities there cannot prevent its departure for Gaza. The Lebanese government has said that it will not allow the ship to depart directly for Gaza because it is occupied territory.

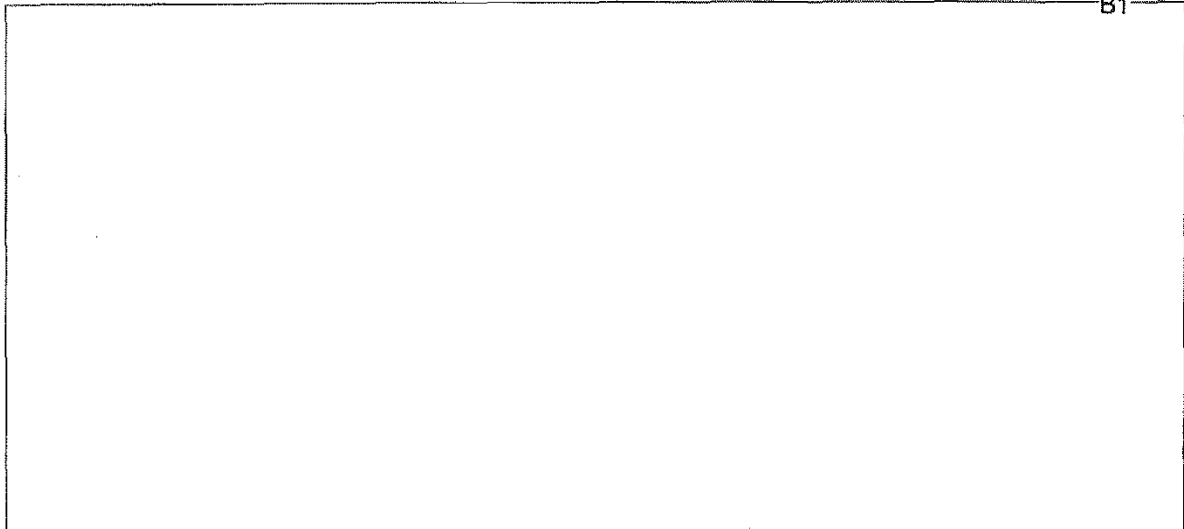
4. (U) Al-Manar reported that the total number of participants is now 200. The *Mariam*, it said, would carry female activist from the U.S., Europe, India, and Lebanon, in addition to medical supplies for civilians in Gaza. The *Naji al-Ali*, Al-Manar said, would carry journalists to cover the trip.

5. (SBU) At 1400 hours, staff from the Embassy's security office observed workers carrying 50-liter containers of fuel and water to the *Mariam*, which was moved from a secondary docking position to a position on the wharf itself. The *Julia* remains anchored in the Tripoli port far from the wharf with no action visible on or around it. The *Julia* is not, according to several sources, seaworthy, and it has not obtained a permit to sail for that reason.





B1



**Signature:** Daughton

---

**Classified By:** Thomas F. Daughton, Charge d'affaires, a.i.  
Embassy Beirut  
State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2020/08/19

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A

**Cleared By:** U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Approved By:** U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Released By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Info:** NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE; NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; Abell, J Andrew ROUTINE; Addis, Casey L ROUTINE; Allen, Katherine E ROUTINE; Catalano, Elisa ROUTINE; Citrin, Ruth ROUTINE; Cornforth, Jeremy A ROUTINE; Dan Shapiro (DShapiro@nsc.eop.sgov.gov) ROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Embury, Benjamin S ROUTINE; Embury, Benjamin S ROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer R ROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Hagar Hajjar (HHajjar@nsc.eop.sgov.gov) ROUTINE; Herbol, Denise A ROUTINE; Herro Mustafa (HMustafa@ovp.eop.sgov.gov) ROUTINE; Hof, Frederic C ROUTINE; Jasmine M. El-Gamal ROUTINE; Jim Lantz ROUTINE; Lantz, James V ROUTINE; McCulloch, Megan L ROUTINE; McQueen, Calvin L ROUTINE; Morris, Kent X ROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL ROUTINE; Nobles, David T ROUTINE; Polacheck, Joshua W (Beirut) ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan J ROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy W ROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald L ROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole ROUTINE; Slson, Michele J ROUTINE; Smith, Anita R (Beirut) ROUTINE; Somerset, Ann D (NEA/PPD) ROUTINE; Walker, Janelle A ROUTINE; Wallis, Jacob ROUTINE; Wells, Alice G ROUTINE; Williams, Jennifer L ROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

RELEASED IN FULL

P75

**BİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLER NEZDİNDE  
TÜRKİYE DAIMİ TEMSİLCİLİĞİ**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

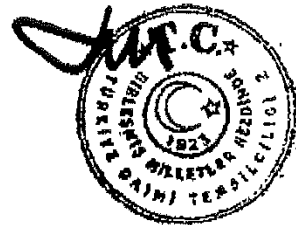
2010/Turkuno DT/23224

The Permanent Mission of Turkey presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of United States of America and has the honour to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Ahmed Davutoğlu, Foreign Minister of Turkey addressed to H.E. Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Foreign Minister of United States of America regarding the international investigation of the Israeli attack on the humanitarian aid convoy to Gaza on 31 May 2010.

The original of the letter will follow in due course.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate to the Permanent Mission of United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 20 September 2010



The Permanent Mission of United States of America to the UN  
New York

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

19 September 2010

Dear Colleague,

I would like to inform you of the recent developments in the investigation of the Israeli attack on the international humanitarian aid convoy on 31 May 2010. You will recall that the attack took place in international waters 72 miles from the nearest coast and resulted in the killing of eight Turkish and one US citizen.

The UN Secretary-General set up a four-man Panel of Inquiry on 2 August 2010, to fulfill the mandate contained in the Presidential Statement of the UN Security Council of 1 June 2010 which called for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

In order to facilitate the work of the UN Panel, Turkey has established a National Commission of Inquiry. The Turkish Commission carried out an objective and diligent study, by inspecting three of the ships in the convoy, receiving verbal and written testimonies from several witnesses and examining the legal implications of the attack with the help of some prominent international lawyers. The resulting interim report and its voluminous factual attachments, including autopsy reports and witness accounts, were presented to the UN Panel of Inquiry on 1 September 2010.

The Turkish Commission is satisfied that the Turkish authorities discharged their responsibilities in full conformity with the Turkish legislation prior to the departure of the Mavi Marmara vessel from Turkey. The vessel and its cargo were thoroughly searched and screened. The passengers went through rigorous passport controls and x-ray checks. The Turkish Commission concluded that the Israeli forces resorted deliberately and unlawfully to violence against the civilians.

The UN Panel of Inquiry appreciated the submission of the interim report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry. Israel is yet to present its own report to the Panel.

We expect the UN Panel of Inquiry to diligently pursue the matter: it must identify the facts about the military attack on a civilian humanitarian convoy and the killing of nine civilians. Its aim should be to investigate the incident. As a result, Israel should formally apologize and compensate the wounded and the families of the deceased.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

As envisaged, the UN Panel presented an initial progress report to the UN Secretary-General before 15 September 2010, outlining the stage reached in its activities. In view of international expectations relating to the investigation, we wish the UN authorities had shared the UN Panel's progress report with the general public. This would have been in line with the principle of transparency, referred to in the UN Security Council's Presidential Statement of 1 June 2010; as well as the Panel's operating principles, outlined in the UN Secretary-General's statement of 2 August 2010 on the establishment of the Panel. We expect the UN Secretary-General to continue his personal engagement into the matter.

There is another UN effort; the Fact Finding Mission of the Human Rights Council based in Geneva, whose three-member team visited Turkey in August to gather first-hand information and to talk to some of the passengers onboard the Mavi Marmara. I met them in person and was impressed with their professionalism and commitment. We look forward to having the report of the Fact Finding Mission.

I would appreciate it very much if you could consider the possibility of including a reference, in the national statements before the General Assembly on behalf of The United States of America, to the attack on the humanitarian convoy and the need for speed, impartiality and transparency in the work of the Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry.

Seeking your personal engagement on this issue, I remain,

Yours faithfully,  
Ahmet Davutoğlu

H.E. Ms. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State  
Of The United States of America

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

078

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 12:05 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H; Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Mokhtarzada, Homeyra N; Gregonis, Meghan E; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Guido, Deborah L; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Turkish Gaza Flotilla Commission Report Blames Israel  
**Categories:** Working

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2035/09/08

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 10:12 AM  
**To:** 'Collins, Jeffrey S.'; 'Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth'; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Walles, Jacob; Cunningham, James B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Baez, Alejandro X; Wells, Alice G  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** FW: Turkish Gaza Flotilla Commission Report Blames Israel

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

All,

Attached is 10 Ankara 1325, and EXDIS on my meeting with the Chair of Turkey's Free Gaza flotilla commission.

[Redacted]

Doug

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Douglas A Silliman  
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2035/09/08

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2010 04:57:19  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** USUN, SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; TELAVIV-SMARTS; ISTANBUL, SMARTS;  
ANKARA-SMARTS  
**Subject:** Turkish Gaza Flotilla Commission Report Blames Israel

**SECRET//NOFORN**

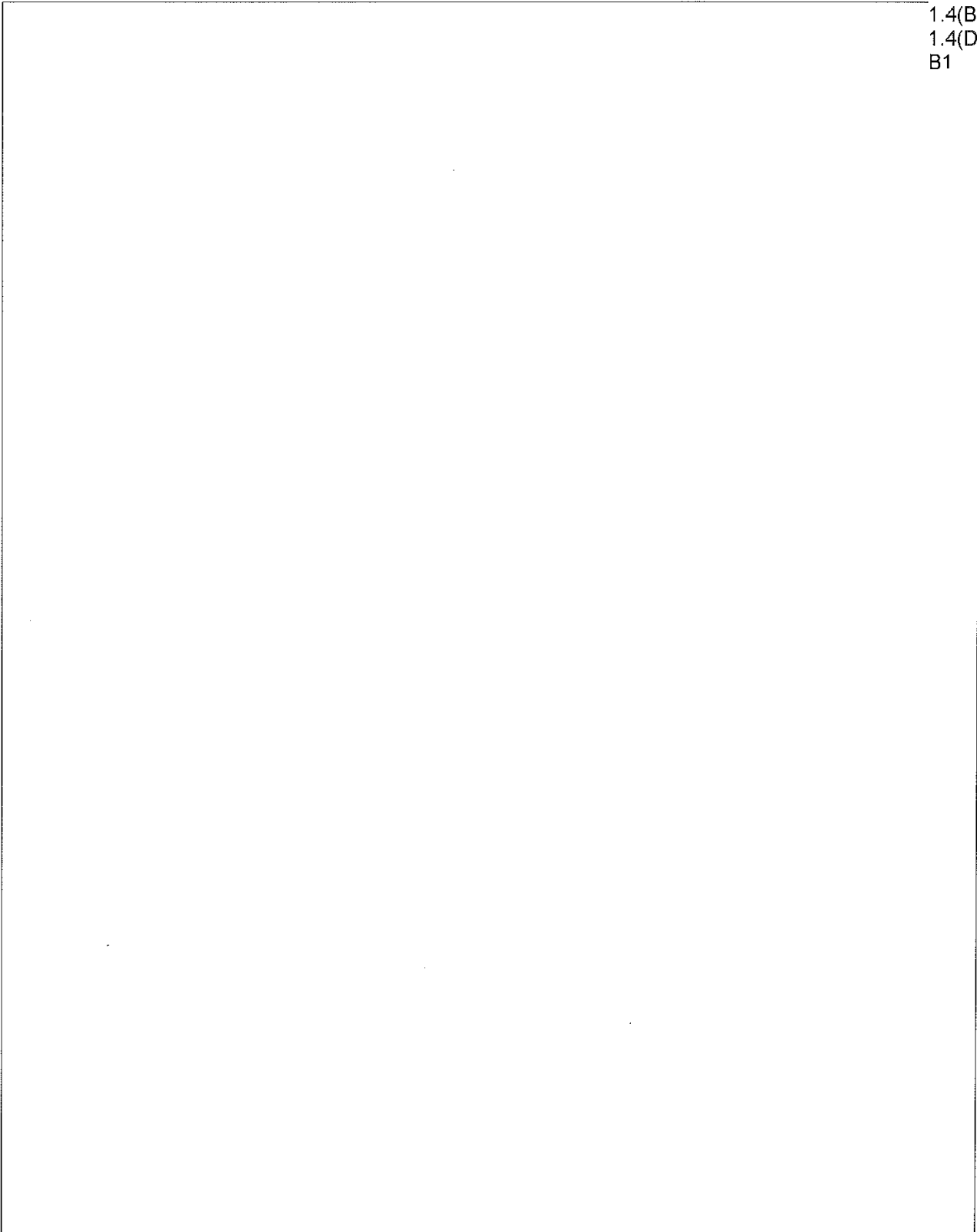


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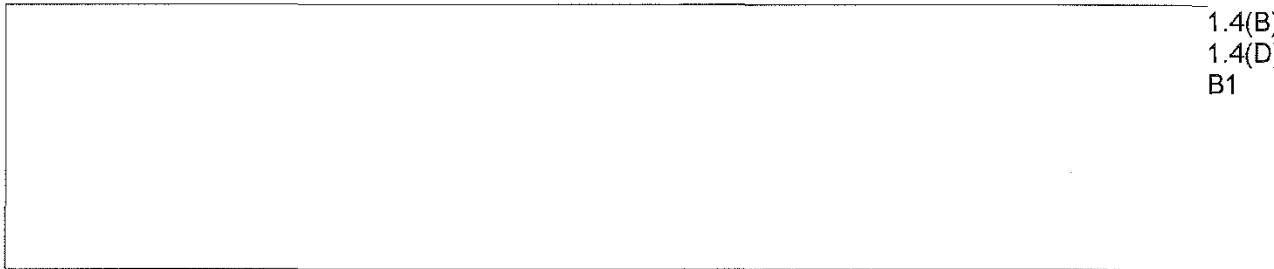
**MRN:** 10 ANKARA 1325  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 08, 2010 / 081357Z SEP 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PTER, PHUM, UN, TU, IS  
**Captions:** EXDIS, NOFORN  
**Subject:** Turkish Gaza Flotilla Commission Report Blames Israel

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1







1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** SILLIMAN

---

**Classified By:** Doug Silliman, CDA  
EXEC  
State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2035/09/08

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Ahn, Michael

**Cleared By:** Political:O'Grady, Daniel J

**Approved By:** Silliman, Douglas A

**Released By:** ANKARA:Silliman, Douglas A

**Info:** USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**SECRET//NOFORN**

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D)

P79

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** FW: SOC from IPC on Flotilla Prevention (4/1) [SECRET, Record]

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 3:56 PM  
**To:** Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Howard, Jeremiah H; Dunn, Patrick M  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** FW: SOC from IPC on Flotilla [Redacted] (4/1) [SECRET, Record]

Dear Win and Jerry,

B1

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

Thanks,  
Alex.

Alexander Schrank  
Turkey Desk Officer  
Office of Southern European Affairs  
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs  
U.S. State Department  
Tel: (202) 647-7581

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2036/04/06

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

P80

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2011 4:41 PM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; O'Grady, Daniel J; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Mineo, Mark R  
**Subject:** FW: Balanced Palmer Report Might Help Close Flotilla Rift, [redacted]

**Categories:** Working 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

Michael: Would you stick this one in the AMB's read file, if he hasn't seen it already. Thank you. B1  
--Jerry

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/17

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 07:26:05  
Jones, Stacey L; Miles, Barbara J; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Witmer, Kami A; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F;  
**To:** kario, [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Treiber, Adrienne M; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Walston, Melissa L; Guido, Deborah L; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Gibbs, Jennifer H B6

**Cc:** Hamilton, Elizabeth H  
**Subject:** Balanced Palmer Report Might Help Close Flotilla Rift, [redacted] 1.4(D)  
B1

**CONFIDENTIAL**



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Office:** POL  
**Info Office:** AMB\_INFO

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 495  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 15, 2011 / 151624Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, KPAL, KWBG, IR, SY, TU, IS  
**Subject:** Balanced Palmer Report Might Help Close Flotilla Rift, [redacted] 1.4(D)  
B1

1. (C) Summary: [redacted] believes that a balanced report by the Palmer Commission might help 1.4(B)  
and Turkey move past the Mavi Marmara incident, following general elections in Turkey. Such reconciliation, how 1.4(D)  
would not repair ties to "pre-Cast Lead" levels, and relations would remain strained. [redacted] B1

[redacted] said CHP contains anti-Israel elements, and that a CHP-led government would not necessarily be better than the current leadership. End summary.

B1

Significant Disagreements Remain Over Flotilla Incident

[redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (U) [redacted] said April 4 that a significant majority of Israelis support Netanyahu's refusal to apologize, and that an unconditional apology would be politically untenable at this point. This Israeli majority feels as though Turkey turned its back on Israel in pursuit of other regional goals, and they have been unwilling to move beyond this perceived betrayal. [redacted] said that Netanyahu, given this political reality, will work to prevent ties from deteriorating further and wait for an opportunity to mend fences. Resolution of the flotilla issue, however, would not return ties to their "golden age" in the late 1990's, or even to "pre-Cast Lead levels," a sentiment echoed by [redacted]

B6

Palmer Commission: A Chance for Rapprochement...

4. (C) A Palmer Commission report that implicates both Israel and Turkey in the flotilla incident would [redacted] gave the way to rapprochement [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted]

[redacted] Erdogan's "Authoritarian" Bent Worrisome

B6

7. (SBU) [redacted] said that Erdogan's authoritarian nature, more so than his party's conservative religious platform, is at the core of Turkey's strained relations with Israel, as well as its push for ascendancy in the region. AKP's religious policies are a passing fad, but Erdogan's strong-arm tactics to stifle dissenting voices in the military, the MFA, and the Turkish media might have a prolonged impact on ties. The Turkish military's cooperation with Israel is at an all-time low largely because Erdogan has stymied its contact with Israeli counterparts in recent years. [redacted] told poloff that the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv pressured Tel Aviv University to cancel [redacted]'s participation in an exchange with Turkish academics in March for fear that Erdogan's office would not approve of her lecture and would subsequently fault the Embassy for allowing Turkish participation. Erdogan has also repeatedly worked to silence his critics in the Turkish media in recent years through legal action, and has even succeeded in jailing some of these dissenters.

B6

Signature: GOLDBERGER

---

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/15  
**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Parsell, Benjamin C  
**Cleared By:** POL:Levin, Jan X  
 POL:Silverman, Robert J  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Parsell, Benjamin C  
**Info:** ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, AMB\_INFO

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART B7(C)

P83

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Mineo, Mark R  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2011 4:28 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cc:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** FW: EU RESPONSE: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"  
**Categories:** Working

FYI

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2011 04:54:27  
**To:** Jones, Stacey L; Combs, James D; Walston, Melissa L; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Miles, Barbara J; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Keen, Berna; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; O'Grady, Daniel J; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Godfrey, Anthony F; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Mineo, Mark R; Miles, James W; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Milford, Rebekah C; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrianne M  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Donelson, Lale ; [redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN; Alexander, Banu  
**Subject:** EU RESPONSE: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"

B7(C)

**UNCLASSIFIED**



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Office:** POL, RSO, ORA, LEGAT  
**Info Office:** DEA\_INFO, EAC, CONS\_INFO

---

**MRN:** 11 USEU BRUSSELS 113  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 20, 2011 / 201352Z APR 11  
**From:** USEU BRUSSELS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, EUN, TU, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
B) 11 TEL AVIV 365  
C) 11 TEL AVIV 423  
D) 11 TEL AVIV 433

**Subject:** EU RESPONSE: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"

1. (SBU) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to the Co-Desk for Palestine in the European External Action Service. Our contact said that the EU was aware of media reports on a possible flotilla attempt in May and had also received information from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The EU is concerned about the flotilla attempt and noted that land crossings should be used (consistent with the Quartet's June 2010 statement). The EEAS contact noted that there has been no public announcement to date, but that the High Representative is aware of the issue.

2. (SBU) While the EEAS had no further information about any possible European Union participation in the flotilla, we have heard that some Members of the European Parliament may be planning to participate. We have no further information at this time about which MEPs may be considering joining the flotilla, but will continue to follow up with contacts.

**Signature:** WHITE

---

**Drafted By:** BRUSSELS:Katkar, Emily L (Brussels)  
**Approved By:** USEU POL:Davis, Christopher R (Brussels)  
**Released By:** BRUSSELS:Katkar, Emily L (Brussels)  
**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; Sindle, James M ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, RSO, DEA\_INFO, ORA, EAC, CONS\_INFO, LEGAT

**UNCLASSIFIED**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),B7(C),NR,B6

P87

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 03, 2011 7:10 AM  
**To:** Hay, Andrew W; Ahn, Michael; Jones, Stacey L; Gibbs, Jennifer H; Hettinga, Benjamin E; Bijanki, Ashwin  
**Subject:** FW: Senators McCain, Lieberman, Graham Call on PM Erdogan  
**Categories:** Working

Guys:

[Redacted]

B5

--Jerry

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/07/03

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 02, 2011 09:49:08  
**To:** Jones, Stacey L; Dotson, Peter O; Gibbs, Jennifer H; Hamilton, Elizabeth A; Hay, Andrew W; Read, Anthony M; Ahn, Michael; Howard, Jeremiah H; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A; Fuchs, Susan; Gilmore, Bradley T; [Redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Lang, Michael J; Tarry, George R; Kolega, Alen; Leary, Thomas M; Hill, Larry W; Miles, James W; Guido, Deborah L; Keller, Tara D; Fernandes, Anthony C; Avery, David; Ricciardone, Francis J; Bijanki, Ashwin; Dunn, Patrick M; [Redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Winans, Thomas W; Treiber, Adrienne M; Kim, Yuri J; Densmore, William E; McIntosh, Daniel; [Redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; Keane, Rob X; Ruta, Ryan R; Appleton, Richard H; DeLuigi, Christiaan E; Hamilton, Elizabeth H; Donelson, Lale; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Klopp, Deborah A; Yountchi, Suzanne M; Jaworski, Richard E; Mineo, Mark R; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; [Redacted]@dea.usdoj.sgov.gov; Lally, Michael A; Bruns, Scott T; Pierce, Thomas JN; Alexander, Banu; Autry, India M; Backman, Carol K  
**Subject:** Senators McCain, Lieberman, Graham Call on PM Erdogan

B6

B7(C)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

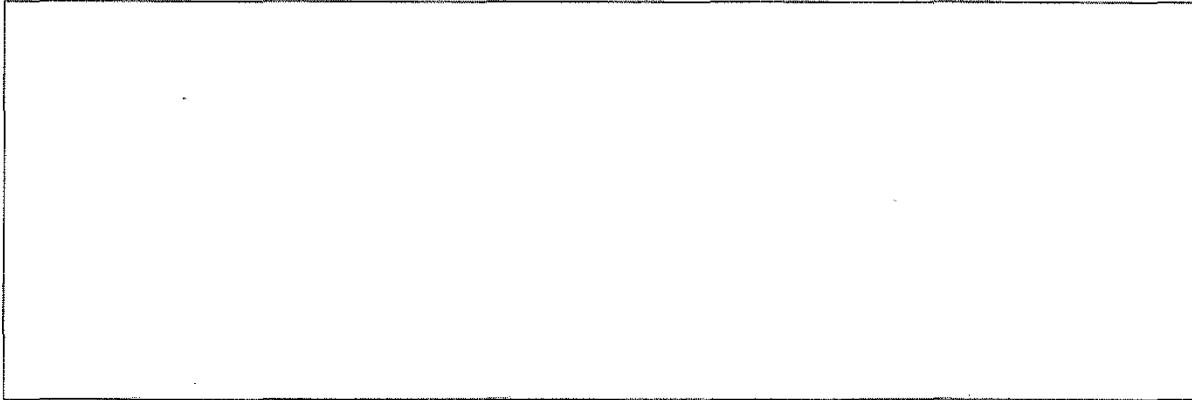


**Action Office:** POL, ORA, RSQ, LEGAT  
**Info Office:** CONS\_INFO, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

**MRN:** 11 ANKARA 1073

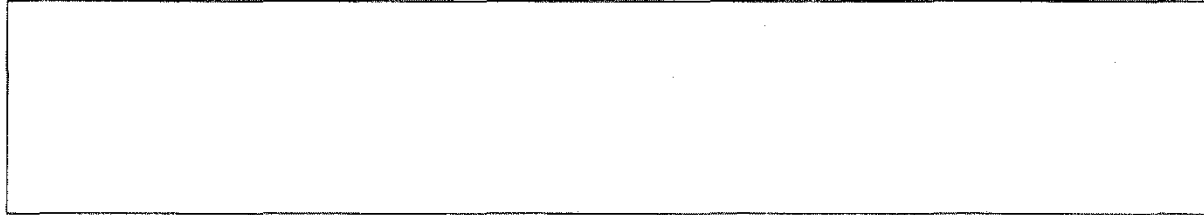


**Date/DTG:** Jul 02, 2011 / 021845Z JUL 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE; ISLAMABAD, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; KABUL, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PTER, PREF, IZ, LE, EG, TS, IS, SY, LY, TU  
**Pass Line:** EMBASSY KABUL AND EMBASSY ISLAMABAD PLEASE PASS TO CODEL STAFF. AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
**Subject:** Senators McCain, Lieberman, Graham Call on PM Erdogan

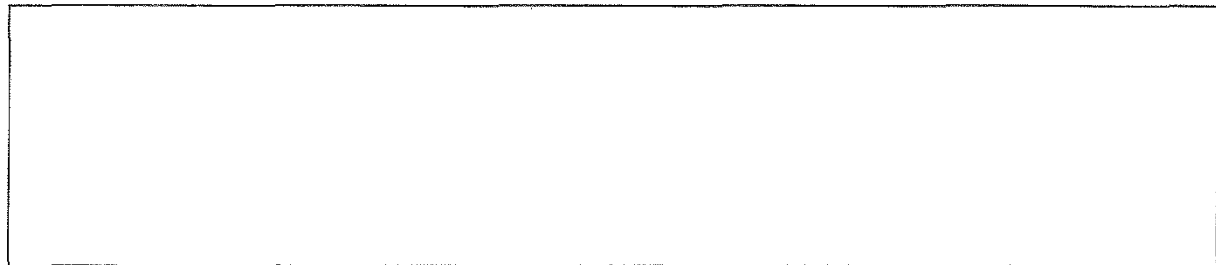


NR

When the CODEL urged him to mend ties with Israel and visit there as well, Erdogan said he would do so if the Israelis apologize for killing the Turks in the flotilla incident, pay compensation, and lift the Gaza embargo.



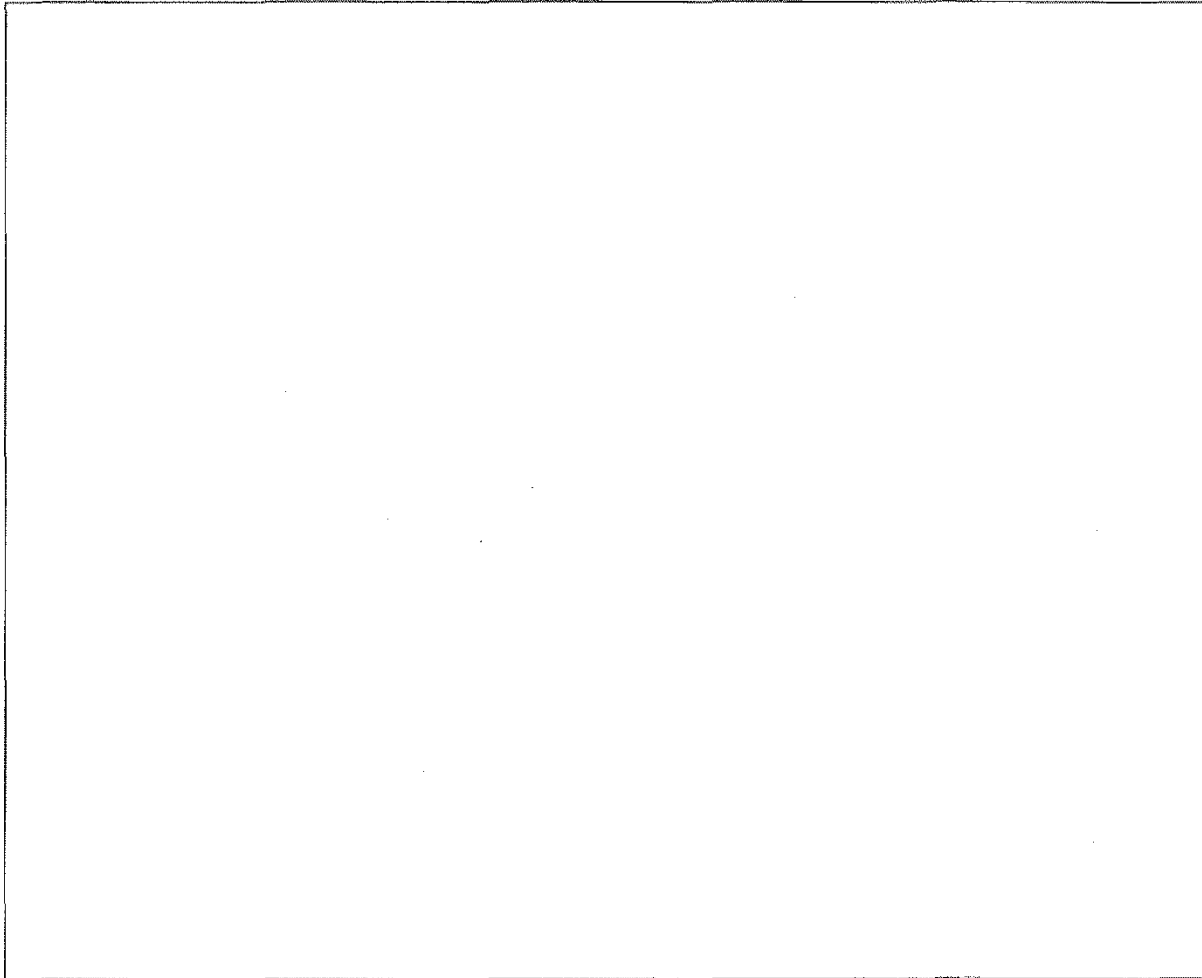
End Summary.



Turkish-US Relations:



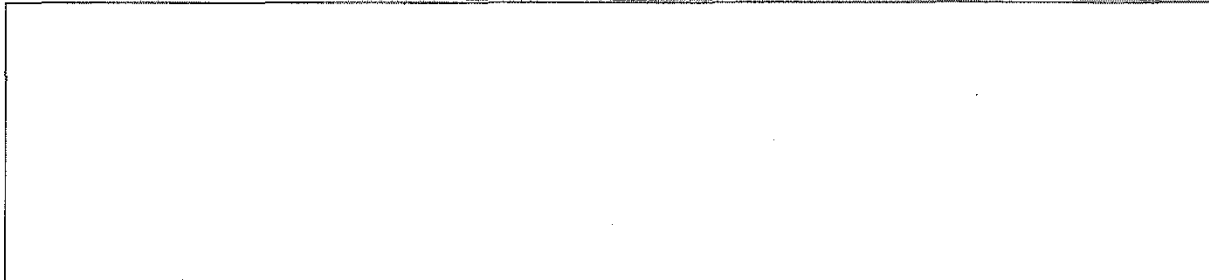
NR



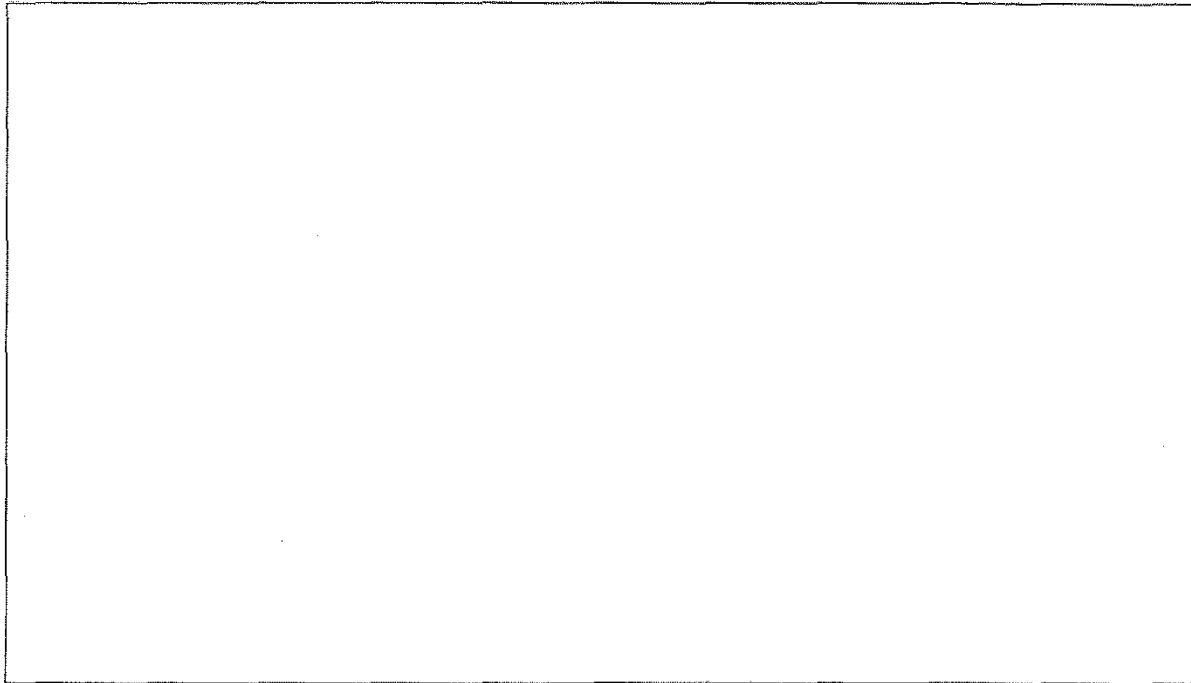
**Israel – Palestine:**  
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The CODEL joined in urging Erdogan to put the Gaza flotilla incident behind, and move Turkish-Israeli relations back to a productive track, [redacted]

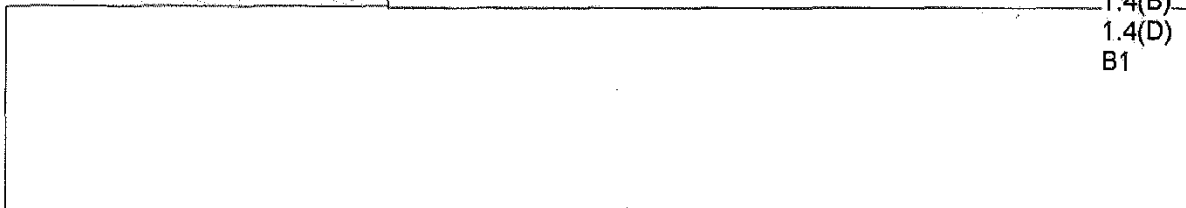


NR



7. (C) Erdogan went on to recount his version of the Gaza Flotilla incident, in which "9 unarmed Turks, including one American, in a Turkish ship bearing humanitarian relief supplies and people from 31 countries, were killed in international waters. [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



[redacted] Erdogan reiterated his terms: an apology, compensation to the families of the victims, and lifting the embargo on Gaza. "Without hesitation, when I learned fires broke out in Israel last year, I immediately sent planes to help. This was a humanitarian matter. Israel should rise to the occasion and apologize, pay compensation, allow construction material to enter Gaza for schools, homes, hospitals. [redacted]

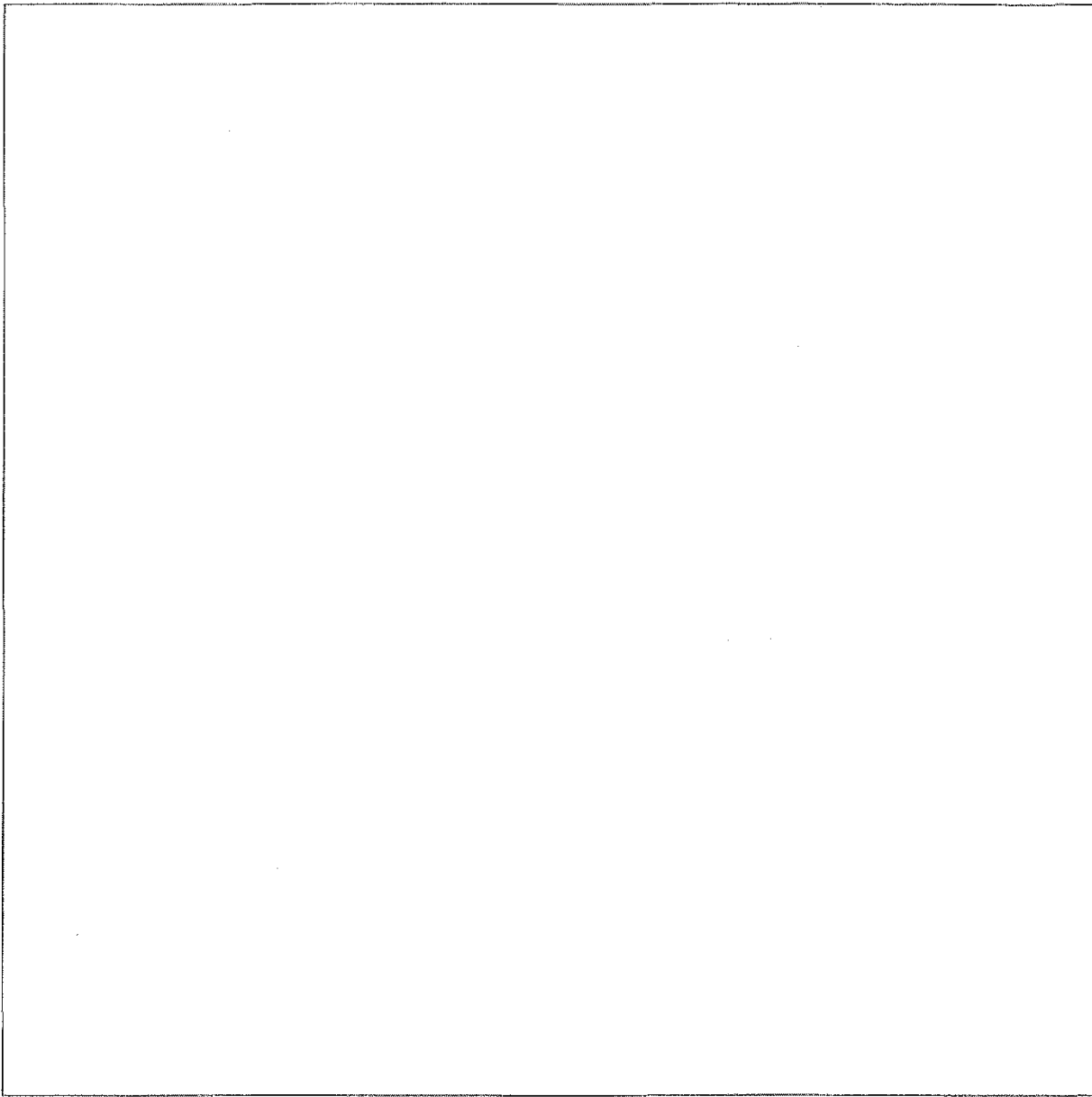


[redacted] The Senators pressed Erdogan, should he decide to travel to Gaza, to go on to visit Israel. "If they apologize and lift the embargo, I will go there."

Syria vs. Libya:



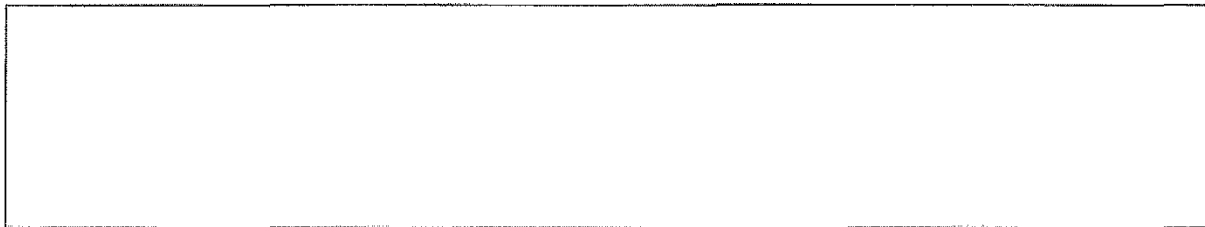
NR



NR

**Afghanistan:**

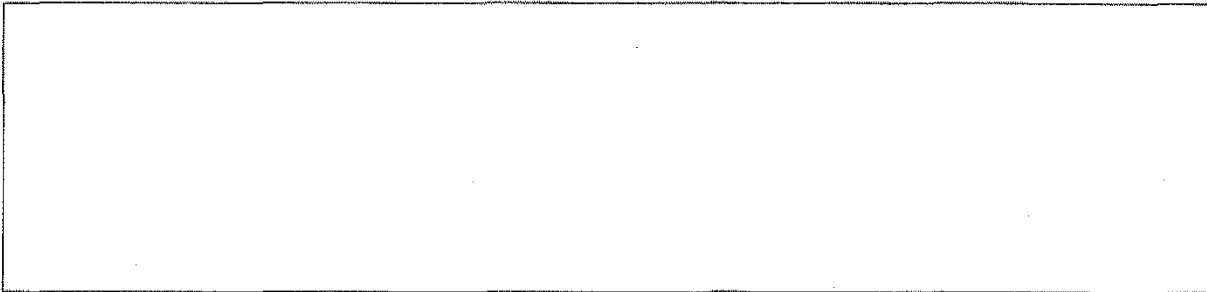
\*\*\*\*\*



NR

NR

Iraq:  
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12. (U) The CODEL did not have the opportunity to review this message before their departure.

Signature: RICCIARDONE

---

Classified By: Name: FJR, Title: AMB  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)  
Declassify on: 2021/07/02  
Drafted By: ANKARA:Ricciardone, Francis J.  
Approved By: ANKARA:Walston, Melissa L  
Released By: ANKARA:Walston, Melissa L  
Info: NATO EU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE; ZEN/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA  
XMT: AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

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Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: POL, ORA, CONS\_INFO, RSO, LEGAT, AMB\_INFO, DEA\_INFO, EAC

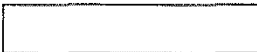
**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),NR,B6

P88

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2011 1:37 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Ankara-EXEC  
**Subject:** FW: Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Negative on Turkey's Role in Syria; Israel's Oil Comes from Turkey!



B5

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN **PAGE(S) MISSING**  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message.  
**Declassify On:** 2036/10/18

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2011 9:05 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Stafford, Edward G; Fernandes, Anthony C; Letvin, John C  
**Subject:** Tel Aviv Cable: Israel Negative on Turkey's Role in Syria; Israel's Oil Comes from Turkey!

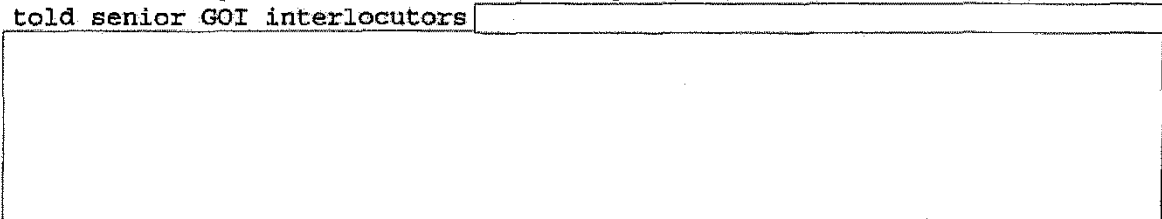
**SECRET//NOFORN**



**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 1221  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 17, 2011 / 171210Z OCT 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PTER, MOPS, KISL, EG, TU, IS  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 11 TEL AVIV 1207  
**Subject:** NSS Senior Director Simon Engages the GOI on Egypt, Syria, Turkey

1. (S) Summary: On October 4, visiting NSS Senior Director Steven Simon told senior GOI interlocutors



NR

NR

[Redacted]

1.4(D)

doubted PM Netanyahu would change his position on not apologizing to Turkey, unless the GOT delivers Gilad Shalit. End summary. B1

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Israeli-Egyptian Relations  
-----

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

-----  
Sinai Security  
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[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

NR

-----  
Syria  
-----

[Redacted]

NR

-----  
Turkey  
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9. (S)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(D)

B1  
PM

[Redacted] doubted  
Netanyahu would change his position on not apologizing to Turkey, unless  
the GOT delivered a deal with Hamas to release Gilad Shalit. [Redacted]

NR

10. (U) NSS Senior Director Simon cleared this message.

Minimize considered.

**MINIMIZE CONSIDERED**

**Signature:** Shapiro

**Classified By:** Name: Daniel Shapiro, Title: Ambassador

**Reason:** 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2036/10/17

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

**Cleared By:** POL:Eussen, Matthew M  
EEB/ESC/IEC/ENR:Monosson, Danielle H

POL:Levin, Jan X

POL:Silverman, Robert J

EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

NSS:SSimon

DAO:TCyril

**Approved By:** EXEC:Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv)

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Berns, David B

**Info:** WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CAIRO,  
AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY  
ROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**SECRET//NOFORN**

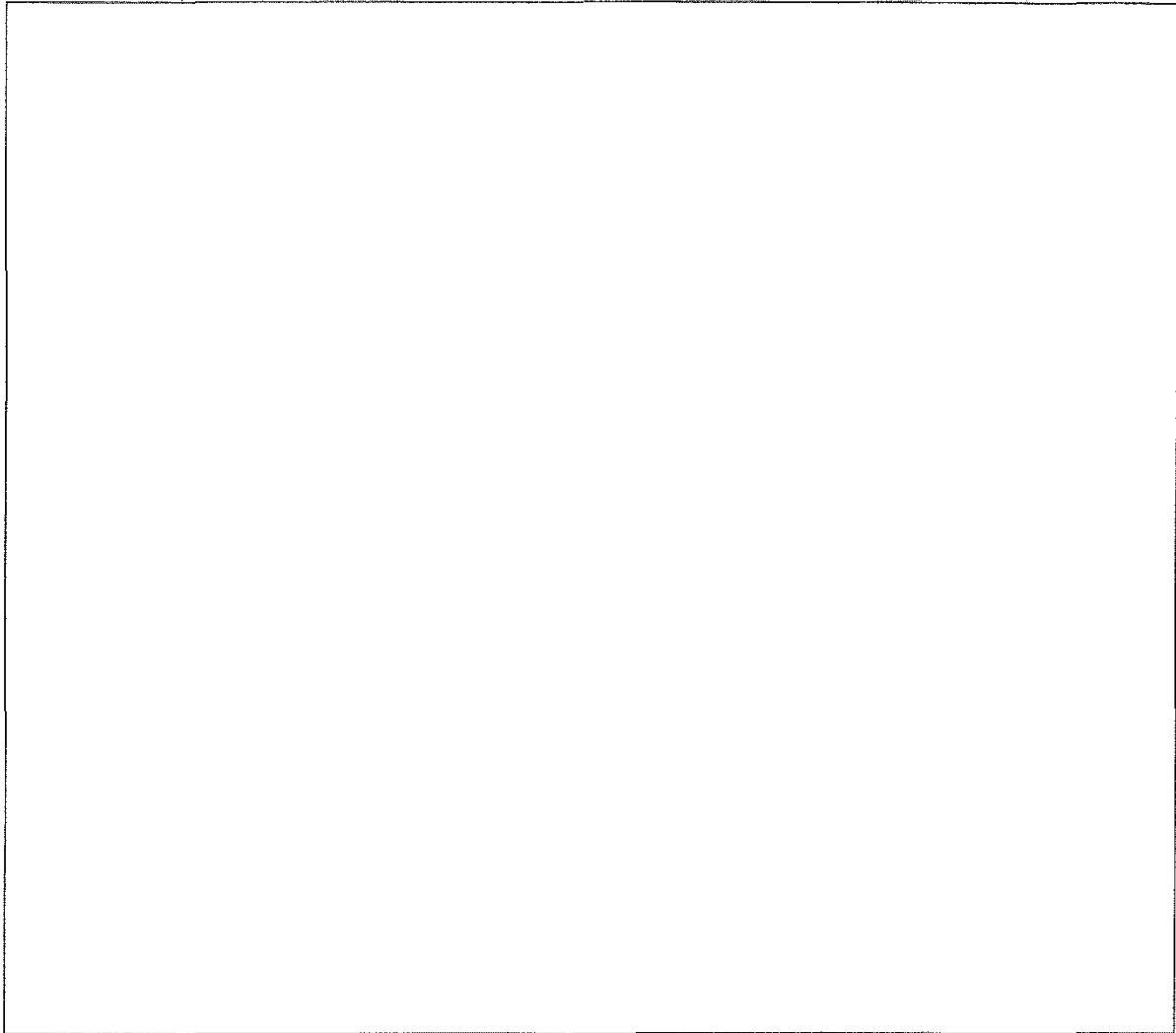
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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive

**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN

**Derived From:** Derived from previous message.

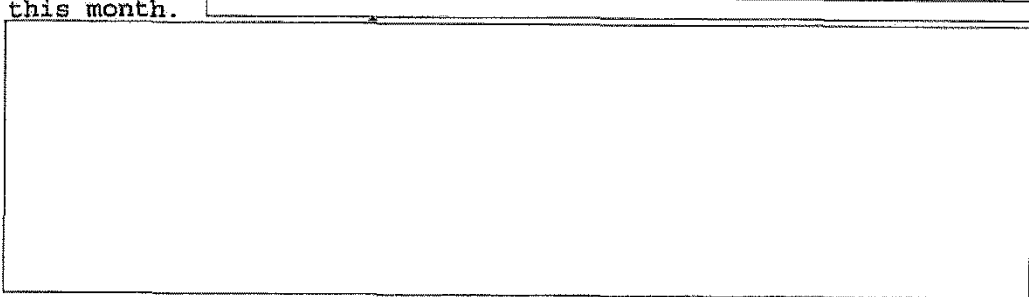
**Declassify On:** 2036/10/17



Sensitive  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN.

AMERICAN CITIZENS TO JOIN AID CONVOY TO GAZA

1. (C) SUMMARY: A representative from the Turkish NGO Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) confirmed that four or five American citizens will participate in the flotilla to Gaza later this month.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) The Turkish NGO Humanitarian Aid Foundation [redacted] confirmed May 10 that "at least four or five Americans of all religions" will directly participate in the sea convoy to Gaza later this month. [redacted] said the Americans are acting as private citizens and do not represent any particular NGO. According to [redacted] the flotilla's passengers will be from the U.S., Turkey, UK, Ireland, Greece, Belgium, Spain, France, Russia, Germany, the Netherlands, Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Kosovo, Australia, New Zealand, Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Niger, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Malaysia, among countries. Participants from more countries are expected as the launch date nears. [redacted] said 20 European members of parliament will participate in addition to several members of parliament from Greece, which [redacted] described as "one of our main partners." He also said at least 10 Turkish members of parliament have expressed an interest in joining the convoy, though none have confirmed this. The flotilla of nine or ten ships (reports vary) plans to set sail on May 23 to deliver 5000 tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza (REFTEL).

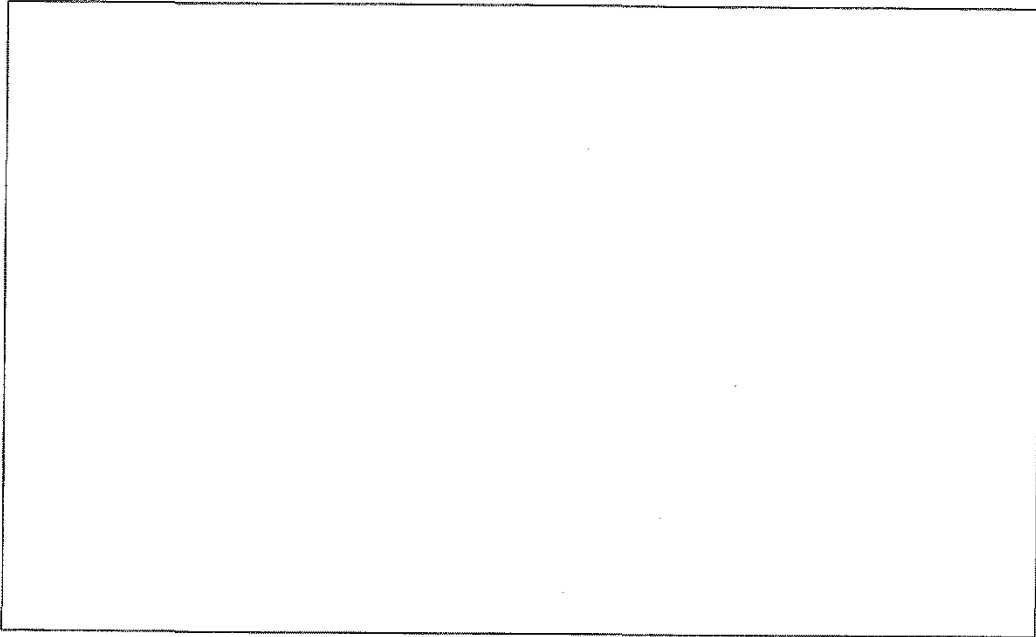
B6

ISRAELI REACTION

2. (C) On May 5, the Israeli Embassy requested GoT intervention to stop the flotilla.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

IHH REPRESENTATIVE HELD BY ISRAEL  
-----

5. (U) At an IHH press conference on May 6, IHH President Bulent Yildirim said Izzet Sahin, a Turkish national and West Bank representative for IHH, was arrested by Israeli soldiers on April 27 while passing through the Bethlehem checkpoint. According to IHH, Izzet is still held in a Shabak (Israel security Agency) detention center without being formally charged. Yildirim said he believes Sahin's arrest was aimed at pressuring IHH to stop the convoy. Ahmet Faruk Unsal told us May 10 that two lawyers were awaiting Israeli visas in order to represent Sahin in Israel.

COMMENT  
-----

6. (SBU) The planned participation of American citizens in the sea convoy warrants close attention given indications IHH would welcome and perhaps even provoke an armed response from the IDF to score propaganda points. We will continue to monitor the situation but our ability to do so will be limited once the flotilla sets sail.

RELEASED IN PART NR,B6

089

[Redacted]

(April 27, 2010)

B6

[Redacted]

NR

Convoy cannot be stopped

- money already collected (from poor people in every city)

MFA & Pres against convoy, but PM supports

[Redacted]

NR

No consultations with Israel

- "Not our business"

Waiting to see how Israel, Turkey, and the U.S. will respond.

Israel will not hesitate to take over convoy ships. "They even take our lands. Taking ships is nothing to them."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Ihab Soliman (May 6, 2010)

Izzet Sahin (IHH West Bank) held by Israel.

IHH bought 3rd ship, but may not be seaworthy.

[REDACTED] (May 10, 2010)

B6

4-5 americans (NOT NGOs) will participate

Apparently busy with Izzet case. Didn't have details on convoy on hand.

2 (media says 3) lawyers are awaiting visas to represent Sahin in Israel.

More than 40 countries represented in convoy.  
- 20 Euro MPs, Greek MPs, 10+ T MPs considering

Didn't know about 3rd ship

P90

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

Turkey Expects "Strong Report" on Flotilla from Human Rights Council

1. (C)

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

2. (SBU) [Redacted] spoke highly of the lawyers and experts of the fact-finding mission appointed by the President of the HRC, which visited Turkey August 22-29 to inspect the Mavi Marmara and interview witnesses and government officials. The fact-finding mission is chaired by K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and also includes Desmond de Silva, chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

P92

RELEASED IN PART NR,B6

IHH WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN JULY GAZA FLOTILLA

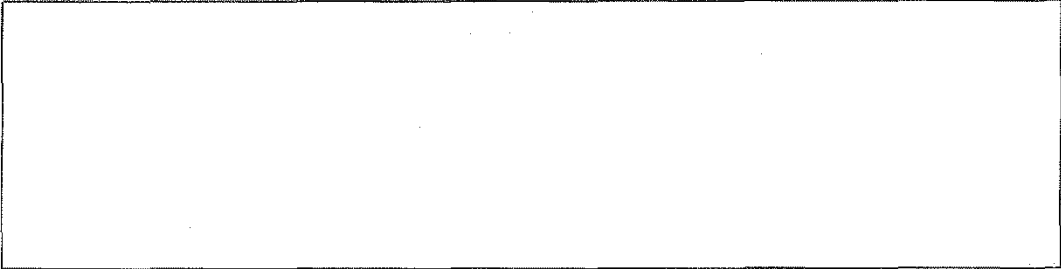
1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief [redacted] [redacted] told us June 18 IHH will not participate in the Gaza humanitarian flotilla announced for the second half of July, contrary to Turkish media reports. [redacted] confirmed the IHH's Mavi Marmara set sail in May for Gaza under a Comoros flag. END SUMMARY.

B6

2. (SBU) The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief [redacted] [redacted] told us June 18 IHH will not participate in the Gaza humanitarian flotilla announced for the second half of July, contrary to Turkish media reports. [redacted] said he was present at a press conference in Strasbourg June 16 where a French national representative from a different NGO announced preparations for the late July flotilla. [redacted] explained his his presence at the press conference may have been misconstrued by the media as an IHH endorsement of the new flotilla.

B6

3. (SBU) [redacted] confirmed the IHH's Mavi Marmara set sail on its late-May voyage for Gaza under a Comoros flag. He said IHH purchased the previously Turkish-flagged ship directly from the Istanbul municipality. According to the IHH website, IHH purchased the ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc (IDO). He said IHH had opted for a flag of convenience when Turkish maritime regulations proved onerous.



NR

COMMENT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



5. (SBU) Though [ ] contends the Israel Defense Force's violent interdiction of the Mavi Marmara May 31 helped advance its goal of breaking the Gaza "siege," he seemed genuinely regretful of the loss of life. For the short term, IHH seems content to let the GoT champion the NGO's battles legally and diplomatically. As an organization, if not as individuals, IHH members seem disinclined to join in the several new flotillas targeting Israel's Gaza embargo.

B6

P93

IHH DENIES JULY FLOTILLA LAUNCH

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief's (IHH) [redacted] told us IHH has not endorsed the launching of a new flotilla in the second half of July as was reported in the media. [redacted] 1.4(D)

B6

[redacted] B6 confirmed the IHH's Mavi Marmara embarked in late-May under a Comoros flag. IHH purchased the previously Turkish-flagged ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc, a municipal company. [redacted]

NR

2. (U) The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) [redacted] [redacted] told us June 18 IHH has not endorsed the launching of a new flotilla in the second half of July as was reported in the media. Unsal attended a press conference in Strasbourg June 16 where a French national representative from a different NGO announced a new flotilla would be launched. [redacted] said he did not make a statement about IHH's joining the new flotilla, but did acknowledge his presence at the meeting (as the official IHH representative) could have been misconstrued by the media as an endorsement. He said IHH leaders are currently trying to pursue legal action against Israel and asked for USG support.

B6

3. (U) [redacted] confirmed the IHH's Mavi Marmara embarked on the late-May voyage under a Comoros flag. He said the IHH purchased the previously Turkish-flagged ship directly from an Istanbul municipality. According to the IHH website, IHH purchased the ship from Istanbul Seabuses and Fast Ferries Inc (IDO).

B6

[redacted]

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

COMMENT

5. (C) [ ] believes the May 31 flotilla incident achieved "90%" of the IHH's goal, which he said was to draw attention to the situation in Gaza. IHH appears to be content to let political and judicial processes take over what the flotilla started, for now.

B6

P94

RELEASED IN PART B6

[Redacted]

- April 9, 2010

B6

Flotilla will launch mid-May. Postponed from April 20.

- wait until after May 6 general election in the UK
- before 2010 World Cup (South Africa): June 11 - July 11
- maximize media exposure

International, multi-religious, multi-sect effort

7 ships:

- Greece 1
- Ireland 1
- UK 3
- Turkey 2
  - passenger (1100 capacity)
  - freight (3000 tons)

1st sea convoy for IHH.

IHH bought the 2 ships because no one wanted to risk their property. Each ship cost \$2 million. Finance - contributions from people in every city and town. Alluded to fact that source of some funding is murky and they do not have strict rules on contributions: "We cannot refuse money."

As of now, Galloway & MPs have not committed to participating.

- Can easily be accommodated later due to small boats plan.

T ships will launch from Istanbul. 2nd stop will be in Mersin. Not clear where the T ships will meet other ships, possibly by territorial "border."

- Reluctant to discuss coordination with other countries, other NGOs.
- Due to size of flotilla and various participants, "We cannot control them." They will do their best to prevent violence (repeated: "we will not even have 1 small knife.") but said it's impossible to have absolute control. "We are not a state. We don't know what will happen."

Heavy media coverage planned.

- "Our power is the consciousness of the world people" and media coverage.
- journalists

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- live tv
- "Day by day, hour by hour, we will inform the world."
- EU parliamentarians expected (MPs from individual EU states hoped for.)
- singers, famous entertainers

The MFA knows, but is providing no guidance. But not blocking.

- But we are T citizens, so we are under the protection of the GoT if something goes wrong.
- Wants to attend with his children (sons?). This is an honorable event.

Mother ships will create an "artificial island."

- women and children will be aboard
- large T. passenger vessel will not be full capacity - so passengers can be comfortable (planning long-term event)
- prepared to stay at least 1 month

Mother ships will be supplied by smaller, faster boats.

- enables supply-line
- rotating crew
- VIPs (possibly Galloway & MPs) can be shuttled (after flying into Turkey or Syria)
- supply runs to Mersin. Expect no trouble from T authorities. Will record all loading/unloading of supplies in case Israel wants to check.

"Form a bridge"

- purchased ships = long-term plans
- will continue to send convoys/flotillas "until the end"

Egypt (Lifeline 3)

- "In the world, Egypt has no respect."
- "We used our power. We used the media."
- "We are right. This is our power."

Contrary to some media reports, Unsal said flotilla will not/not attempt to break through blockade.

- expect to be stopped. Then the media show begins.

What if hostilities?

- "There are 4 flags. If Israel attacks, it's her problem, not ours."
- If they seize our ships, they will be just like the Somali pirates. It is "your (IC) legal obligation" to fight against pirates.



- April 9, 2010

B6

Convoy will launch May 15.

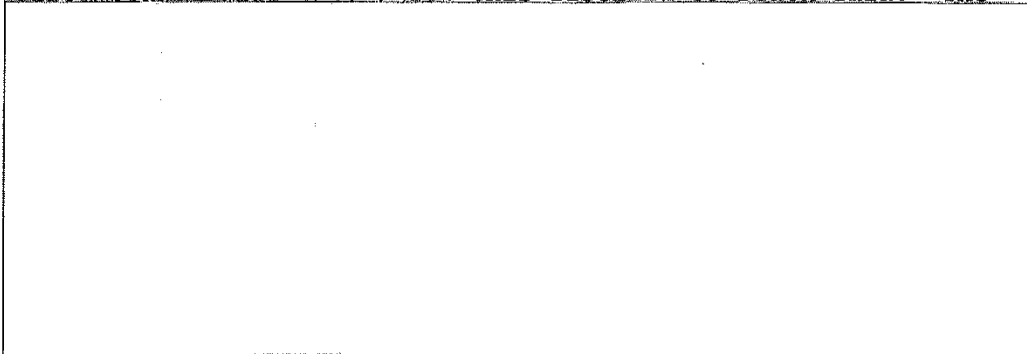
Last week, Palestinian "embassy" talked to president of IHH.

- Told him "This is not helpful."
- There are other channels to deliver aid to Gaza, through Egypt.

There are no ports in the Gaza Strip. Fishing only.

TURKEY, EGYPT, AND ISRAEL CLOSELY WATCHING IHH CONVOY TO GAZA

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) is preparing to lead a convoy of ships to Israeli-controlled Gaza beginning on May 15 to "break the embargo" and deliver humanitarian aid. Israeli representatives say under no circumstance will they allow this flotilla to reach Gaza. The



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (SBU) Bulent Yildirim, president of the Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), an organization linked to terrorism finance, has announced his organization will lead a flotilla of ships to Israeli-controlled Gaza in May to "break the embargo" and deliver humanitarian aid. IHH has called this convoy "Noah's Ark," "Freedom Is the Last Port," and most recently "Palestine Our Destination, Freedom Our Cargo." [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] told us April 9 the flotilla will consist of seven ships: two from Turkey, three from the UK, and one each from Greece and Ireland. Inconsistent media reports say IHH hopes to increase the number of ships to 10, 15, or 20. One of the Turkish ships is a cargo ship with a 3000 ton freight capacity; the other is a passenger ship with a maximum capacity of 1100 persons. IHH was forced to buy its own ships because no shipping company would risk their property on this convoy. The passenger ship was purchased for \$1.2 million while the cargo ship cost \$570,000. [REDACTED] said financial contributions for the ships came "from people in every city and every town of Turkey." He acknowledged that IHH does not have strict rules regarding contributions, saying "We cannot refuse money." The IHH ships will launch from Istanbul and make a stop in Mersin before joining the rest of the flotilla near the Gaza maritime "border." The other ships in the convoy will make a

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

stop in Cyprus before heading to Gaza. [redacted] was reluctant to discuss the degree or nature of the coordination with the other ships/NGOs.

B6

An Artificial Island  
-----

3. (SBU) According to [redacted] IHH expects to be stopped along the maritime "border" by Israeli ships. He said the convoy will create an "artificial island" and they are prepared to stay at least one month. This "artificial island" will be serviced and supplied by a number of smaller, faster boats that will make supply runs to Mersin and Cyprus. In addition to providing a supply-line, the smaller supply boats will also ferry and rotate the passengers, crew, and media. [redacted] said VIPs such as entertainers, Turkish MPs, and other politicians such as George Galloway (the British MP who organized the Viva Palestina convoy) can be shuttled to the mother ships with ease. The large Turkish passenger ship will not be at full capacity. [redacted] said this is so the passengers can be comfortable even if they have to stay long-term. Women and children will reportedly be aboard. Because IHH now owns its own ships, they plan to continue sending convoys by sea to Gaza "until the end."

B6

Heavy Media Coverage  
-----

4. (C) The sea convoy will have a heavy media component and organizers plan to broadcast everything live on television. [redacted] said "Our power is the consciousness of the world people. Day by day, hour by hour, we will inform the world." [redacted] said IHH wanted to wait until after the May 6 UK election in order to maximize media coverage. IHH believes its media coverage window will close on June 11 when the 2010 World Cup begins in South Africa. Israel Embassy [redacted]

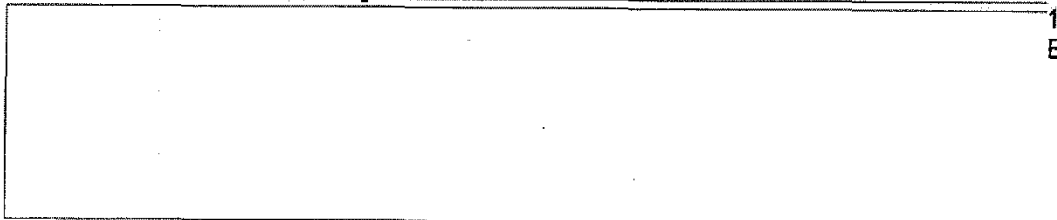
B6

B6

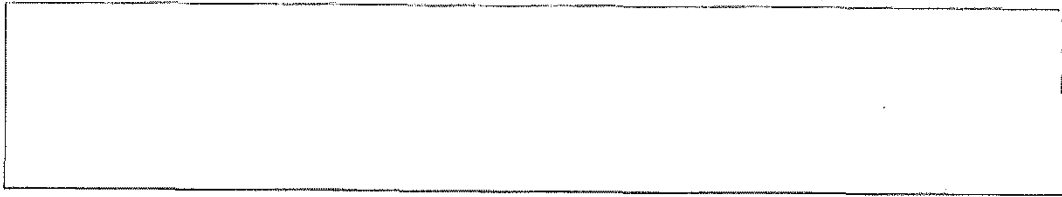
1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1





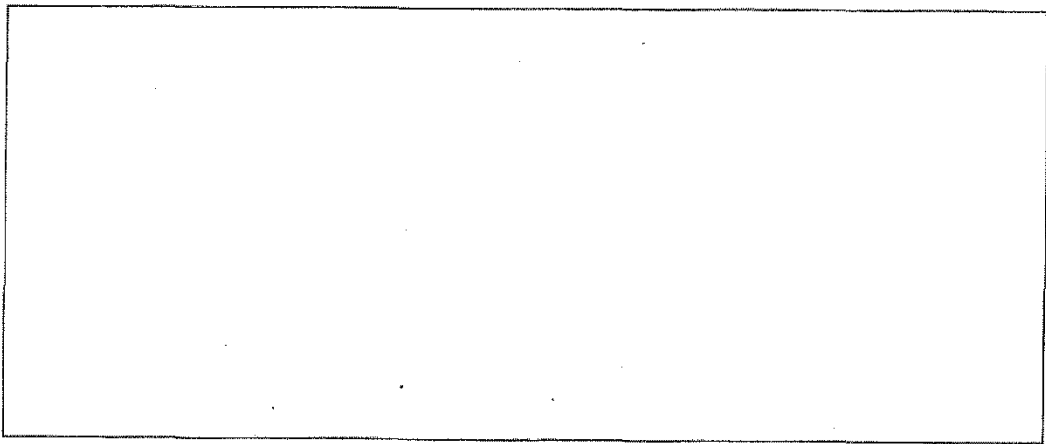


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

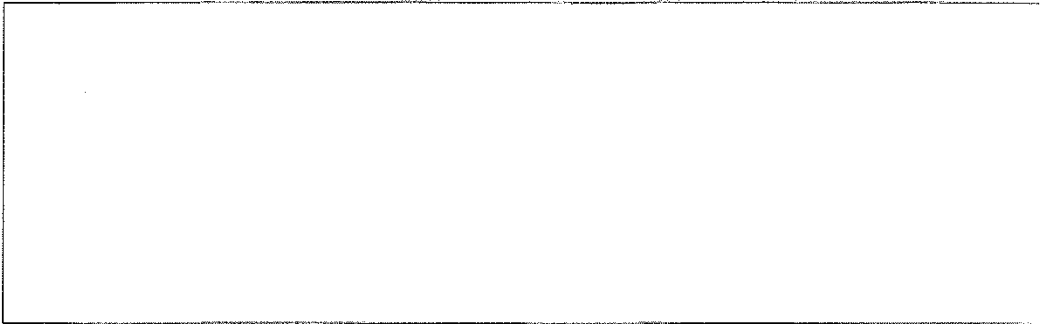
5. (C) [redacted] told us the flotilla will not attempt to break through the expected line of Israeli ships. But [redacted] did say it would be impossible to have absolute control over such a large and diverse convoy: "We are not a state. We don't know what will happen." [redacted] understood the potential for hostilities. He stressed that the seven ships will be from four states: "There are four flags. If Israel attacks, it is an attack on four countries. It will be her problem, not ours." If Israel boards the convoy ships, [redacted] said they will be no different from the Somali pirates: "It is your [international community's] obligation to fight against pirates." Other IHH representatives claim the convoy will attempt to break through the line of Israeli ships. In interviews with local media, IHH spokesperson Salih Bilici said the goal of the convoy is to reach Gaza. Bilici said, "We don't have a plan B, C, or D. We have decided to reach Gaza by sea and enter via its port." In a meeting announcing the convoy at their headquarters, IHH President Yildirim declared "We will sail in May to break the embargo."

B6

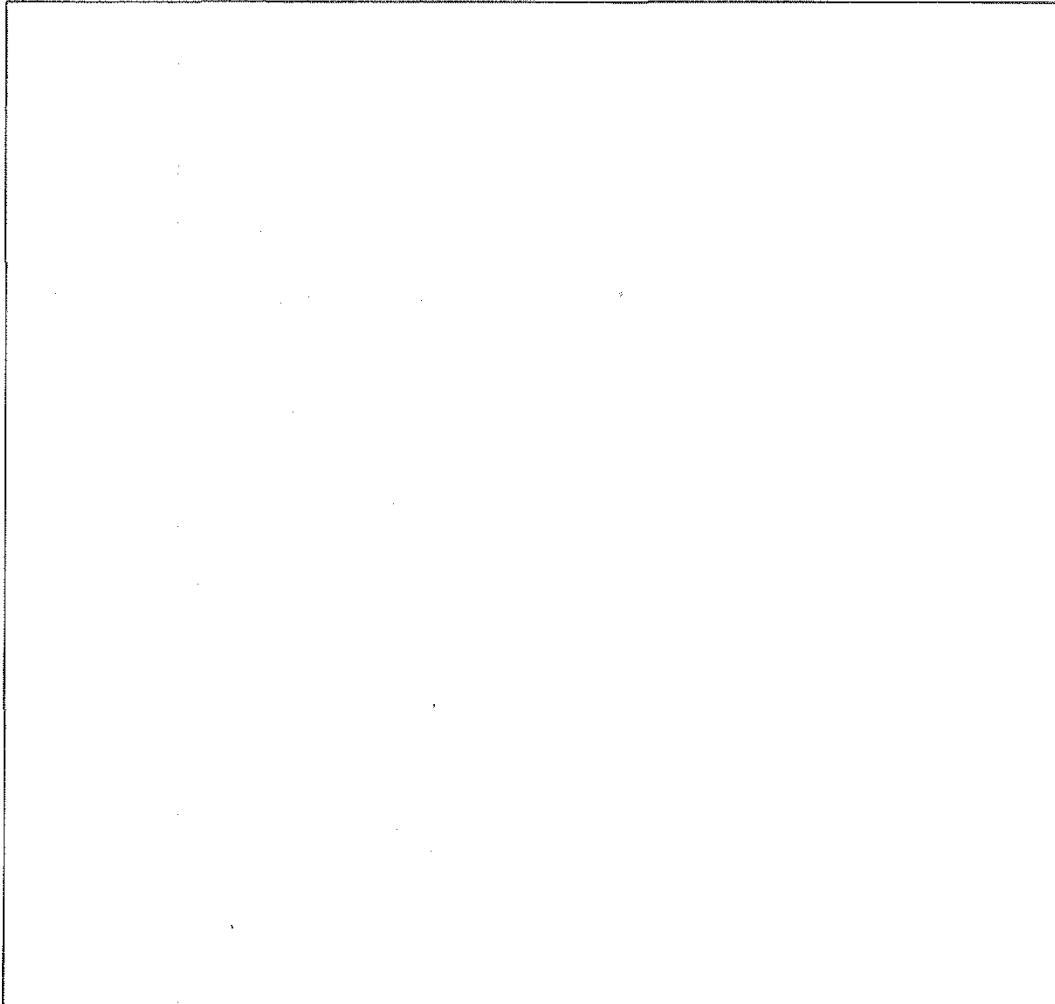
Egyptian Concerns  
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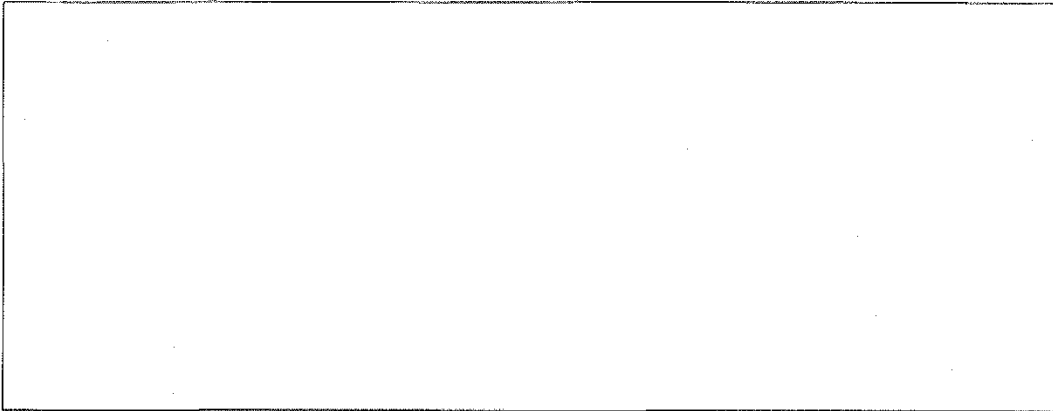


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1





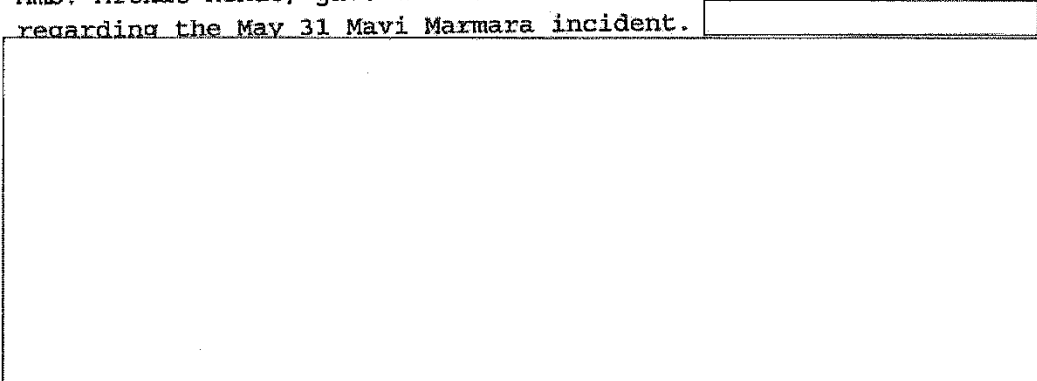
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

P96

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

Turkish Flotilla Commission Presents Report to UN

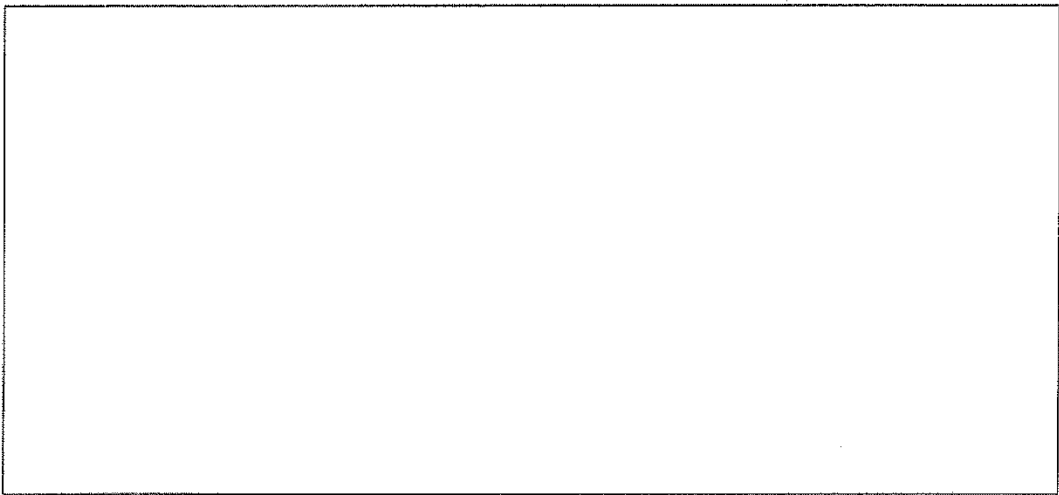
1. (S) SUMMARY: In a meeting with the CDA September 7, the chief of Turkey's National Investigation and Examination Commission, Amb. Mithat Rende, gave a readout of the Commission's report regarding the May 31 Mavi Marmara incident.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

SUMMARY. REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

2. (C) Turkey's National Investigation and Examination Commission chief Amb. Mithat Rende gave the CDA a read out September 7 of the Commission report regarding the May 31 Mavi Marmara (MM) incident.



Classification Extended ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1  
~ Declassify on: 09/07/2020

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

COMMENT

[Redacted]

MFA Response to UN Human Rights Council's Flotilla Report

1. (C) SUMMARY: The MFA issued a response September 23 to the report from the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) Fact Finding Mission on the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident. The MFA supports the report's findings, which are highly critical of Israel, and reiterates its calls for Israel to issue an apology and pay compensation. [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

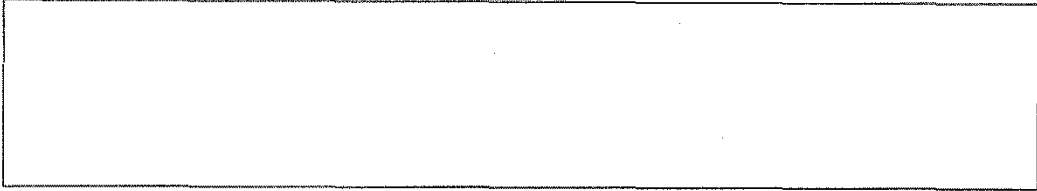
2. (C) On September 23, the MFA released its response to the UN Human Rights Council's (HRC) findings from its Fact Finding Mission on the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident (see paragraph 5 for full text). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In its statement, the MFA expresses its support for the Fact Finding Mission's report, saying it is in line with the GoT's own National Investigation and Examination Commission Report of September 1 (ANKARA 1327). The statement also repeats the GoT's calls for Israel to issue an apology and pay compensation to the families of the nine passengers who were killed as well as to the other passengers.


3. (C) Viva Palestina, the NGO behind January's convoy to Gaza which ended in violence, launched its fifth land convoy on September 18 with the goal of again "breaking the siege of the Gaza Strip." Viva Palestina expects this "Lifeline 5" convoy to grow to 200 vehicles by the time it reaches Latakia in Syria.

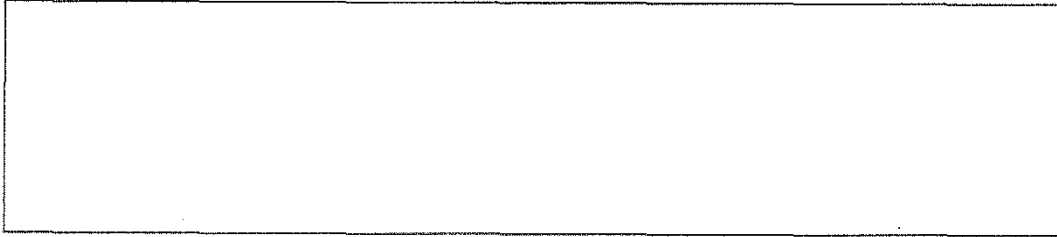
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From there the convoy will be shipped to the Egyptian port of El Arish. Viva Palestina hopes the convoy will then enter Gaza via the Rafah crossing. Lifeline 5 is scheduled to arrive in Istanbul on September 27, where its activists will stay until October 1. From there the convoy will pass through Ankara, Kayseri, Adana, Gaziantep, and Kilis en route to Syria.



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

4. (C) The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), which led the May 31 Gaza flotilla, will "host" the convoy during its time in Turkey. 



5. (U) UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION

No: 206

September 23, 2010

ANNOUNCEMENT

(BEGIN TEXT) As one would remember, the UN Human Rights Council tasked a HRC mission on June 2, 2010 to collect data and find out the facts in order to study the offensive and its consequences following the death of eight Turkish and one American citizen when Israel attacked a humanitarian assistance convoy destined for Gaza in international waters on May 31, 2010. The Mission visited our country on August 22-29, 2010.

We are pleased to see that the Fact Finding Mission presented its report to the HRC on September 22, 2010.

It is understood that the report, which was based on the testimonies of the witnesses, autopsy reports and the views of the experts, was a product of a comprehensive and detailed work. The Report can also contribute to meeting the expectation of the

international community that the investigation should be in line with international standards, fast, unbiased, acceptable and transparent, as mentioned in the Security Council Presidency announcement on June 1, 2010.

The basic assessments in the Report were in line with the data and evaluations in our National report, prepared by the National Investigation and Examination Commission and presented to the UN Investigation Panel on September 1, 2010.

We noted carefully the assessments that in its Report the Fact Finding Mission stated that the blockade on Gaza by Israel was illegal and thus the armed intervention of Israel into the convoy in international waters, too, was clearly illegal; that the Israeli troops used disproportional, unnecessary violence and incredible force; and that the intervention was a severe violation of human rights law and humanitarian law provisions and that the national investigation that Israel initiated at the national level was far from being credible.

With this Report, the Israeli public opinion may for the first time be getting information from an independent source concerning the violence and inhumane treatment by Israeli security forces against the members of the convoy on board the ship and later when they were under detention. We expect the Israeli authorities to draw the necessary conclusion from the Report, apologize by accepting responsibility, and pay compensation to the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives during the offensive and to the passengers whose money and personal belongings were seized during the intervention.

In the future phases we will find it useful for the UN HRC to evaluate and follow appropriately the Fact Finding Mission Report and also the UN Investigation Panel, too, in its work to evaluate carefully this Report, which was prepared in line with international standards and in an unbiased way under the UN roof. (END TEXT)

COMMENT

6. (C) [REDACTED]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



P98

IHH: [redacted] FLOTILLA. [redacted]

1.4(D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief [redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted] gave us his first-hand account of the May 31 Israeli interdiction of the Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara. [redacted]

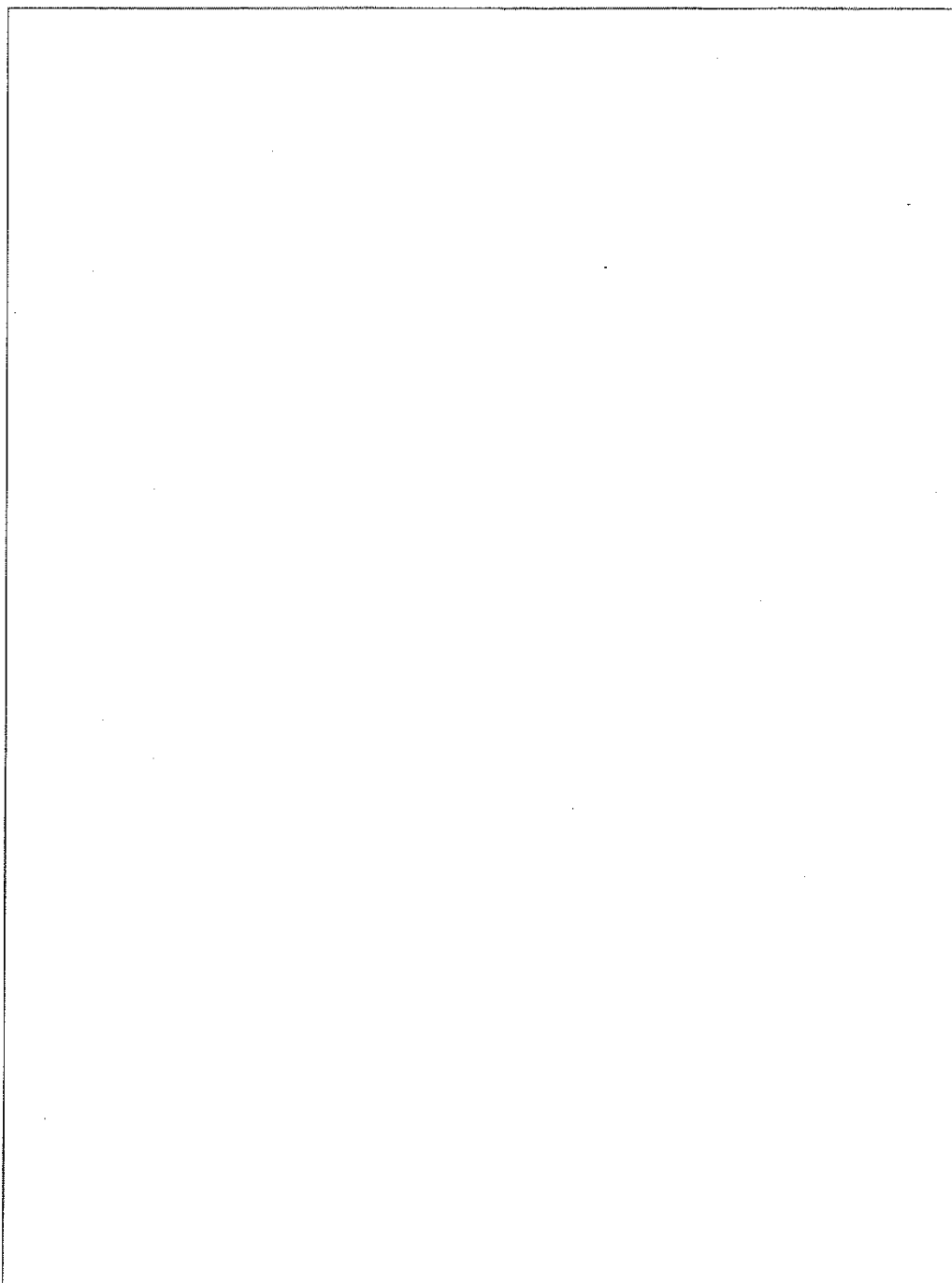
[redacted]

2. (C) On June 11, the [redacted] The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), [redacted] gave us a first-hand account of the Israeli raid on the IHH-led flotilla. [redacted] was a passenger on the Mavi Marmara on May 31 when it was boarded by Israeli Defense Force (IDF) special forces. He said [redacted]

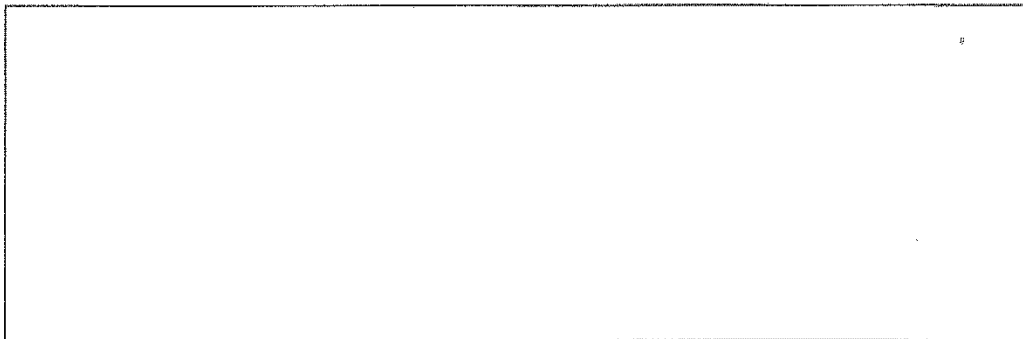
[redacted]

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(D)  
B1

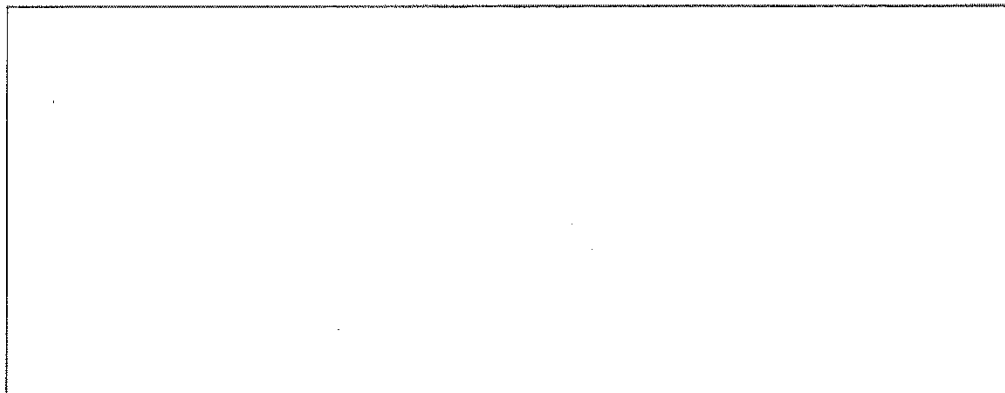
8. (C) [redacted] is planning to go to the U.S. as early as next week to consult with "legal experts" and other NGOs in order to plan future IHH actions. [redacted]

NR  
NR



COMMENT

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1.4(D)  
B1

pgg

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR

IHH DESCRIBES MAVI MARMARA RAID AND PLANS ITS NEXT FLOTILLA

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] gave us a first-hand account of the May 31 Israeli raid on the Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara. [REDACTED]

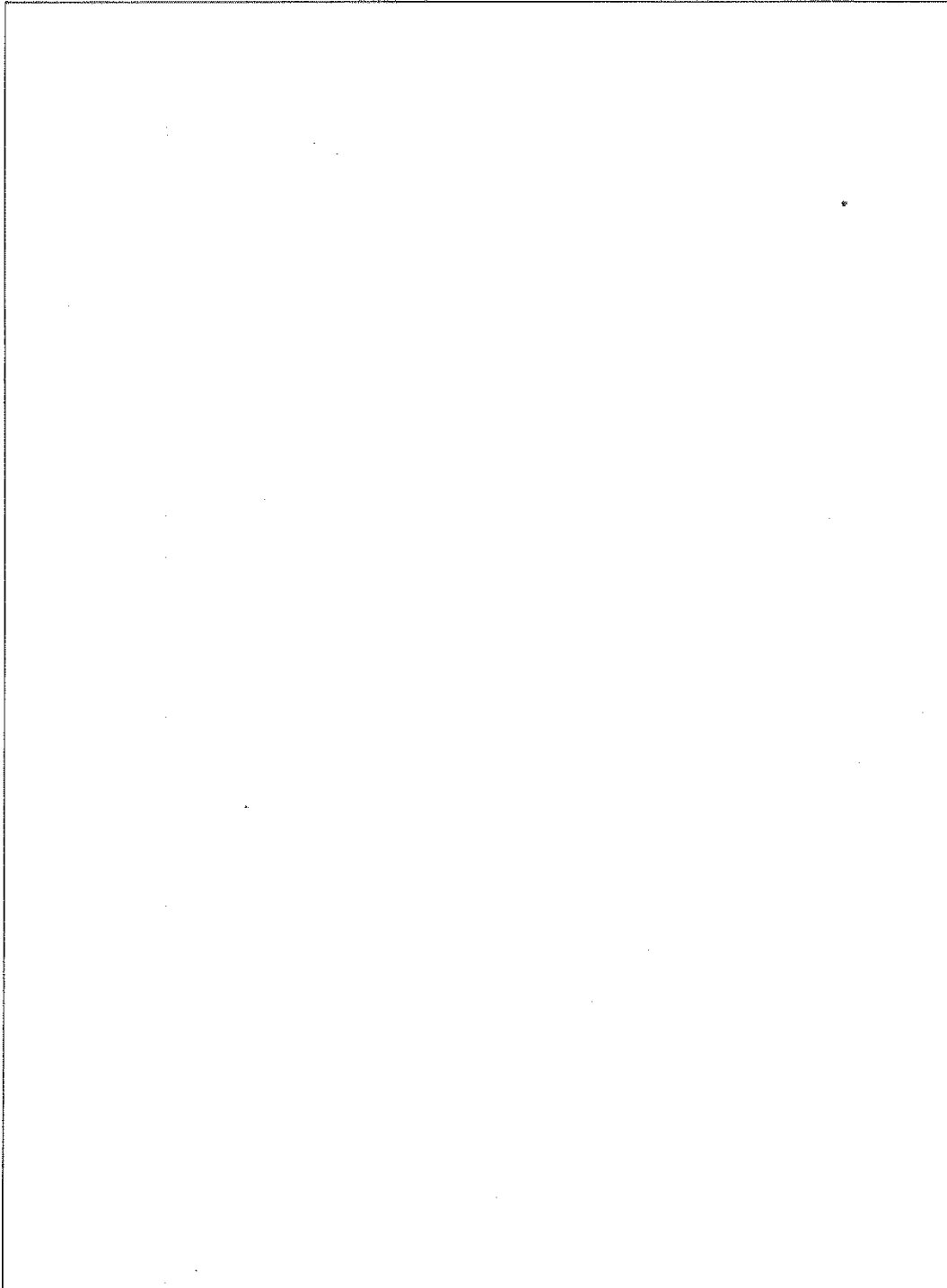
1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

2. (C) On June 11, the [REDACTED] for The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedom and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), [REDACTED] gave us a first-hand account of the Israeli raid on the IHH-led flotilla. [REDACTED] was a passenger on the Mavi Marmara on May 31 when it was boarded by Israeli Defense Force (IDF) troops. He said [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

8. (C) [Redacted] is planning to go to the U.S. as early as next week to consult with "legal experts" and other NGOs in order to plan future IHH actions. [Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

COMMENT

-----

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

P100

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

Embassy Ankara - IHH Flotilla Actions

April 9

IHH Ankara told Ankara Poloff two Turkish ships would join the Gaza-bound flotilla. (ANKARA 565)

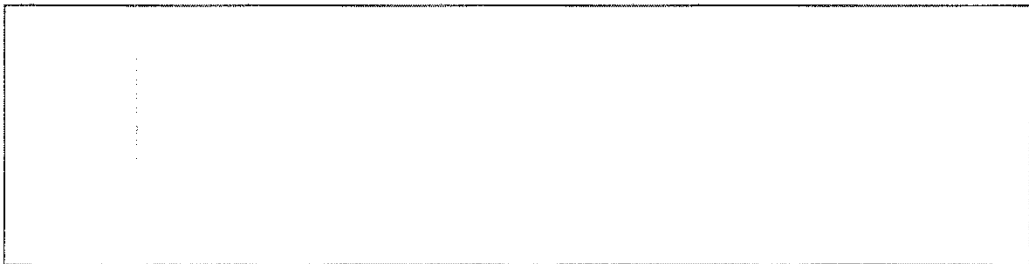
Classification Extended ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4 b,d ~ Declassify on: 05-01-2020

April 12

The Israel Embassy told Ankara Poloff the convoy's aim is political propaganda and "diplomatic drama." (ANKARA 565)

The MFA told Ankara Poloff they have been trying to dissuade IHH from proceeding with the convoy. (ANKARA 565)

April 14



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

April 19



NR

May 4

The Embassy and Consulate Istanbul received a letter from IHH calling for solidarity and support for the flotilla. (Scanned and faxed to EUR/SE.)

May 6 REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by Ambassador James F. Jeffrey  
Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

CONFIDENTIAL

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

May 10

IHH Ankara told Ankara Poloff at least four or five AMCITS are expected to join the flotilla. (ANKARA 680)

[Redacted]

NR

May 17

IHH President Bulent Yildirim told Consulate Istanbul POL/ECON Chief 10 AMCITS are expected to join the flotilla. (ISTANBUL 179)

May 21

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

May 22

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Discussion of former U.S. Ambassador (and flotilla passenger) Edward Peck's status. (AMB's unclassified email to NEA and EUR/SE.)

May 25

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by Ambassador James F. Jeffrey  
Reasons 1.4 (b, d)



CONFIDENTIAL

IHH told Consulate Istanbul there were no AMCITS on board the Mavi Marmara on the Istanbul to Antalya trip. Two AMCITS could board in Antalya. (Unclassified email from Consulate Istanbul to EUR/SE and other Washington addressees.)

May 26

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

May 27

[Redacted]

IHH told Consulate Istanbul the Mavi Marmara would depart at 5pm (May 27) with at least one AMCIT on board. (ISTANBUL 195)

May 28

The IHH Deputy President told Consulate Istanbul three IHH ships were en route to rendezvous with other ships near Cyprus. (ISTANBUL 199)

[Redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by Ambassador James F. Jeffrey  
Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

CONFIDENTIAL

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

May 31

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

AMB Jeffrey and the entire Dip Corps (Amb level) were called in by the MFA. The MFA said all the violence occurred on the Mavi Marmara. (ANKARA 774)

AKP Foreign Affairs Chairman Murat Mercan told AMB Jeffrey and Codel Delahunt that the Turks wanted an immediate release of Turkish ships and personnel from Israel. (ANKARA 779)

June 1

IHH told Consulate Istanbul that IHH was seeking the return of the confiscated materials. (ANKARA 777)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by Ambassador James F. Jeffrey  
Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

CONFIDENTIAL



B1

June 3

The MFA told Acting POL Chief they were formally reviewing Turkey-Israeli bilateral relations. (ANKARA 800)

CONFIDENTIAL

Classified by Ambassador James F. Jeffrey  
Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

P 102

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 11, 2010 1:31 AM  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L.  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** AMCITS MAY JOIN CONVOY OF AID SHIPS TO GAZA  
**Attachments:** (CO) ANKARA 680  
  
**Importance:** High

Rich, Karen:

I want to flag this cable for you. It reports on the IHH humanitarian assistance flotilla to Gaza, which seems designed to provoke the Israelis. Unfortunately, AMCITS are participating and may be placing themselves in danger.

[REDACTED] I've asked  
Istanbul's Win Dayton and Sal Amodeo to keep their phone numbers handy in case Washington wants us to inquire about the welfare and whereabouts of the flotilla's American participants.

B5

-- Jerry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

P104

RELEASED IN PART B6

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 12:21 PM  
**To:** Ankara-Political; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); [redacted] B6  
 [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN'; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil'  
**Subject:** Country Team; June 1  
**Categories:** Working

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**AMB**

- The Israeli interdiction of the IHH-led flotilla and attendant casualties, especially the Turkish deaths, has precipitated a major crisis that can rebound against the USG.
- Turkey is absolutely furious with Israel and is pushing for condemnation of Israel's interception of the convoy in the UN and at NATO.
- This is not business as usual. "This is the only thing."
- Our focus is to be "flotilla" reporting and personal security.

**Jeremiah Howard**  
 Deputy Political Counselor  
 Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
 T: 90 312 457-7149  
 IVG: 295-7149

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/01

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

P105

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H.  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:31 PM  
**To:** Ankara-Political; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); [redacted]  
 L Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted]@incirik.af.smil.mil'  
**Subject:** AMB's Morning Meeting; 6/3  
**Categories:** Working

B6

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**AMB**

1.4(D)  
B1

- Issue now, per Tina Kaidanow, is the nature of the investigation into the flotilla interdiction.
- Turks want one that is international, [redacted]
- [redacted]

NR

**DCM**

- Watch for a reaction to US vote against the UN Human Rights Committee investigation into the flotilla interdiction.
- [redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

**RSO**

- Large-scale demos in Istanbul, Ankara and Adana on Saturday.

**POL**

- [redacted]
- Will try to identify which Turkish office is coordinating the review of bilateral TU-Israeli relations. NR
- [redacted]

**Jeremiah Howard**  
 Deputy Political Counselor  
 Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
 T: 90 312 457-7149  
 IVG: 295-7149

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Classification: CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Classified by: J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS**  
**Reason: 1.4(b), (d)**  
**Declassify On: 2020/06/03**

P106

RELEASED IN FULL

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 1:39 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political  
**Subject:** CIA: Israel/flotilla vessels  
**Attachments:** 2010-3090.pdf  
  
**Categories:** Working

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from SECRET attachment(s).

**Classification:** SECRET  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/04

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

P107

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 8:25 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political  
**Cc:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); [redacted] Civ USAF  
**Subject:** USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted] @incirik.af.smil.mil  
**Categories:** Country Team Notes, June 7 Working

B6

CONFIDENTIAL

AMB: We're working 24/7 on the Flotilla issue. We need to be VERY careful on the American citizen issue. (He asked to meet with CON, POL and DCM afterward on this.) [redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

Turks want: a) [redacted] an investigation into the Flotilla incident; b) something to be done about the Gaza blockade. [redacted]

[redacted]

NR

[redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted]

NR

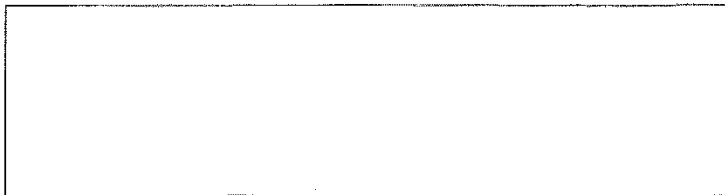
ADANA: [redacted] Leyla is drafting a cable on the SE reaction to the flotilla. (AMB called this the dog-that-did-not-bark, and called it significant.)

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



NR



Dan

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Classified by:** Daniel O'Grady, POL Counselor, POL, STATE

**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2020/08/07

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

P109

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 4:34 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political  
**Cc:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); [redacted] Civ USAF  
**Subject:** USAFE 39 OS/IN; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil  
 Ambassador's a.m. meeting, June 17  
**Categories:** Working

B6

CONFIDENTIAL

AMB:

[redacted]

NR

-- noted that he would pass to Ambassador Cunningham in Tel Aviv his assessment that the new video clip purporting to show the slaying of the Amcit on the Flotilla is incorrect because the IDF soldier appears to be firing a paint gun;

[redacted]

said a new IHH Flotilla would encounter harsh USG opposition.

1.4(D)

[redacted]

B1

Dan

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Classified by: Daniel O'Grady, POL Counselor, POL, STATE

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)

Declassify On: 2020/06/17

P110

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2010 2:12 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** (C) UPDATE ON ISRAEL'S VIEWS ON GOLDSTONE AND FLOTILLA INQUIRIES  
**Attachments:** (CO) TEL AVIV 1722  
  
**Categories:** Working

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/07/30

---

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, July 30, 2010 9:09 AM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) UPDATE ON ISRAEL'S VIEWS ON GOLDSTONE AND FLOTILLA INQUIRIES

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/07/30

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

P III

RELEASED IN PART NR, B6

Logg, Cristina A

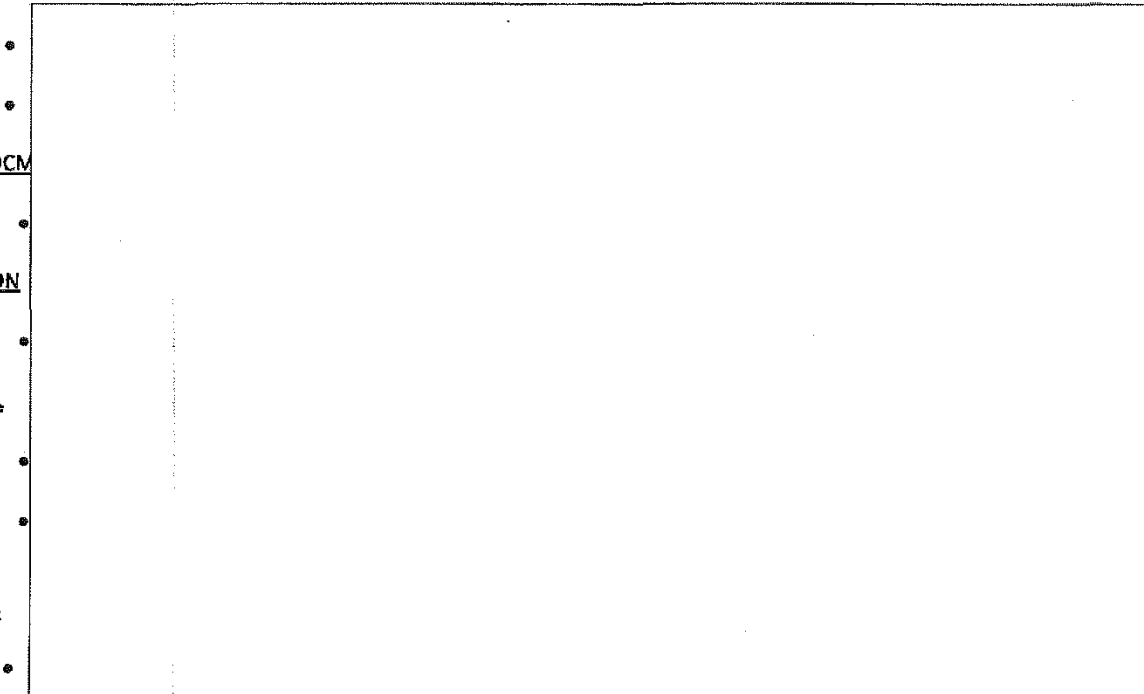
From: Howard, Jeremiah H  
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2010 4:07 AM  
To: Ankara-Political; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil  
Subject: AMB's Last Morning Meeting; 7/30

B6

Categories: Working

CONFIDENTIAL

AMB



NR

A/DCM

ECON

POL

PAS

CONS

- Received a call yesterday from the father of AMCIT Furkan Dogan, who was killed during the Mavi Marmara interdiction. CONS has the autopsy report. Still awaiting the death and burial certificates.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Jeremiah Howard  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
Classified by: J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
Reason: 1.4(d)  
Declassify On: 2013/07/31



RELEASED IN PART B5, NR, B6

P112

**Logg, Cristina A**

---

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 1:14 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Political  
**Subject:** FW: (C) Turkey Desk O/I - February 14, 2011  
**Categories:** Working

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 1:38 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Silliman, Douglas A; Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Godfrey, Anthony F; [redacted] Civ USAF USAFE 39 OS/IN'; Leary, Thomas M; Guido, Deborah L; Appleton, Richard H; Fernandes, Cheryl L; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Witmer, Kami A; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Kilner, Scott F; Jaworski, Richard E; Treiber, Laird D  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Subject:** (C) Turkey Desk O/I - February 14, 2011

B6

**Turkey Desk  
Official-Informal  
Monday, February 14, 2011**

**ACTION**

**(SBU) Furkan Dogan / Radikal article:** We would appreciate a copy of the June 16, 2010, article in Radikal, quoting from Furkan Dogan's diary entry on the morning before the flotilla incident: *"These are the last hours before I take part in the sweet experience of becoming a shaheed. Is there anything more beautiful than that?"* The Turkel Commission report cites these lines in its paragraph on Furkan Dogan (page 219). [redacted]

B5  
B5

**INFO**

[redacted]

NR

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2036/02/14

RELEASED ~~DELETED~~ NR

PIB

**Logg, Cristina A**

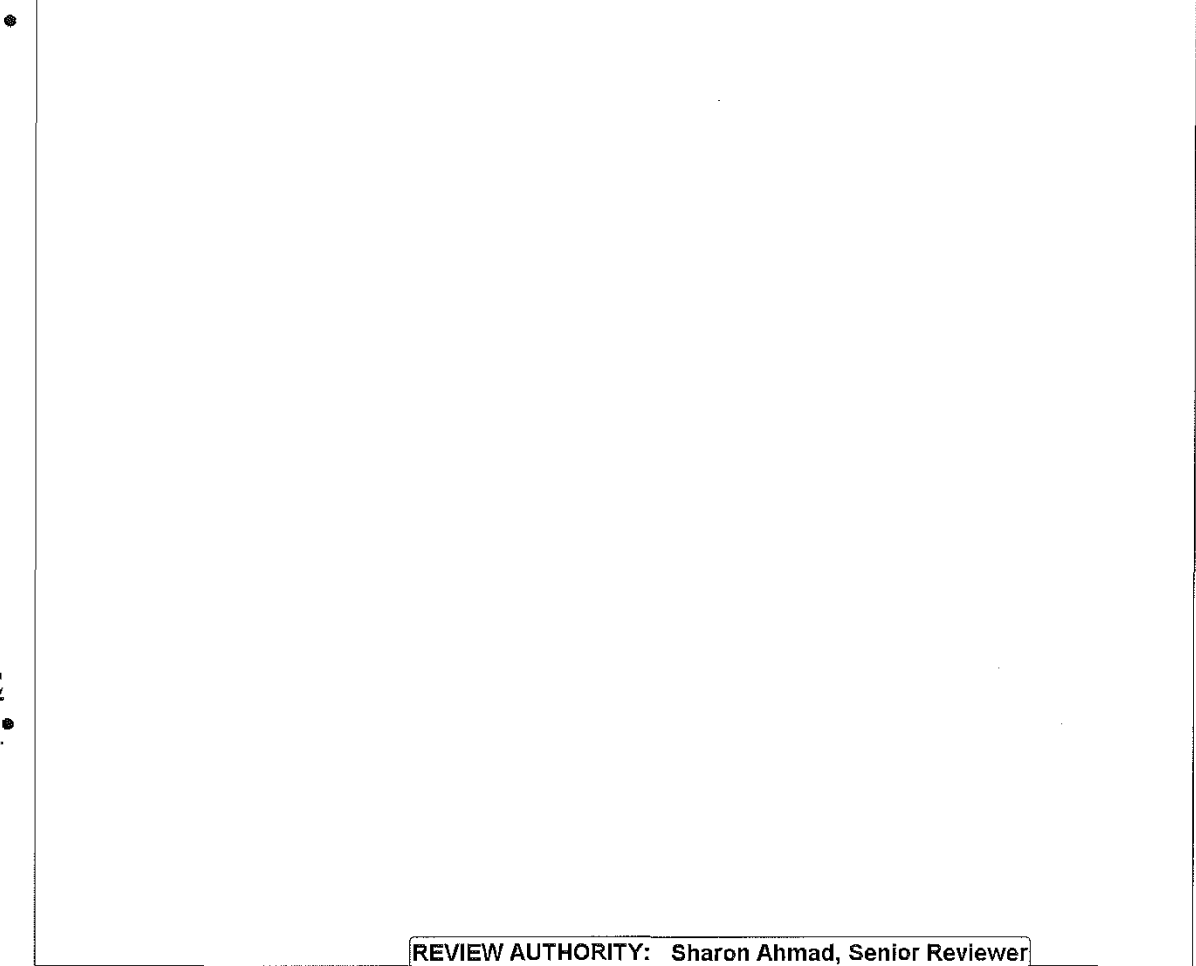
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**From:** Harris, Rian H  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2011 6:26 PM  
**Subject:** (S/NF) EUR A/S Welcome Home Notes and Daily Activity Report: Friday, April 15, 2011  
**Categories:** Working

SECRET/NOFORN  
DECL: 04/15/2021

**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Welcome Home Assistant Secretary Gordon  
Friday, April 15, 2011**

ACE



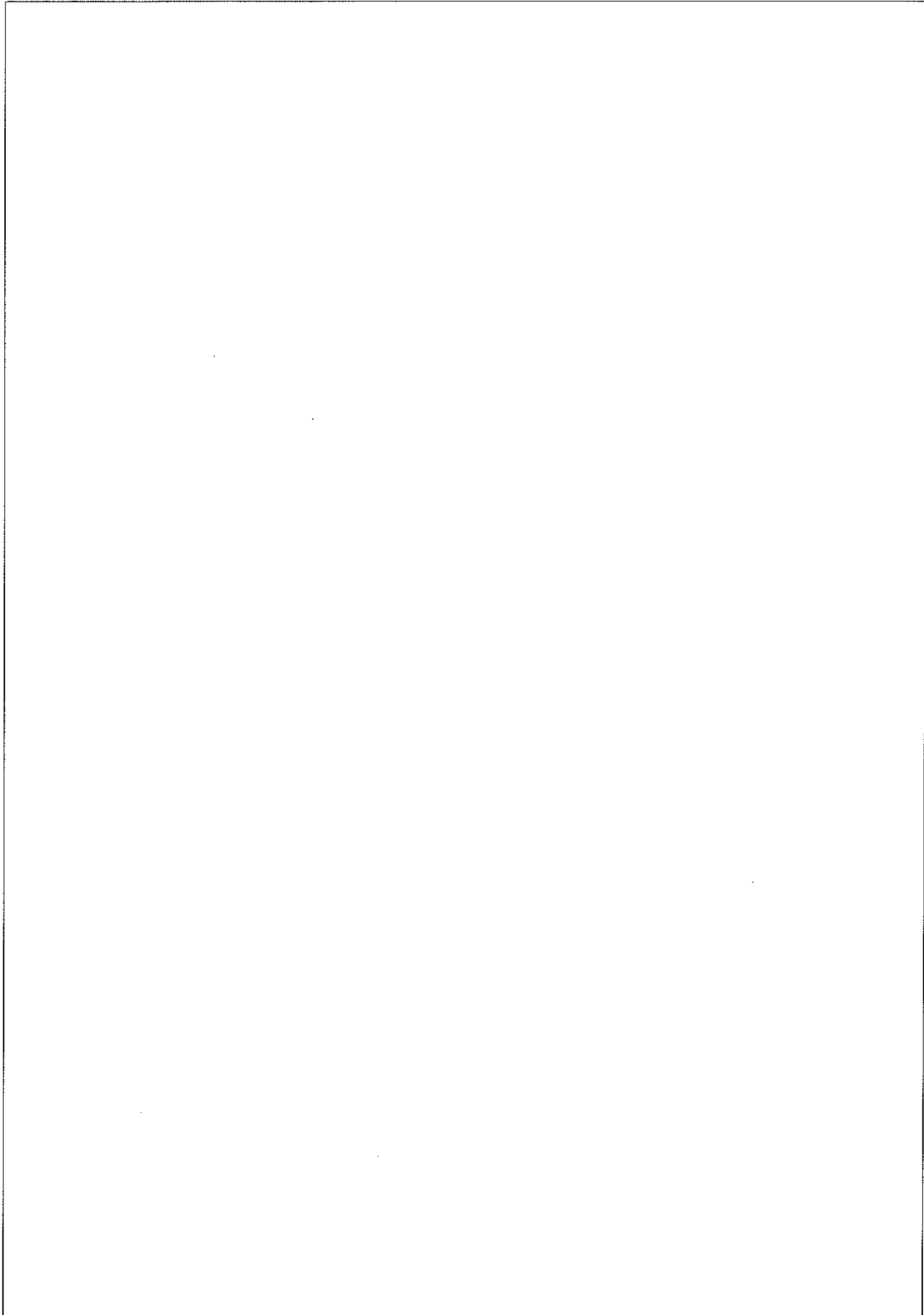
NR

CE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



NR



NR

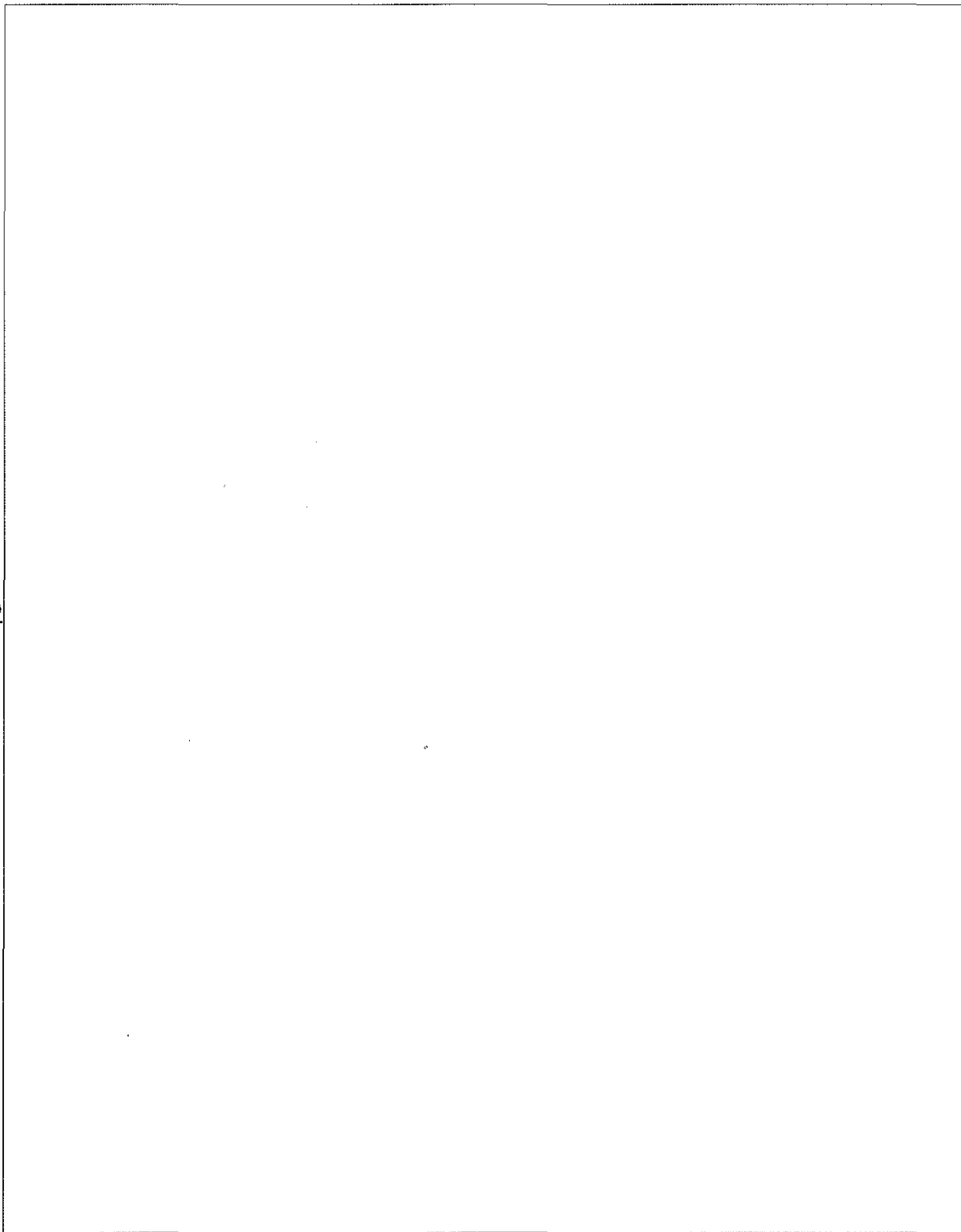
ERA

NR

NB

OHI

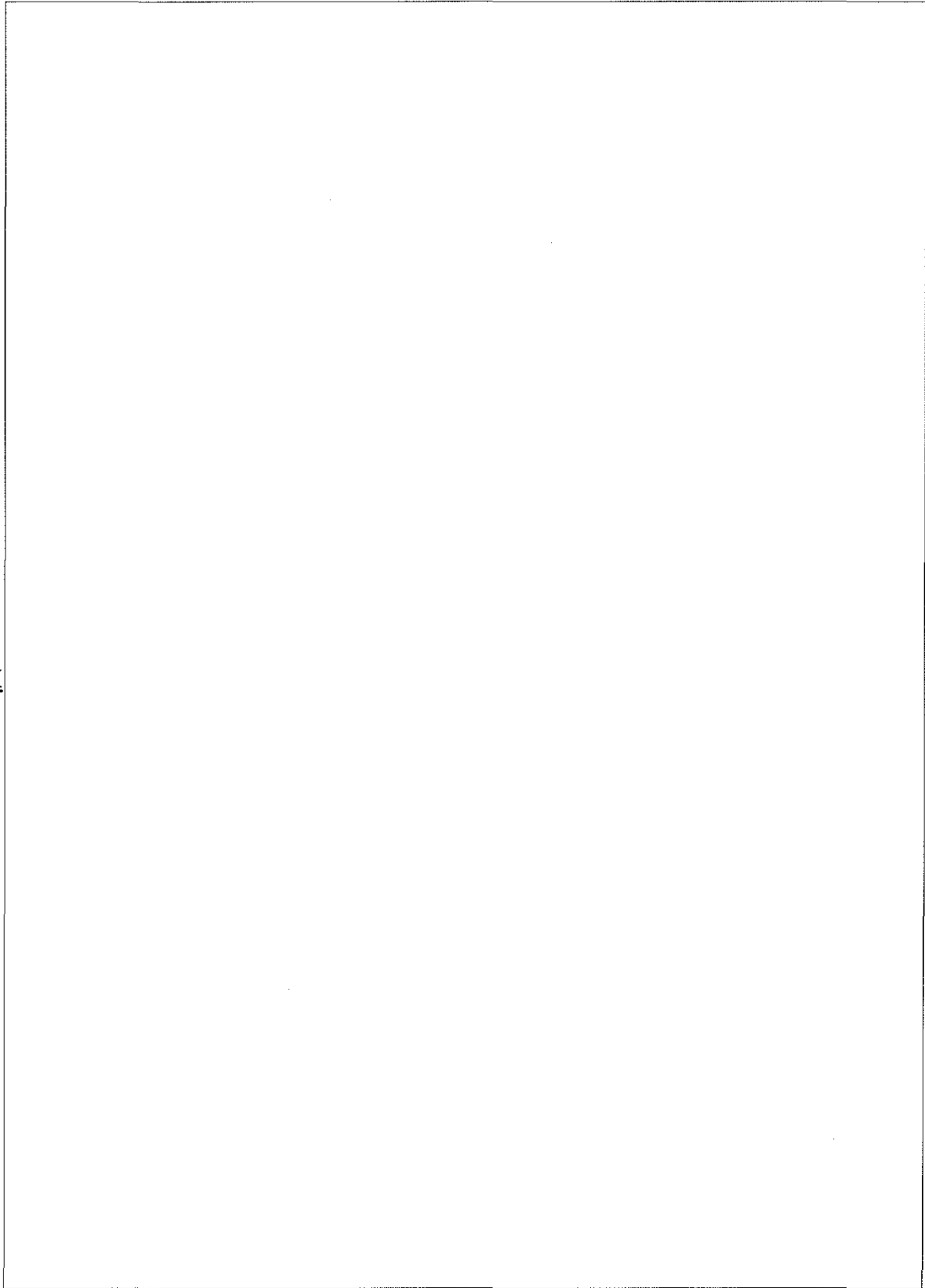
NR



PPD

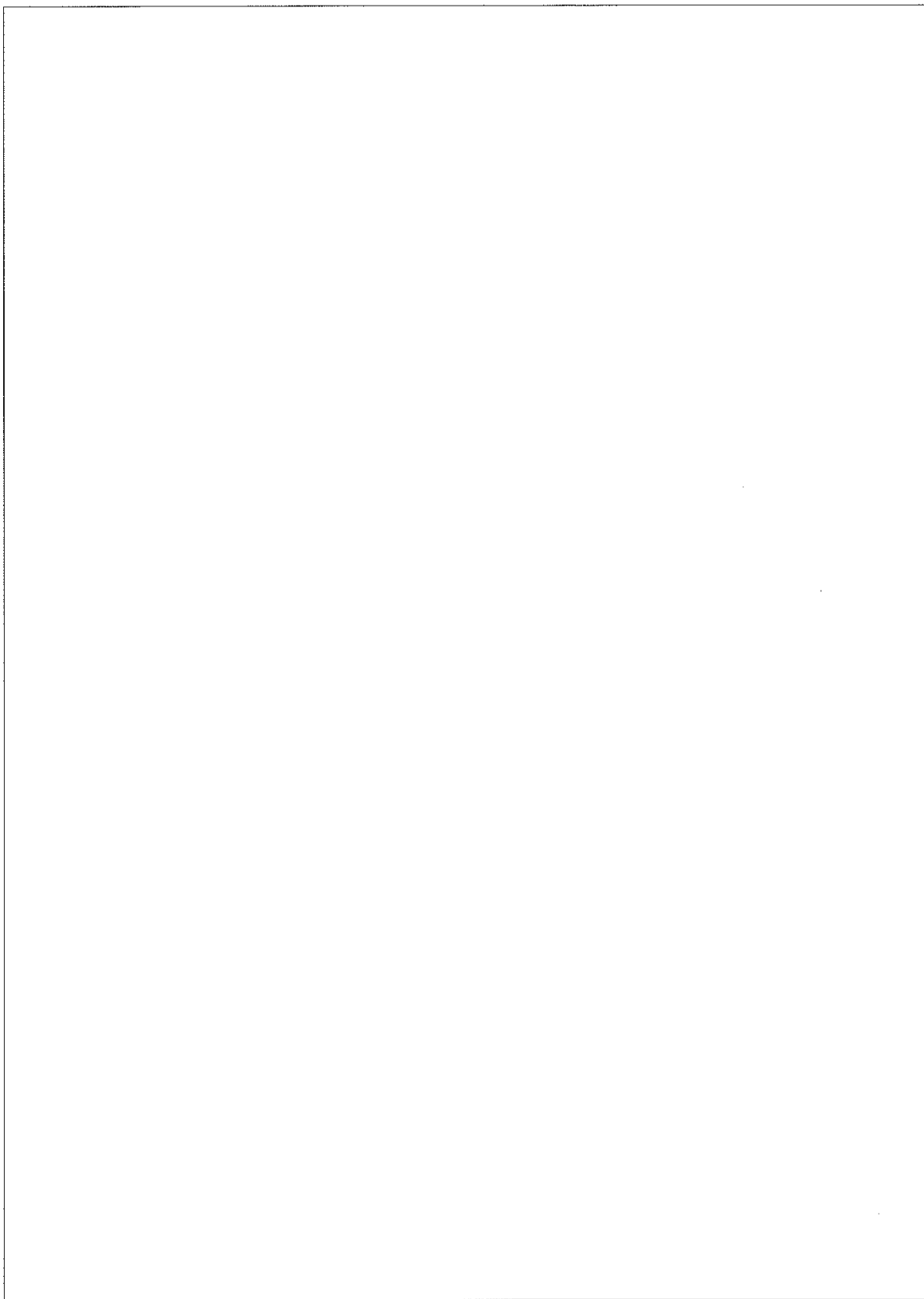
PRA

NR

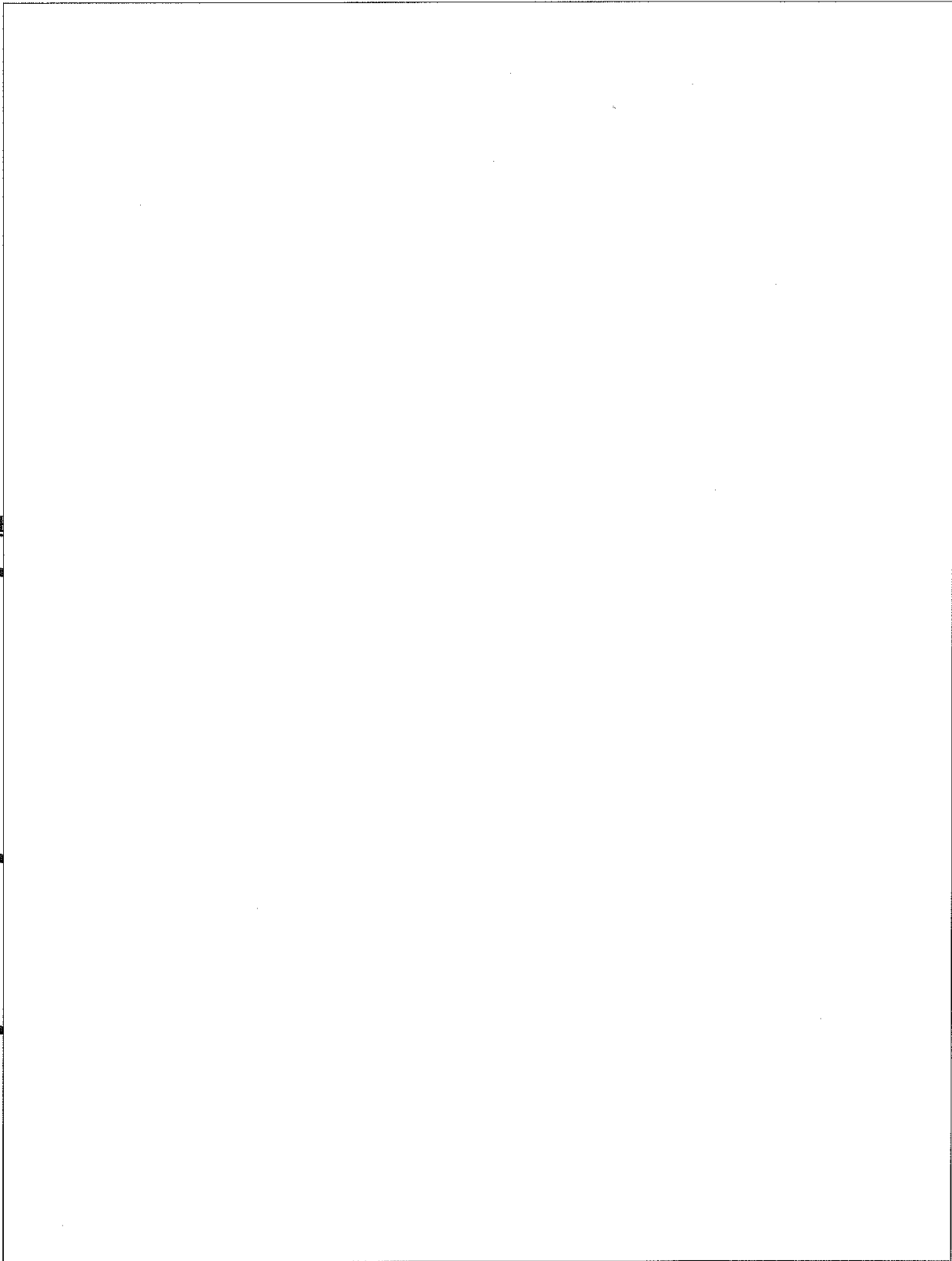


RPM

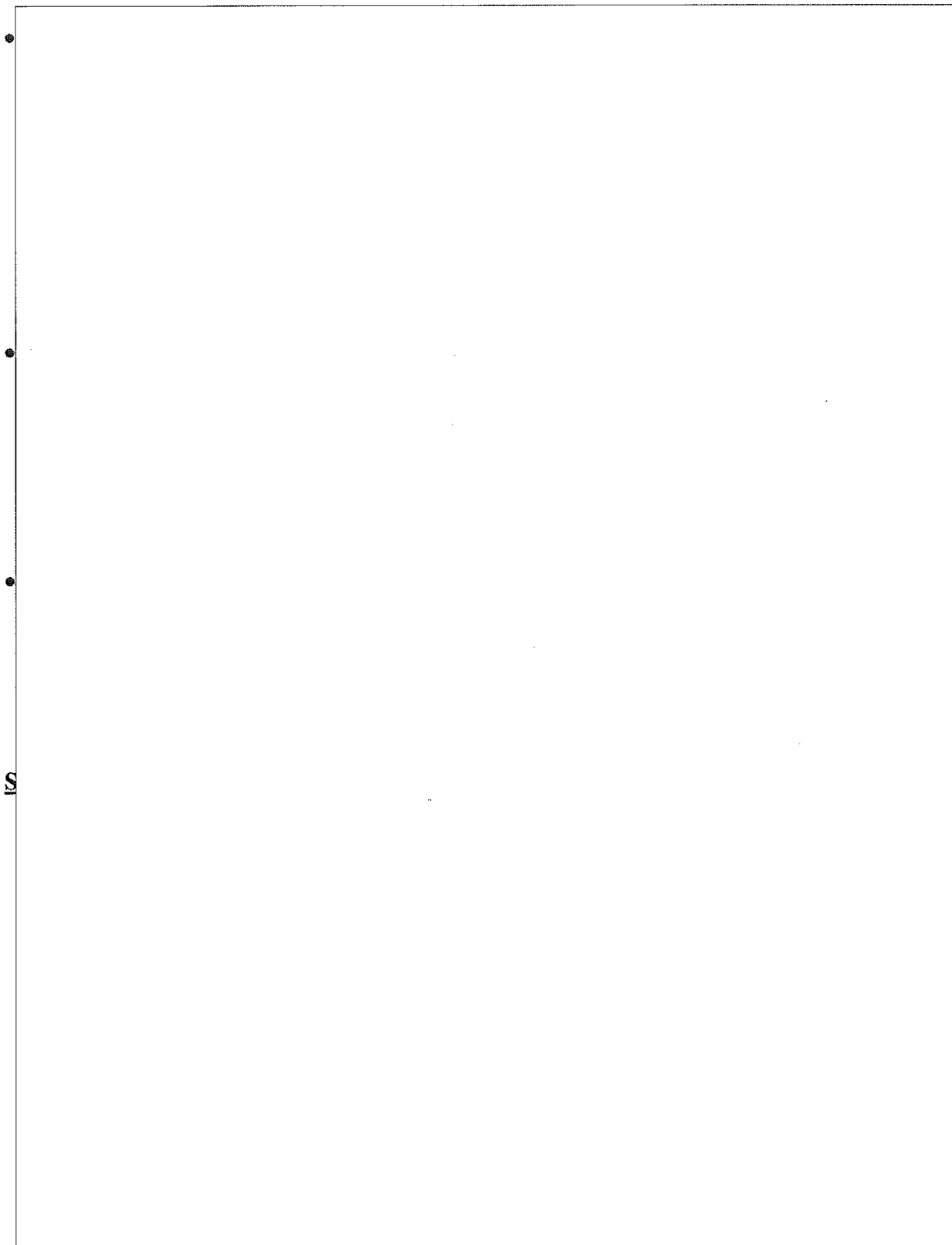
NR



NR

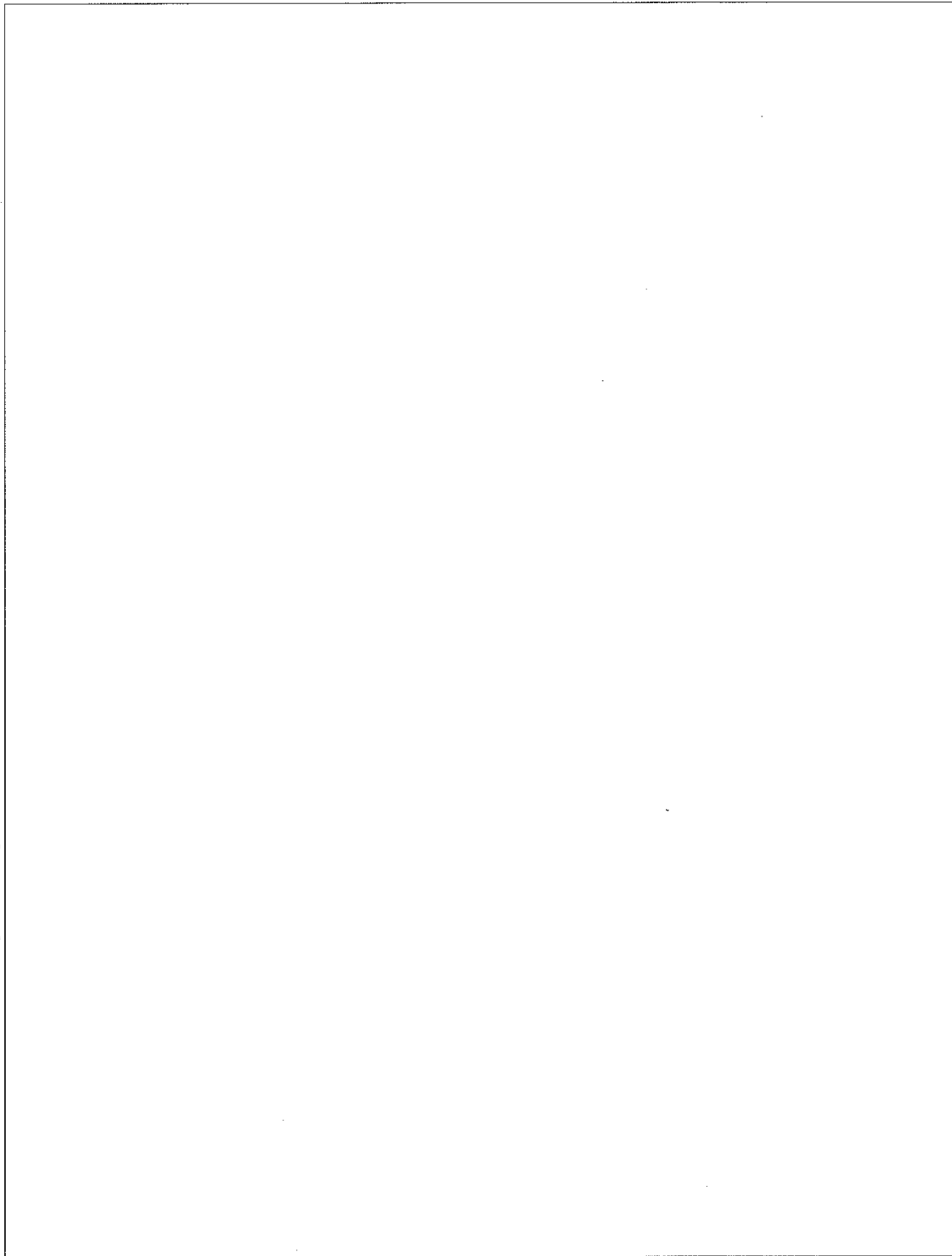


NR





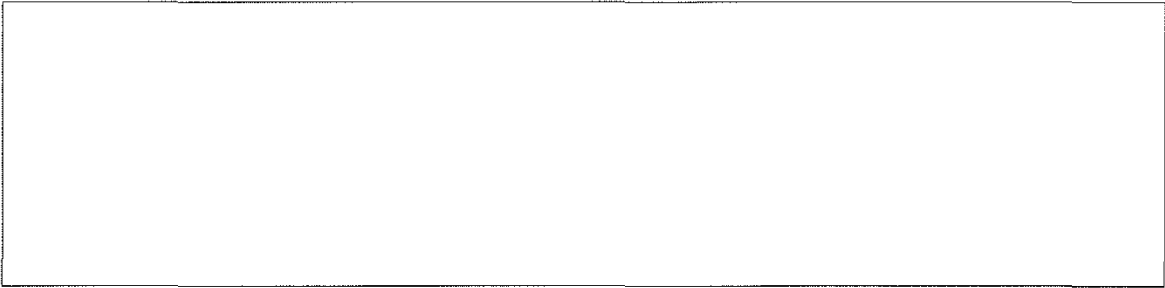
NR



NR

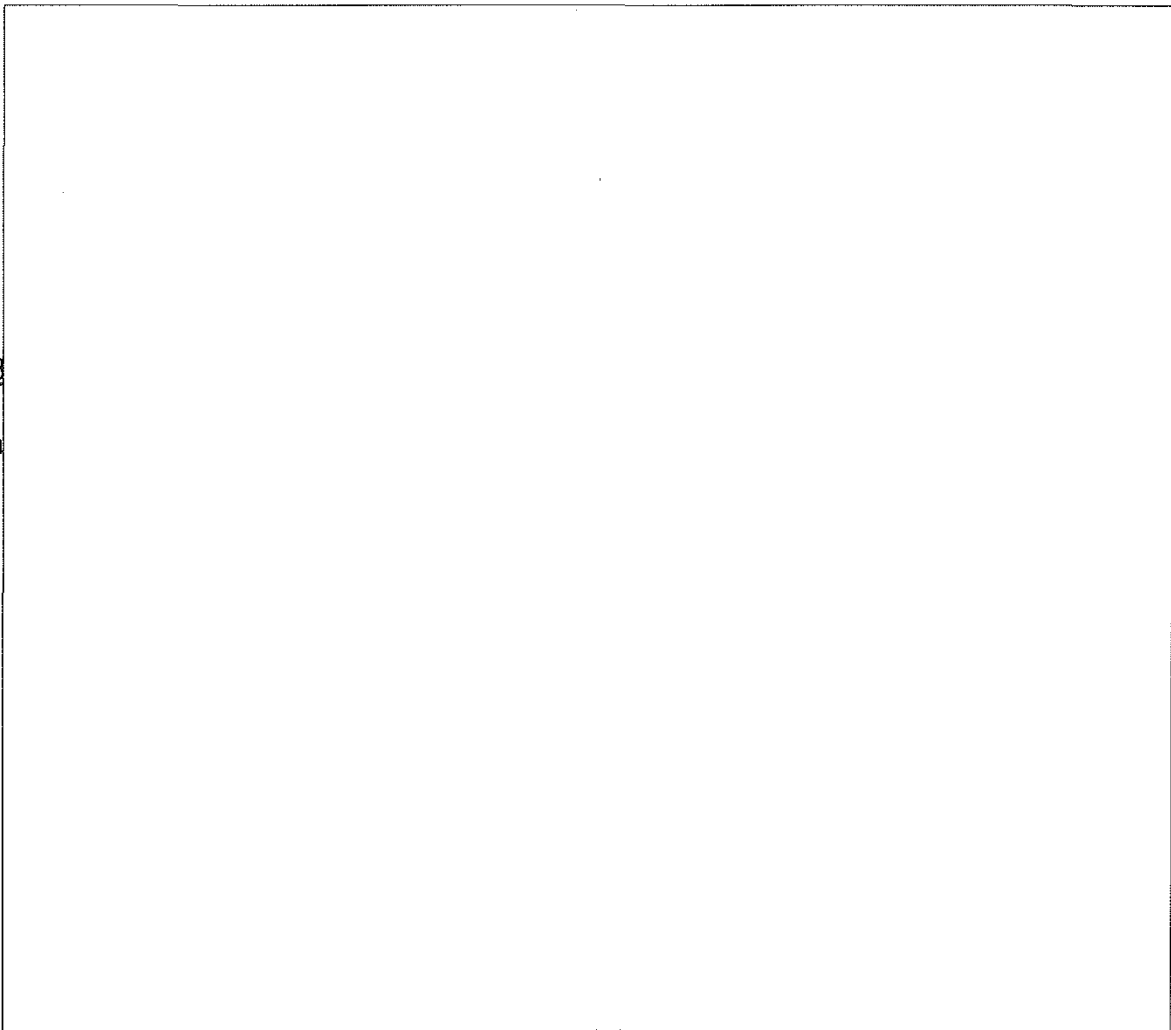
SE





NR

- **(SBU) Turkey: Israel Asks Turkey to Prevent Second IHH Flotilla:** Israel's Ambassador to Turkey, Gaby Levy, urged Turkish MFA Deputy U/S Halit Cevik to prevent IHH participation in a new flotilla to Gaza, according to press reports. On April 7 IHH head Bulent Yildirim announced that IHH would delay its participation in a flotilla until mid-June (following Turkey's June 12 elections), and that the Mavi Marmara would sail from a "European" port.

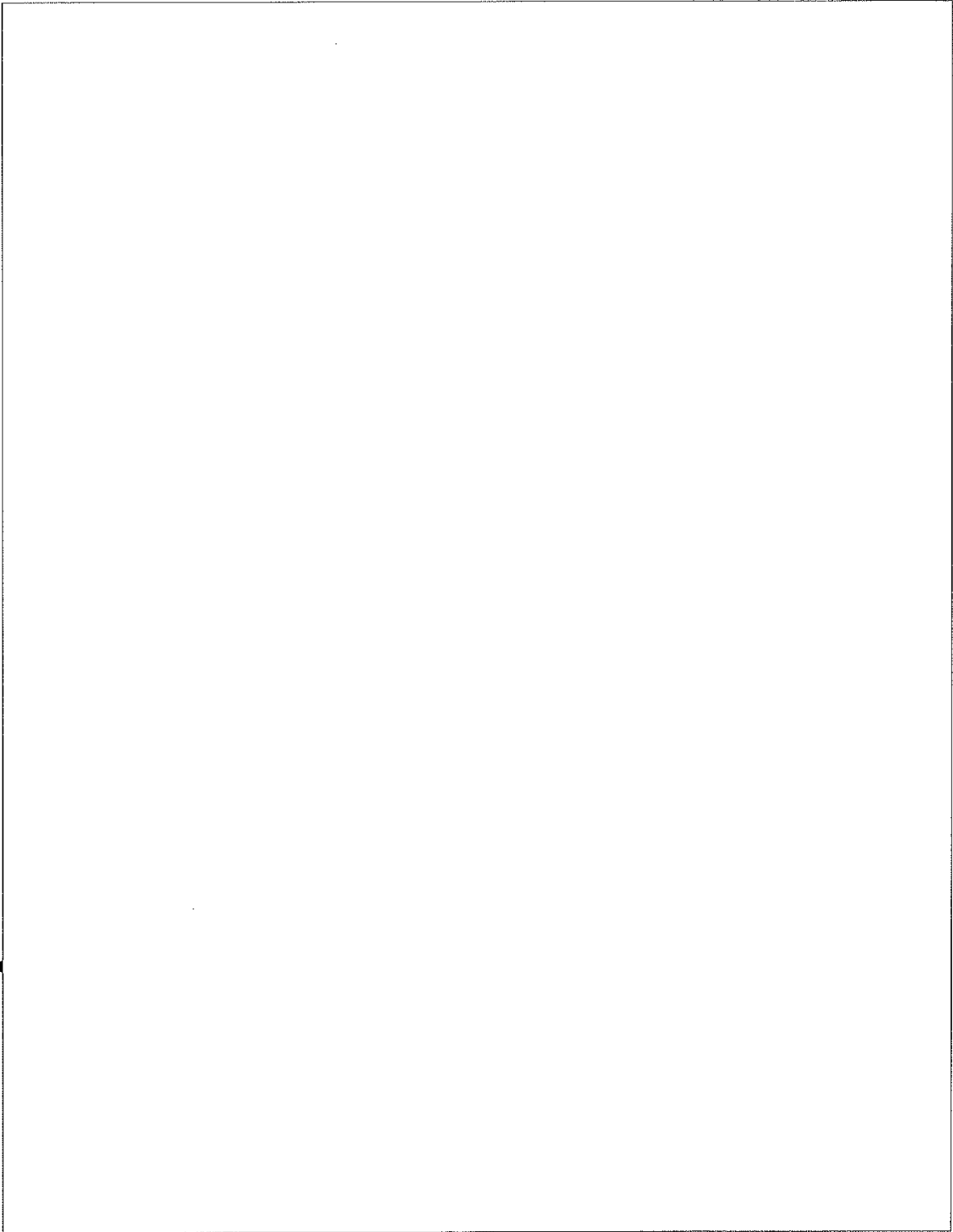


NR

UMB

Ukra

NR 1



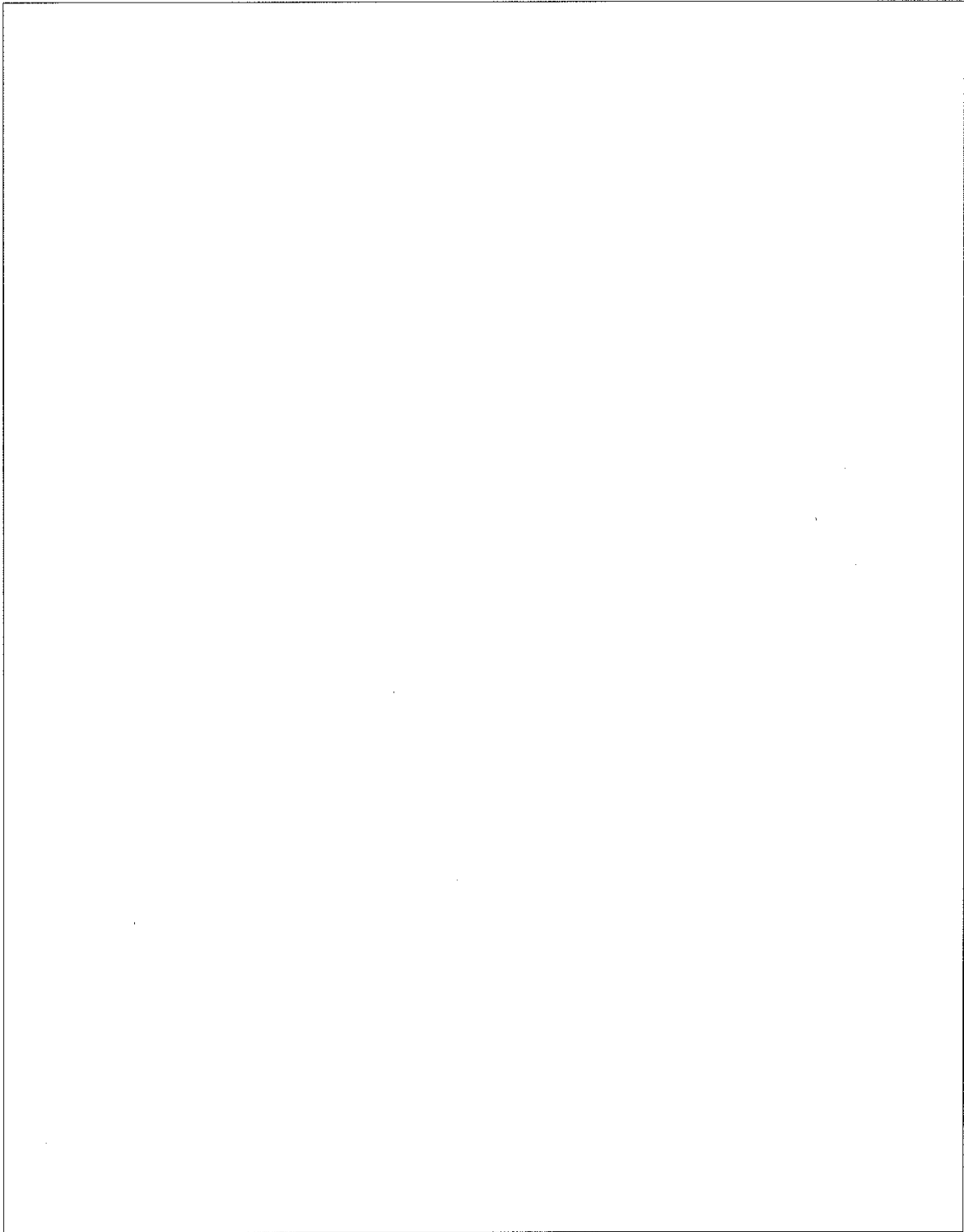
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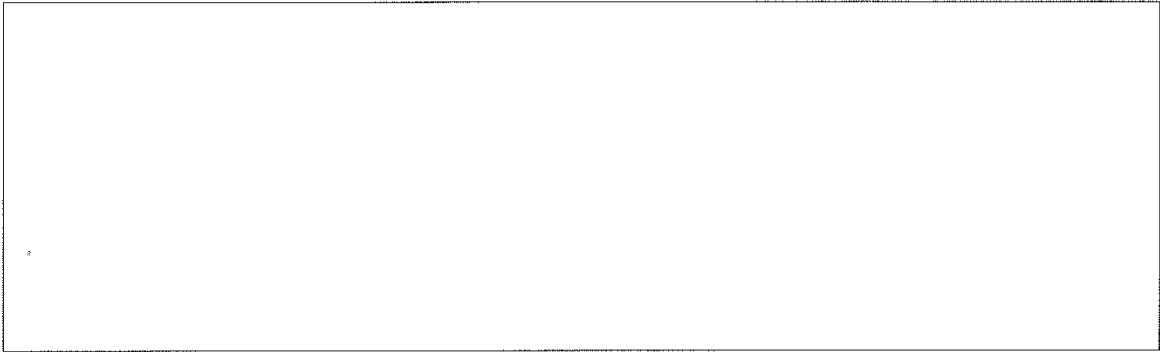
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**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/15

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/15

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

P114

Logg, Cristina A

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2011 7:15 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Godfrey, Anthony F  
**Cc:** Dunn, Patrick M; de Otaivaro, Laura H; Wiltner, Kami A; Ahn, Michael; Mineo, Mark R  
**Subject:** (C) Israelis on: Normalization Prospects, Flotillas, AKP and IHH, Syria, the Elections

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Working

SECRET

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

The Israeli Embassy told me 4/22:

Normalization Prospects

• [Redacted]

Flotillas and IHH

• [Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Syria

• [Redacted]

NR

Israel and the Election Campaign

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

• [Redacted]

NR



**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

**Classification: SECRET**  
**Classified by: J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS**  
**Reason: 1.4(b)**  
**Declassify On: 2021/04/22**

P115

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2011 7:17 AM  
**Subject:** (S//NF) Turkey Daily Brief - May 9, 2011

**Categories:** Working



SECRET//NOFORN

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

May 9, 2011

5/9 (SBU) [redacted]  
(C//REL UK) Mavi Marmara Anniversary Flotilla's Timing Still Unclear

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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**Mavi Marmara Anniversary Flotilla's Timing Still Unclear**  
(C//REL UK) The Turkish Islamist NGO IHH announced it is sending a single ship May 31, carrying humanitarian supplies, to El Arish, where the cargo will be transhipped to Gaza by truck through the Rafah border crossing. IHH also plans a separate anniversary flotilla, but timing is unclear.

1.4(D)

[redacted]

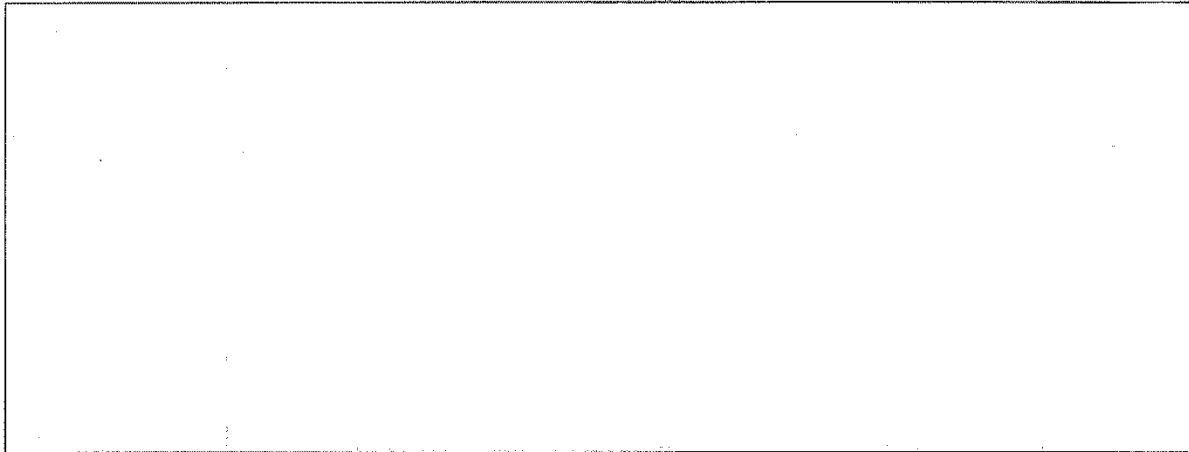
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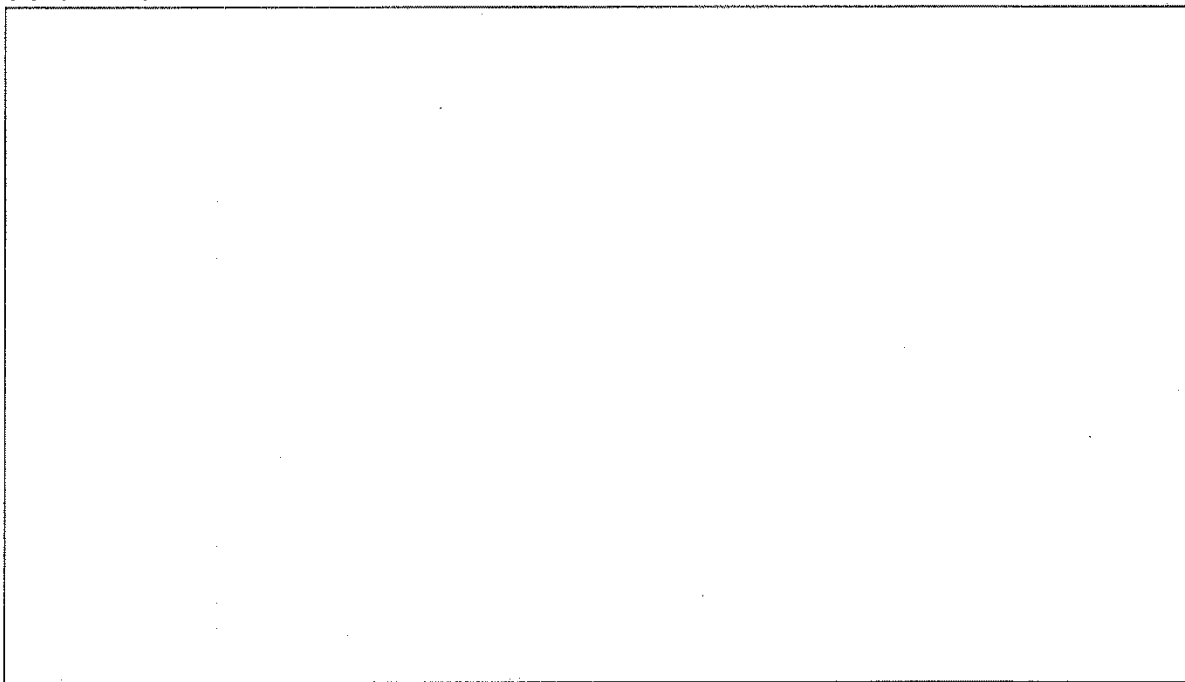
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**(U) Upcoming Events**



Classified by Deputy POLCOUNS Jeremiah Howard, E.O. 13526, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).  
DECL:05/08/2021

P116

Logg, Cristina A

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Harris, Rian H  
Sent: Monday, May 09, 2011 6:45 PM  
Subject: (C/NF) EUR Daily Activity Report for Mon, May 9, 2011

Categories: Working

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

DECL: 05/09/2016

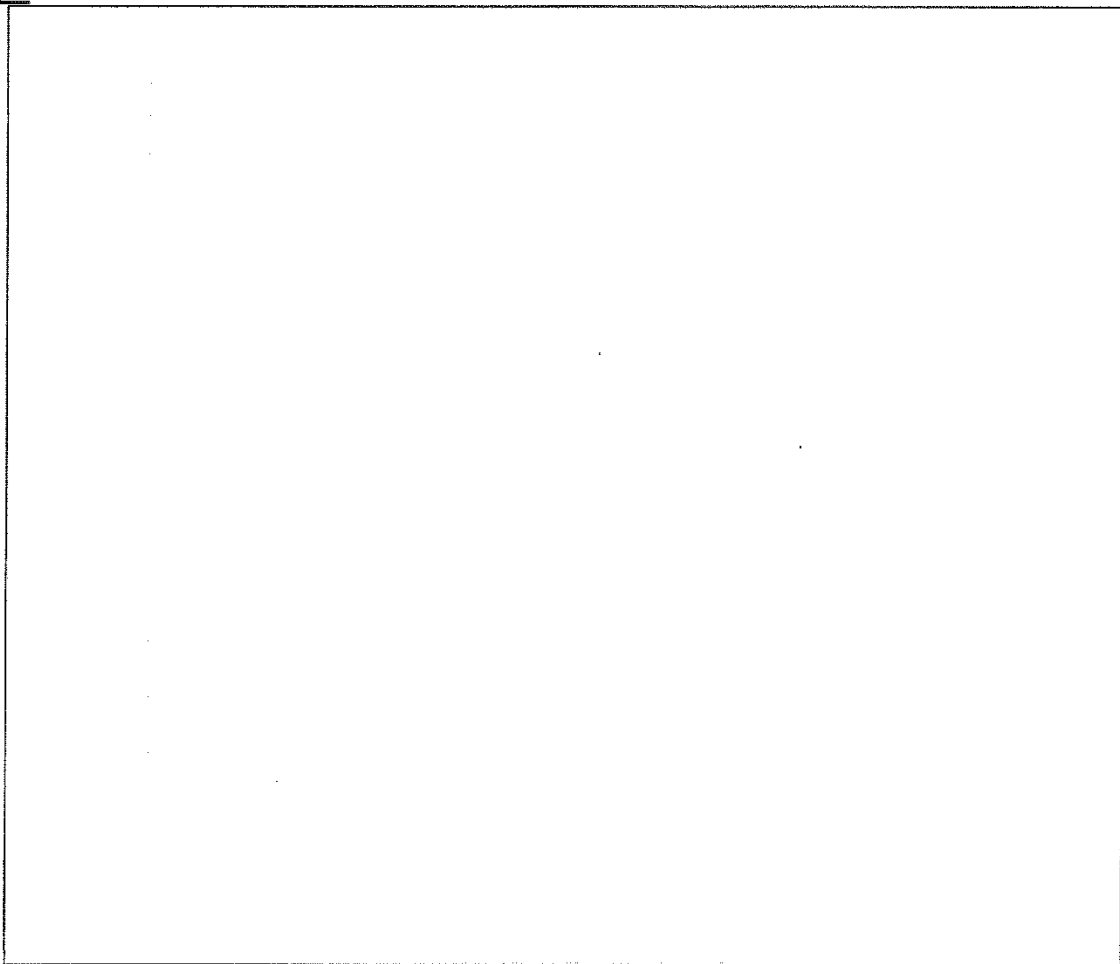
**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Monday, May 9, 2011**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

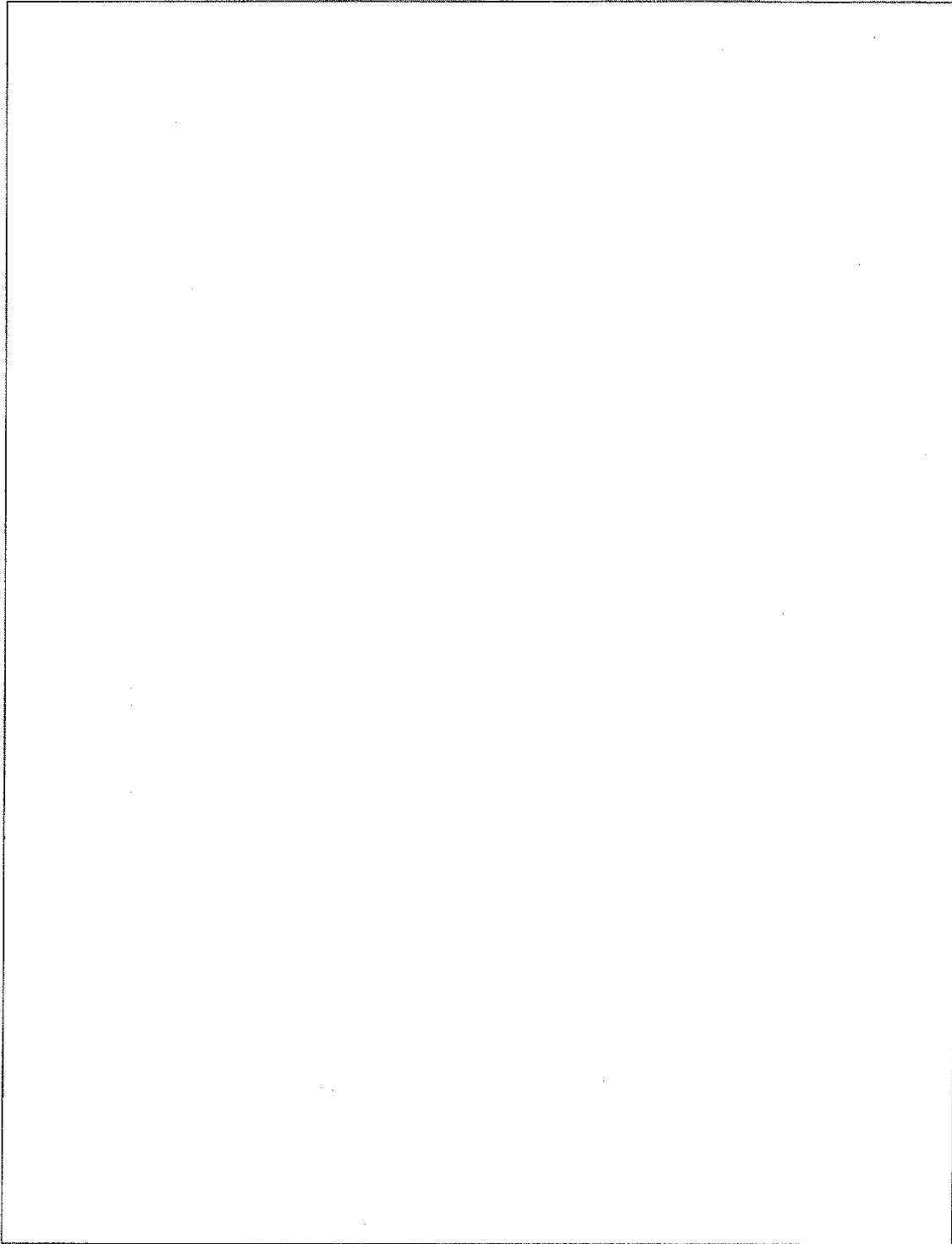
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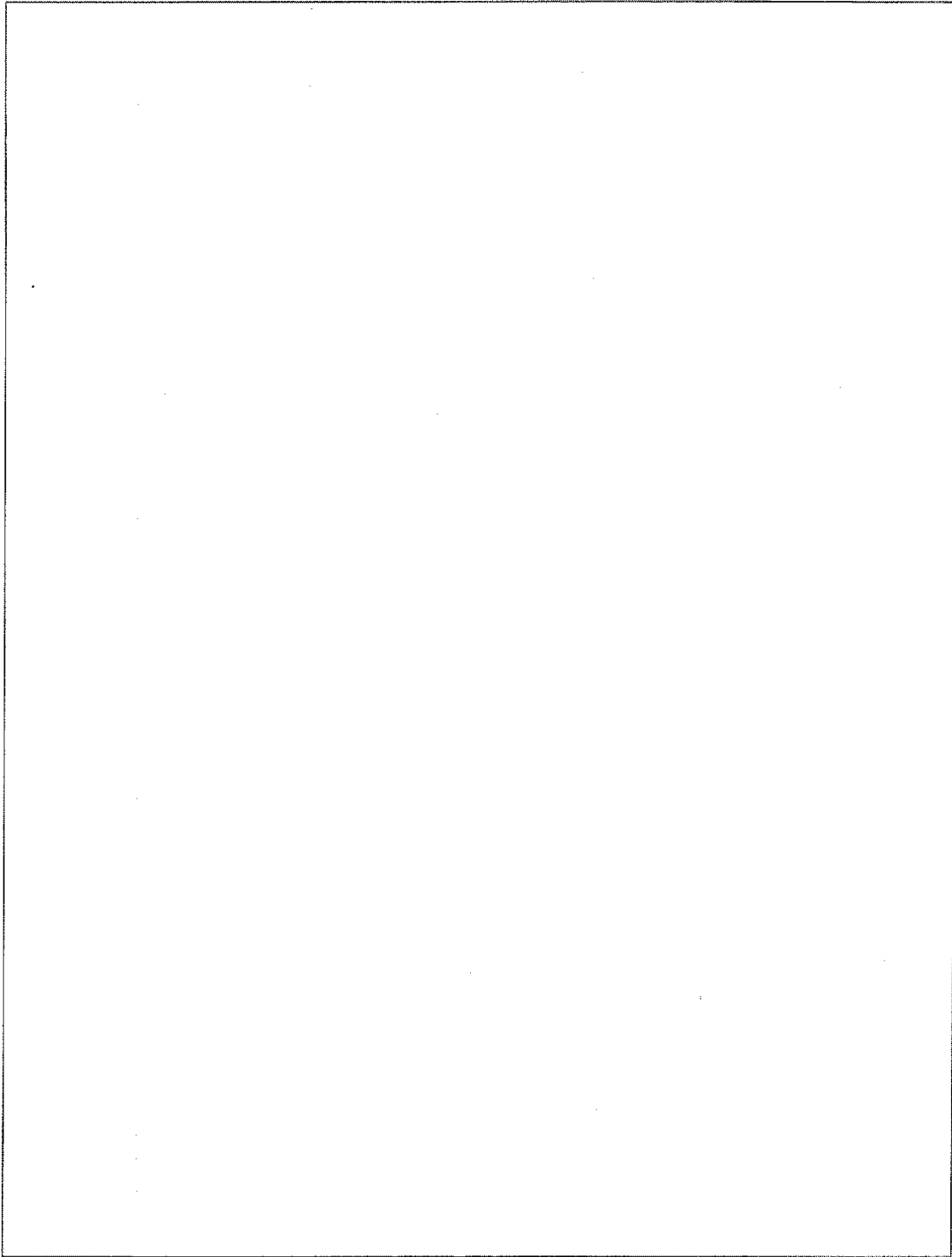
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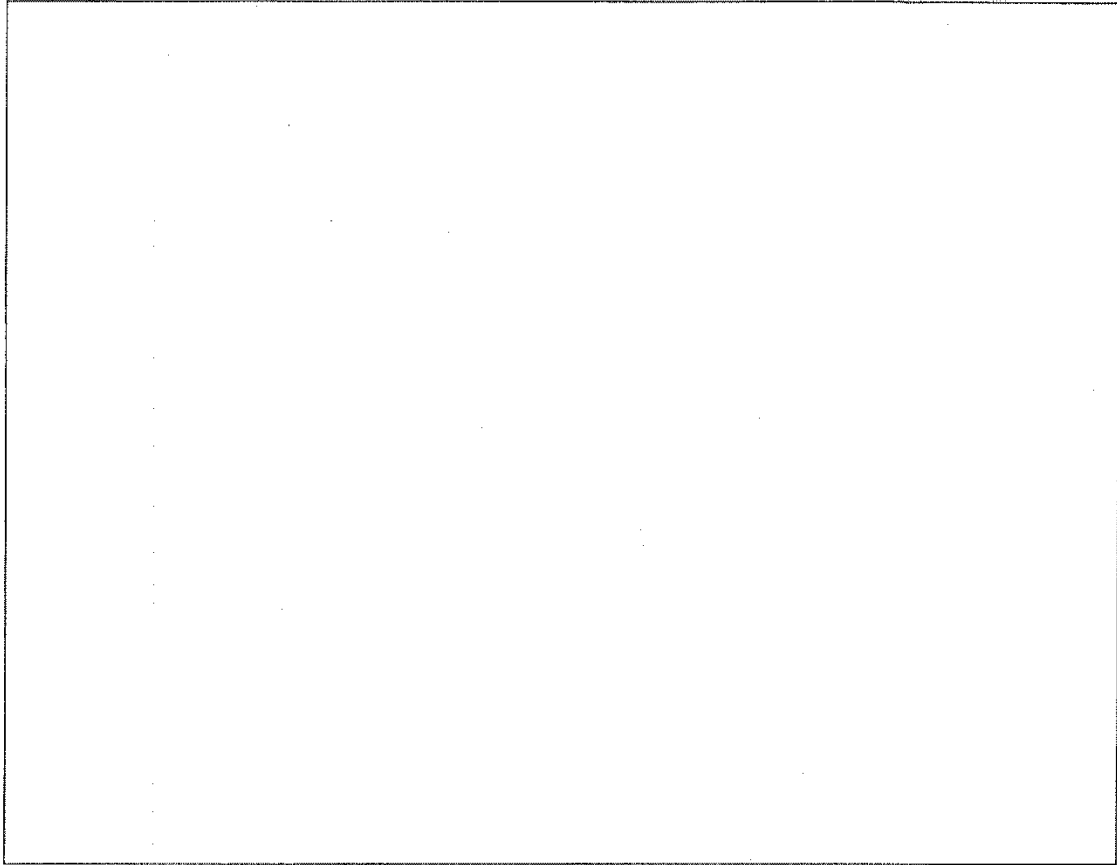
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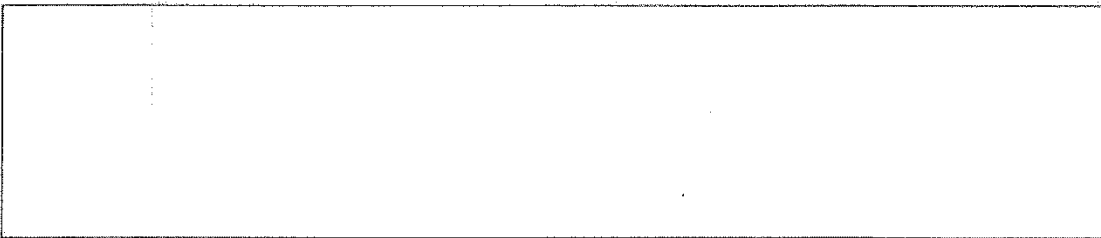
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- **(SBU) Turkey: Gaza Flotilla To Sail Third Week of June:** The international steering committee for the Gaza "Freedom Flotilla II" met in Paris May 9 and announced ships will depart the third week of June from various European ports, including Marseille. Organizers also announced the recent addition of a Swiss-German vessel to the flotilla. Separately, Turkish Islamist NGO IHH announced plans to send a 1,000 ton ship laden with construction materials, textile products, and medicine destined for Gaza to Egypt's El-Arish port on May 31; IHH will also participate in the "Freedom Flotilla II."

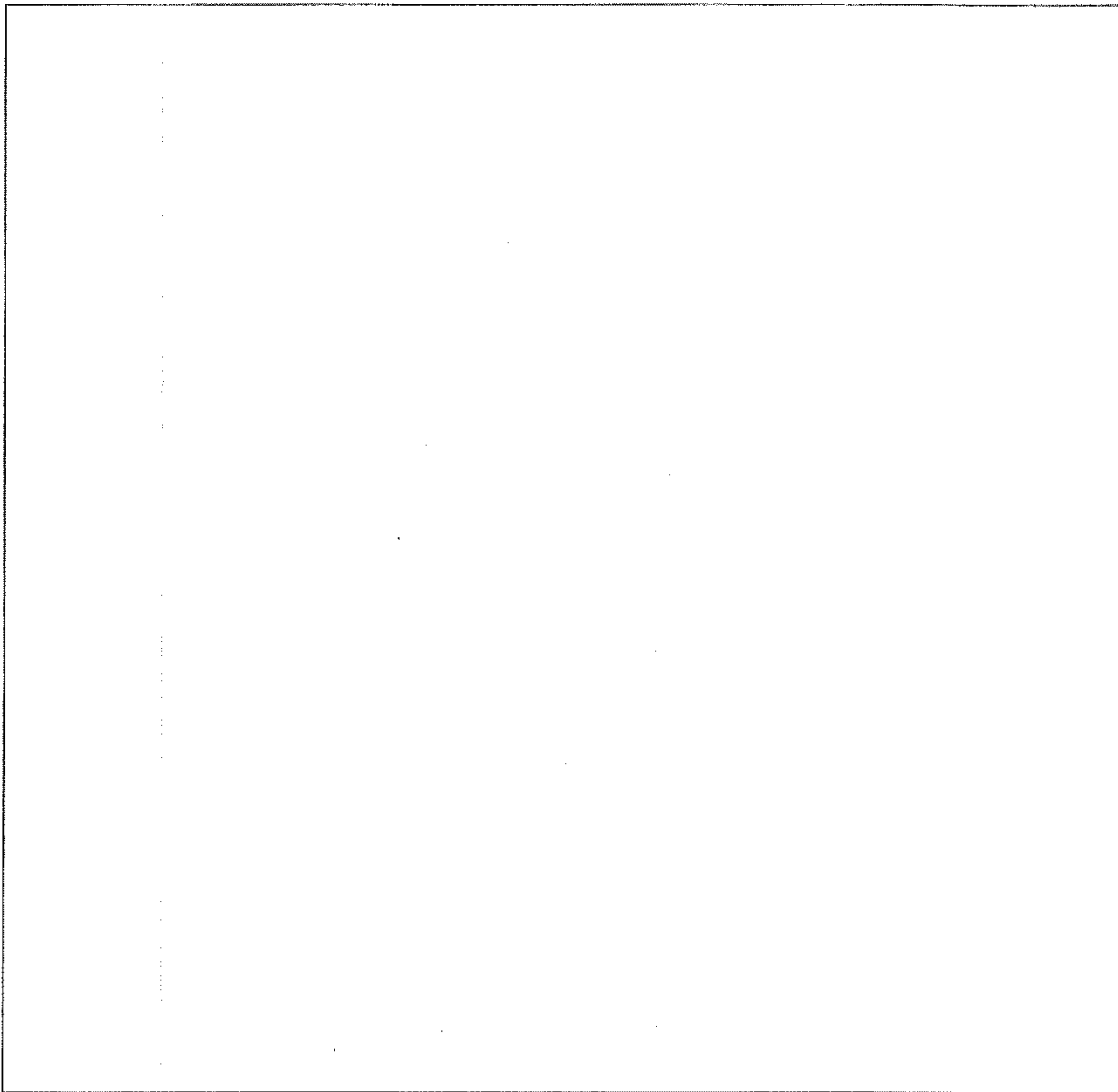




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This document is CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)

Declassify On: 2021/05/09

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P120

RELEASED IN FULL

Logg, Cristina A

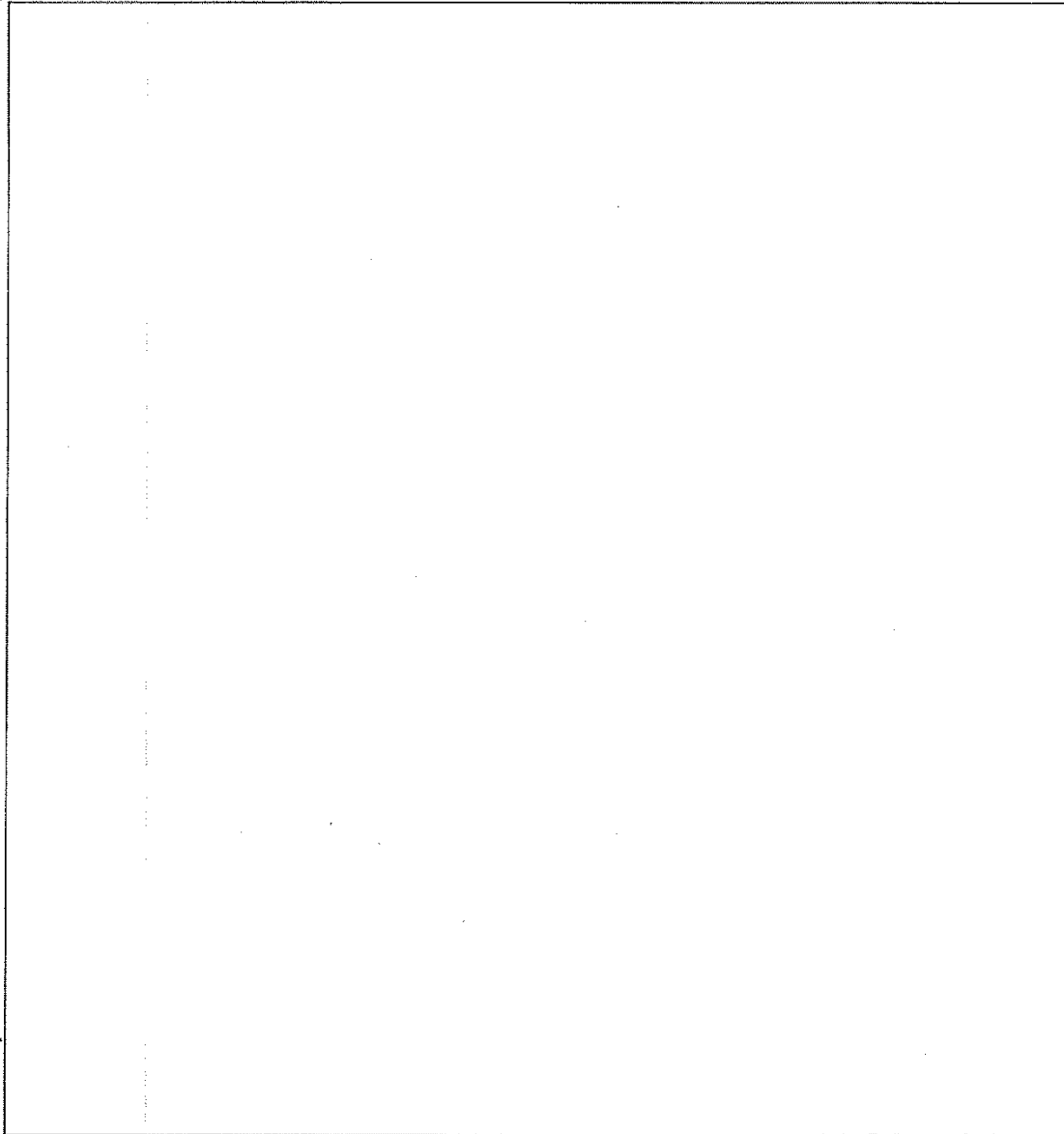
From: Norberg, Chad R  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 6:40 PM  
Subject: (S) EUR Daily Activity Report for Wednesday, May 25th

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Wednesday, May 25, 2011**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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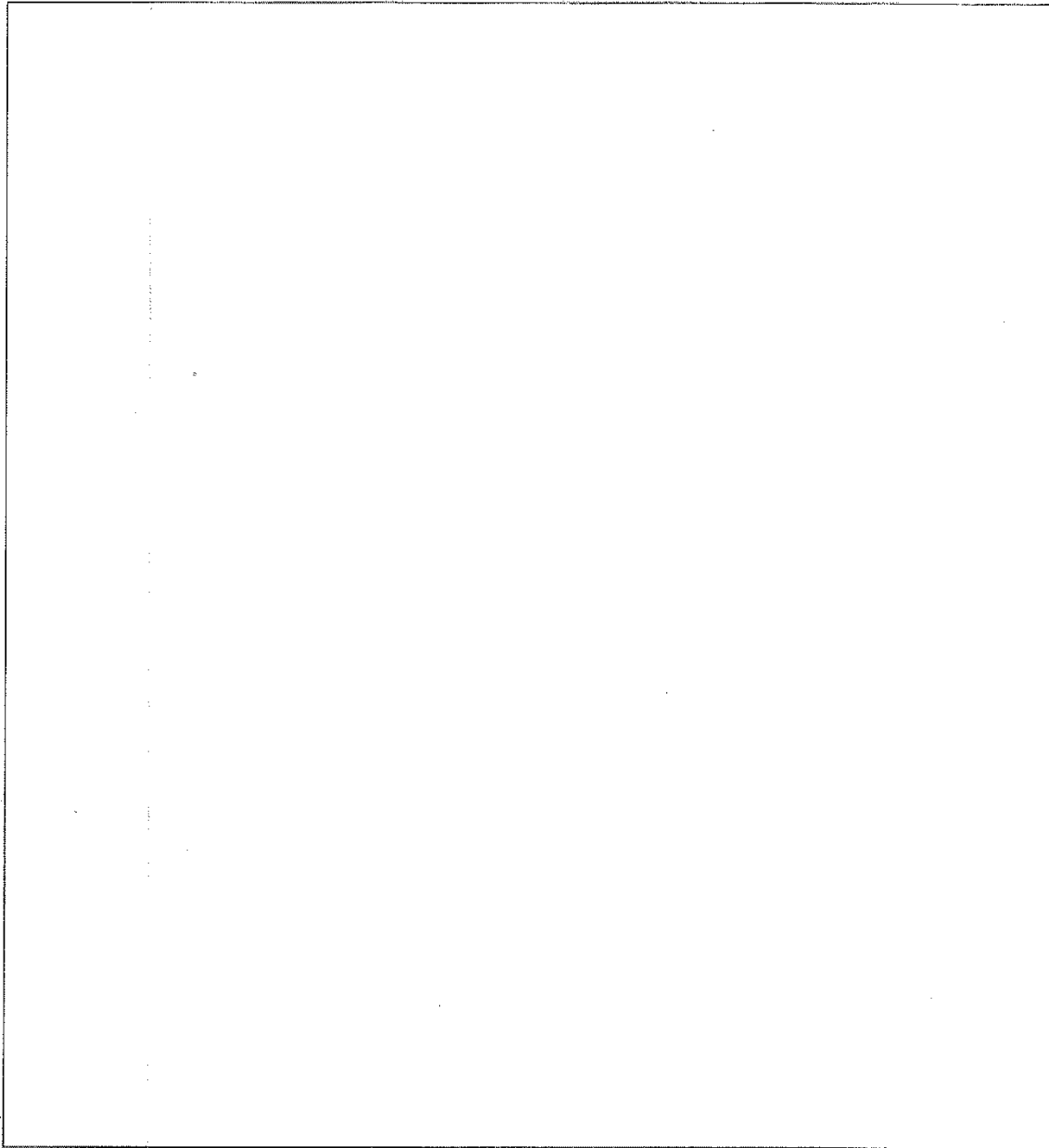
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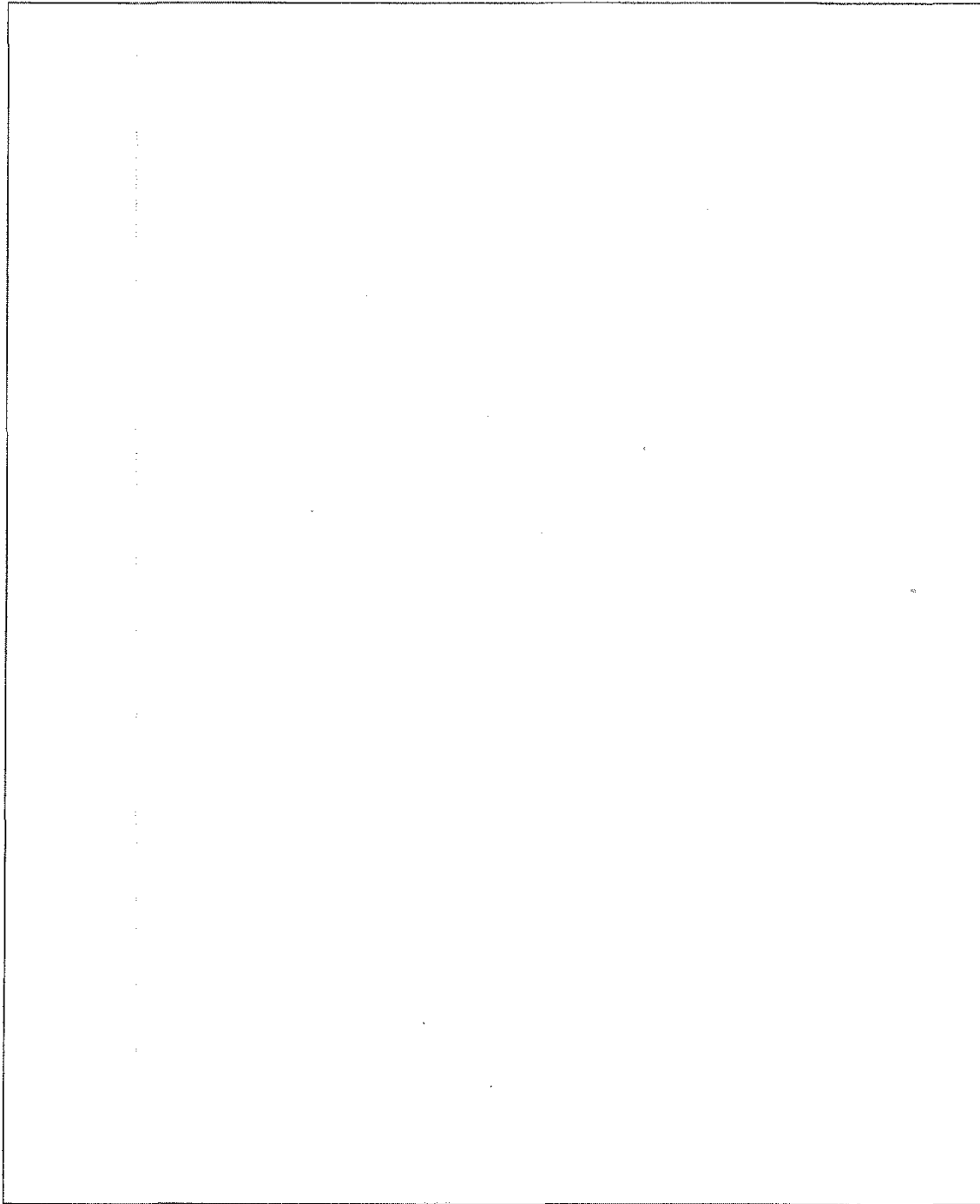
- **(SBU) Turkey: IHH Recruiting for Second Gaza Flotilla:** An IHH spokesman claimed on May 24 that the organization has received 500,000 applications to participate, and that 1,500 international activists in 15 vessels including the Mavi Marmara will sail the “last week of June.” An IHH ship is also scheduled to sail to El Arish, Egypt, on the anniversary of the May 31 incident to deliver humanitarian assistance. Separately, IHH head Bulent Yildirim stated in a May 11 television interview that his goal was to solicit a

million potential candidates, of whom a limited number would be chosen to participate in the flotilla. Yildirim also said that "even if we sacrifice martyrs for this cause, we will have justice on our side."

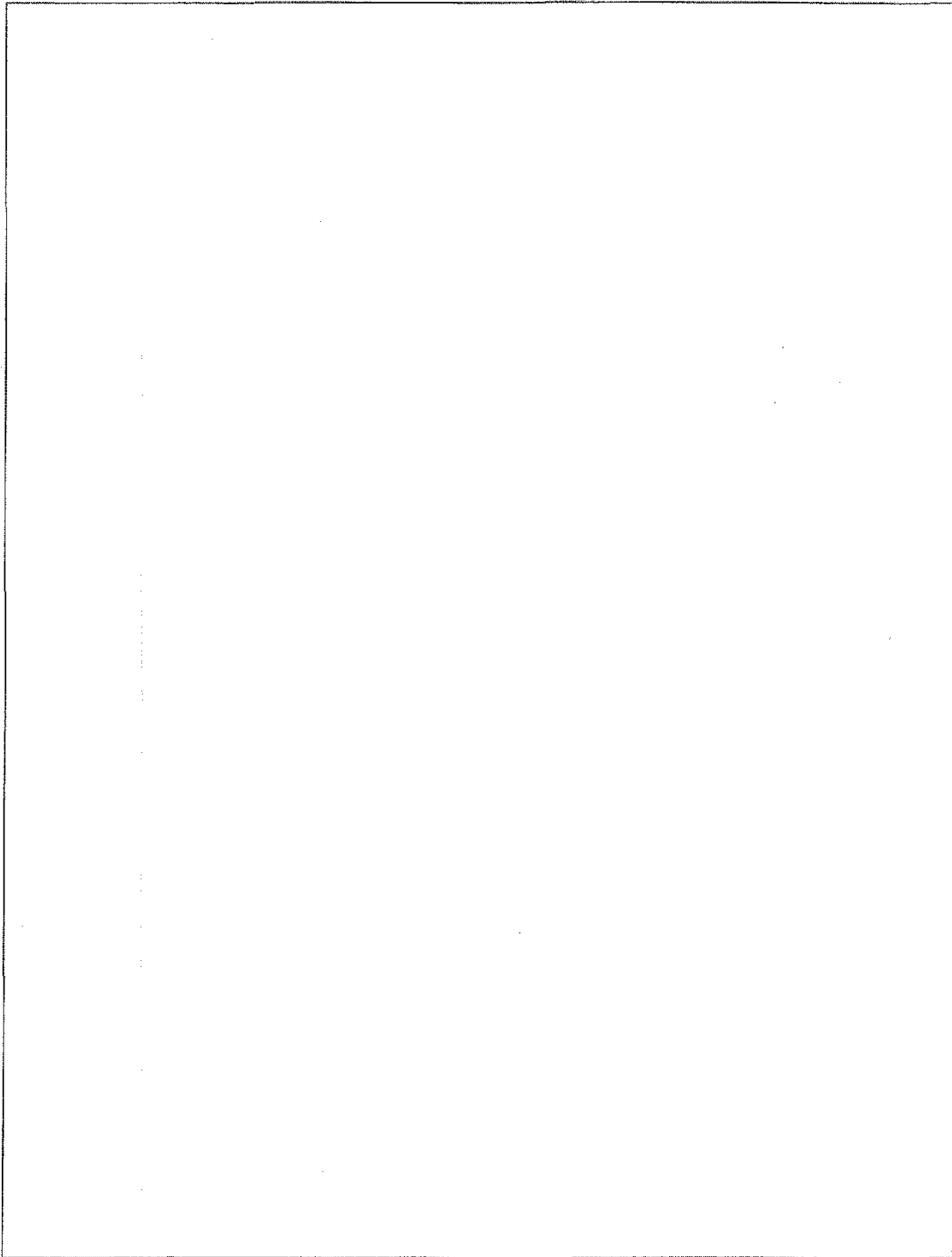
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P126

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**Logg, Cristina A**

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

**From:** Kimbrell, Rebecca J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2011 8:42 PM  
**Subject:** FW: (C) EUR Daily Activity Report for Wednesday, June 15, 2011  
**Categories:** Working

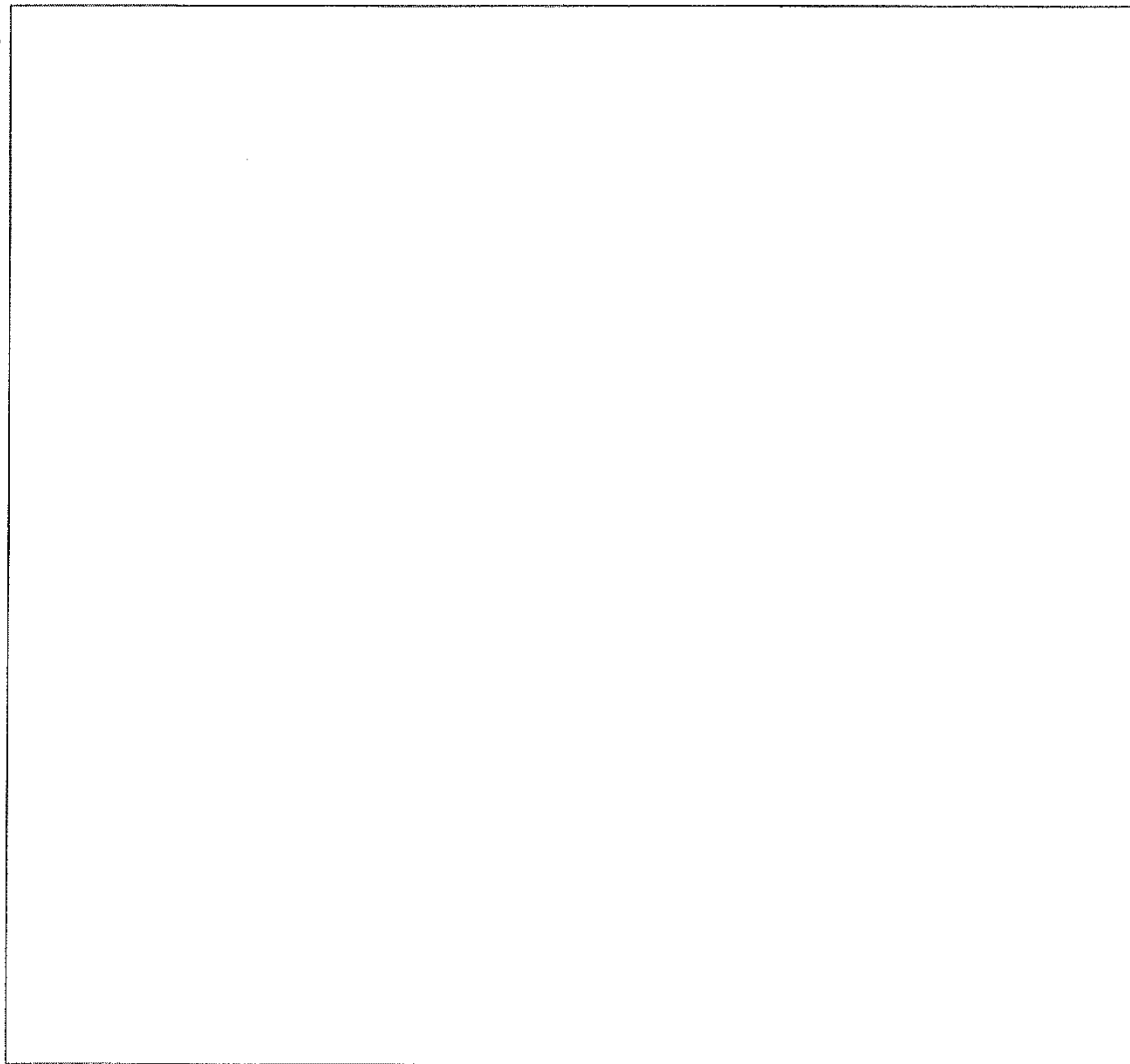
**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**DECL: 6/15/2021**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**EUR Daily Activity Report**  
**Wednesday, June 15, 2011**

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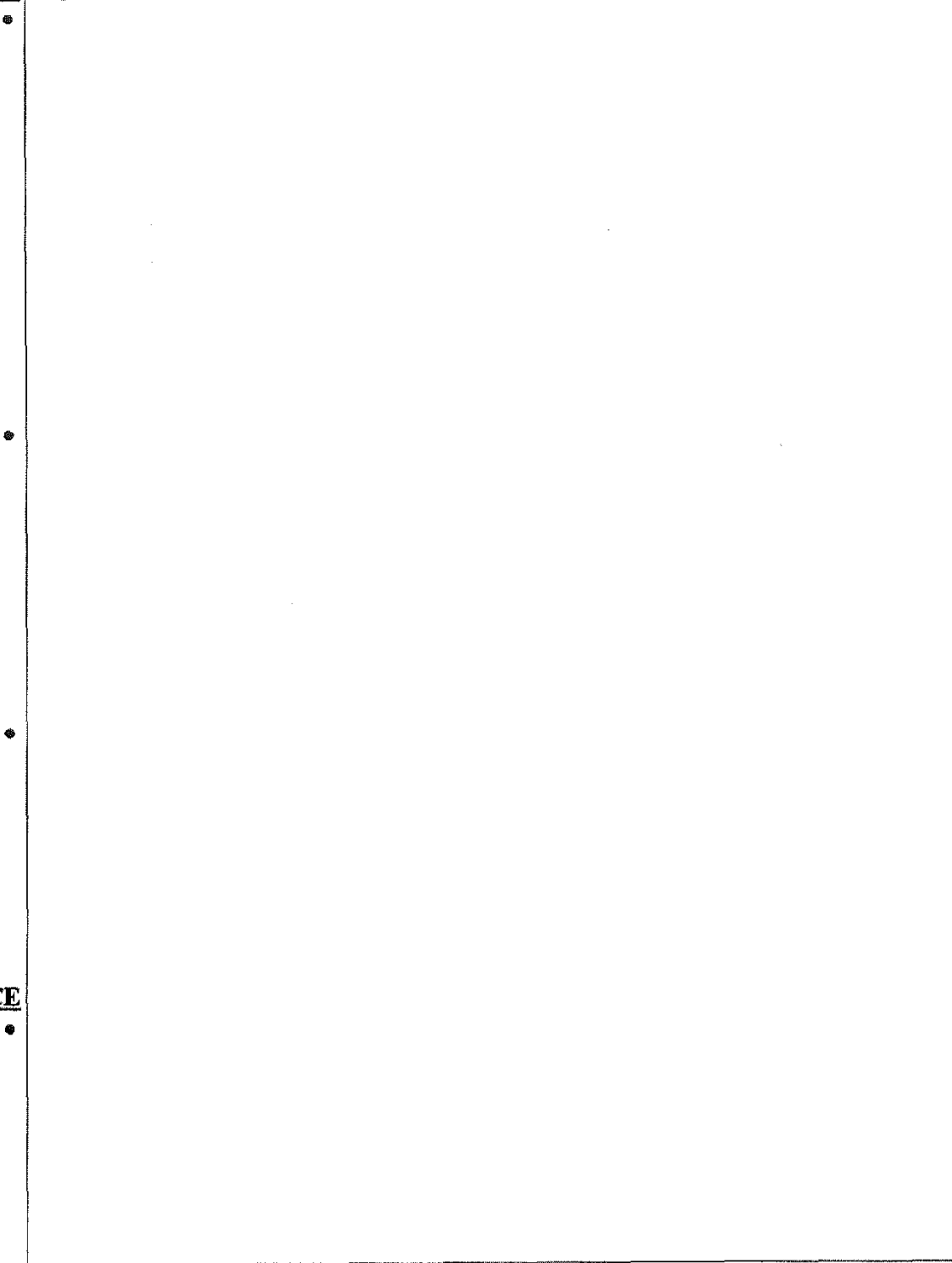
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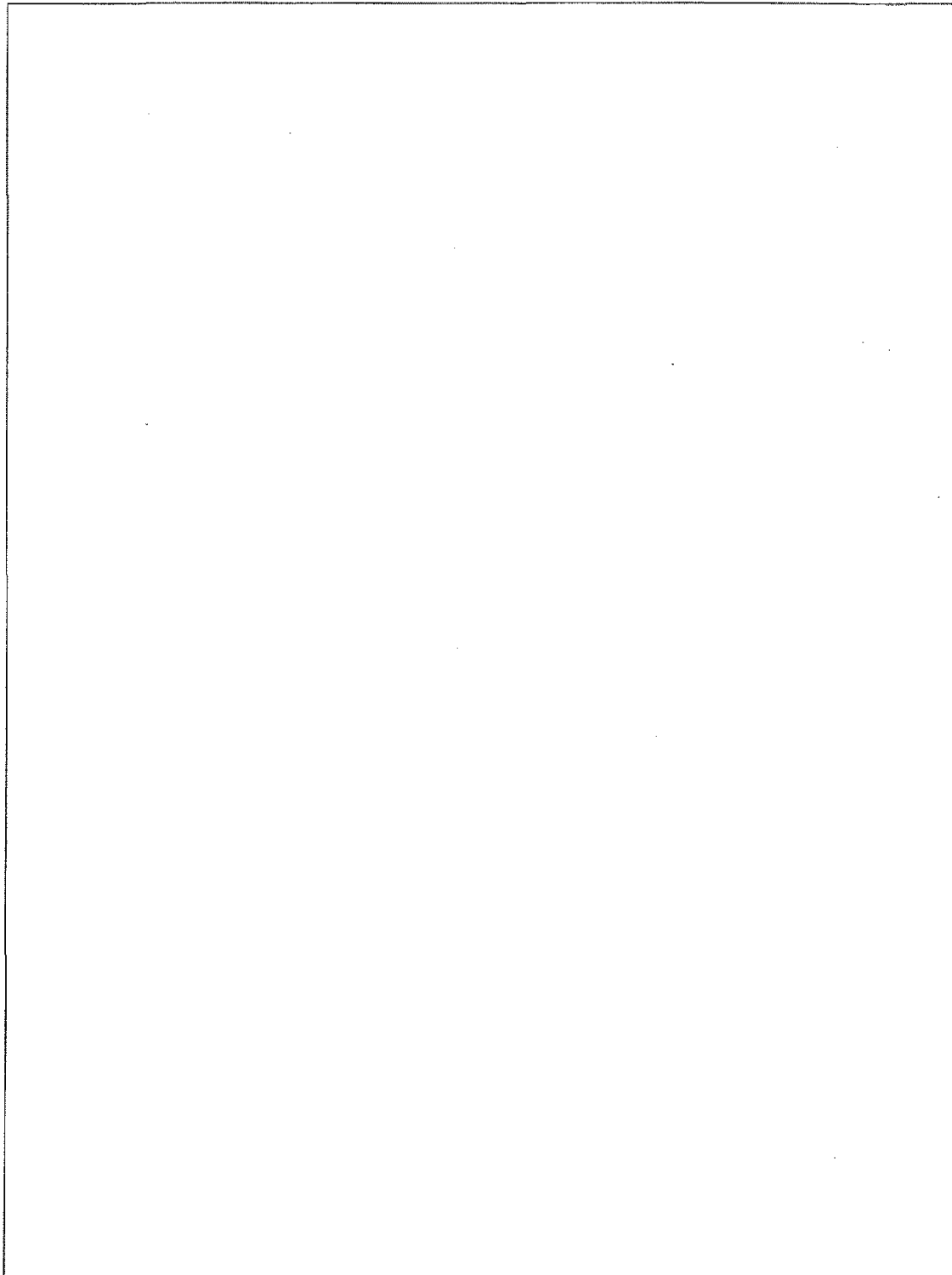
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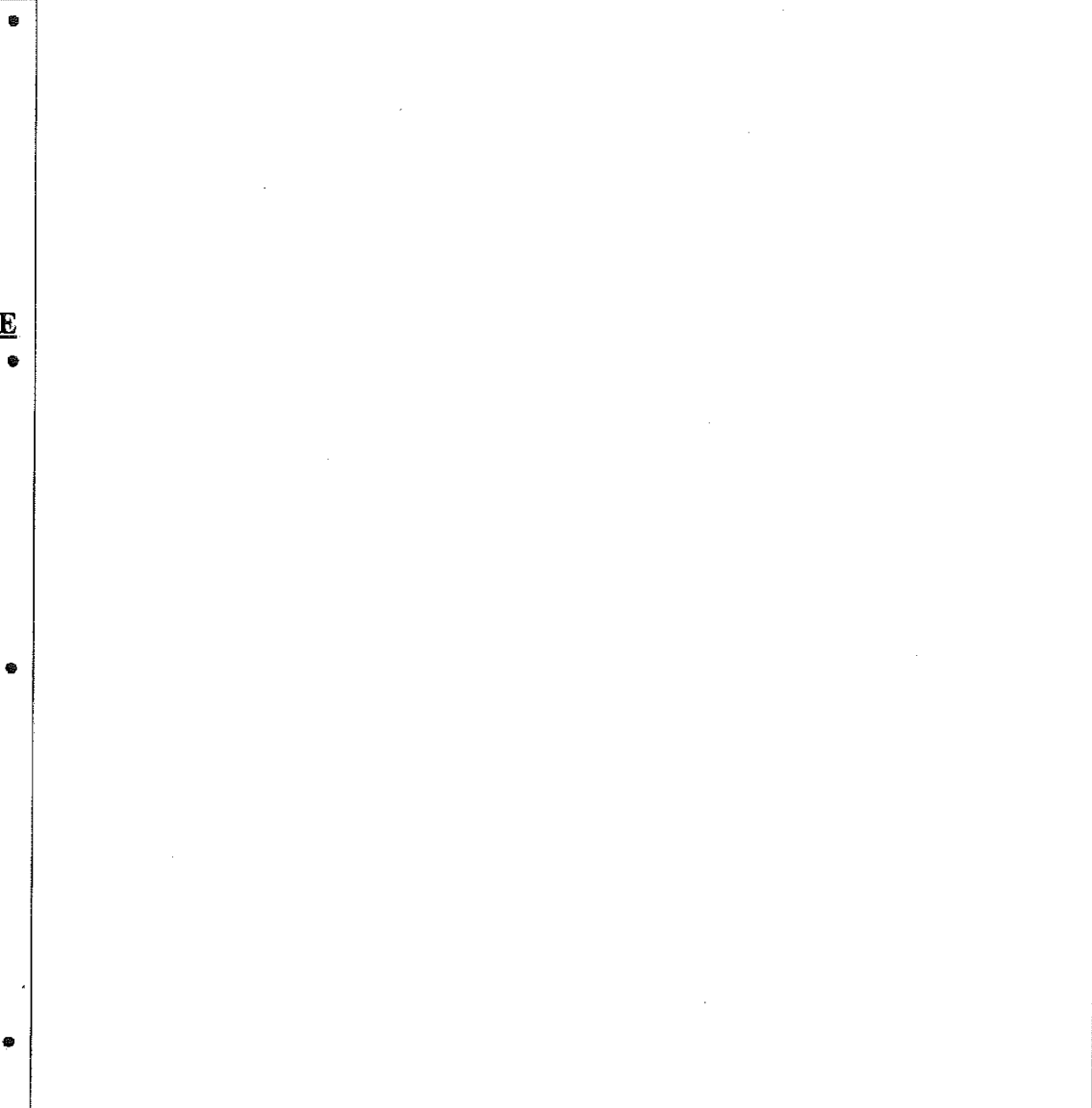
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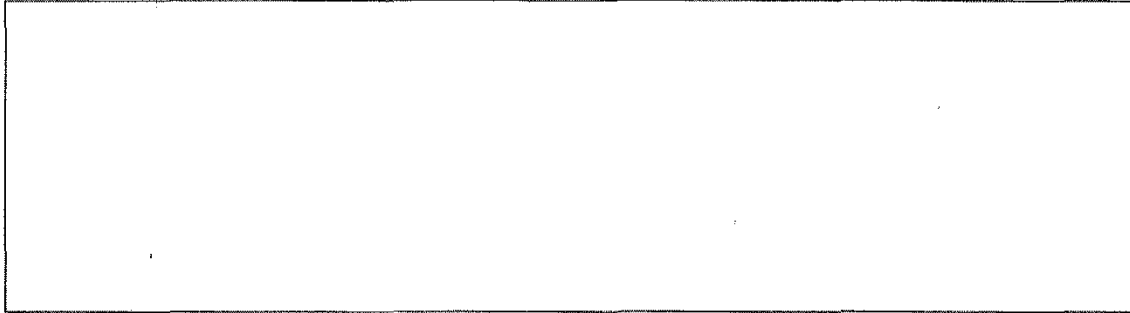
- **(SBU) Turkey: IHH Reconsidering Flotilla Participation:** Responding to developments in Syria, Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) board member Huseyin Oruc said June 14: "We are reconsidering our plans. We cannot close our eyes to the developments on our doorstep." Oruc added: "we'll make our decision by the end of this week." A flotilla was expected to set sail for Gaza in late June from European ports. On June 6 Foreign Minister Davutoglu had urged the flotilla organizers to see how Egypt's easing of the Rafah border crossing and Palestinian unity might affect Gaza before proceeding with a flotilla.

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Rebecca Kimbrell, Special Assistant, EUR, Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/15

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Rebecca Kimbrell, Special Assistant, EUR, Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/15

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NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

P128

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** Kimbrell, Rebecca J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 6:58 PM  
**Subject:** (C) EUR Daily Activity Report for Friday, June 17, 2011  
  
**Categories:** Working

CONFIDENTIAL  
DECL: 6/17/2021

**EUR Daily Activity Report  
Friday, June 17, 2011**

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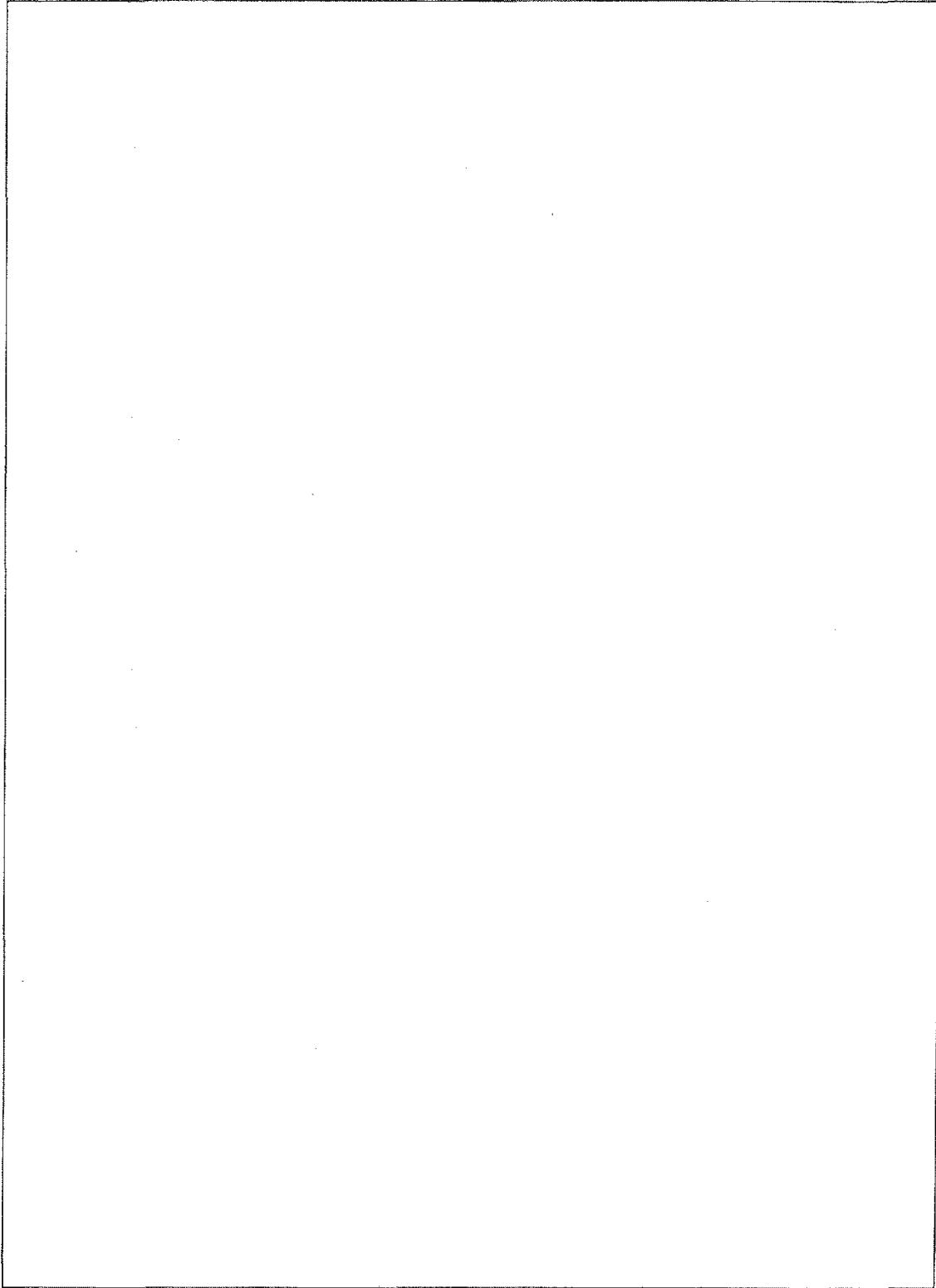
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer<sub>1</sub>

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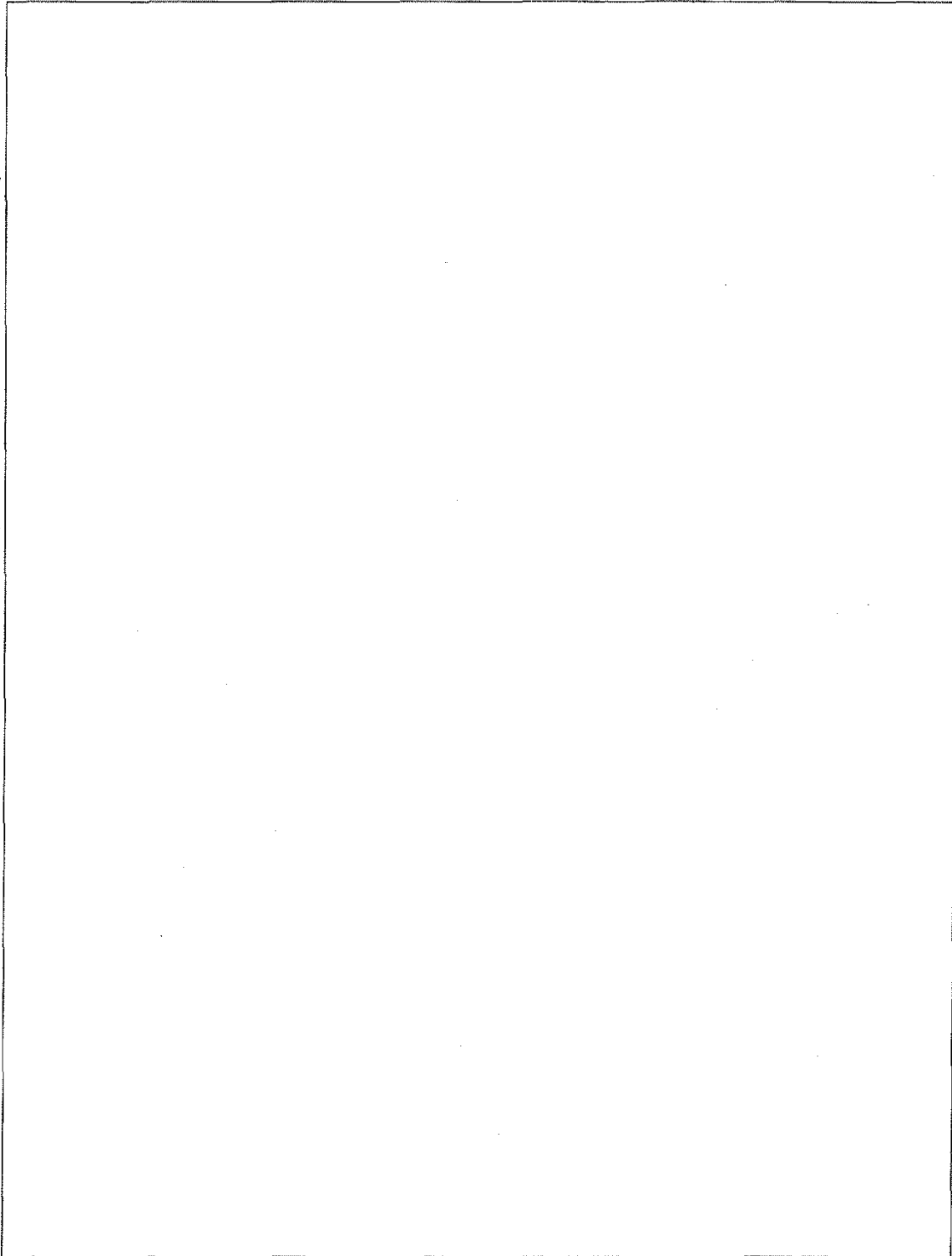
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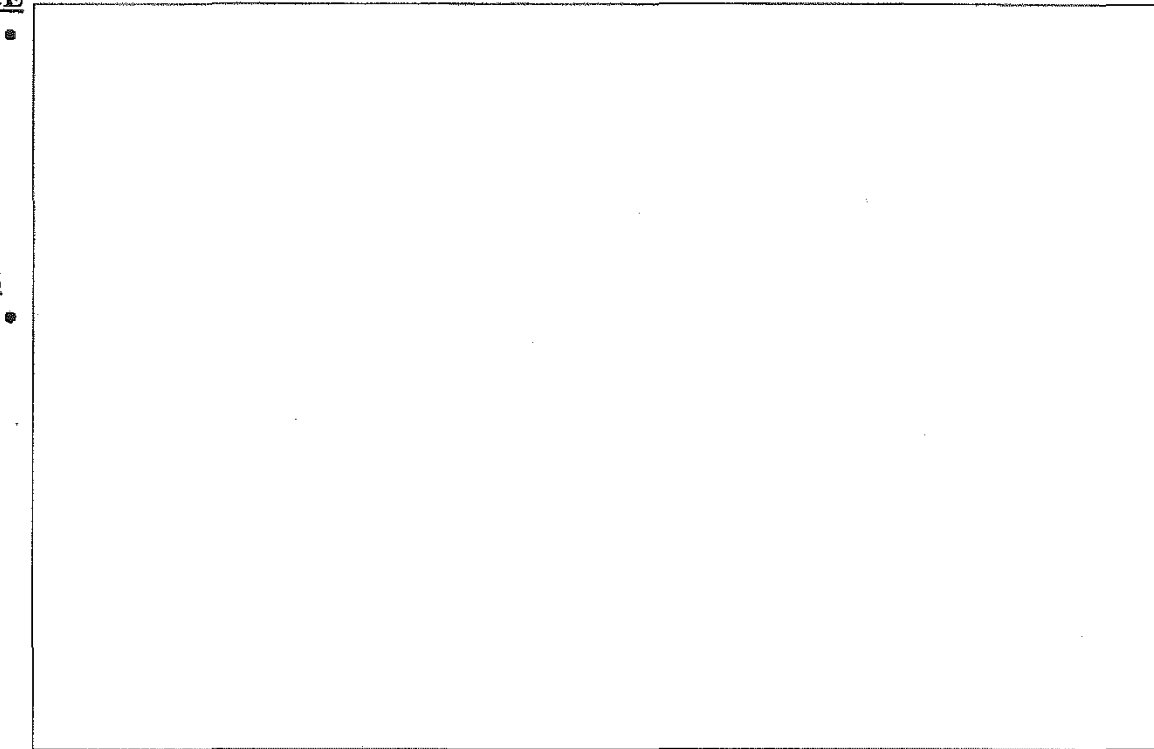
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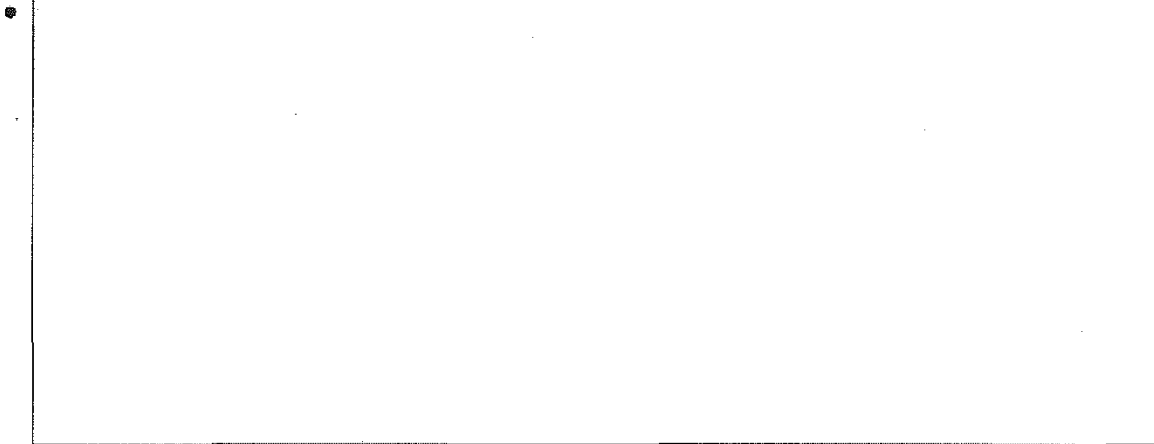
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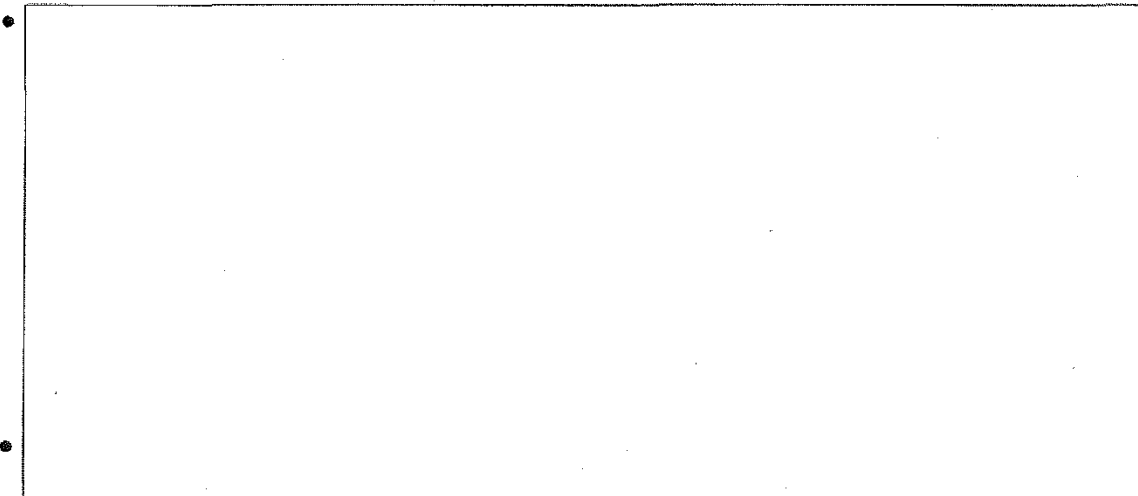
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- **(SBU) Turkey: Mavi Marmara Drops Out of Flotilla:** IHH leader Bulent Yildirim announced June 17 that the Mavi Marmara would not participate in this year's flotilla "due to technical issues." IHH officials say their activists will seek to participate aboard European vessels instead.

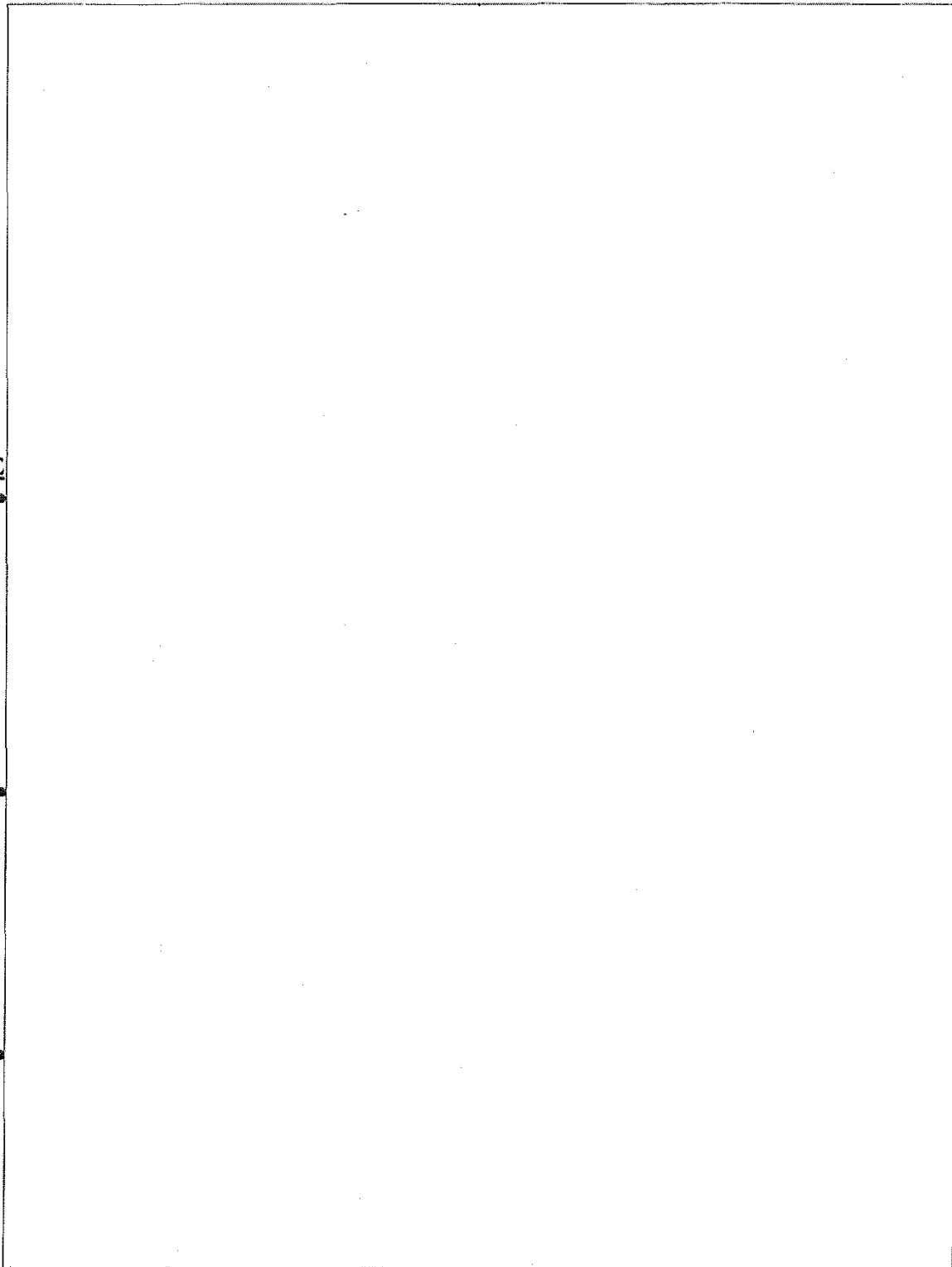
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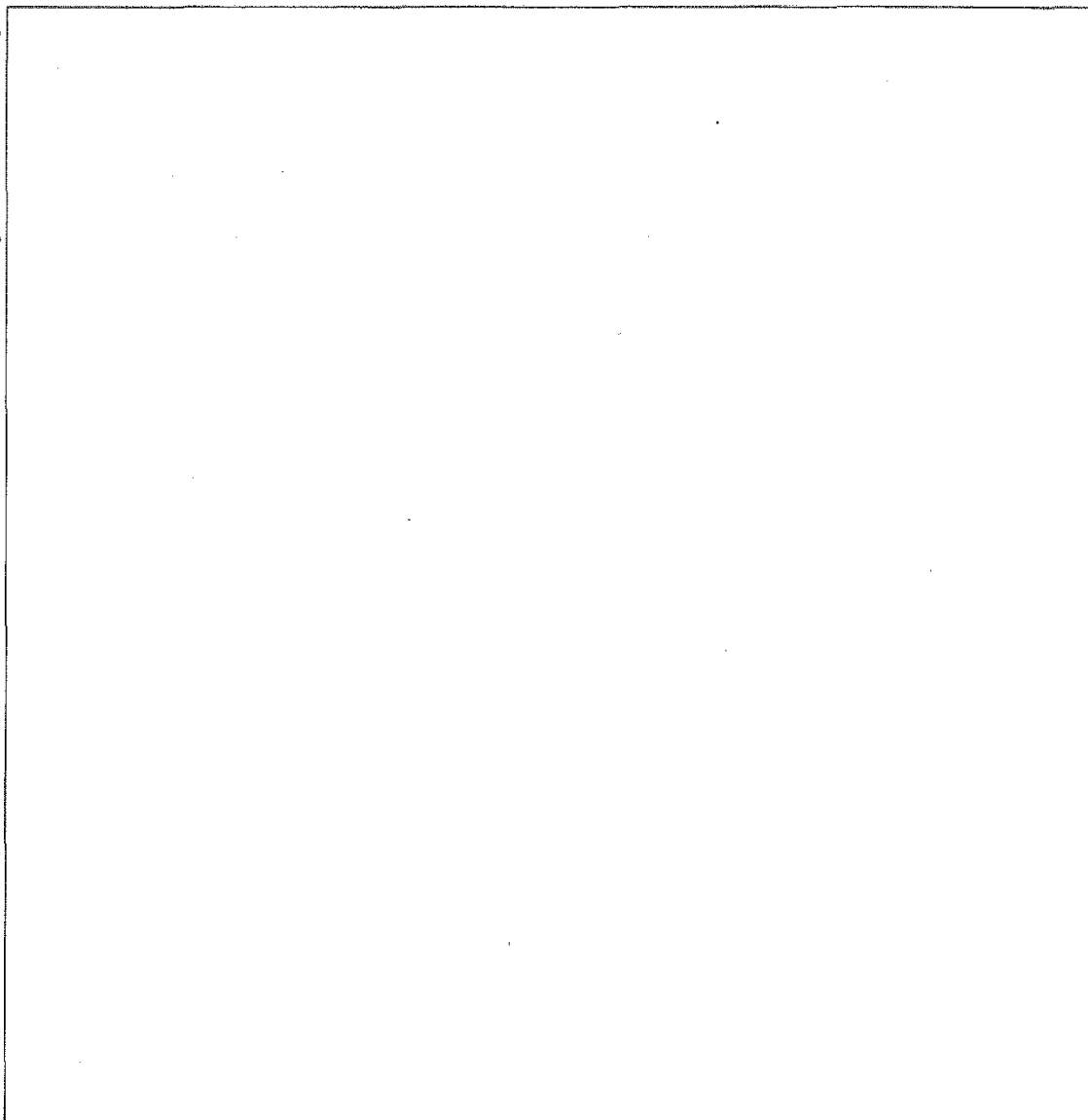
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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Rebecca Kimbrell, Special Assistant, EUR, Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/17

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Rebecca Kimbrell, Special Assistant, EUR, Department of State

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)  
Declassify On: 2021/06/17

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**Scenesetter for Visit of Special Representative for  
Afghanistan and Pakistan, Ambassador Marc Grossman  
Ankara, Turkey, October 3-5, 2011**

1. (SBU) Welcome to Turkey. Your trip comes just after the President's meeting in New York with Prime Minister Erdogan, which reaffirmed the close ties and broadly shared vision within which the United States and Turkey manage complex challenges from different perspectives. Turkey's strength and importance as a national security ally have only grown over its six decades in NATO, leading to an evolution in its relationship with the United States, as a NATO member, and as a regional force. Its strengthening democracy and surging economy drive its growing influence in the Middle East and make it an inspirational model for many in the region suffering under failed and failing dictatorships. Your visit is an opportunity to reinforce a shared strategic vision between the United States and Turkey, press for progress in key areas of both *problems and opportunities*, and support the region's aspirations toward democracy and prosperity.

2. (U) We have been making the following points with our Turkish interlocutors:

- As President Gul has said, the United States and Turkey do not always agree on tactics, but we do have a shared strategic vision for the region. We want Turkey's success as a U.S. ally and as a free-market democracy to inspire and influence the development of other states in the region, following the Arab Spring, particularly in Libya, Egypt, and Syria. (paras 4-8)
- We explicitly share the goal of seeing two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and within secure and recognized boundaries. We believe the discord between Turkey and Israel diminishes Turkey's ability to help advance that goal. We urge the two sides to take steps to defuse tensions and find a way to normalization. (para 9)
- Turkey's influence as a proponent of regional peace and prosperity is only diminished by bellicose rhetoric or hints of military action in response to Israel's refusal to apologize over the Mavi Marmara flotilla incident and to Cyprus' decision to proceed with drilling in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). (paras 9-10)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



- We applaud the recent government decree that would restore confiscated properties to religious minorities. An early reopening of Halki seminary would prove a great demonstration of Turkey's leadership in protecting freedom of religion. (para 11)
- The Turkish Parliament's ratification of the Armenia protocols when the new session convenes October 1 would be the most powerful means to exorcise the ghosts of 1915, and set the stage for the centennial of the Turkish Republic in 2023. (para 12)
- We strongly support Turkey's fight against the terrorist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and its political efforts to resolve the conflict. In that vein, we urge Turkey to pass quickly the draft Terrorism Finance Law and to join other international counter terrorism mechanisms, such as the Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Recognition (PNR) systems. (paras 13-15)
- We support Turkey's ambition to become the world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest economy by 2023 ("10x2023"), and hope to build a strategic economic partnership with you. (paras 16-17)

### **Domestic Context**

3. (SBU) Prime Minister Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) won an impressive 50 percent of the votes in the June 12 parliamentary election. With this mandate, Erdogan formed a third consecutive single-party government, an unprecedented feat in post-World War II Turkish political history. In the wake of his victory, Erdogan's next political project is to replace the current constitution, drafted by a military government after Turkey's last coup more than 30 years ago. Most Turks want a new constitution, but there is some anxiety about the degree to which the ruling AKP will want or need to secure buy-in from the opposition. The Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) will want the new constitution to feature a definition of "Turkishness" that does not conflate Turkish citizenship solely with Turkic ethnicity, which has served to discourage citizens from identifying their ethnic roots. The BDP will push hard for maximum devolution of central government power to the predominantly Kurd southeastern provinces. Liberal Turks want a constitution that strengthens the judiciary's balancing role against a strongly centralized state, beefs up protection of personal freedoms, including freedom of expression and the protection of religious and ethnic minorities, and memorializes civilian control over a military that has until very recently been the driving political force in Turkey.

### **Arab Spring, Regional Cooperation**

4. (SBU) We have been working closely with Turkey to support the Arab Spring. Turkey has taken a leadership role, hosting several rounds of the Libya Contact Group, toughening its public rhetoric on Syria, and realizing an ambitious economic and aid agenda in the Middle East and North Africa to bolster these nations' respective economies while reinforcing Turkey's leadership position. PM Erdogan was among the first world leaders (he had actually hoped to be the very first) to visit Tripoli as part of a regional tour in early September that also saw him received warmly in Cairo and Tunis. Still smarting from Israel's refusal to apologize over the Mavi Marmara flotilla incident, Erdogan lashed out at the Israelis and vowed to press the cause of the recognition of Palestinian statehood at the UN.

5. (SBU) On August 18, President Obama demanded Syria's Bashar al-Assad relinquish power. In the aftermath of Turkey's failed efforts to get Assad to end the killings and implement radical reforms to meet the legitimate demands of the Syrian people, Turkish leaders have sharpened their public rhetoric. On September 16, Erdogan publicly warned Assad that "those who inflict repression on the people will no be able to stand on their feet" and that "anyone who sends tanks against his own people cannot rule." Frustrated and offended as they are by Assad's crackdown, Turkish leaders are at the same time wary of calling outright for Assad to step down, for lack of a clear way forward and for fear that a precipitous collapse of order could trigger a civil war that will have direct and significant impact on Turkey's security.

### **Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan**

6. (SBU) Amidst the turmoil of the Arab Spring and Europe's struggle to manage its debt crisis, countering Iran's nuclear ambitions remains a priority. The GOT's approach to Iran's nuclear program is more credulous of Iran's insistence that it is pursuing a peaceful program. Turkey may also feel vulnerable because it depends on Iran for a significant amount of Turkey's natural gas imports (8 bcm, valued at \$7 billion, in 2010). Nevertheless, Turkey agrees that an Iranian nuclear weapons program is not in its interest, and we are working with the Turks to disrupt and counter Iran's illicit activities.

7. (SBU) Turkey is a natural counterbalance to Iranian influence in Iraq, a role that will increase in importance following the drawdown of USF-I. Turkish exports are robust and increasing: \$6 billion in 2010, up 5.3% from 2009, and a huge increase from zero in 2005. From Zakho to Basra, Turkish businesses are increasing their outreach. Turkish companies are very interested in partnering

with American companies in Iraq. Turkey's positive influence contributes to Iraq's recovery and stabilization.

8. (SBU) Turkey is one of our few NATO Allies that want NATO's commitment to Afghanistan to extend beyond 2014. While other Allies ramp down their operations, Turkey has declared its intention to remain in Afghanistan – via NATO or bilaterally – post-2014. Each year Turkey has increased its financial and personnel commitment to Afghan stabilization and development. Active in both the security and civilian sectors, Turkey has more than 1,600 soldiers and civilians on the ground and has committed nearly \$300 million in assistance. In addition to leading Regional Command – Capital (RC-Capital) as part of the ISAF mission, two Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRTs), and five Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLTs), Turkey has also provided training in Turkey to Afghan National Army (ANA) cadets (approximately 1,200 in 2010). Turkey is hosting and training over 500 Afghan National Police cadets in cooperation with the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTMA) and with financial assistance from Japan.

#### **Israel**

9. (SBU) On May 31, 2010, a flotilla of ships, organized in part by a Turkish NGO, IHH, departed Turkey with the goal of breaking Israel's blockade of Gaza. Israel Defense Force (IDF) commandos fast-roped from helicopters onto the flagship, the Mavi Marmara, and immediately encountered violence from the passengers. The commandos responded with deadly force, killing eight Turks and one Turkish-American. The incident has gravely strained Turkish-Israeli relations. A several-months-long low-profile effort by senior Turkish and Israeli diplomats to hammer out an apology/compensation formula failed in early September, as the UN's Palmer Commission released a report that upheld the legality of the blockade and determined that the Government of Israel had used excessive and unreasonable force. Turkey has responded by (1) downgrading diplomatic relations, (2) suspending all military agreements, (3) declaring it will take measures to ensure the freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean, (4) requesting that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) examine the legality of the Gaza blockade, and (5) supporting all flotilla victims in pursuing lawsuits against Israel. Highly charged rhetoric from leaders on both sides has made rapprochement difficult, complicating our efforts to influence the course of the Arab Spring. We want them to put aside their dispute and work together with us in encouraging the Middle East towards democracy and prosperity.

#### **Cyprus and Noble Energy**

10. (SBU) Since 2007, the American energy company Noble Energy has had a license to explore for hydrocarbons in Block 12 of the Republic of Cyprus' (ROC) exclusive economic zone, south of the island. Erdogan and Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu assert that governmental authority to conduct natural resource exploration should be reserved for the political entity that would arise out of a comprehensive settlement between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. The internationally recognized ROC announced August 2 Noble Energy would begin drilling on or about October 1, prompting Turkey's energy minister to declare the drilling illegal until adjudicated otherwise by a competent international body. (Exploratory drilling commenced September 17.) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also announced its intent to pursue diplomatic and legal measures to block the drilling. We have told Turkey we recognize the ROC's sovereignty and, by implication, its right to enter into contracts to develop the resources in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Turkey and the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" ("TRNC" – recognized only by Turkey) have recently stated they will pursue exploration for hydrocarbons in the waters between northern Cyprus and Turkey.

#### **Religious Minorities, Armenia**

11. (SBU) The Turkish government has made significant strides forward in improving its relations with ethnic and religious minorities in Turkey. Earlier this year, the government granted citizenship to 12 metropolitans, enabling the orthodox church to groom a successor to the current Ecumenical Patriarch, who resides in Istanbul. During an August 28 Iftar dinner with non-Muslim religious leaders, Erdogan announced a decree that will enable religious minorities communities and non-Muslim religious entities to claim title to confiscated or otherwise currently inaccessible real property. Responding to a long-standing request of the Armenian community, the Turkish government announced that it would offer schooling for the children of illegal Armenian workers living in Turkey. This year also saw the Turkish government authorize Masses at highly symbolic Christian churches in Sumela and Akdamar. Finally, senior Turkish officials hinted that action by the Greek government to open an official mosque in Athens would ease the way for a favorable decision on reopening the Halki seminary, a step we have consistently and strongly urged Turkey to take since its closure 40 years ago.

12. (SBU) We would welcome your support in urging Turkey to ratify the Armenia protocols, which outlines a roadmap to normalization of relations between the two countries. After signing the protocols, the Turkish government encountered strong domestic opposition and tied ratification to progress on the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The Turkish position hardened when the Armenian supreme court and government announced the

protocols would not oblige Armenia to abandon its claims to Turkish territory. The ratification bill expired when Parliament adjourned before general elections. We are urging the Turks to reintroduce the protocols bill when Parliament convenes October 1.

### **Terrorism**

13. (SBU) PKK terrorism ranks at the top of Turkey's worries. It is widely believed that the Turkish government's conflict with the Kurdistan People's Congress (Kongra-Gel or KGK, formerly PKK) has cost 30,000-35,000 lives since it began in the 1980s. The Erdogan government has attempted to reconcile Turkey's alienated Kurdish citizens through language and cultural liberalization measures that allow Kurds to express their ethnic identity, but continued terrorism has disappointed the Turkish government and general public. In response to several recent high-casualty ambushes and acts of terrorism – including one in Ankara on September 20, 2011 – the Turkish government has increased its cross-border artillery strikes on suspected PKK concentrations in northern Iraq and conducted airstrikes for the first time in over a year. We support Turkey's right to defend its citizens from terrorist attacks and urge its continued care in avoiding civilian casualties and its forbearance from military actions that might threaten the stability of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and the Government of Iraq. We are also pressing the Kurdish political leadership to explicitly dissociate itself from the PKK, denounce the violence, and address its concerns through peaceful political means.

14. (SBU) As we cooperate with Turkey against the PKK, we are also strengthening our partnership in countering the threat posed by al-Qa'ida, its affiliates, and offshoots. Turkey has been a partner in disrupting networks and arresting individuals, most recently a cell plotting an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. We are working in law enforcement and intelligence channels to strengthen our joint efforts. Turkey is also a critical partner in strengthening international efforts. On September 22, Foreign Minister Davutoglu and Secretary Clinton will co-chair the inaugural session of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum.

15. (SBU) But there is more that Turkey can do. Turkey is a long-time member of the international Financial Action Task Force (FATF), under which Turkey's Action plan calls for specific steps further to criminalize the financing of terrorism and associated money laundering, including specific recommendations on vehicles for freezing and confiscating terrorist assets. The Draft Law on the Prevention of the Financing of Terrorism, passed from the Prime Ministry to the Parliament on February 1, is intended to address FATF's concerns, but the law was not passed before the June elections. The new Parliament will take up the new law when it

convenes October 1. We continue to stress the importance of its passage for both Turkey's specific fight against the PKK threat and the broader global fight against terrorism. We are also urging Turkey to join other international counter terrorism mechanisms, such as the Advanced Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Recognition (PNR) systems.

**U.S. - Turkey Strategic Economic Partnership**

16. (SBU) Turkey has enjoyed remarkable economic growth (8.8% in second quarter 2011), making it the second fastest growing economy in the world behind China. At the same time, the government is working to limit Turkey's widening current account deficit, which has almost doubled this year to an alarming 9% of GDP. Turkey's headline economic goal is to become the tenth largest economy in the world by the republic's centennial in 2023 (10x2023), up from 17th place today. The USG supports Turkey's 10x2023 ambition, as it will economically and politically strengthen an important ally in a critical part of the world. It will also create new trade and investment opportunities for American firms. Achieving the 10x2023 goal will involve challenges, including tripling Turkey's economy by 2023, quadrupling exports, deepening and expanding the financial sector and more than doubling electricity-generation capacity. Turkey will also have to develop a much stronger innovation economy, strengthen protections for intellectual property and improve entrepreneurship opportunities and financing if the country is to attract significant foreign direct investment (FDI). Regulatory transparency and predictability will be key to attracting FDI.

17. (SBU) We are making good progress creating the strategic dialogue the President called for during his 2009 trip to Turkey. Through the Cabinet-level Framework for Strategic Economic and Commercial Cooperation (FSECC) and its component dialogues, we are reaching understandings in energy, intellectual property rights, financial services and entrepreneurship. As of July, bilateral trade had increased by 47% since 2010 from \$8 billion to \$11.8 billion, with U.S. exports to Turkey up 53% and Turkish exports to the United States up 31%. Both are on pace to set new records. Turkey has also dramatically expanded its presence in Middle Eastern markets, which now account for 26% of its exports. In North Africa, Turkey is looking to help restore growth in Egypt, Tunisia and Libya and is seeking American partners in these countries.

Signature: Ricciardone

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**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU

R2

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No. CONS 10-01137

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and has the honor to request the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the following matter.

The Embassy would like to receive an official copy of the burial permission certificate (gömme izin belgesi) and the autopsy report of deceased American Citizen Furkan Dogan (DOB: 20Oct1991) who was presumed killed on the Mavi Marmara Ship. The Embassy would also like to receive a copy of the decision regarding the relinquishment of Furkan Dogan's Turkish citizenship published in the Official Gazette.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America

Ankara, June 7, 2010

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

No. CONS 10-001451

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and refers to the Embassy's diplomatic note CONS 10-1137 dated July 7, 2010, regarding the death of American citizen Furkan Dogan.

The Embassy of the United States of America has yet to obtain through the good offices of the Ministry, an official copy of the burial permission certificate (gömme izin belgesi) and the autopsy report of deceased American Citizen Furkan Dogan (DOB: 20Oct1991,) presumed killed on the Mavi Marmara Ship. The Embassy requests this at once. The Autopsy report of Dogan was released to the Media and IHH Foundation, which placed the contents on their website. The Embassy asks the Ministry to convey in the strongest terms possible our dismay at the lack of regard for the privacy of individuals evidenced by this release pertaining to the death of an American citizen. The Embassy protests the release of this information in advance of its provision to the Embassy.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey the assurances of its highest consideration.



Embassy of the United States of America  
Ankara, July 7, 2010

RELEASED IN FULL

R4

No. CONS 10-01128

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and has the honor to request the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the following matter.

The Embassy would like to receive information regarding American Citizen Furkan Dogan (DOB: 20Oct1991) who was presumed killed on the Mavi Marmara Ship. The Embassy would like to find out the place of death, the cause of death and the authority that gives the cause of death, and who has the custody of his effects. The Embassy would also like to find out if Furkan Dogan used his U.S. passport while exiting Turkey. The Embassy would request the urgent assistance of the Ministry in getting the answers to the above questions.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey the assurances of its highest consideration.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Embassy of the United States of America

Ankara, June 4, 2010

RELEASED IN FULL

R5

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 9:34 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Stafford, Edward G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Subject:** "Flotilla," Iran

AMB: FS aide Mehmet confirmed that GOT has no/no intention of escorting the Tahrir, Saoirse, or any other vessels to Gaza -- "they don't have any Turkish elements." Re Iran, he confirmed that he passed on to FS the copy of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons that I'd sent him last week, noting our desire for Turkey to press the Iranians to comply with the convention. Yuri

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon  
Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

R6

## Turkish Embassy Briefing

### TURKEY'S REACTION TO THE PALMER COMMISSION'S REPORT

#### Background

- The United Nations Secretary General's Panel of Inquiry (known as the Palmer Commission) released its report regarding the attack by the Israeli forces against an international humanitarian convoy en route to Gaza on May 31, 2010.
- The aid convoy for Gaza was a humanitarian initiative with people from 34 countries (including the United States and Israel) in ships sailing under the flags of several nations.
- Nine people lost their lives when Israeli commandos boarded their ship, the *Mavi Marmara*, and used excessive and lethal force against them. The attack in international waters of the Mediterranean violated all established norms of international law, as the U.N. Human Rights Council's fact-finding mission concluded.
- Eight of the nine killed were Turkish citizens, and one was a 19-year-old American citizen of Turkish descent. Most of the deceased were shot at close range and multiple times, some in the head.
- At the time of the attack, the convoy was 72 nautical miles off the coast of Israel, and 64 nautical miles away from the nearest point of the Israeli-imposed "Gaza blockade area."

#### Aftershock and Inquiry

- Turkey was shattered by the loss of its citizens and shocked that for the first time in its history, Turkish citizens were killed by a foreign armed force during peacetime. Hence, Turkey rightly asked for a formal apology and appropriate compensation to the families of those killed.
- When Israel did not meet these requests, Turkey extended its full support to the U.N. Secretary-General's efforts to establish a Panel of Inquiry and participated in this Panel in good faith. In contrast, Israel resorted to every possible way to impede the Panel's progress.
- Turkey also sincerely sought a solution to the impasse through bilateral negotiations with Israel. Although Turkey refrained from any negative rhetoric and upheld the confidentiality of the talks, Israel continued its intransigent behavior and insistently tried to distort the truth by leaking false information to the international media. **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

#### Turkey's Response

- The following conclusions of the Palmer Commission's report testify to the severity of the crimes committed by the Israeli soldiers and other officials:

*"Israel's decision to board the vessels with such substantial force at a great distance from the blockade zone and with no final warning immediately prior to the boarding was excessive and unreasonable:*

*a. Non-violent options should have been used in the first instance. In particular, clear prior warning that the vessels were to be boarded and a demonstration of dissuading force should have been given to avoid the type of confrontation that occurred;*

*b. The operation should have reassessed its options when the resistance to the initial boarding attempt became apparent.*

*The loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force by Israeli forces during the take-over of the *Mavi Marmara* was unacceptable. Nine passengers were killed and many others seriously wounded by Israeli forces. No satisfactory explanation has been provided to the Panel by Israel for any of the nine deaths. Forensic evidence showing that most of the deceased were shot multiple times,*

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

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For more information, go to: [www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr](http://www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr)

## Turkish Embassy Briefing

*including in the back, or at close range has not been adequately accounted for in the material presented by Israel.*

*There was significant mistreatment of passengers by Israeli authorities after the take-over of the vessels had been completed through until their deportation. This included physical mistreatment, harassment and intimidation, unjustified confiscation of belongings and the denial of timely consular assistance."*

- Turkey disagrees with the Chair and the Co-Chair of the Panel regarding the question of the legality of the blockade imposed on Gaza. Turkey believes that this blockade is unlawful.
- Many governments around the world, including the U.S. Administration, declared that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. Furthermore, the report mandated by the U.N. Human Rights Council concluded that the blockade was unlawful. This report received the consent of the U.N. General Assembly.
- By claiming that the blockade is legal, the Chair and the Co-Chair contradicted the U.N. Human Rights Council. We believe that political rather than legal considerations dominated the Chair and the Co-Chair's approach on this matter. By drawing the Panel into a legal imbroglio, the Chairmanship of the Panel has actually diverted the Panel's work from its main task.
- Under the circumstances, Turkey is determined to take the necessary steps – including submitting the matter to the International Court of Justice – to bring about a competent opinion on such a delicate legal issue, which was well beyond the authority of the Panel. To this end, Turkey will start working on a U.N. General Assembly resolution to task the International Court of Justice accordingly.
- Turkey supported the release of the Panel Report from the very outset. However, certain other conclusions reached by the Chair and the Co-Chair have the potential to set a dangerous precedent at the expense of freedom and safety of navigation.
- The Report omits and disregards decisive facts about this incident. Only 15 percent of the Report deals with the actions of Israel, which led to the establishment of this Panel. It does not address how nine civilians received 30 bullets in their most vital areas and why Israeli soldiers acted in such a violent way. There is also a clear effort in the Report to demonize the international humanitarian convoy and its participants. The convoy which came under attack in international waters, resisted in self defense.
- The Report claims that "the IDF faced significant, organized and violent resistance from a group of passengers when they boarded the Mavi Marmara requiring them to use force for their own protection." On the contrary, it is clear from the evidence that the Israeli soldiers killed and wounded passengers even before they landed on the ship.
- Therefore, Turkey challenges certain conclusions of the Palmer Report, which we believe will not serve the goal of stability and peace, particularly in our region.
- Turkey is determined to defend the rights of its citizens and will take legal actions against all those responsible for the crimes committed.
- Turkey also reaffirms that relations between Turkey and Israel will not normalize as long as Israel does not apologize and refuses to pay compensation for what it has done.

**Embassy of the Republic of Turkey**

2525 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008 | 202-612-6700  
For more information, go to: [www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr](http://www.washington.emb.mfa.gov.tr)

R7

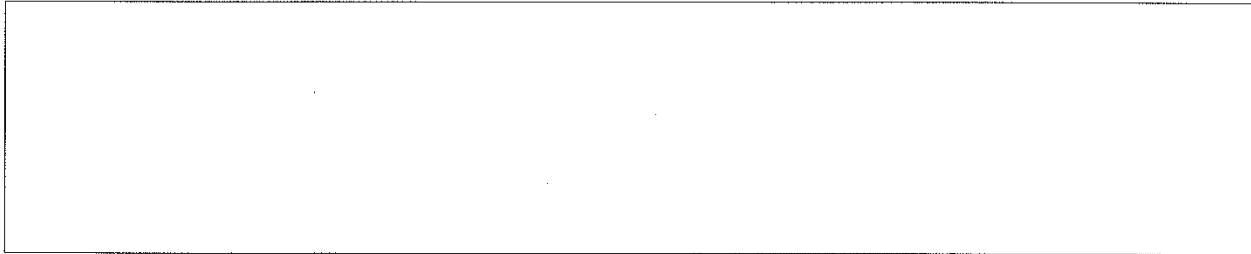
**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 3:15 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; AnkaraAMB; Ankara-POL-DL; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-PAO-IO-DL  
**Subject:** Armenia, Syria, McCain, Flotilla - PB Excerpts June 27  
**Categories:** Working

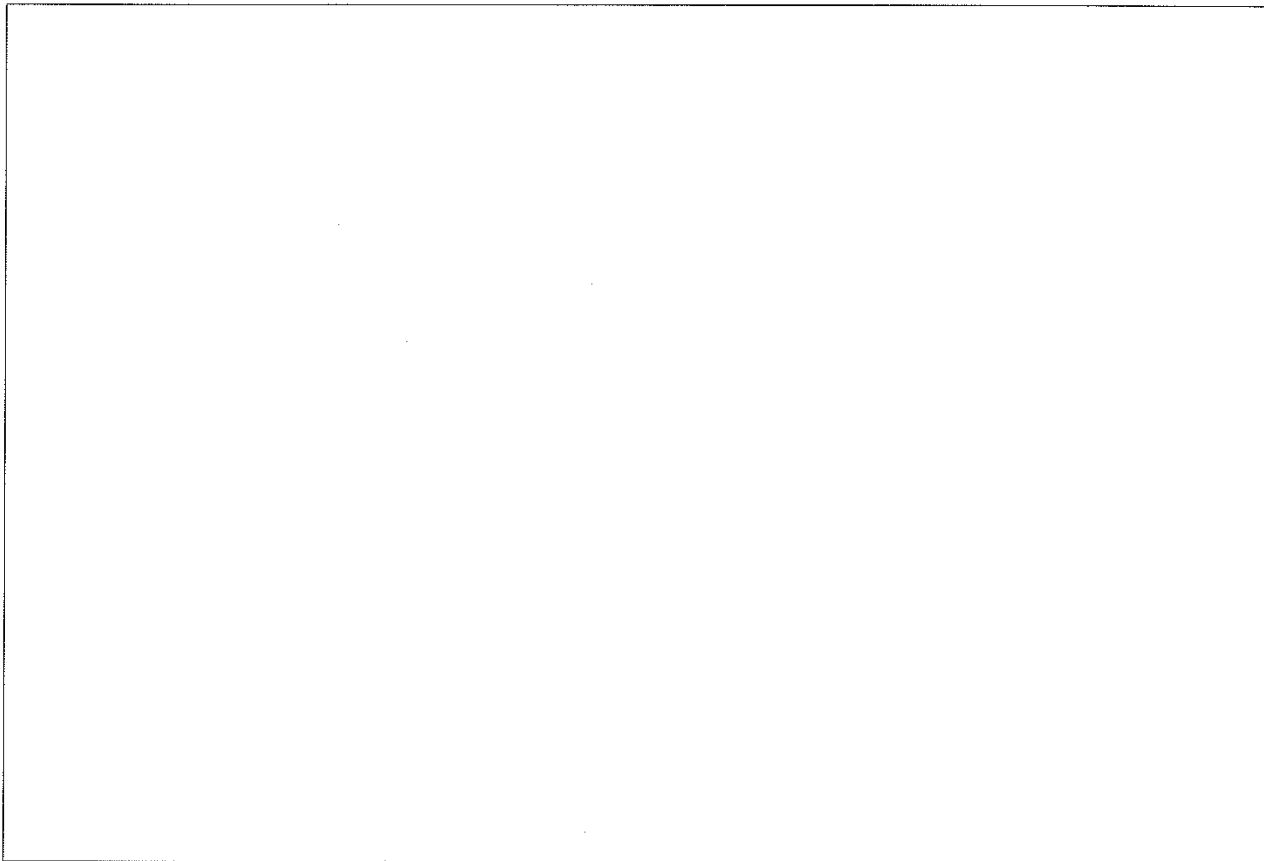
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**Armenia-Azerbaijan**



NR

**McCain and Syria**



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**GAZA Flotilla:**

**QUESTION:** The – some of the ships that will make up this flotilla that you're so – not enthusiastic about have left already, heading for points close to Gaza, if not Gaza itself. The Israelis over the weekend first warned journalists and then were rescinded this warning that if they got on any of these ships that they could be subject to criminal penalties, deportation, 10-year ban from the country.

I'm wondering if there was any contact between the U.S. and Israel about that, and whether the warning that you put out last week – or, not the Travel Warning, per se, but the – your statement in which you warned Americans that they might be violating U.S. law if they participated, did that apply to journalists?

**MS. NULAND:** First, with regard to the Government of Israel's decision, our understanding from press reporting but also from our own contacts was that that first announcement was made at a relatively low level, and when senior Israelis became involved, the decision was amended, as you saw.

The U.S. warnings to U.S. citizens apply to all U.S. citizens. We are concerned about any of our citizens involved in a situation that could be provocative, that could be dangerous. That said, freedom of the press; journalists make their own decision, but we have made clear that we are concerned about this situation.

**QUESTION:** But a journalist who is on one of these boats, could they be subject to laws that bar – the law specifically, the legislation, the laws that you mentioned in your statement which have to do with material support for Hamas?

**MS. NULAND:** I'm not aware of legal distinctions that we would make between journalists and other citizens, but I can double-check whether there's a distinction to be made there. I think our concern was that this was a dangerous situation for any American to be involved in.

**QUESTION:** Yes, ma'am. Is it the understanding of the United States Government that the Rafah Crossing is sufficient to supply the Gaza population with all the needs that they want?

**MS. NULAND:** I think the statement that we put out last week spoke both of the Rafah Crossing and of the Israeli port which now has procedures to check cargos and to get aid into Gaza. And we have seen an increase in the amount of aid going into Gaza. The Secretary mentioned on Friday that we now have Israeli housing support going into Gaza as well. So our view is that there are sufficient mechanisms both through Egypt and through Israel to get humanitarian aid into Gaza if the goal of this action is truly to help the people of Gaza.

**QUESTION:** So it is your feeling that the intention of this flotilla is not so much to provide needed supplies to Gaza, but more of a symbolic political statement?

**MS. NULAND:** I can't speak to the intentions of those organizing this flotilla. I would simply say that if people around the world want to help the people of Gaza, we believe that the mechanisms established by both Egypt and Israel are sufficient to achieve that objective.

**QUESTION:** Given that the flotilla or at least elements of it appear to be on their way now, are you increasing your communication with the Israelis about their reaction to this? I mean, now it seems that one arm of the decision has ignored your warnings about not going; they're setting off. So now the question is: How are the Israelis going to react? What's your advice to them on this?

**MS. NULAND:** Our advice to all parties has been the same, that this is dangerous, that this is provocative. With regard to the Israeli position, they know where we stand. We have said that Israel has a right to defend itself against arms smuggling, but we have called on all sides to – for restraint, and we hope that we don't end up in the same situation we were in last year.

**QUESTION:** I'm sorry, you said call on all sides for restraint, so that you've called on the Israelis to restrain themselves when it comes to dealing with the flotilla?

**MS. NULAND:** We have been speaking for many months since this event last year, in fact, to all participating actors about the need to avoid a repeat of the situation. That said, our position with regard to Israel's right of self-defense and defense against armed smuggling hasn't changed.

**QUESTION:** But would you regard their reaction to the last time the flotilla came, did that – was that an appropriate response? Would that – would a similar response be expected in this case?

**MS. NULAND:** I think we made clear at the time that it was a dangerous situation, it was an extremely unfortunate situation, and with regard to this summer, we don't want to see a repeat. So that's why we're hoping that we don't.

**QUESTION:** To the best of your knowledge, has there ever been a ship caught smuggling arms on these aid ships? Has there been any ship that was caught with arms being smuggled to Gaza?

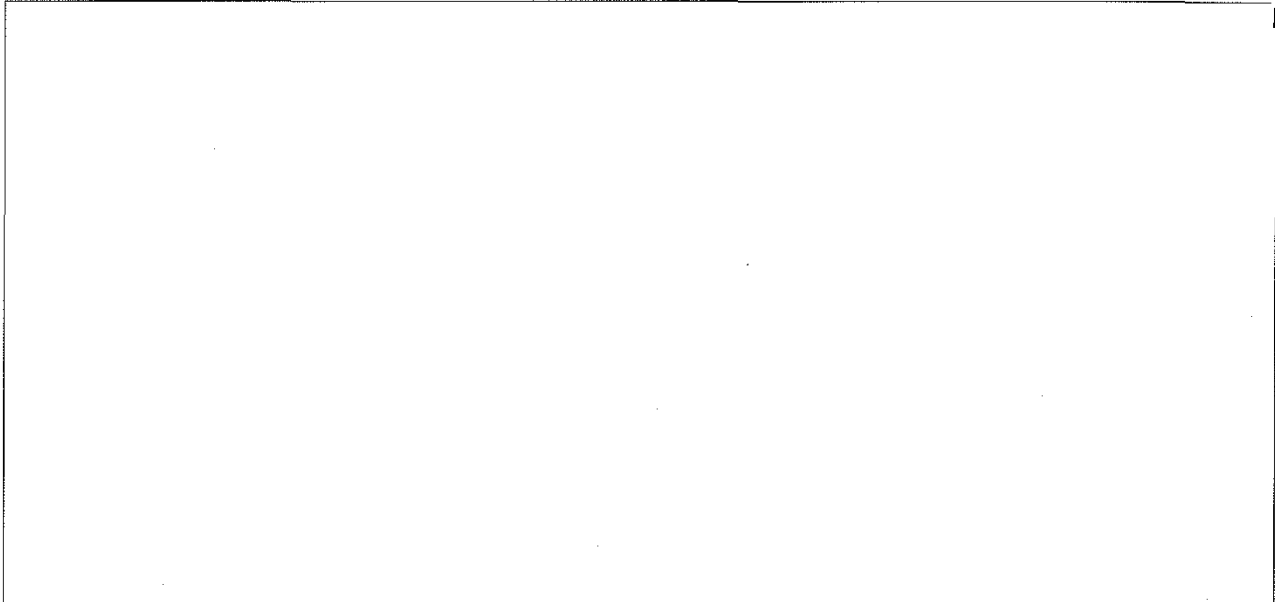
**MS. NULAND:** Our understanding is that Israel has been the victim of arms smuggled illegally at sea and --

**QUESTION:** Right. But not these aid ships? Are you aware of any of these aid ships used to smuggle arms?

**MS. NULAND:** I can't speak to precisely which kind of ships arms have been found on, but one of the reasons for the Israeli concern is that they have been victims of arms smuggled at sea.

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**SYRIA**



NR





NR

Please, back here.

Please.

**Deborah L. Guido**  
**Spokesperson**  
***U.S. Embassy Ankara***  
***Office: 90-312-457-7312***  
***Cell: 90 0532 341-2862***  
***Email: [guidodl@state.gov](mailto:guidodl@state.gov)***  
***[U.S. Embassy Web Page](#)***  
***[Visit us on Facebook](#)***

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R8

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Hilton, Robert B **RELEASED IN FULL**  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2011 6:48 PM  
**To:** EUR-DPB-FG-DL  
**Subject:** Daily Press Briefing, TIP Report Rollout, LGBT Pride Month, Final Press Guidances, 6-27-11  
**Attachments:** 06-27-11 Final Guidances.doc; Secretary's Remarks on the Release of the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report.docx; Secretary's Remarks LGBT Pride Month.docx

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

**On-Camera Daily Press Briefing Index**  
**Monday, June 27, 2011**  
**12:35 PM EDT**

**Briefer: Victoria Nuland, Spokesperson**

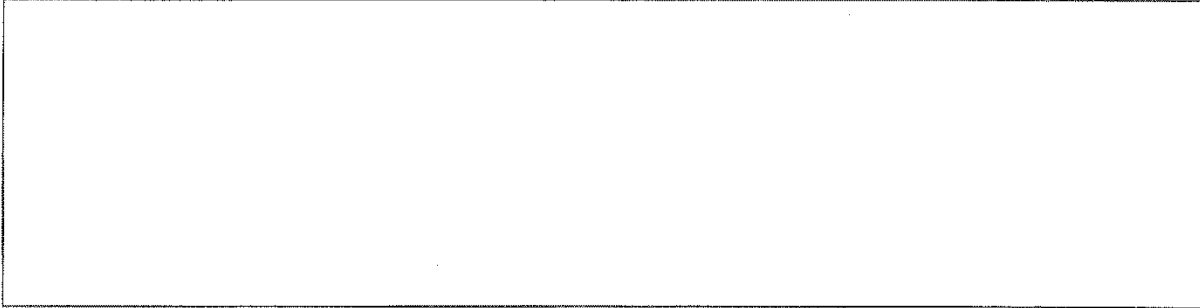
**ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS~**

**^^ Flotilla / Announcement by Government of Israel / U.S. Warnings, Statement / Dangerous Situation / Sufficient Mechanisms Established to Get Aid into Gaza / Israel Has a Right to Defend Itself Against Arms Smuggling / U.S. Call for Restraint on All Sides / Rafah Crossing**

**~IRAN~**

NR

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

DPB # 94

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011  
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

12:35 p.m. EDT

**MS. NULAND:** Good afternoon, everybody. I have no opening announcements today, so why don't we go to whatever's on your minds.

**QUESTION:** The – some of the ships that will make up this flotilla that you're so – not enthusiastic about have left already, heading for points close to Gaza, if not Gaza itself. The Israelis over the weekend first warned journalists and then were rescinded this warning that if they got on any of these ships that they could be subject to criminal penalties, deportation, 10-year ban from the country.

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**QUESTION:** Thank you.

**QUESTION:** Given that the flotilla or at least elements of it appear to be on their way now, are you increasing your communication with the Israelis about their reaction to this? I mean, now it seems that one arm of the decision has ignored your warnings about not going; they're setting off. So now the question is: How are the Israelis going to react? What's your advice to them on this?

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Please.

**QUESTION:** Yes, ma'am. To the best of your knowledge, has there ever been a ship caught smuggling arms on these aid ships? Has there been any ship that was caught with arms being smuggled to Gaza?

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**QUESTION:** Right. But not these aid ships? Are you aware of any of these aid ships used to smuggle arms?

**MS. NULAND:** I can't speak to precisely which kind of ships arms have been found on, but one of the reasons for the Israeli concern is that they have been victims of arms smuggled at sea.

Anything else on flotilla or are we moving on?

**QUESTION:** On --

**QUESTION:** Israel?

**QUESTION:** But --

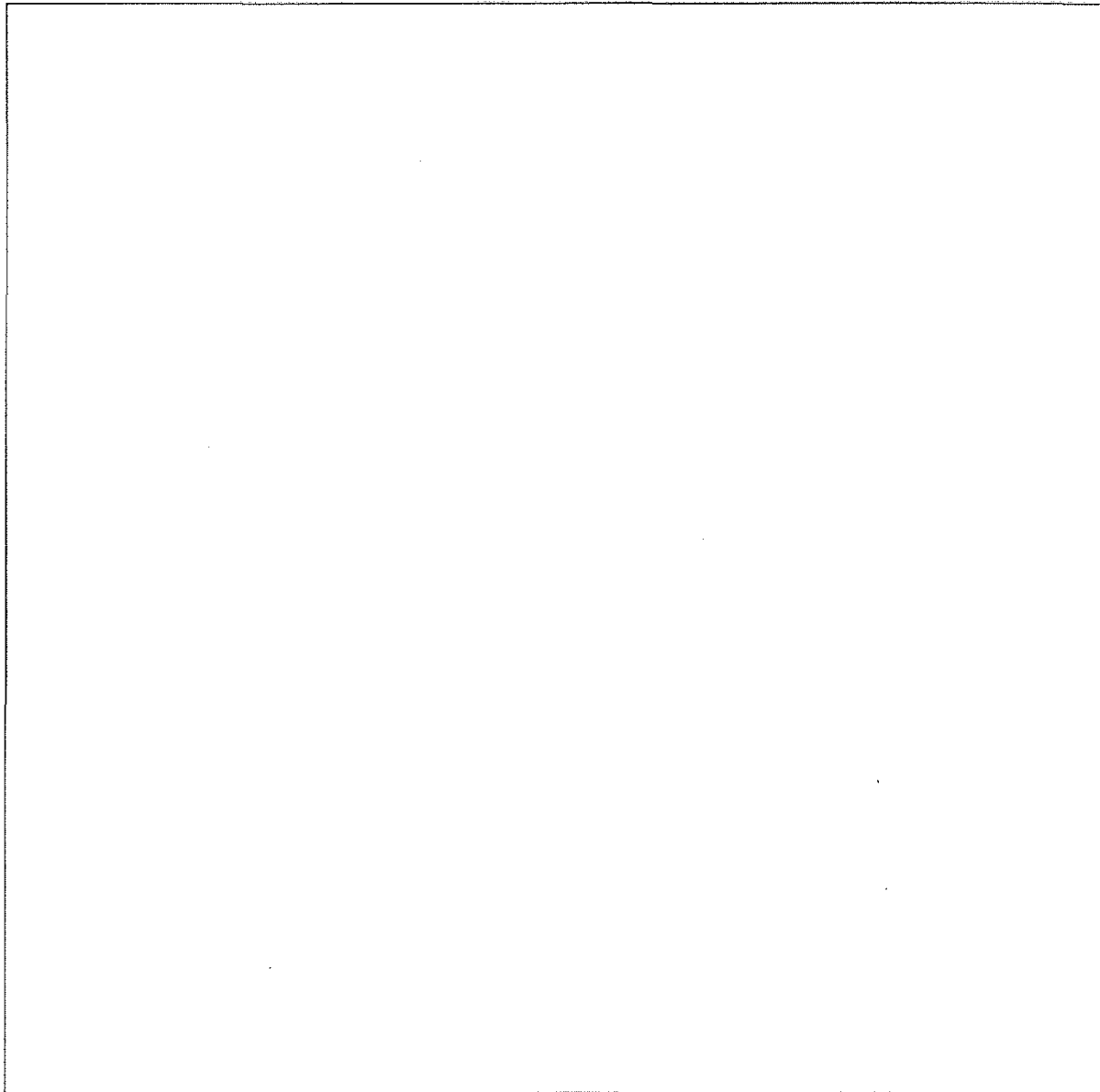
**MS. NULAND:** Israel, but -- Matt, on flotilla?

**QUESTION:** Well, it was going to be Israel, but --

**MS. NULAND:** Okay. Israel, please.

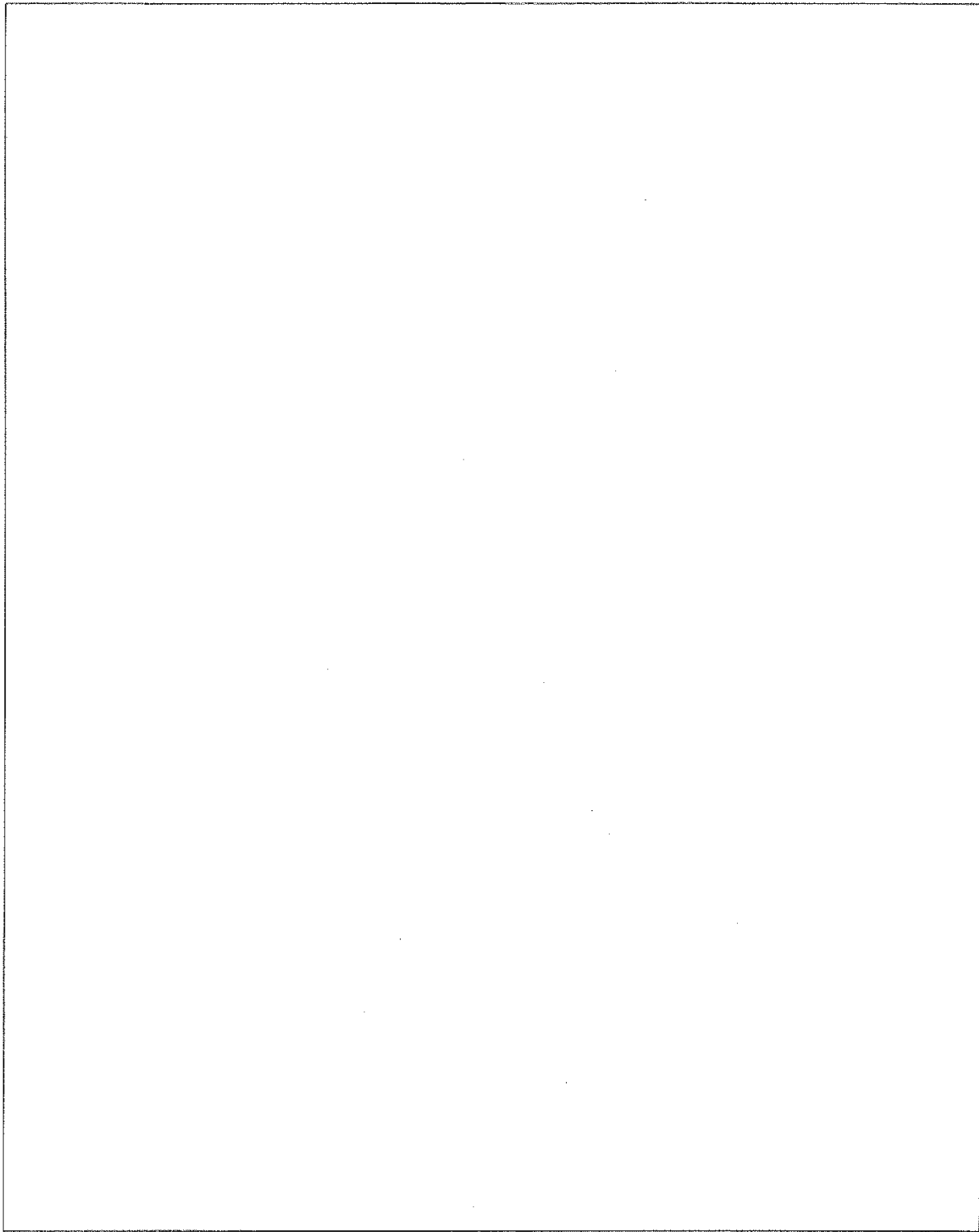
**QUESTION:** -- not flotilla.

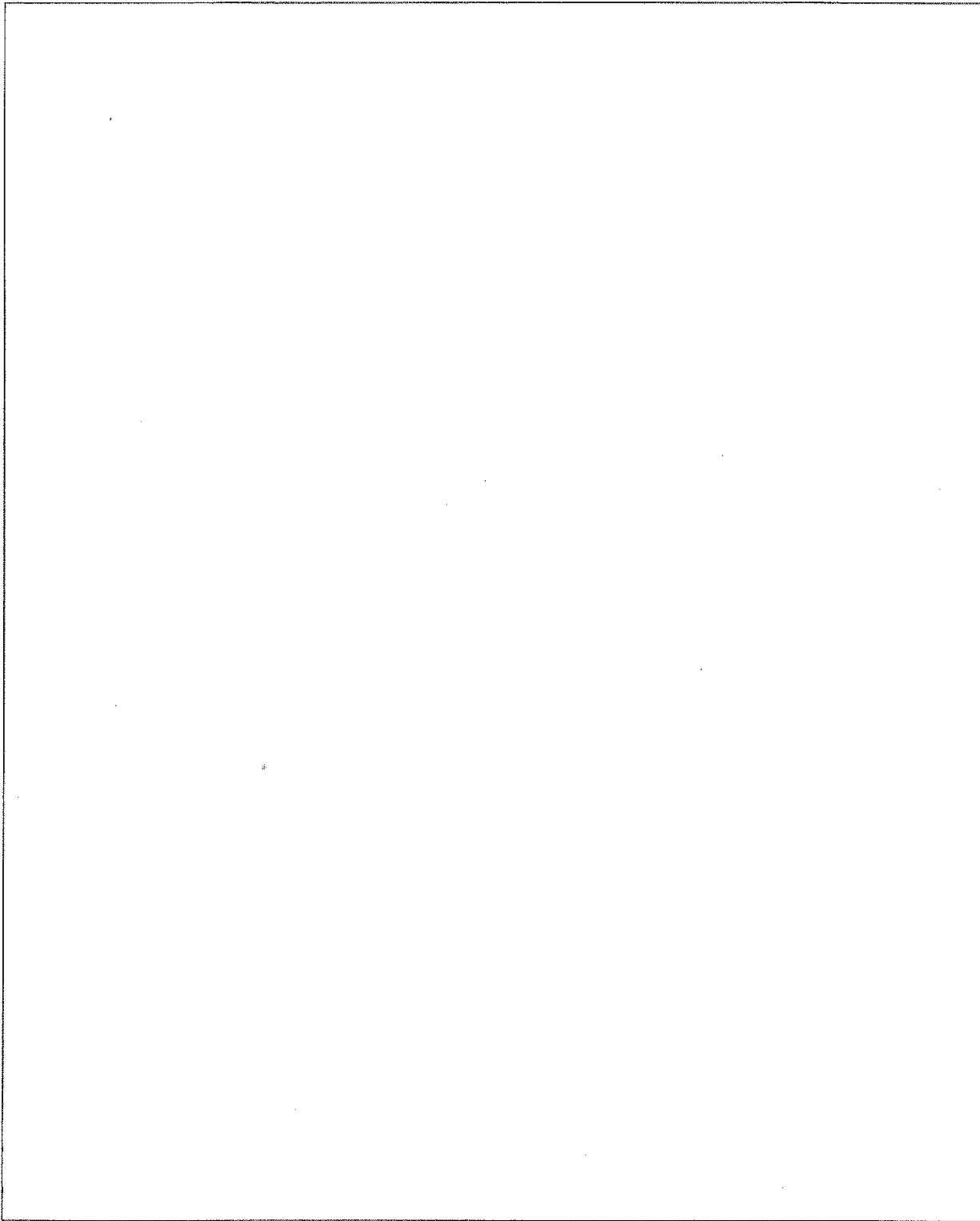
**MS. NULAND:** Yeah, please.



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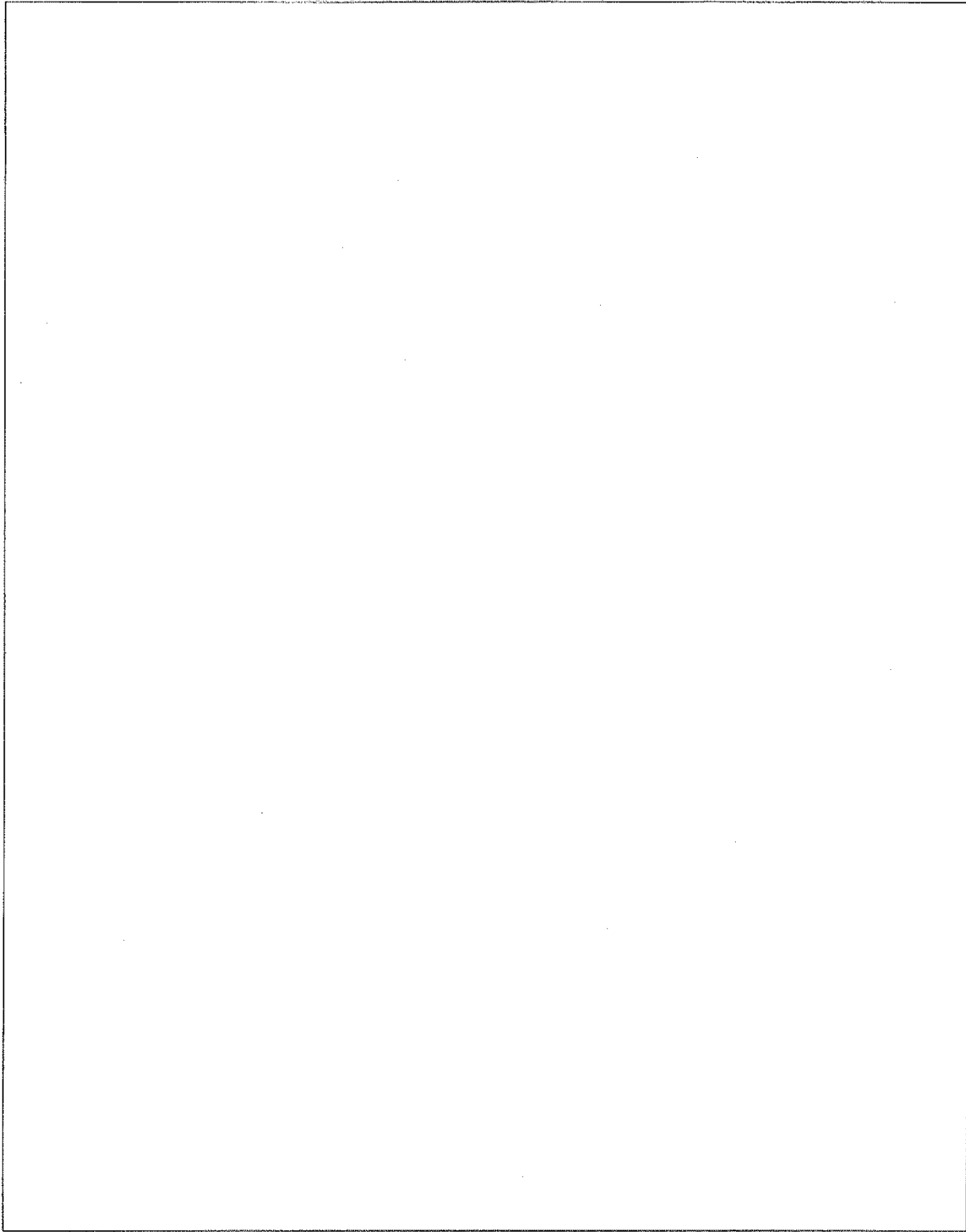
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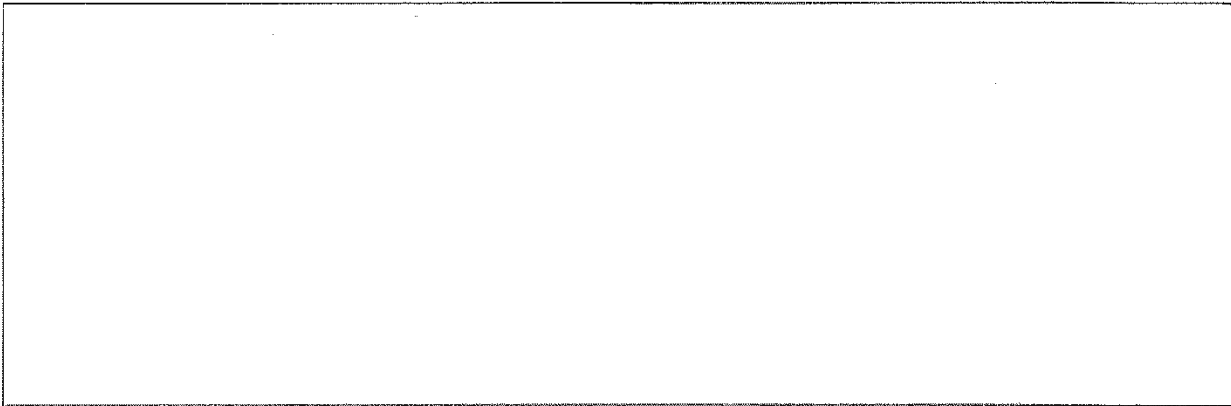
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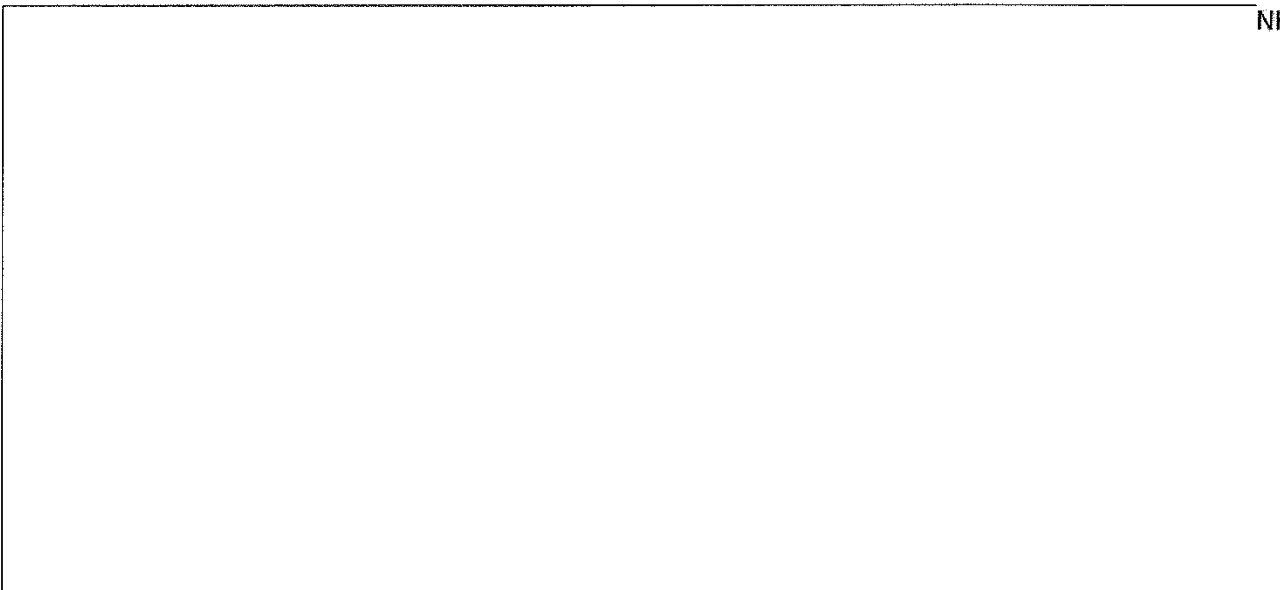


NR

**QUESTION:** On flotilla, I believe you touched a little bit at the beginning – you questioned last week whether it’s legal or not legal. Do you have any view on that? Do you think the Israel blockade is illegal? Thank you.

**MS. NULAND:** I think we put out something with regard to the – to that after the briefing on Friday. Again, I would just stress that Israel has had a bad experience with arms smuggled at sea, so we do think that there is a right of self-defense here. But what’s most important is that we avoid the situation that we had last year.

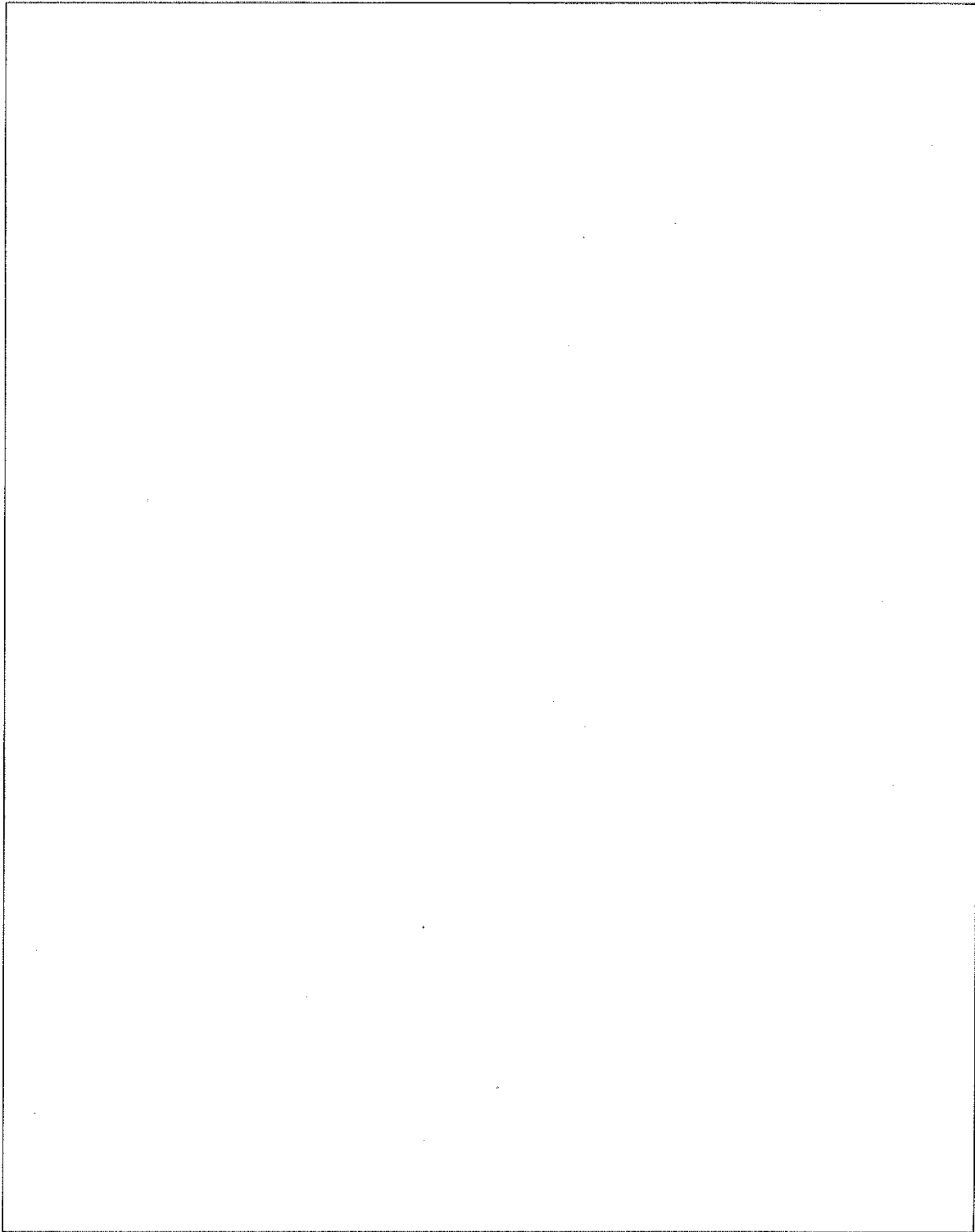
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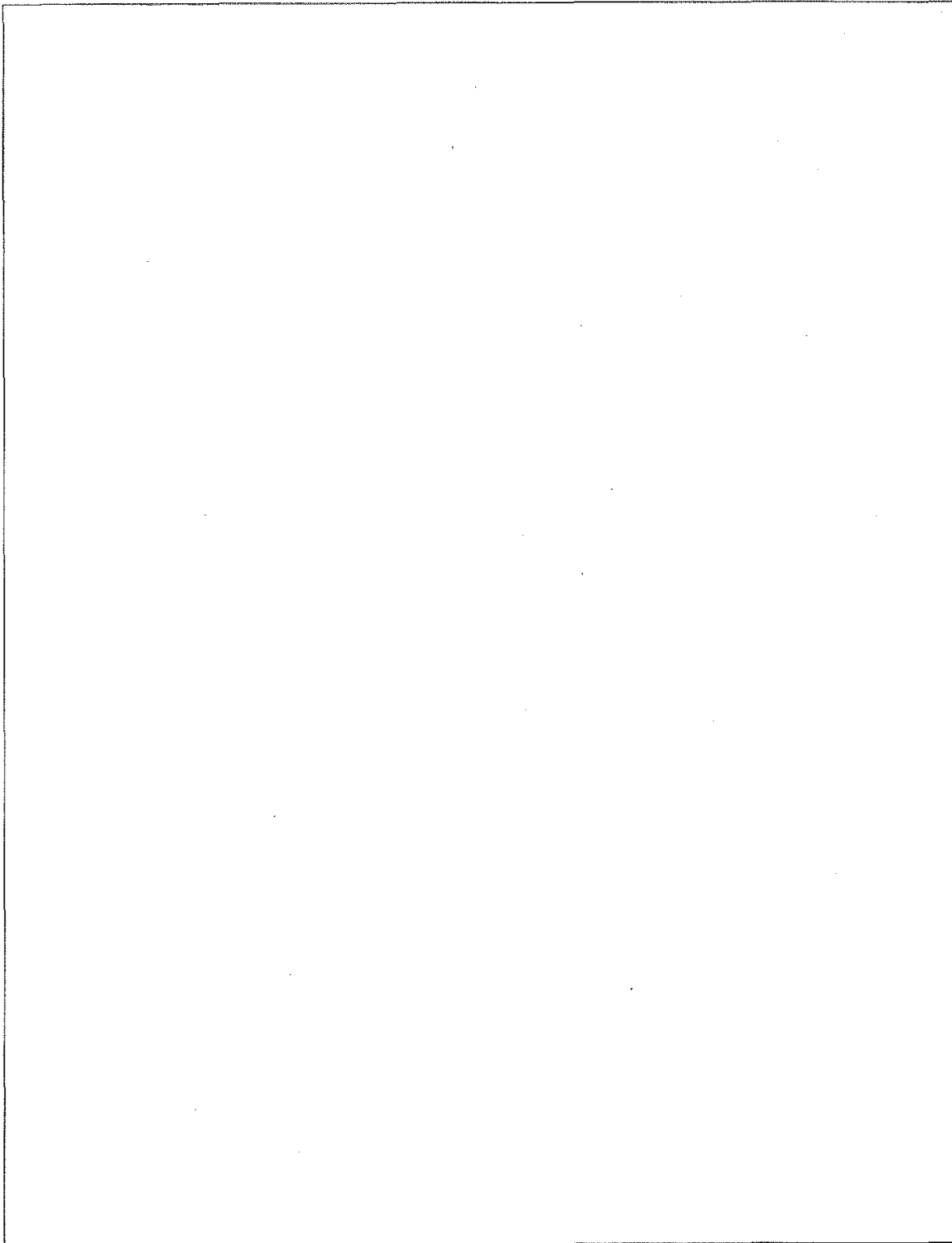
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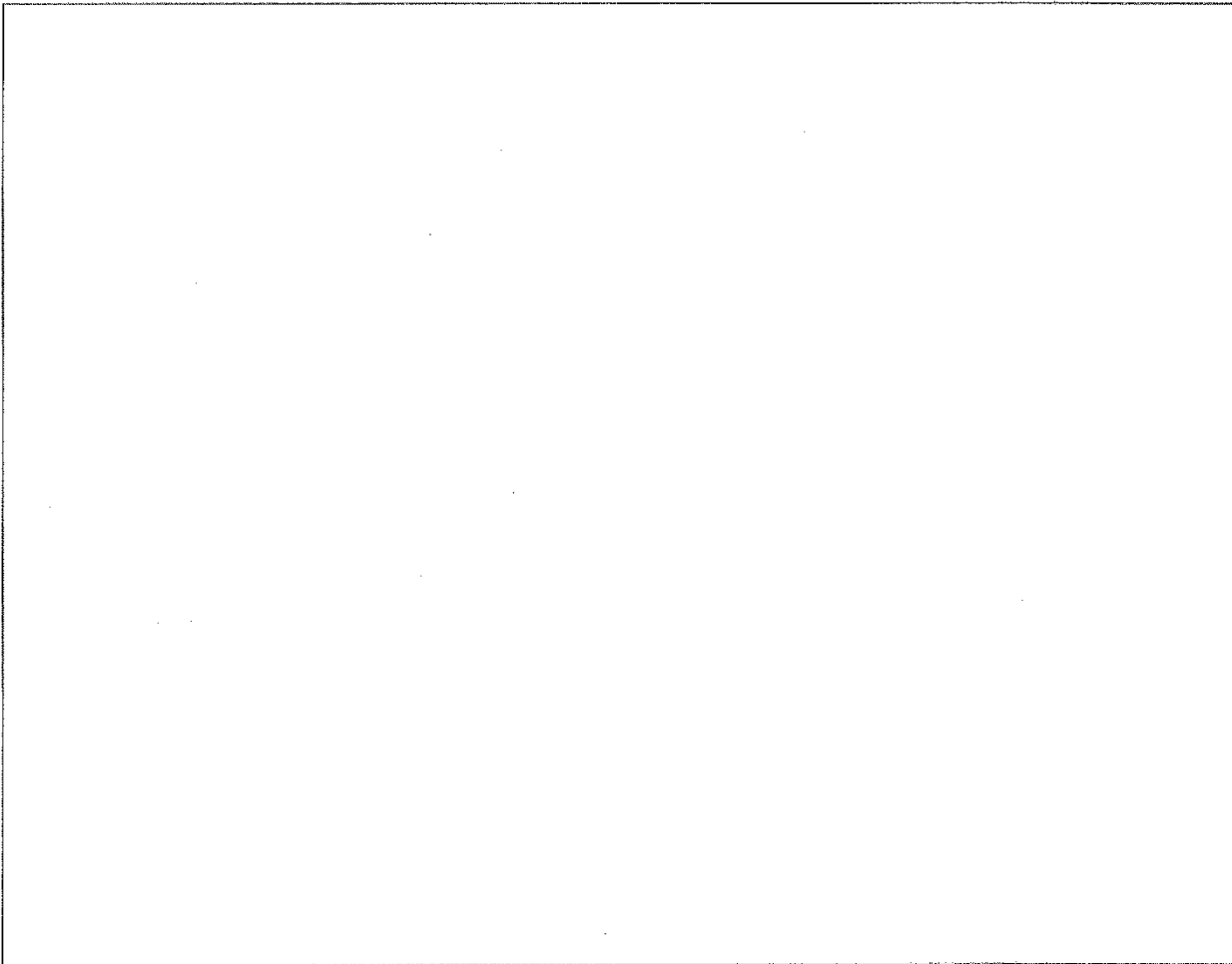
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**QUESTION:** I'm going to finish my flotilla questions, if I may. There's a report underway at the UN about the – last year's flotilla incident. Do you have any expectations on that report? It's supposed to be released, I believe, in two weeks.

**MS. NULAND:** I think we'll wait and see what's in the report before commenting on it.

**QUESTION:** In your statements, as far as we can see, that – you talk about there are other means and ways to get the aid to Gaza this year. But apparently, there was none of the means and ways to get the aids to Gaza last year. So in terms of – in your analysis and statements, does it tell you that last year was actually meaningful try to get aid? Can we get that kind of result out of your – this year's statements?

**MS. NULAND:** I don't want to go back to last year. Last year was a very concerning and dangerous event that happened. What I would simply say is, just to repeat, that we do believe that effective channels exist today both through Israel and through Egypt, that those channels are being used, that the people of Gaza are being aided. I think it might be useful also to repeat something that the Secretary said last Friday. She drew a comparison between the humanitarian situation in Gaza, a territory controlled by Hamas, as compared to the greatly improved humanitarian situation in the West Bank, which is not controlled by Hamas. And she suggested that folks could draw their conclusions from that.

Please.

**QUESTION:** Except for the fact that the West Bank has – the borders are different?

**MS. NULAND:** The borders are different, but simply, when you ask who bears responsibility for the humanitarian condition of their people, clearly, we're doing better in the West Bank than we're doing in Gaza.

**QUESTION:** What do you say about Israel's warnings to journalists who are planning to get on the boats?

**MS. NULAND:** I think we went through this at the beginning of the briefing, that Israel started in – with one position and has now modified its position. But again, from a U.S. perspective, we are urging everybody to find another way to aid Gaza.

Please

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(The briefing was concluded at 1:10 p.m.)

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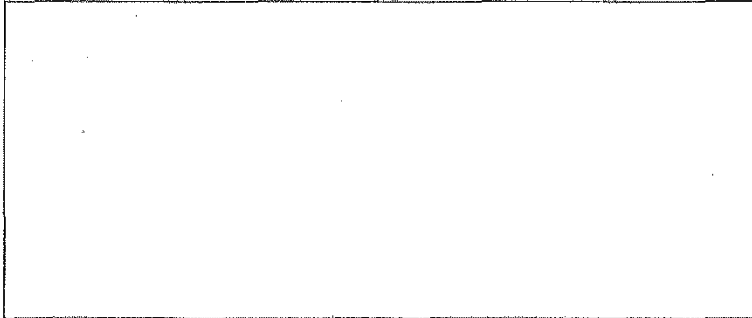


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NR

R9

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Hilton, Robert B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 6:02 PM  
**To:** EUR-DPB-FG-DL  
**Subject:** Daily Press Briefing, final guidances, S remarks in Budapest and Vilnius, 6-30-11  
**Attachments:** 06-30-11 Final Guidance.doc



NR

**From:** State Department Press Office [mailto:Press@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 5:39 PM  
**To:** State Department Press Office  
**Subject:** 6/30 On-Camera Daily Press Briefing with Mark Toner, Deputy Spokesperson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND POSTING

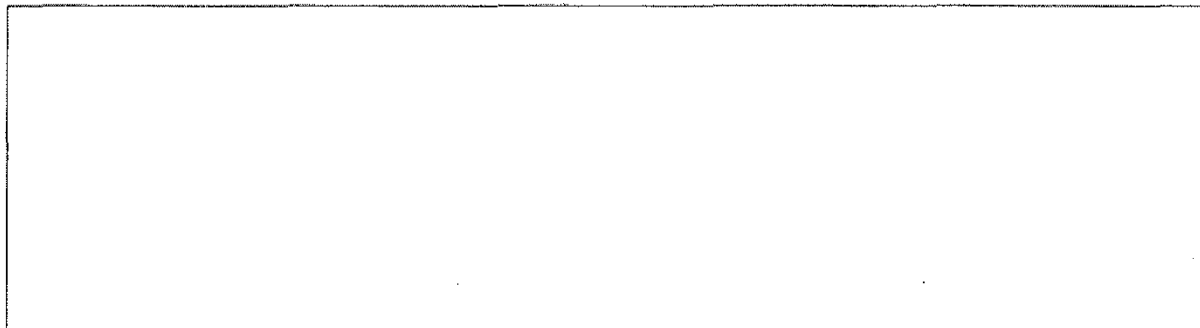
On-Camera Daily Press Briefing Index  
Thursday, June 30, 2011  
1:05 PM EDT

Briefer: Mark Toner, Deputy Spokesperson



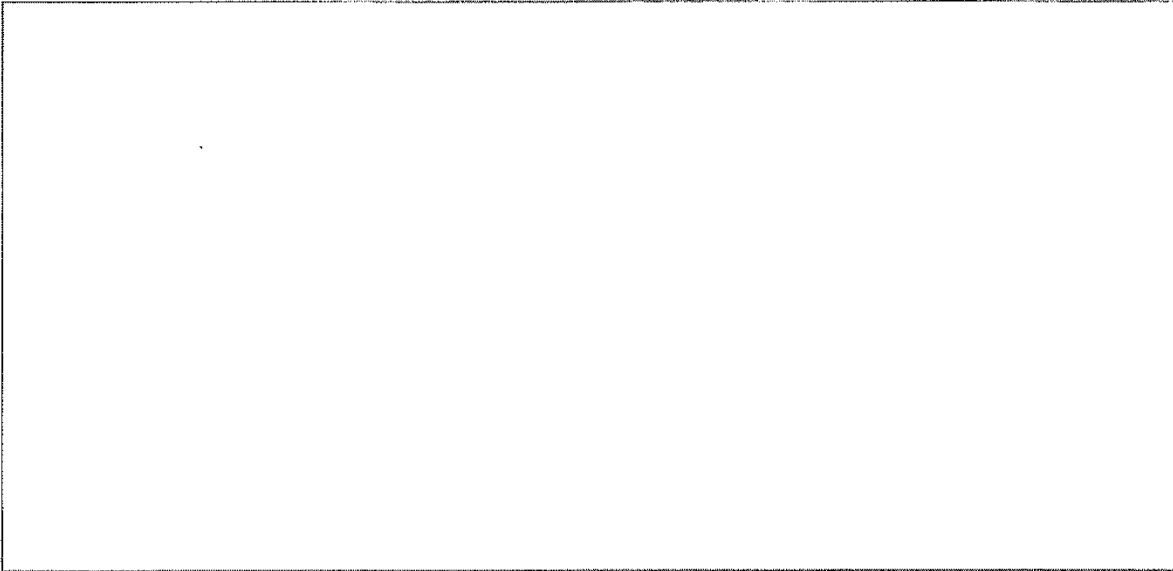
~ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS~

- ^^ Foundation for Moving Talks Forward Laid Out
- ^^ Acting Special Envoy David Hale Continues Meetings with Israeli and Palestinian Negotiators
- ^^ Claims of Gaza Flotilla Ship Sabotage/Both Sabotage of Ships and Flotillas Themselves Put Individuals at Risk



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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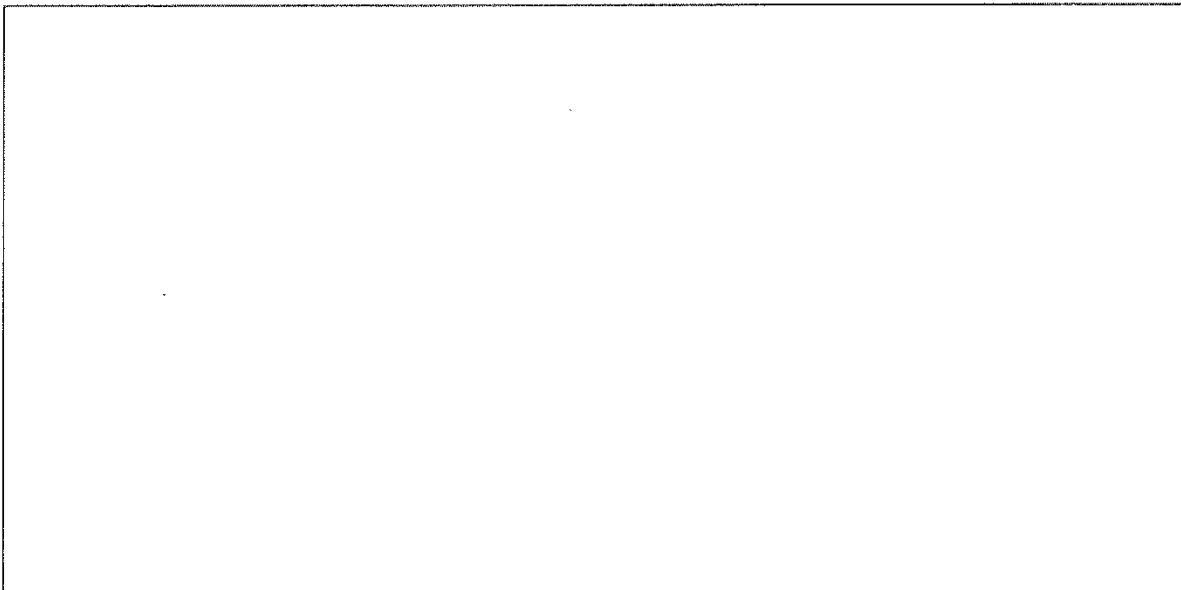


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

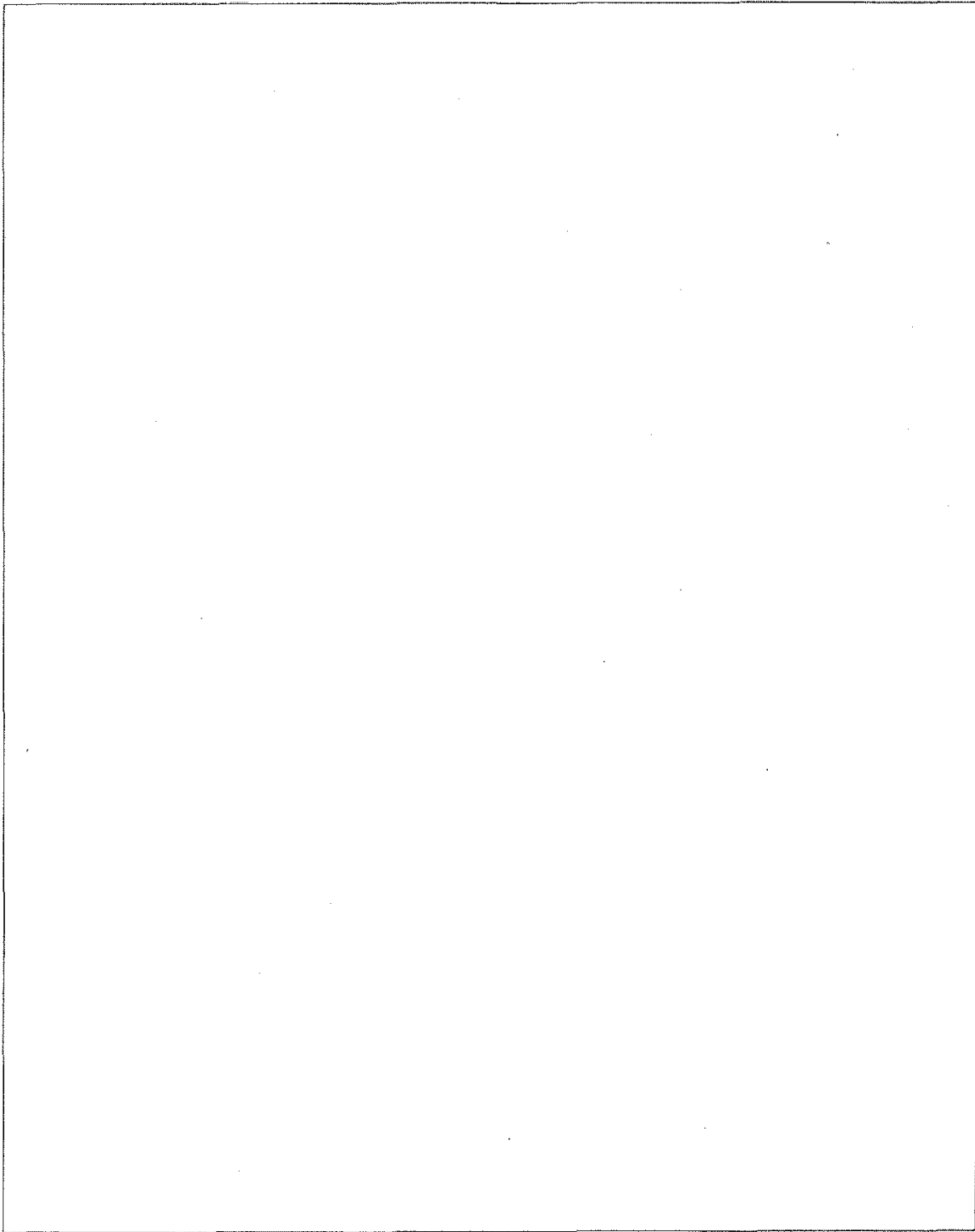
DPB # 97

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011  
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

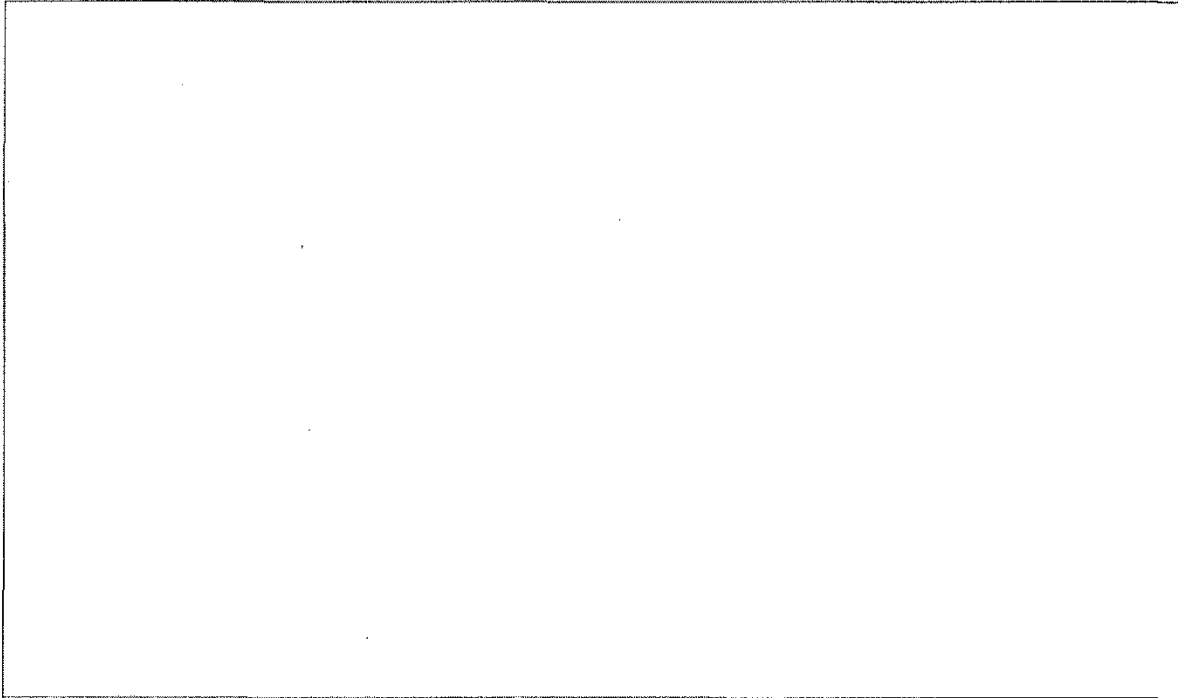
1:05 p.m. EDT



NR



**QUESTION:** On the Palestinian-Israeli issue?



NR

**QUESTION:** Slightly related, on the Gaza flotilla, are you concerned at all that there seem -- that some of these ships appear to be sabotaged?

**MR. TONER:** I really don't have any comment on that. I've seen the press reports and haven't had any other confirmation beyond that.

**QUESTION:** So it wouldn't bother you at all if this was happening?

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**QUESTION:** So preventing the flotilla from leaving by a --

**MR. TONER:** I didn't say -- I am in no way condoning any sabotage of these vessels.

**QUESTION:** Well, are --

**MR. TONER:** But I'm saying these vessels, these flotillas, in and of themselves, are not a good idea.

**QUESTION:** Well, can you say that you would be opposed to anyone trying to sabotage these -- trying to sabotage these ships?

**MR. TONER:** Again --

**QUESTION:** It's my understanding that you're concerned about the safety of everyone involved --

**MR. TONER:** Precisely.

**QUESTION:** -- and that if there's someone running around and trying to --

**MR. TONER:** Precisely. We're concerned. This is about --

**QUESTION:** -- sabotaging these ships, that's a safety issue.

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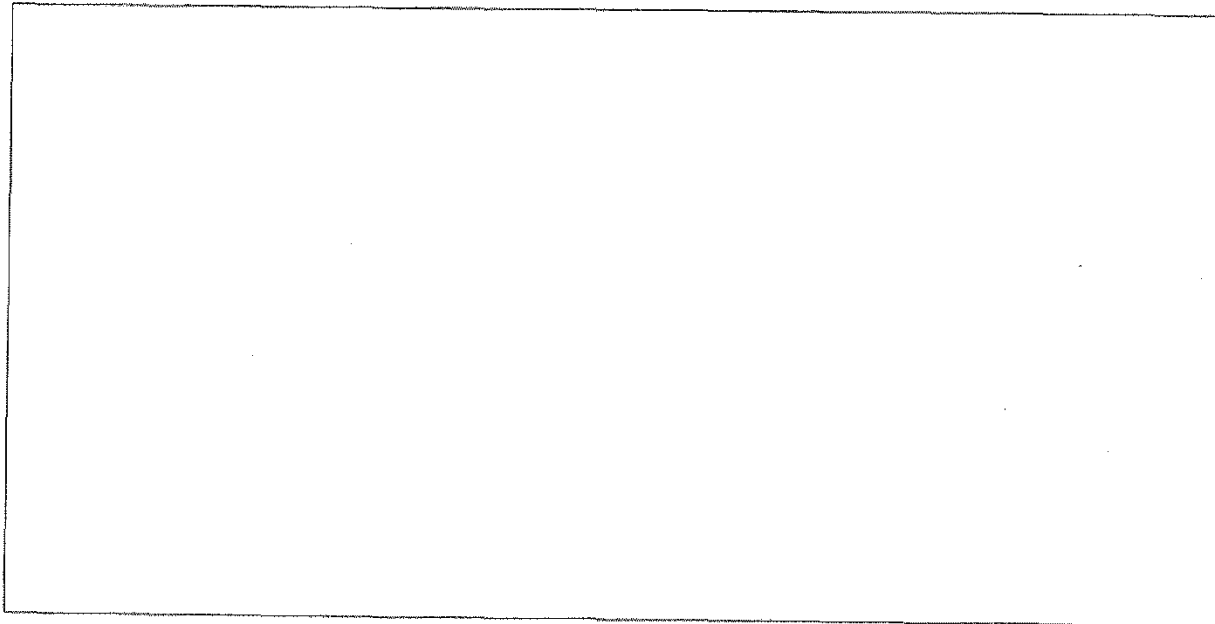
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**QUESTION:** Okay. Would you equally also say that it is not a good idea to sabotage these ships in any way?

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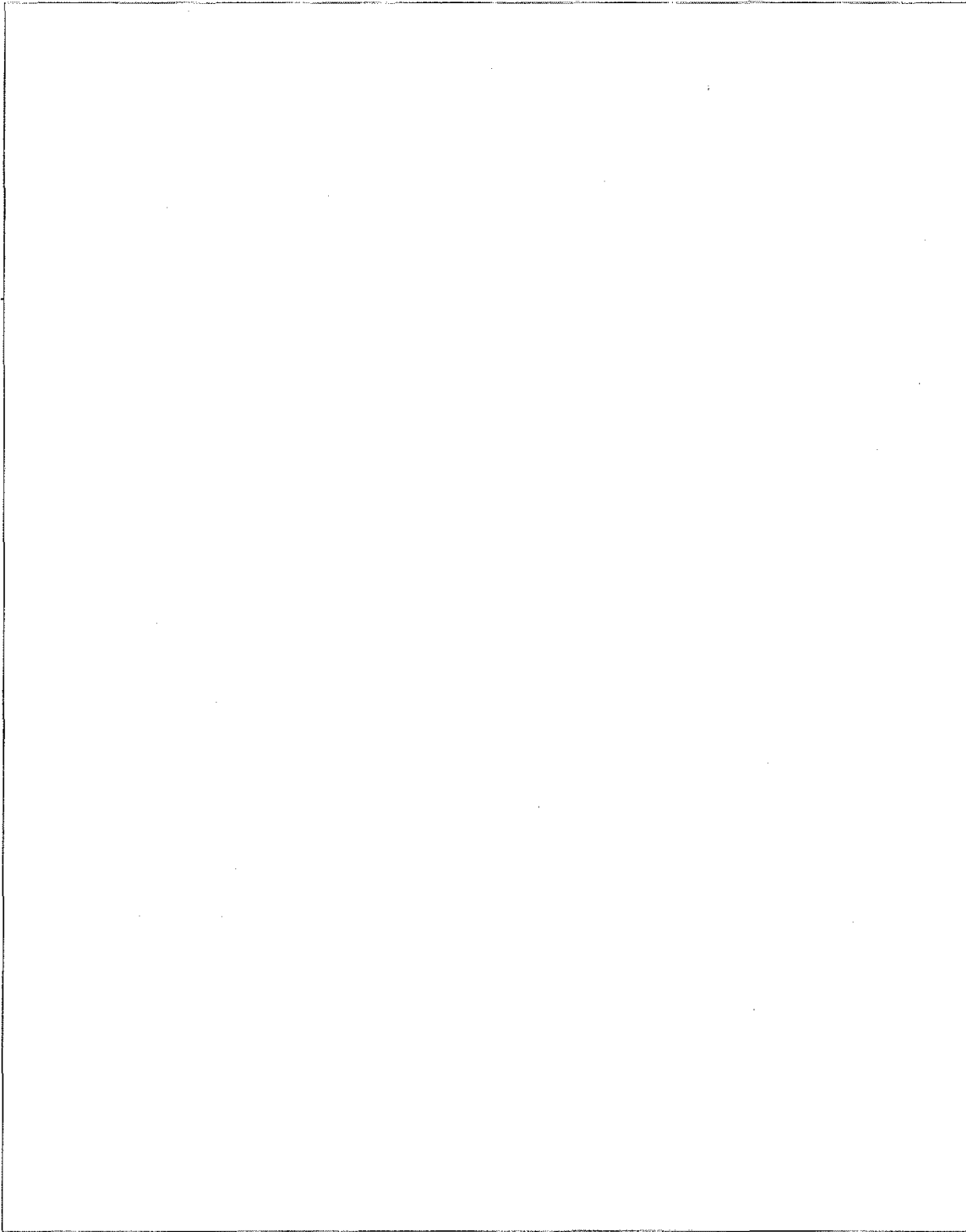
Yeah. Go ahead.

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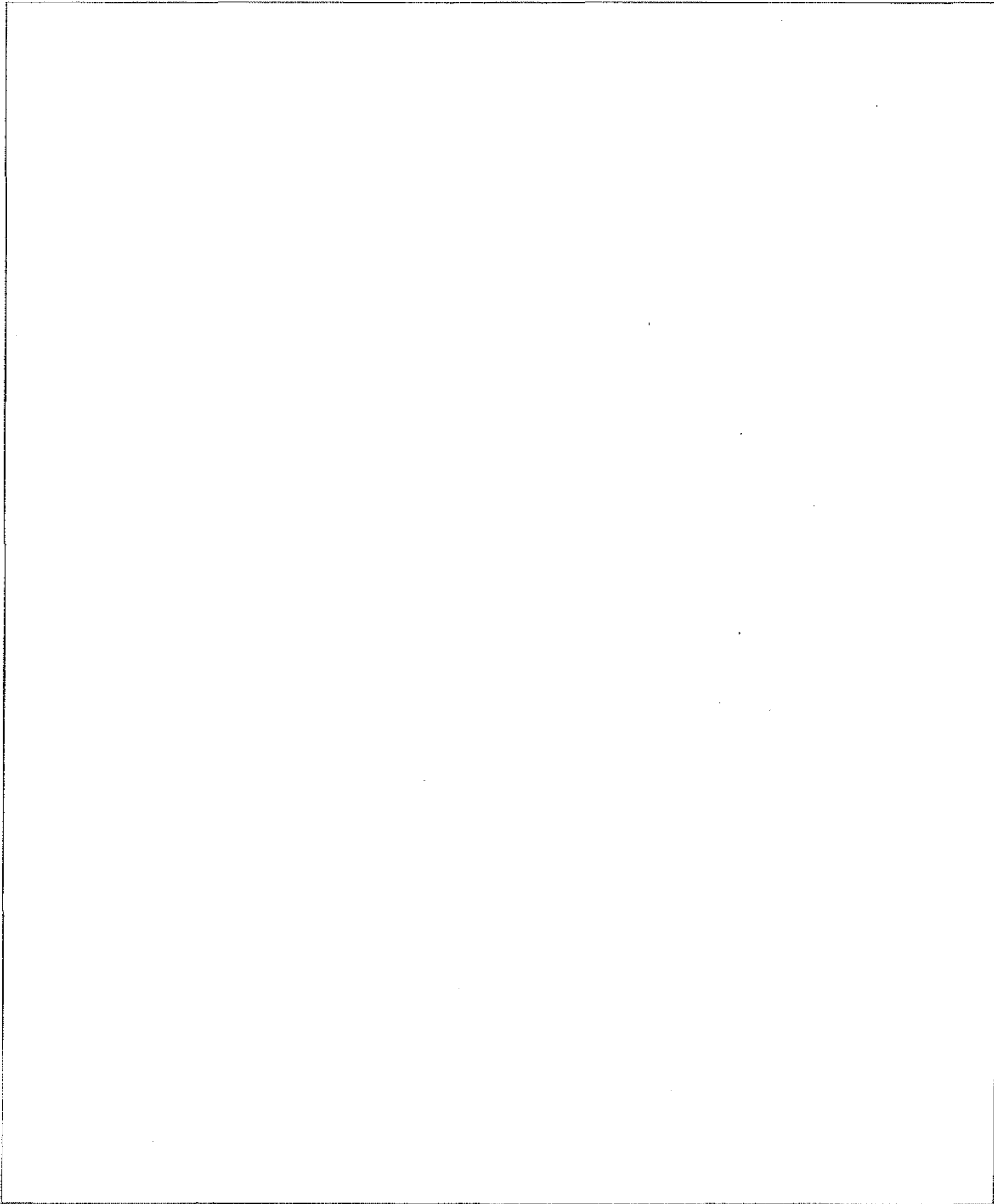


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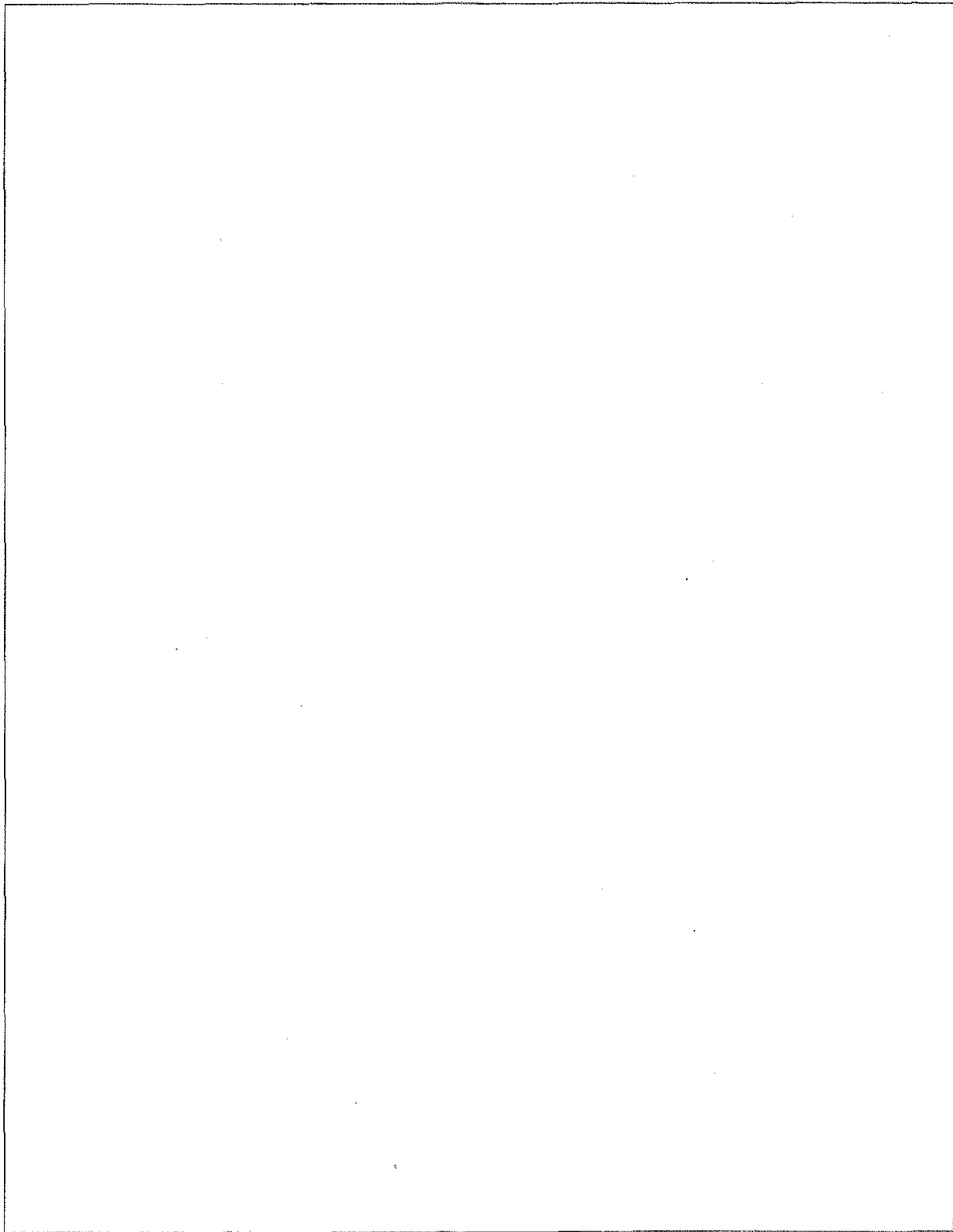


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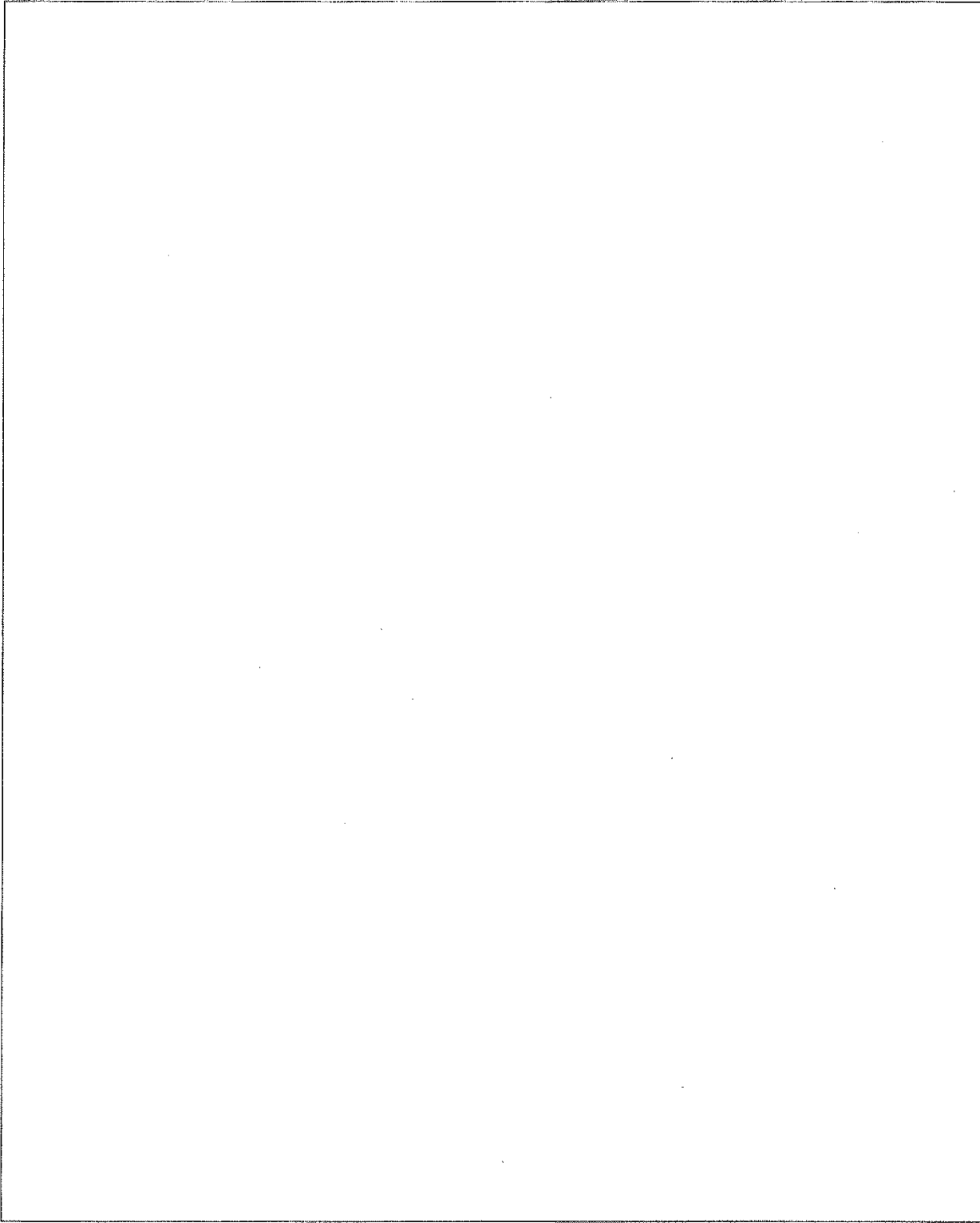




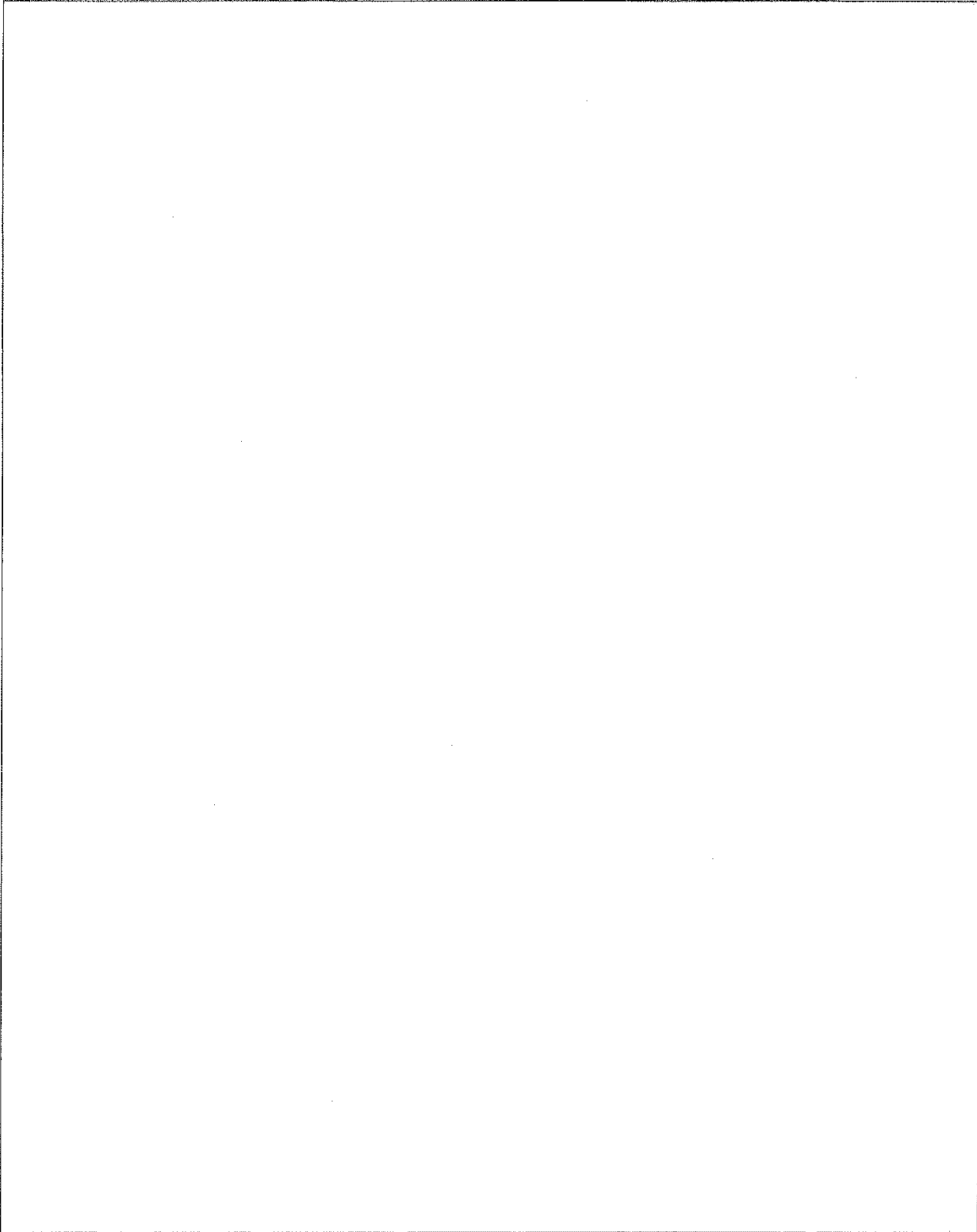
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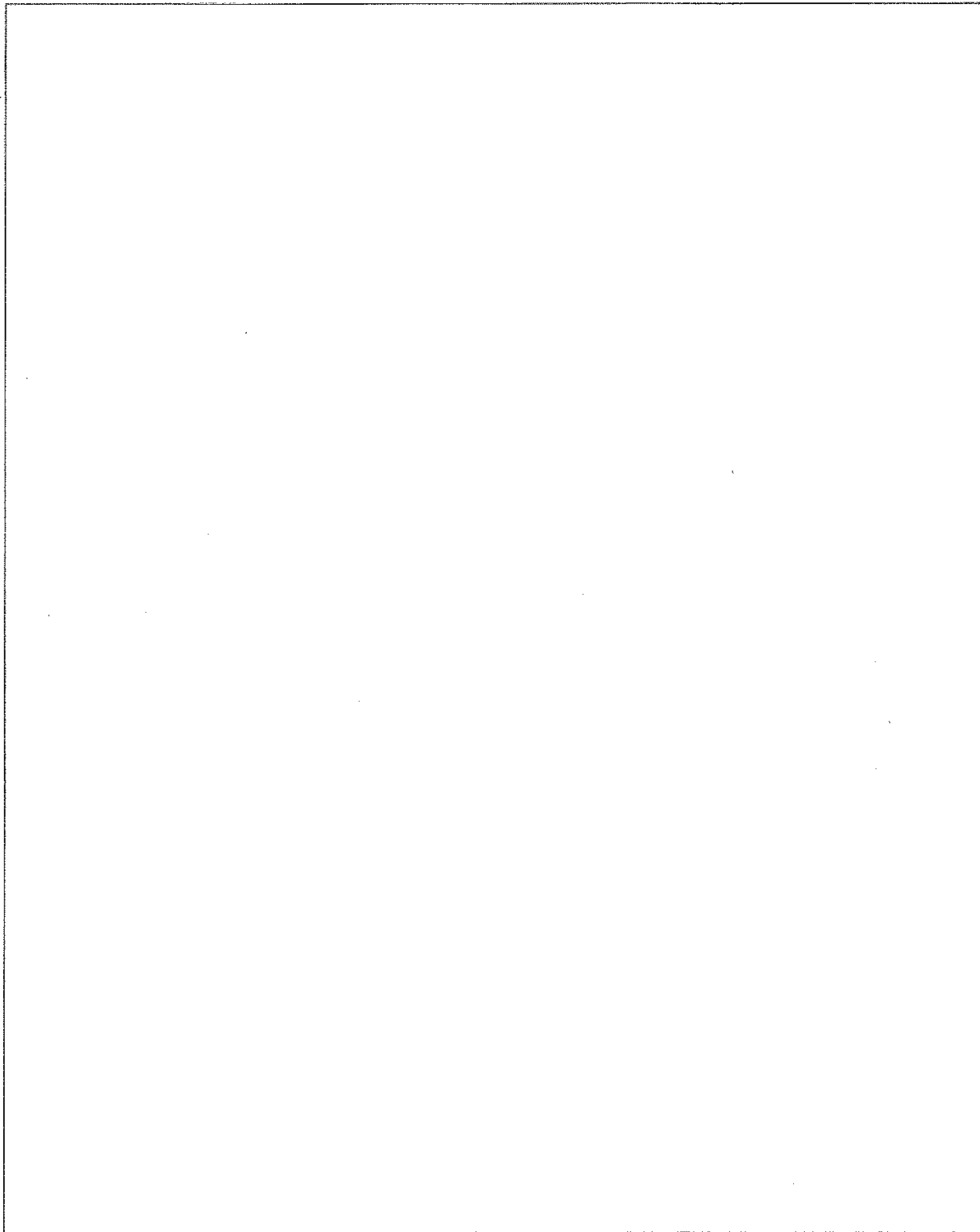
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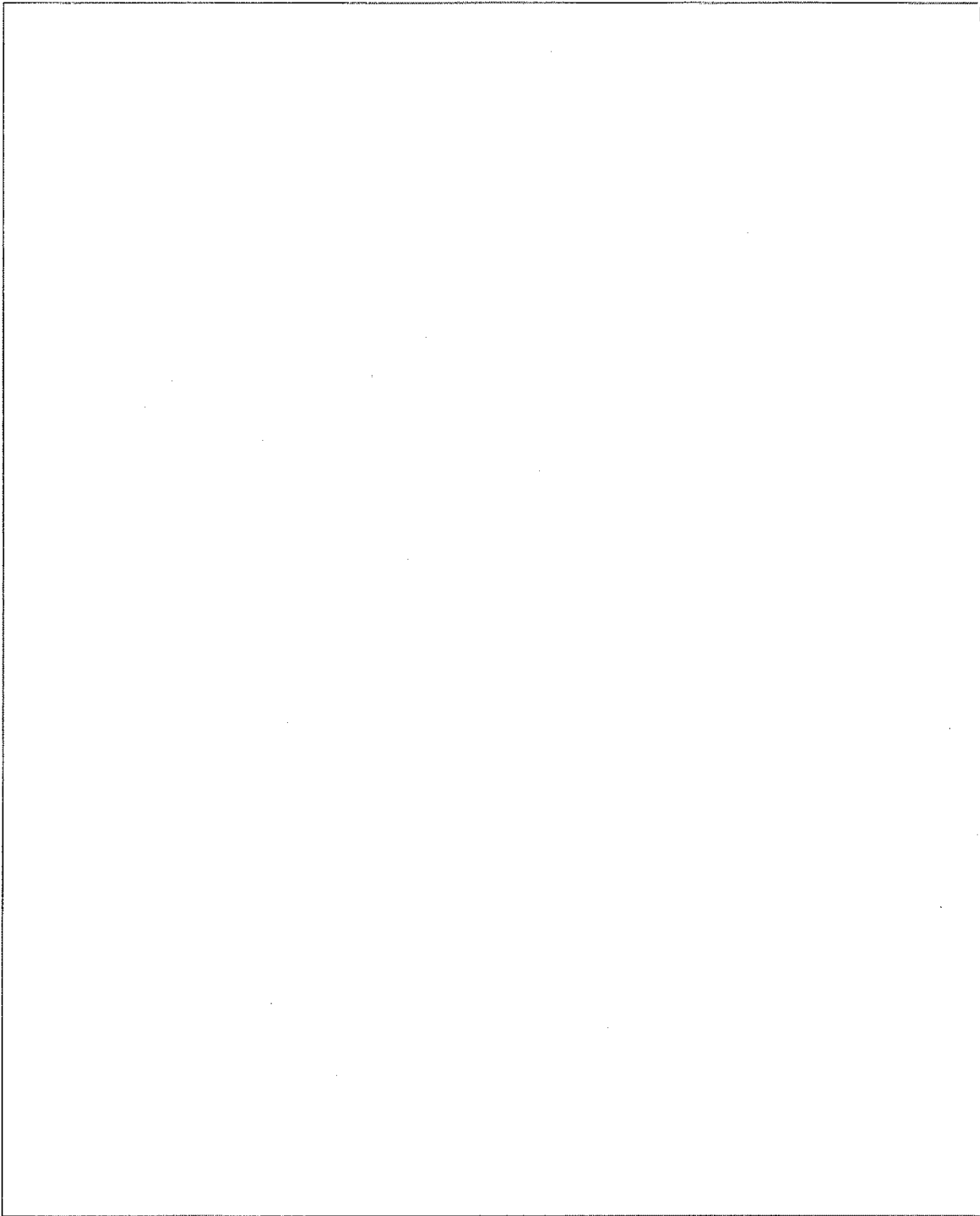
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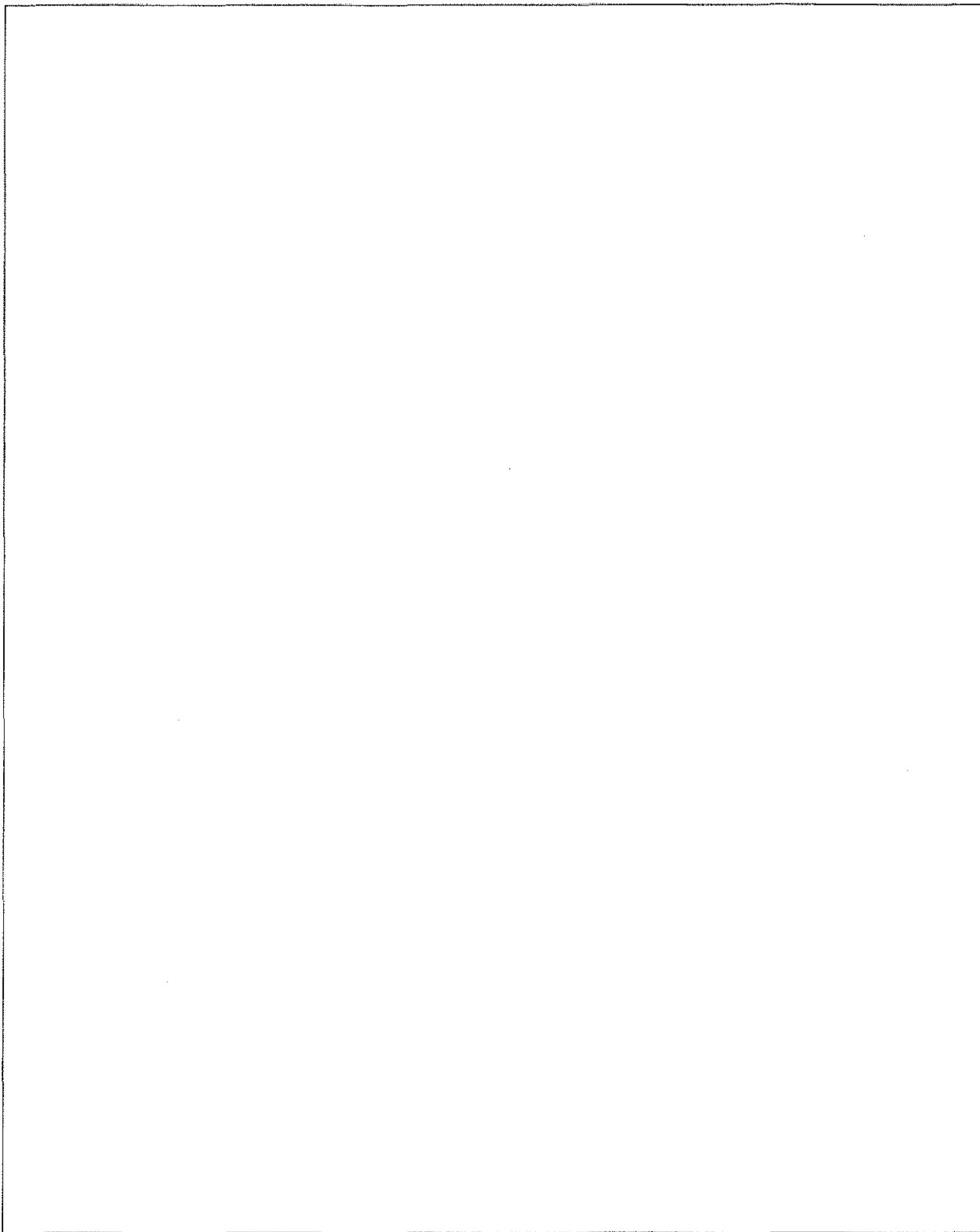
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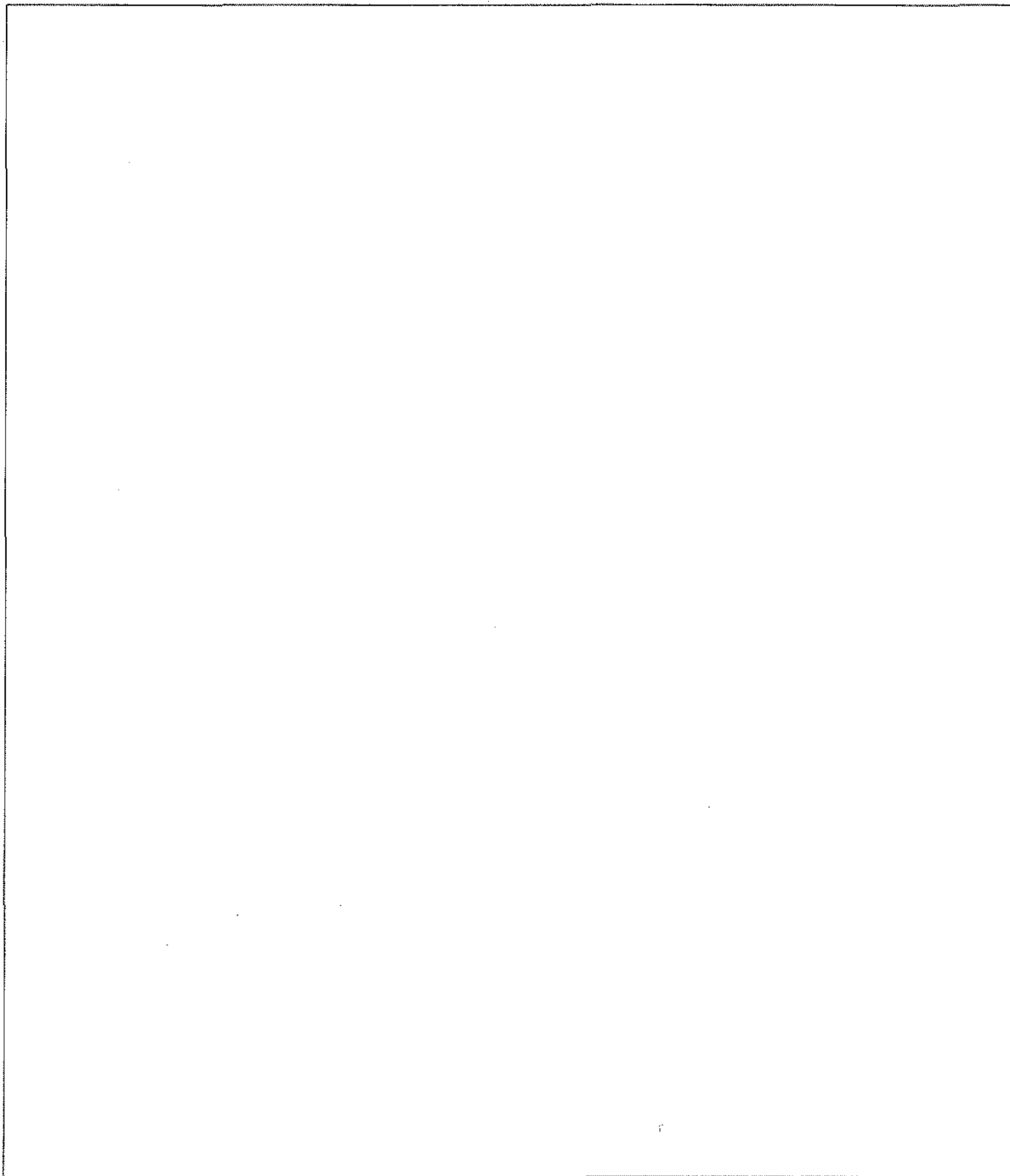


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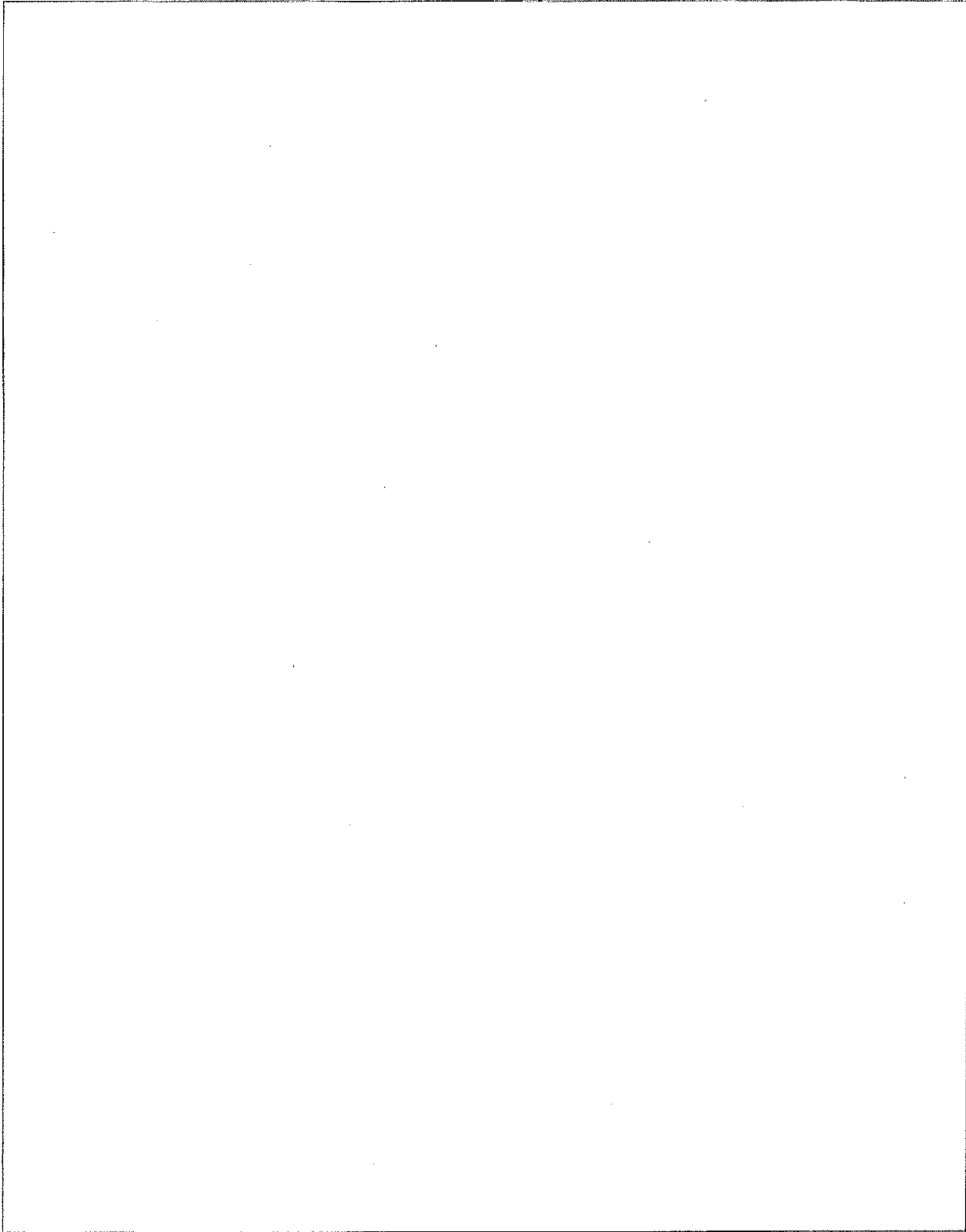
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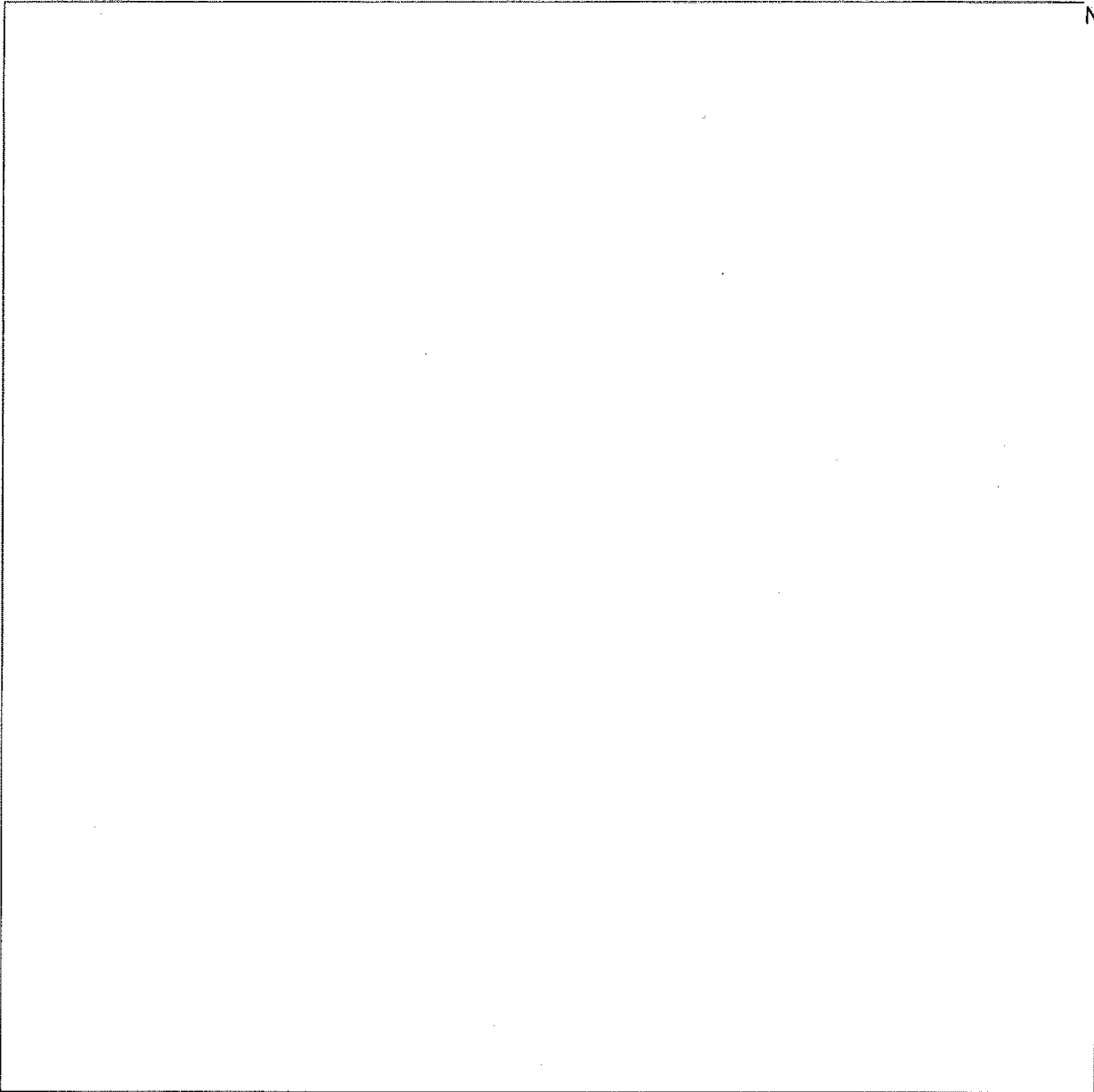
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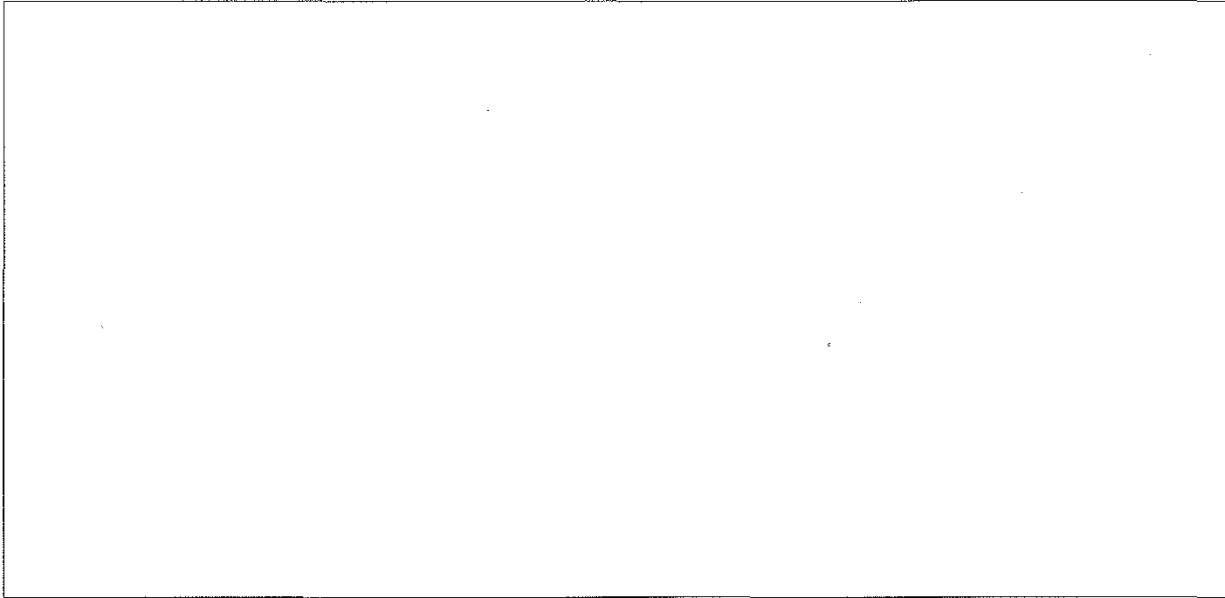
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(The briefing was concluded at 1:42 p.m.)

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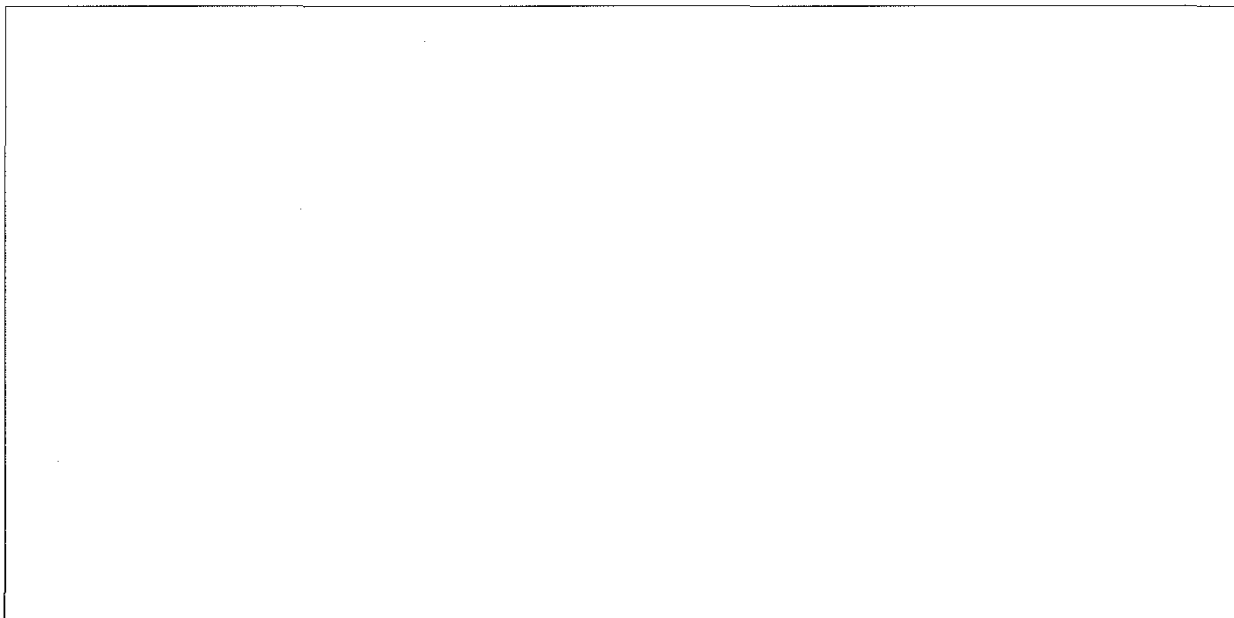


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

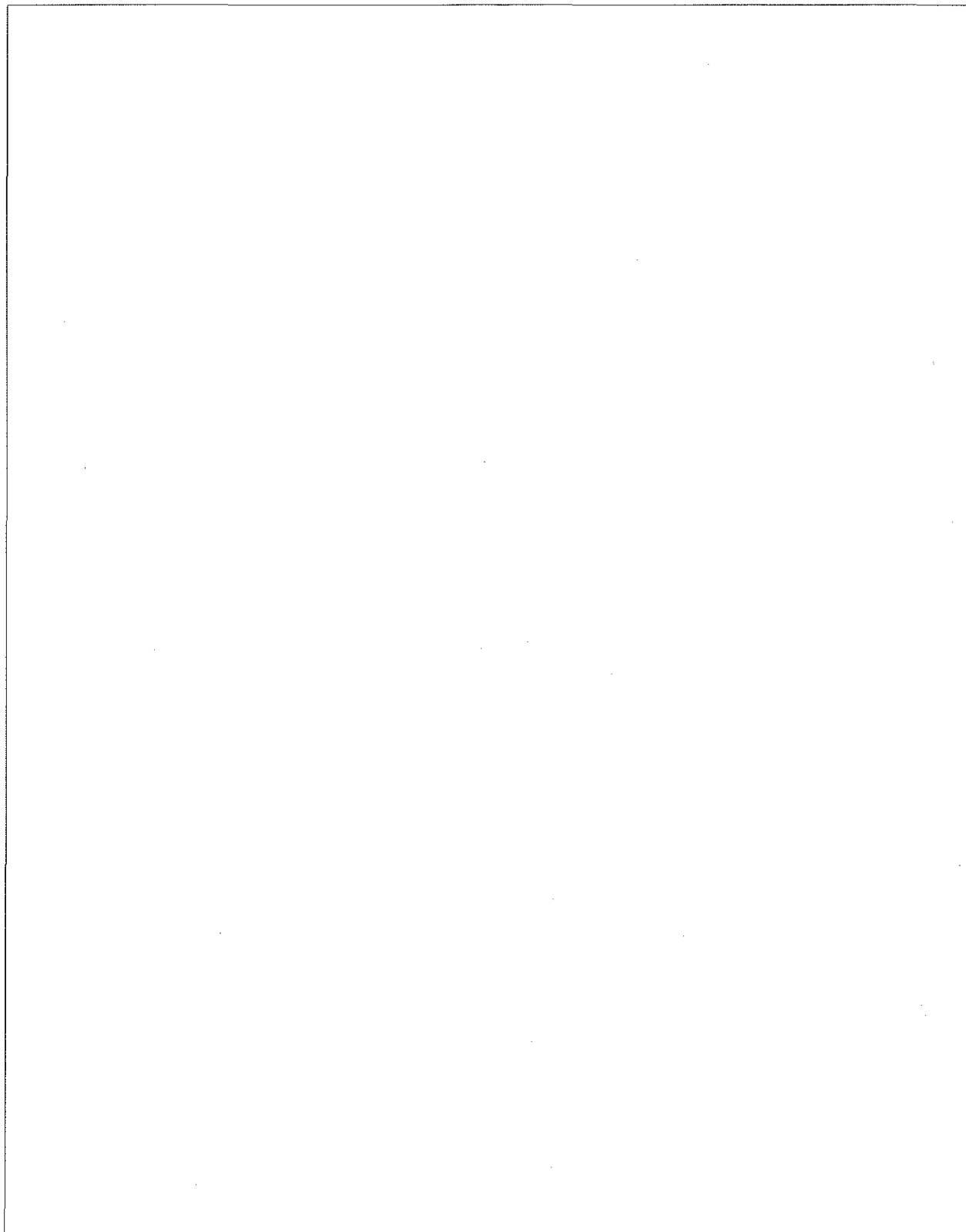
DPB # 97

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011  
(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

1:05 p.m. EDT



NR



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NR

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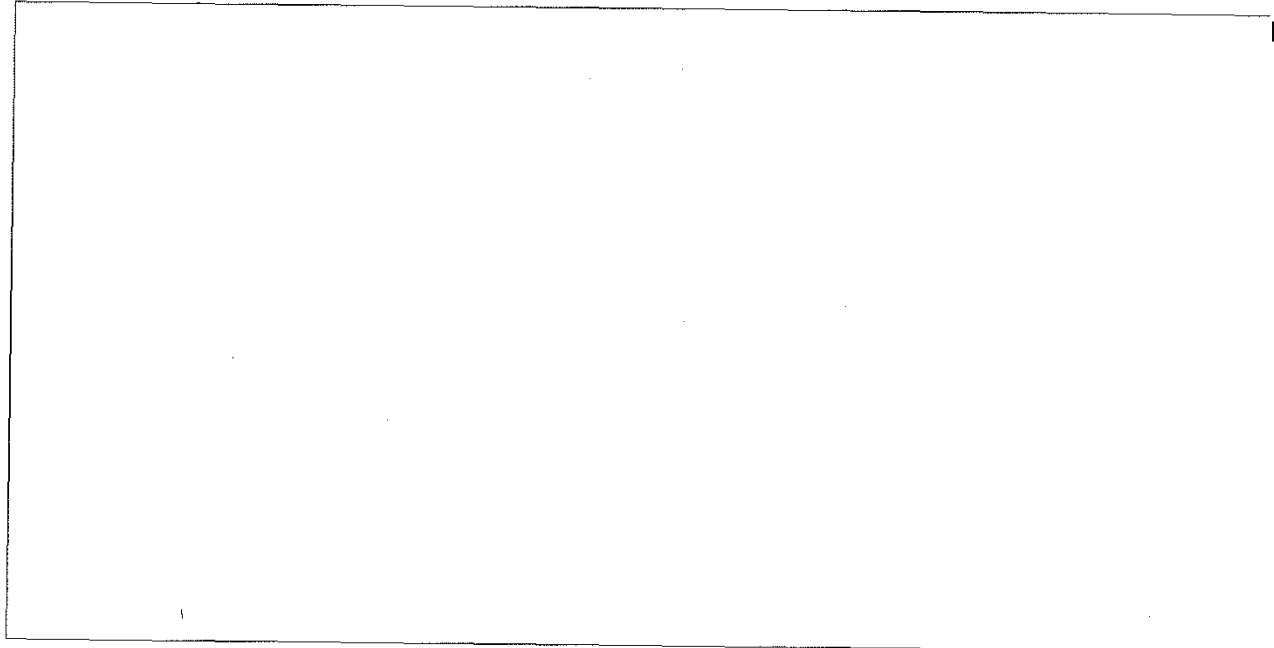
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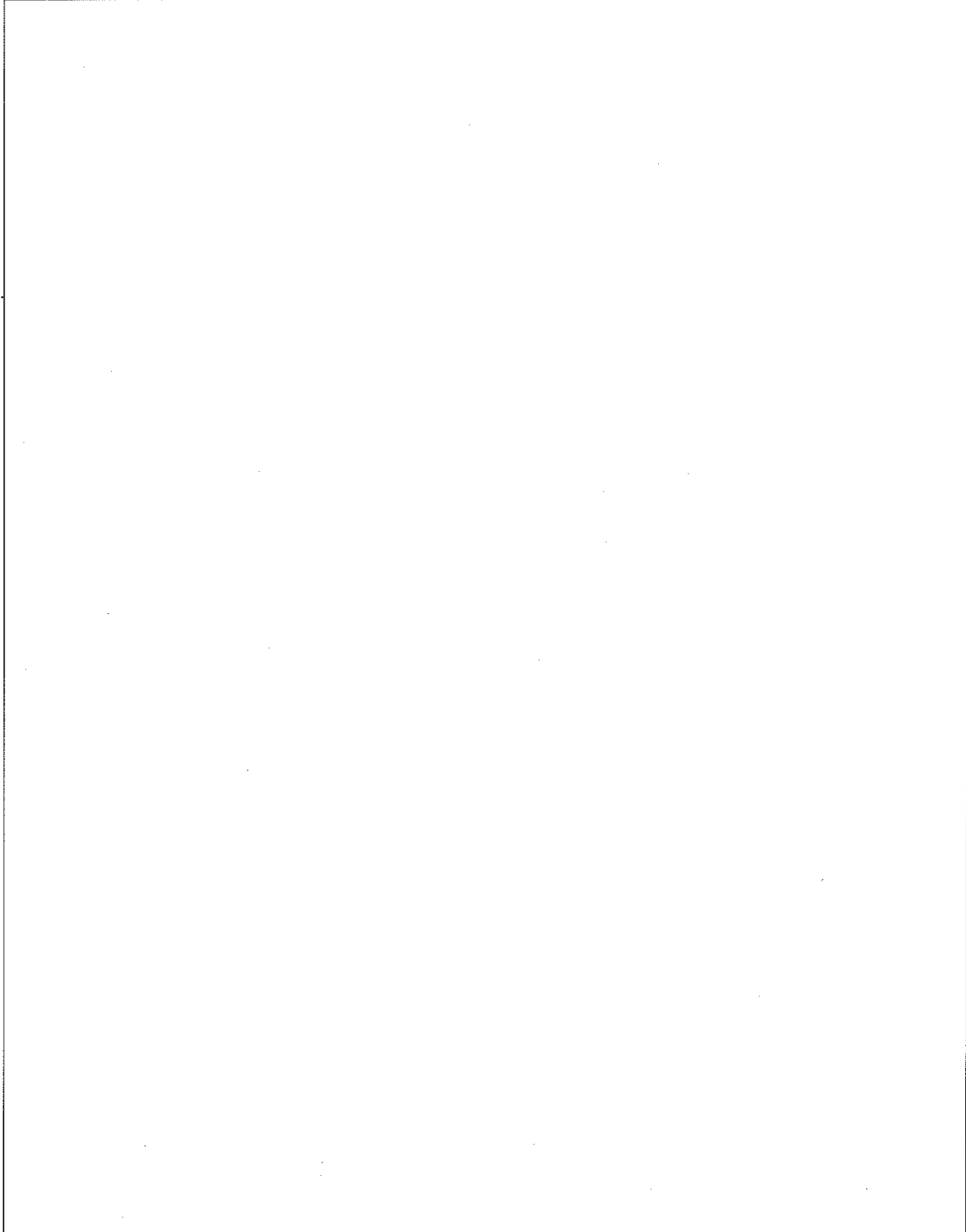
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**QUESTION:** Change of topic?

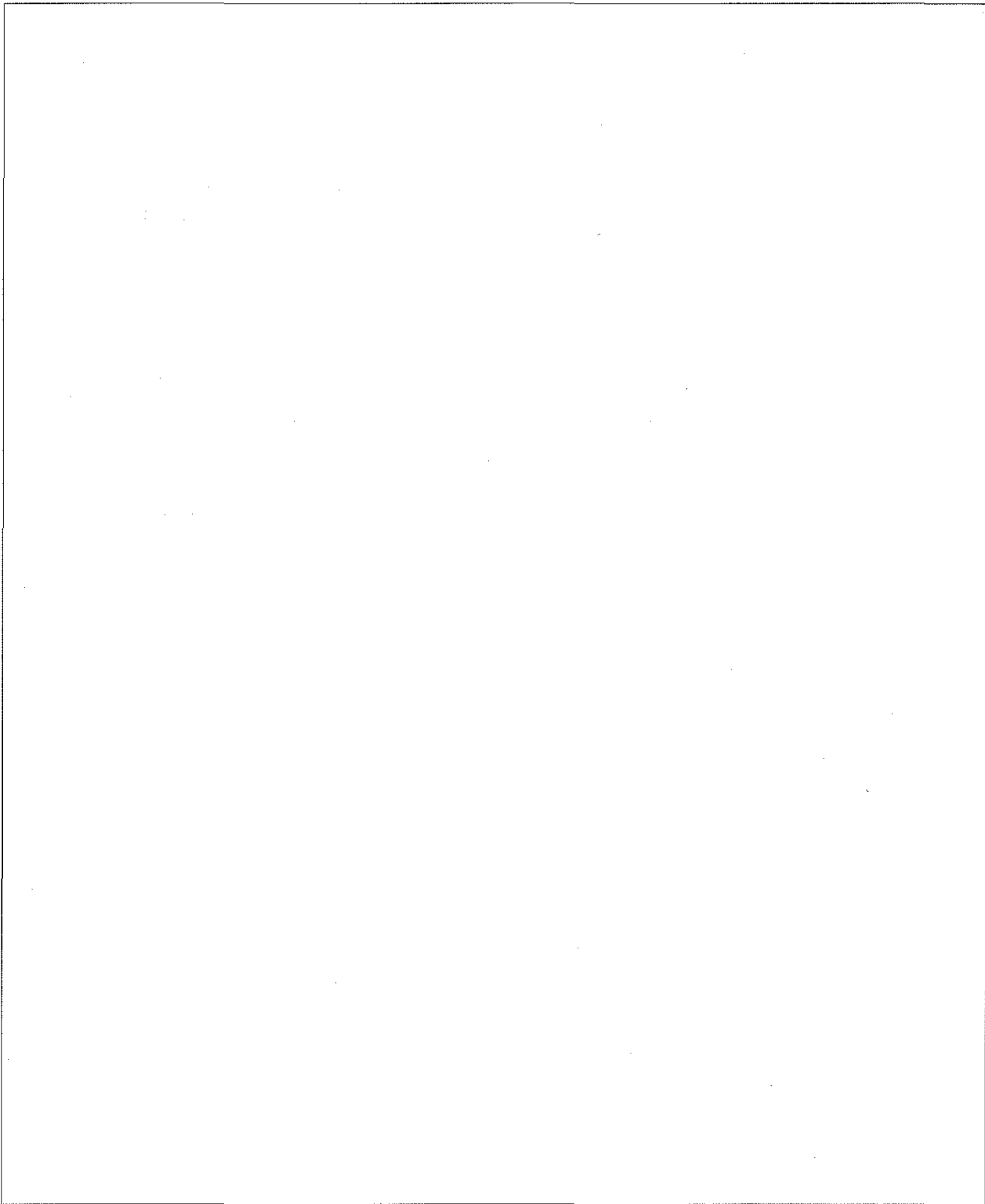


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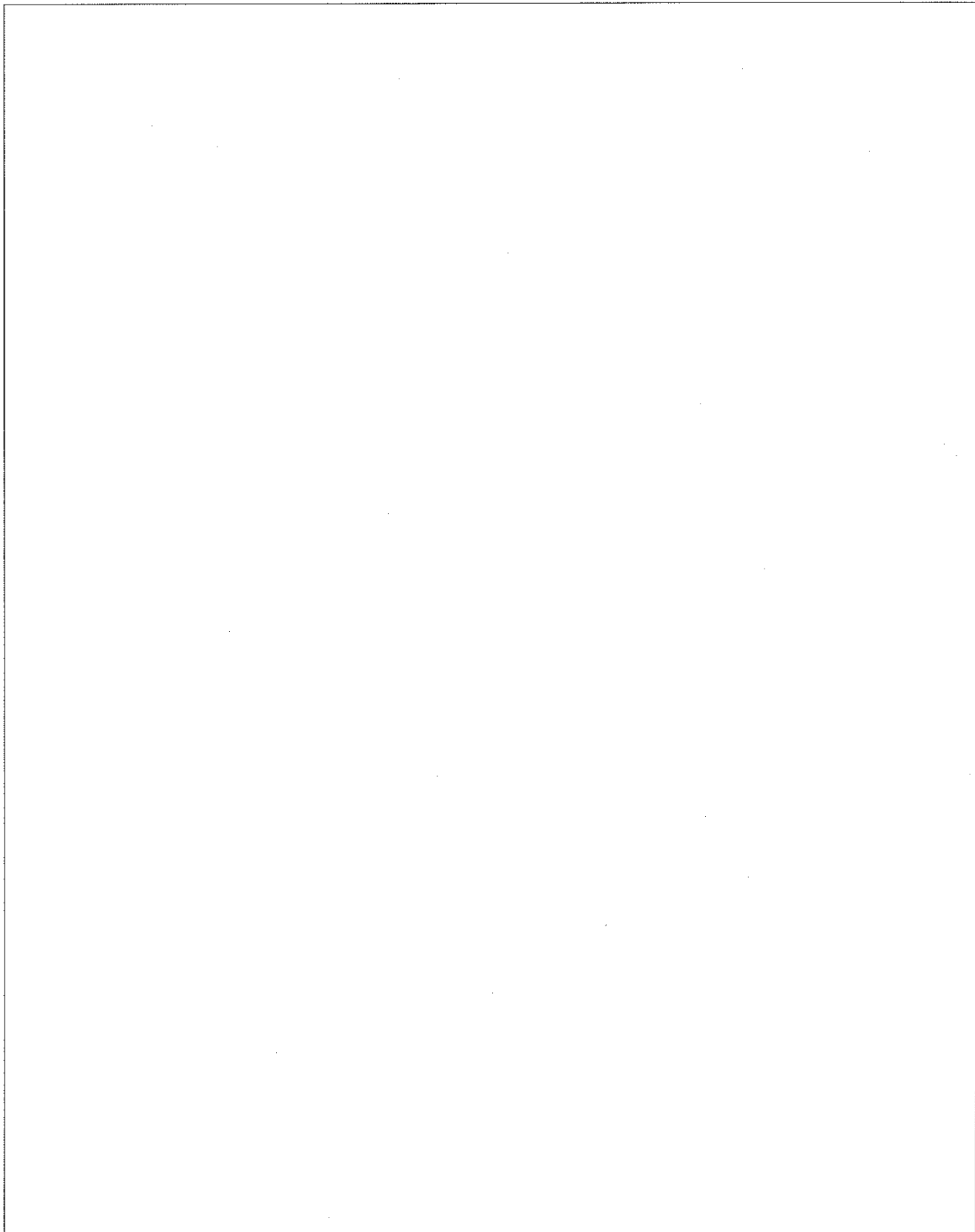
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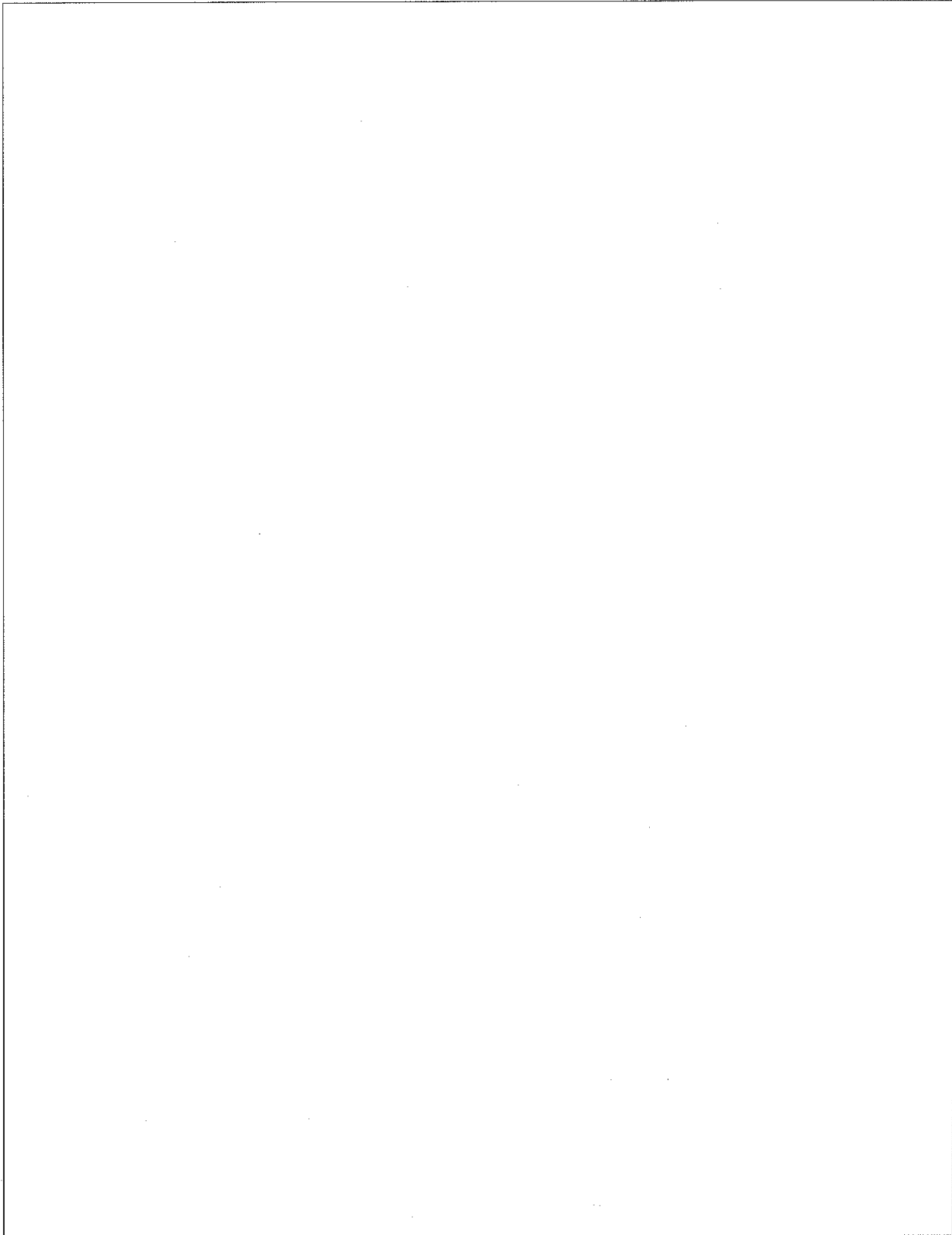


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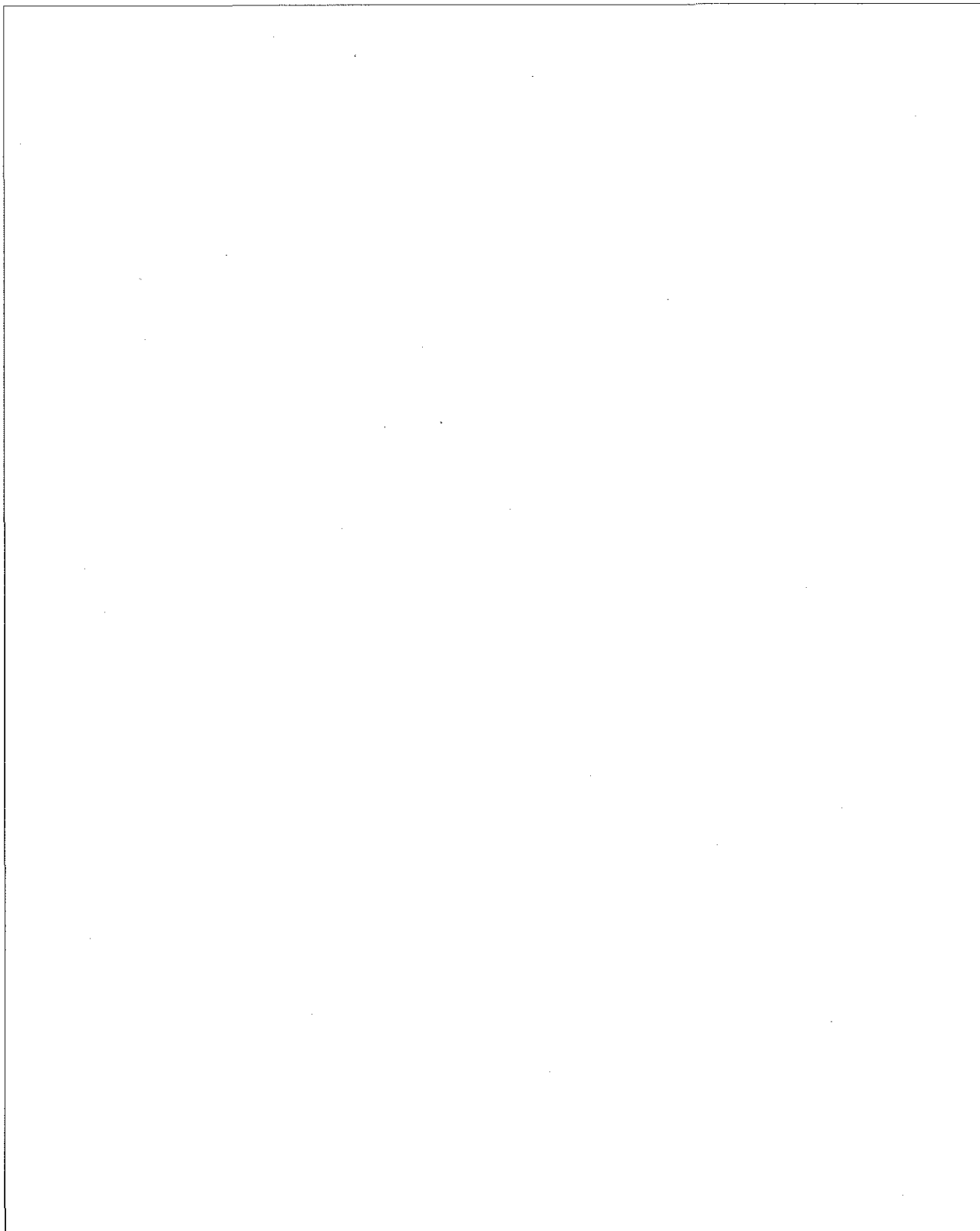




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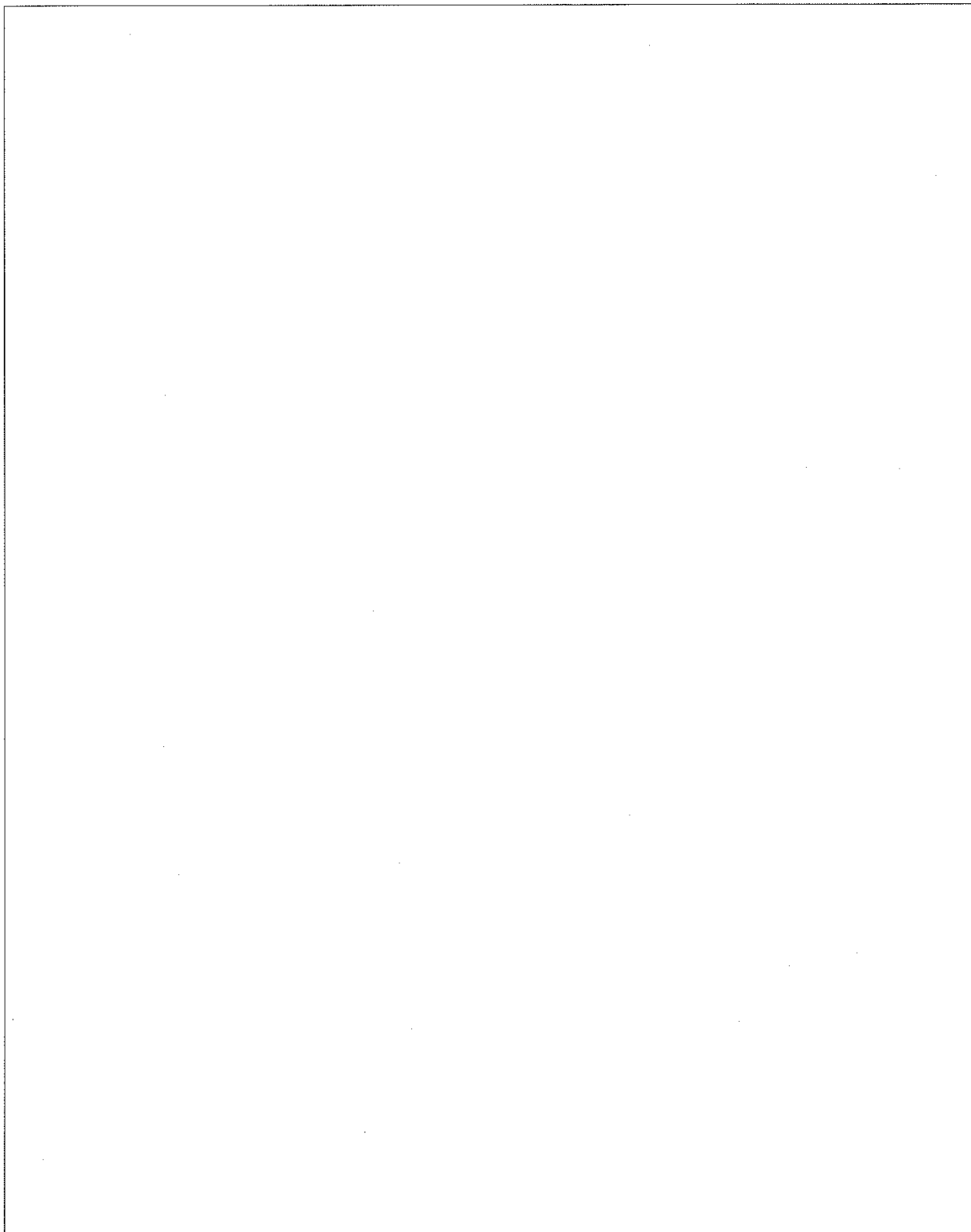
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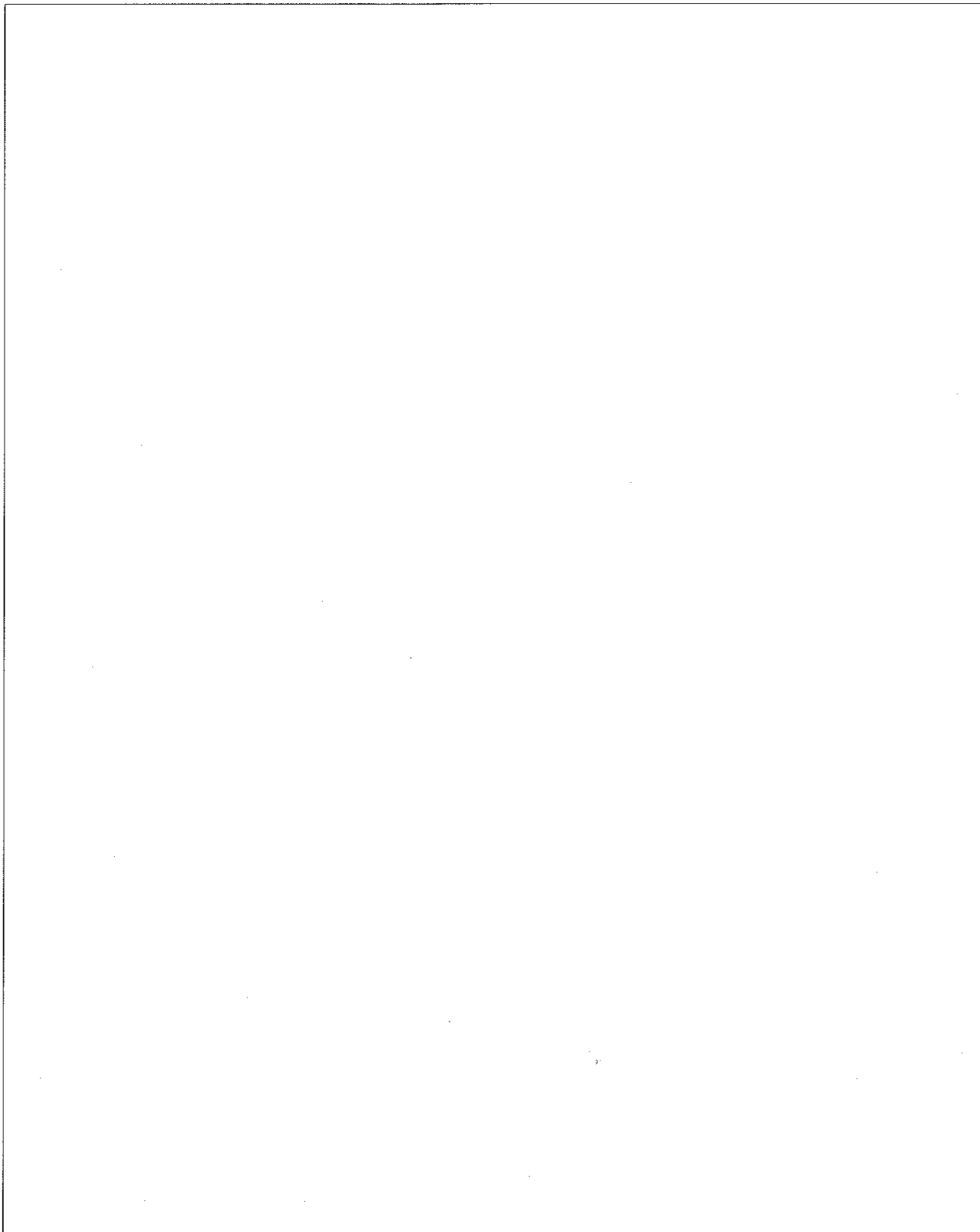
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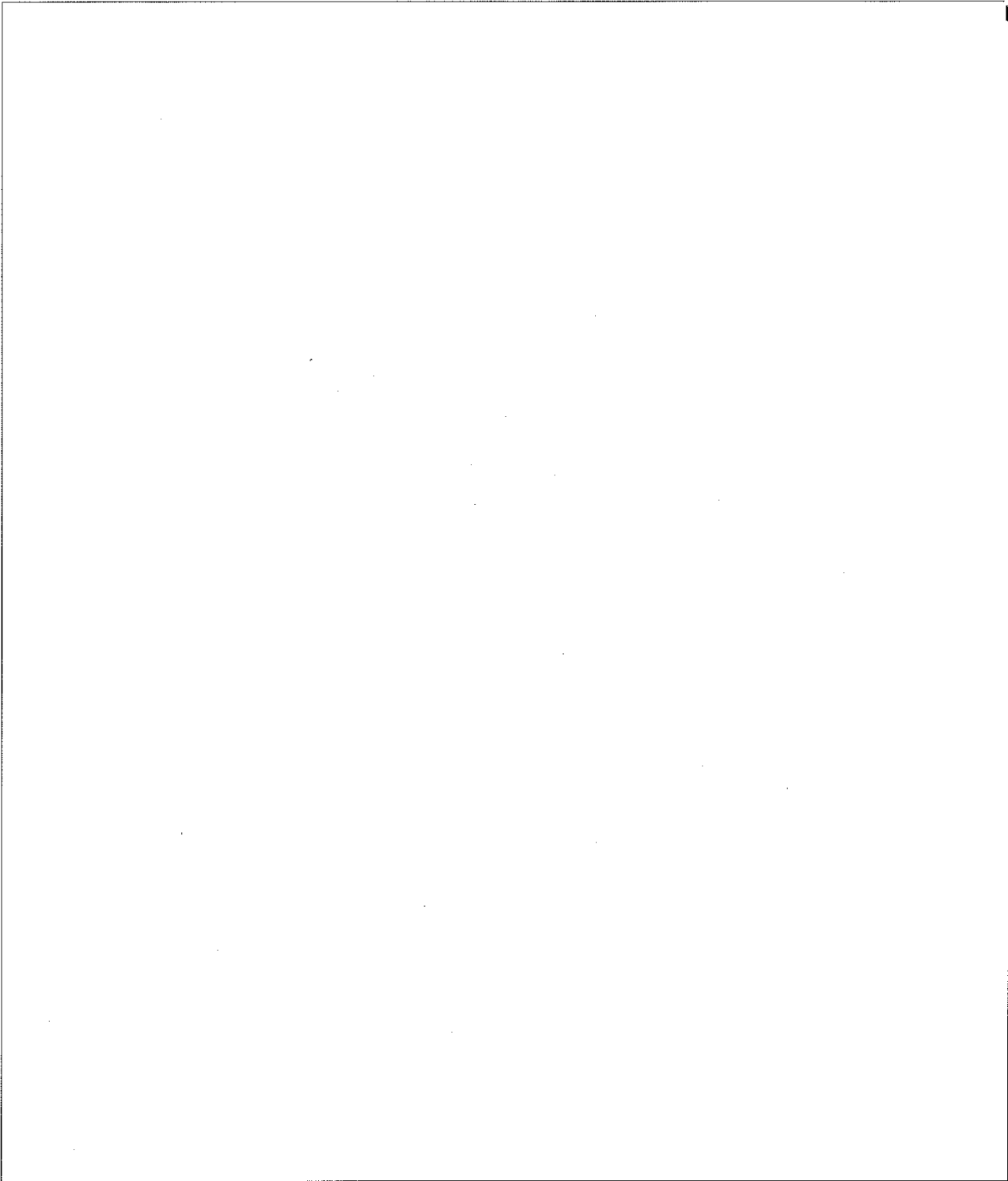
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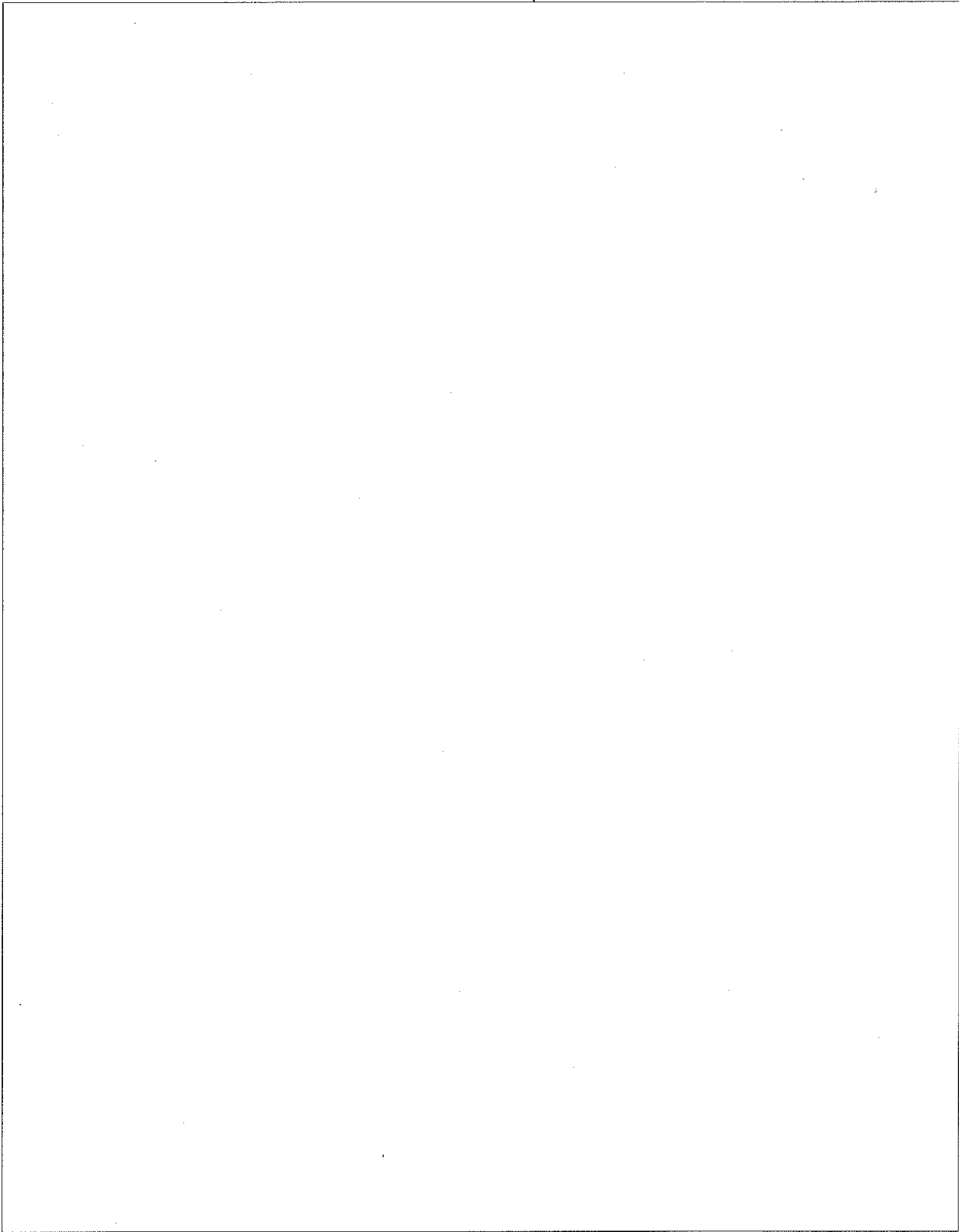
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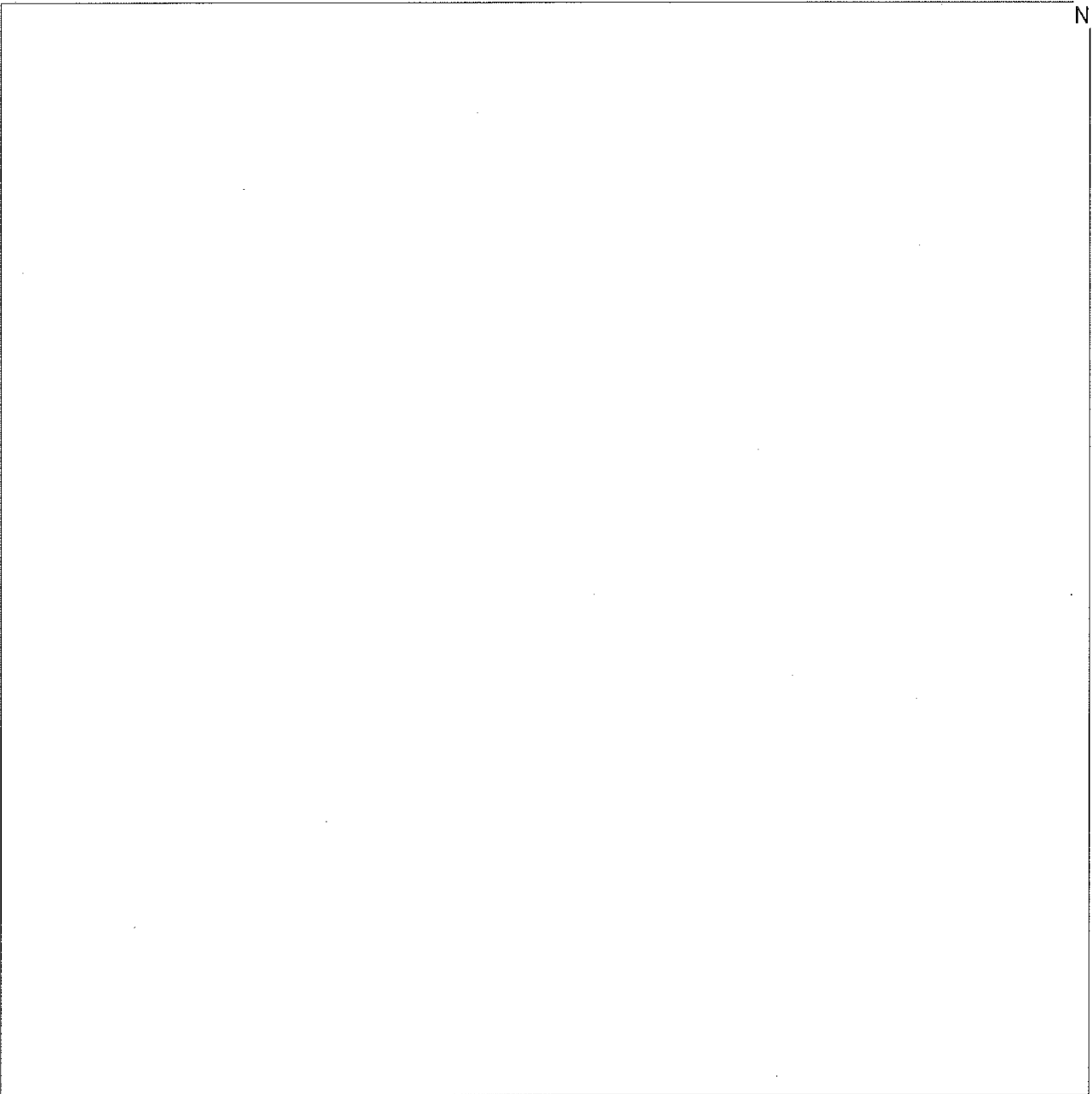


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(The briefing was concluded at 1:42 p.m.)

###

RELEASED IN FULL

R10

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Stafford, Edward G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 5:03 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Fernandes, Anthony C  
**Subject:** Flotilla II coming?

Ambassador:

NSS and Embassy Tel Aviv have expressed concerns that Flotilla II ships may sail from Turkish ports (among several in the Med) in the near future before the weather in the Eastern Med turns too bad for vessels of this size/type to sail. The Gov of Israel has been demarching countries to make sure Flotilla II does not happen. Given previous GOT statements about escorting vessels in the Eastern Med and Freedom of Navigation, there are questions about GOT response. We are not suggesting you raise, or have D raise, but wanted you to be aware if it is raised by others.

Background information:

--Several ships that wished to participate in Flotilla II in July but did not do so for various reasons appear to be ready to sail and have made public their intention to sail to Gaza and "break the blockade" (MV Saoirse in Fethiye and MV Tahrir)  
--to our knowledge, the ships are Irish and Sierr Leonean flagged, none are Turkish-flagged or owned  
--the last Flotilla vessel to violate the Israeli blockade was the Dignite al Karama, which sailed from a Greek port after indicating it planned to sail to Egypt. On July 19, Israeli forces, using non-lethal means, stopped it, boarded it, and took control, taking it and its personnel to Ashdod.

Edward G. Stafford  
Counselor for Political-Military Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
Ataturk Bulvari 110  
Kavaklidere, 06100 Ankara  
+90 (312) 457-7170  
+90 532 620 5294

"Loyalty is too valuable a virtue to  
be lavished on an individual person."

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

R11

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 03, 2011 4:52 AM  
**To:** 'ricciardonemd@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Fw: 'RE: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel'  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

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**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**To:** 'Godfrey, Anthony' <Anthony\_F\_Godfrey@nss.eop.gov>; Kim, Yuri J  
**Cc:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Fri Sep 02 17:14:43 2011  
**Subject:** RE: 'RE: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel'

This seems about right according to my quick read. MFA web site does not have the transcript posted. Jess

Jess L. Baily  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
90-312-455-5555  
bailyjl@state.gov

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Godfrey, Anthony [mailto:Anthony\_F\_Godfrey@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 5:11 PM  
**To:** Godfrey, Anthony; Kim, Yuri J; Baily, Jess L  
**Cc:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: 'RE: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel'

Here it is: **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Davutoglu Rejects Palmer Report; Announces Steps Against Israel**

GMP20110902734009 Istanbul NTV in Turkish 0930 GMT 02 Sep 11

[Statement by Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Ankara -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Davutoglu, broadcast in progress] ...I find it useful to reiterate the following:

Israel's attack occurred in international waters. Those who were killed by Israeli soldiers were innocent civilians. The murdered persons were civilians who were responding to the cries, and trying to help the Palestinian people who are oppressed under the Gaza blockade imposed by Israel contrary to international law and human values.

War is unfortunately a bitter truth in the history of humanity. It is, above all else, the heaviest assault on the human being, the most sacred of values. In fact, all civilizations have created the concept of a just war in order to base even wars on certain principles. That is why the UN Charter says military force must be resorted to only under very strict conditions.

Also, due to the faith in the sacredness of the right to live, even in cases when a war is legitimate, the murder of civilians is considered a war crime.

As for Israel, it murdered civilians who participated in a peaceful act to bring help to innocent people suffering under an oppressive blockade, and it did that at a time of peace, not of war, and in a civilian aid convoy, not a military one. That is the picture.

Furthermore, it did that not on its own land or its territorial waters, but in international waters where freedom of navigation prevails in accordance with one of the most basic principles of international law. The crime committed by Israel is not a simple one. It is international law that has been violated. It is human conscience that has been violated. It is the right to life, the most fundamental humanitarian value, that has been violated.

There is a fact that cannot be changed, and it is this: Attacking civilians in a boat in an aid convoy and killing unarmed persons by shooting them repeatedly in the neck constitute a crime of humanity. Nothing can hide or justify this crime.

There is another point that needs to be known: No state is above the law. The world is changing. Those who murder civilians or who commit crimes of humanity are facing the law and being put on trial, sooner or later. Not the Israeli Government that ordered the attack on the Mavi Marmara, nor the ones who carried out this attack are above the law or inculpable. They must all account for their deeds before the law. Actually, they have already been convicted by human conscience.

Esteemed members of the press,

You may remember that Turkey quickly took steps to ensure that justice prevailed and that this crime did not remain unpunished. On the day of the Israeli attack, we called the UN Security Council [UNSC] to an urgent meeting. In my speech at that meeting, I said that humanity drowned in the waters of the Mediterranean with this Israeli attack that disregarded the law, human conscience and values. In fact, in the early hours of 1 June 2010, the UNSC unanimously accepted -- with a full international community consensus -- a UNSC Presidency statement. With this statement, the Security Council called for a speedy, transparent, reliable, and neutral investigation to be conducted in line with international standards into this tragedy that had occurred as a result of Israel's use of armed force.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Council which is based in Geneva also adopted a decision to form a data-gathering commission composed of extremely respected experts and jurists to investigate the attack. In line with the call of the UNSC, the UN secretary general formed an investigative panel.

Turkey acted in full cooperation with the panel. We did all we could to help speed up the investigation process, and we submitted our national report.

As for Israel, even though it was part of the panel, it constantly acted with a view to delaying and preventing the panel's work.

Also, as we all know, we asked the Israeli Government to officially apologize for this attack and to pay compensation to the families of the murdered civilians. We stressed that the blockade on Gaza -- which was openly criticized in the UNSC Presidency statement -- must be lifted. We declared that Turkish-Israeli ties would not normalize unless our conditions were met.

On the other hand, when the Israeli Government informed us that it was ready to hold talks with the Turkish Government in order to apologize to the Turkish people and to pay compensation to the families of those killed in the attack, we held a total of four rounds of talks at different times. The Turkish and Israeli delegations that were conducting the negotiations reached agreements a few times on accords that met our country's demands for an apology and compensation. In fact, after Turkey helped put out the forest fire in Israel in December 2010, as a result of talks held in Geneva following a demand by the Israeli prime minister, agreement was reached on two separate accords ad referendum. This agreement was approved by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. It could not be put into practice, however, as a result of the disagreements in the Israeli Cabinet in connection with signing that agreement.

During this process, all the delays in the publication of the Palmer Commission Report -- I am stressing that, because we are being faced with a very serious manipulation of the press -- were caused by the Israeli Government's requests on the grounds that it needed time to achieve an inner consensus regarding the apology and compensation. In other words, all the delays were the result of the Israeli Government's requests.

We did not accept the latest Israeli request for a six-month delay. We refused that request because it became obvious that the delays were meant to spread the issue over time.

In this context, it is without a doubt food for thought that the report -- of which Turkey or Israel were not a part, and which carries the signatures of only Chairman Palmer and his aide Uribe -- was leaked to the press on 1 September, before it was officially presented to the UN secretary general. I discussed this issue openly with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon yesterday [ 1 September]. He said that he did not know the details of the report which had not been submitted to him yet, and that he was truly saddened by and amazed about this leak. Unfortunately, during this process, the Israeli side never acted with a sense of a seriousness or secrecy that befits a state.

The first thing that we need to make clear is that this report reflects the views of only the said persons. The report clearly cites the crimes committed by the Israeli soldiers and other Israeli officials. It states that the attack by a large military force on ships in a location that was very far away from Israel's blockade area was excessive and unexplainable. It states that the deaths and injuries caused by Israeli soldiers are unacceptable, that Israel failed to explain the loss of nine lives, and that the evidence shows that most of the

victims were shot repeatedly at close range and from behind. Furthermore, it clearly states that the passengers were seriously mishandled, meaning that they were physically beaten, abused, and threatened, that their personal belongings were illegally seized, and that they were prevented from receiving consular help.

The report states, however, that the inhuman blockade imposed on Gaza is legal. Naturally it is impossible and out of the question to accept this contention.

Last year, immediately after the incident, the UN Human Rights Council's data-gathering commission which was composed of experts and extremely qualified jurists clearly posited that the Gaza blockade is contrary to international law. This was approved by the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly, in other words, by the entire international community.

The positing of different and very debatable views by the panel's president and his aide, who clearly exceeded the authority granted to the panel, seems to be based on political rather than legal reasons.

Turkey does not accept in any way this approach which damages the panel's function and reliability.

Turkey strongly rejects this judgment which is incompatible with the text and spirit of the UNSC Presidency declaration that had been accepted unanimously.

We are determined to take this issue to international legal bodies.

Esteemed friends,

Our attitude toward Israel's illegal act has been very clear and principled from the first moment. Our demands are known. Unless these conditions are met, our relations with Israel will not normalize.

At the point we are at today, Israel has wasted all the opportunities given to it. The time has come for the Israeli Government to bear the consequences of and pay a price for its illegitimate actions which it carries out by considering itself to be above international law and by completely disregarding human conscience. This price is, above all, to be left without Turkey's friendship. The only responsible party for this state of affairs is the Israeli Government and the Israeli Government's irresponsible act.

In this context, our government has decided to take the following measures at this stage:

1. Turkish-Israeli diplomatic relations will be reduced to the level of second secretary. All officials above this level, headed by the ambassador, will returned to their country by Wednesday [ 7 September] at the latest.
2. All the military agreements between Turkey and Israel have been suspended.
3. As a country that has the longest shoreline in the eastern Mediterranean, Turkey will take all the measures it deems necessary for the freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean.
4. Turkey does not recognize Israel's blockade of Gaza. It will make sure that the blockade, which Israel declared on Gaza on 31 May 2010, is investigated by the International Court of Justice. We are starting to take steps to activate the UNGA in this regard.
5. We will

give all the support necessary to the victims -- Turkish or otherwise -- of the Israeli attack in their quest for their rights in courts.

Esteemed members of the press,

I would like to stress one more point here. Turkey has always represented a mentality that wants to make sure peace and not war, justice and not oppression prevail. Our foreign policy is based on this fundamental understanding. That is why just as we raised our voice against the massacres in Bosnia and Kosovo in the past, we showed our reaction to the inhuman Israeli attacks in Gaza today, too.

Today, the Israeli Government must make a choice: The Israeli leaders must realize that real security can come only if real peace is built. They must realize that the way to building real peace is by strengthening friendships, not by murdering the citizens of friendly nations. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the current Israeli Government is incapable of seeing this reality or of realizing the consequences of the huge changes taking place in the Middle East.

On this occasion, I would like to particularly stress that the measures we are taking and that we will take in the future are linked only to the attitude of the current Israeli Government. Our aim is not to hurt the historic Turkish-Jewish friendship, but on the contrary, to guide the Israeli Government toward rectifying a mistake that does not fit this exceptional friendship.

Turkey has always had a sincere and constructive attitude to prevent developments that damage regional and global peace and stability, and to redress negative developments that have taken place. From the beginning, it posited its demands and expectations regarding this issue clearly and in a principled way, and it did what was expected of it.

I would like to stress this once again: The only party responsible for the current state of affairs is the Israeli Government. Unless the Israeli Government takes the necessary steps, there will not be a going back from the current situation. Thank you.

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**From:** Godfrey, Anthony  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 10:10 AM  
**To:** 'Kim, Yuri J'; Baily, Jess L  
**Cc:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: `RE: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

Thanks – Yuri – OSC (the office formerly known as FBIS) has a relatively full translation. You might want to have your folks working from that...

---

**From:** Kim, Yuri J [mailto:KimYJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** Godfrey, Anthony; Baily, Jess L

**Cc:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** Re: `RE: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

We have the prepared text and are working on translation.

---

**From:** Godfrey, Anthony <Anthony\_F\_Godfrey@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Baily, Jess L  
**Cc:** Kim, Yuri J; Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Fri Sep 02 17:04:08 2011  
**Subject:** `RE: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

Jess -- thanks. Here's a paper that the Embassy here just gave us.

Tom Donilon asked for a transcript of Dav's remarks today. I sent Suheyla's full readout, but that did not satisfy. Can we ask for a transcript?

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L [mailto:BailyJL@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 9:55 AM  
**To:** Godfrey, Anthony; Silverman, Lawrence  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

Jess L. Baily  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
90-312-455-5555  
bailyjl@state.gov

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 4:51 PM  
**To:** EUR-SE-TU-DL; Rubin, Eric S  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

Jess L. Baily  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
90-312-455-5555  
bailyjl@state.gov

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



---

**From:** SMART Core [mailto:svcSMARTBTSRctSPrec@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 4:41 PM  
**To:** Brown, Kristina M; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Witmer, Kami A; Bailey, Sarah L; Fetterman, Eric D; Wright, Geoffrey W; Fernandes, Anthony C; Jones, Stacey L; Bijanki, Ashwin E; Dunn, Patrick M; Hay, Andrew W; Kim, Yuri J; Keane, Rob X; Stafford, Edward G  
**Cc:** Tobey, Laurence E; Campbell, Ross C; Campbell, Brigitte MC; Bruns, Thomas; Duda, Raymond P; Destito, Mark S; Baily, Jess L; Jaworski, Richard E; Lally, Michael; Owen, Christopher M; Hamilton, Clay M; Densmore, William E; Wroblewski, K Andrew  
**Subject:** Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU



**Action Office:** POL, POL\_MIL, ODC  
**Info Office:** EAC, DAO\_INFO

---

**MRN:** 11 ANKARA 1431  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 02, 2011 / 021338Z SEP 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, MARR, MOPS, ICJ, TU, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) ANKARA 1323  
**Subject:** Turkey to Downgrade Relations with Israel

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: FM Davutoglu announced during a September 2 press conference the GoT's intention to downgrade relations with Israel if the latter does not apologize for its May 31, 2010 interception of the Freedom Flotilla flagship Mavi Marmara by the official release of the Palmer Panel report expected for September 7. Davutoglu emphasized the GoT's goal is not to harm the centuries-old friendship between Turks and Jews, but to compel the Israeli government to rectify its mistakes. He rejected the leaked report's conclusion that the Gaza embargo is consistent with international law. The Israeli Embassy here has not yet received official notification of the downgrade in relations and requirement to withdraw personnel. We expect the MFA to withhold that notice until the Palmer Panel report's official release on September 6. Davutoglu will be attending the September 3 informal EU foreign ministers meeting (Gymnich). END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) Reacting to the past 24 hours' media leaks of the Palmer Panel report conclusions, FM Davutoglu announced during a 12:30 p.m. (Ankara time) press conference:

- Turkey's intention to downgrade relations with Israel to the second secretary level effective September 7 if the GoI fails to apologize for the Mavi Marmara's interception. (Note: GOT expecting Palmer Panel report on September 6 but MFA source said indicate this action will take place on September 7 whether report is released or not.)
- The suspension of all bilateral military agreements (NOTE: This may/may impact the servicing contract for the Israel Aerospace Industries Heron UAVs sold to the Turkish military and used in anti-PKK operations.)
- Turkey will, as the country with the longest coastline in the eastern Mediterranean, take measures to ensure

- freedom of navigation.
- The GoT will challenge the legality of Israel's blockade of Gaza in the International Court of Justice.
- The GoT will support Turkish and other victims of Israeli attacks.

(NOTE: REFTTEL reported concerns that the GoT might seek to throttle the Israeli-Turkish commercial relationship. Davutoglu did not mention any GoT intent to cut business ties or other people to people exchanges with Israel.)

3. (U) Davutoglu emphasized that, by taking these actions, the GoT's goal is not to harm the centuries-old friendship between Turks and Jews, but to compel the Israeli government to rectify its mistakes. He attributed the downgrade in relations entirely to Israeli government actions. He said the GoI had wasted an opportunity to forestall this action and is paying the price through the loss of Turkey's friendship. He implied the GoT would reconsider its decision to downgrade relations if the GoI met Turkey's conditions, most notably an official apology for the Mavi Marmara's interception, before the Palmer report's issuance.

4. (SBU) Davutoglu opened his press conference with observations pertaining to the May 31, 2010 Israel Defense Forces interception of the Mavi Marmara and the associated deaths of eight Turks and one Turkish-American. He said:

- Israel launched the attack in international waters against civilians on board a civilian vessel that was attempting to provide aid to the people of Gaza, which is under Israeli blockade.
- Nine civilians, eight Turks and one American, died in the attack, while the rest of the people on board were taken prisoner.
- The killing of innocent civilians is a war crime, a crime against humanity.
- No countries are above the law; no countries are exempt from judicial processes.
- A war crime was committed in international waters, a crime against humanity.
- Turkey had cooperated with the investigation process.
- Turkey had announced it would not normalize relations unless Israel met Turkish conditions.
- Turkey has been confronted by attempts to manipulate the media. (NOTE: The GoT has been repeatedly irked by leaks to Israeli media on the progress of its discreet rapprochement discussions with the GoI.)
- Israel had requested the past postponements of the Palmer Panel report's release. Turkey had rejected the GoI's last request for a six-month postponement.
- The report was leaked in the press before it was submitted to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.
- The report reflects only the views of the panel chairman and his deputy.
- Turkey cannot accept its conclusion the Gaza blockade is in compliance with international law; the report's political goals interfere with its legal analysis.
- Turkey will take the blockade issue to the international courts.
- The report describes Israel as having used excessive force.

5. (SBU) Davutoglu concluded his statement by saying that the measures he outlined would not be reversible without Israel taking the "necessary steps." MFA officials do not anticipate that the GoI will be in a position to take the long-discussed necessary steps in the near future, much less by Wednesday, the deadline for the return home of diplomats above the second secretary level.

6. (SBU) The Israeli Embassy here told us that, as of 15:30 p.m. (Ankara time), it had received no official notice of the downgrade in relations or order to depart. (COMMENT: We expect to MFA to withhold that notice until the Palmer Panel report's official release.) Ambassador Levy is in Israel on leave, and was to return week of September 5 prior to an expected mid-month departure from Ankara. The Israeli Consulate in Istanbul does not expect the anticipated Turkish action to force the Consul General to leave. The embassy is not aware of any planned demonstrations in front of its missions and does not expect any demonstrations this weekend.

**Signature:** BAILY

---

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Cleared By:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Approved By:** Baily, Jess L  
**Released By:** ANKARA:Baily, Jess L  
**Info:** LONDON, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; BRUSSELS, USEU *ROUTINE*; THE HAGUE, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD *IMMEDIATE*; DIA WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE *IMMEDIATE*; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *IMMEDIATE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *IMMEDIATE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*; CJCS WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** EAC, POL, POL\_MIL, ODC, DAO\_INFO

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
SBU

RELEASED IN FULL,  
Non-responsive deleted  
NR

R12

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 10:21 AM  
**To:** 'ricciardonemd@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** FW: Clinton on Syria-Turkey Border, June 23  
  
**Categories:** Working

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
Ankara, Turkey  
tel: +90 312 457 7280

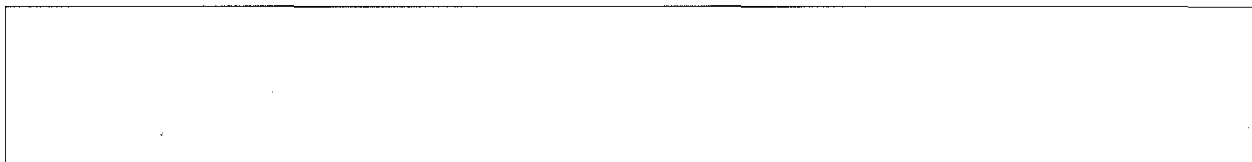
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 9:01 AM  
**To:** Ozbag, Didem; AnkaraAMB; Ankara-POL-DL; Ankara-PAO-IO-DL; Ankara-PMA-DL; Silliman, Douglas A; Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** Clinton on Syria-Turkey Border, June 23

Q/A from Press Availability with Philippine Leader

Excerpt, June 23



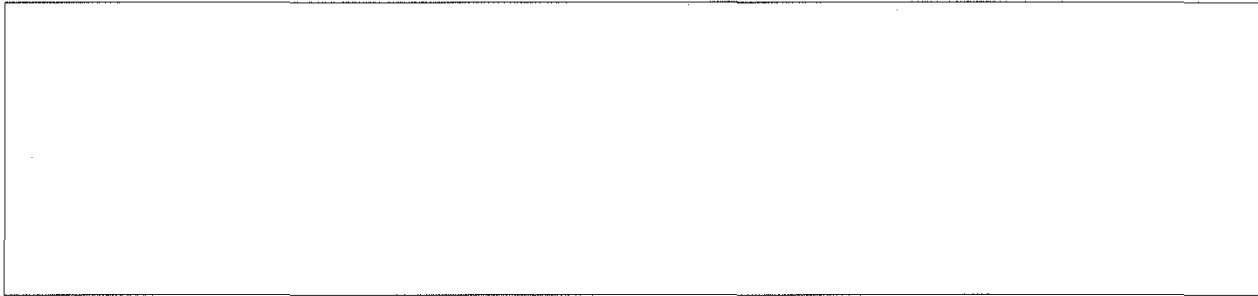
NR

And also, Madam Secretary, there's reports that another flotilla may be headed to Gaza within the next couple days. What is your message to the organizers and participants in that? Thank you.



**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

NR



**QUESTION:** (Inaudible) flotilla (inaudible)?

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Well, we do not believe that the flotilla is a necessary or useful effort to try to assist the people of Gaza. Just this week, the Israeli Government approved a significant commitment to housing in Gaza. There will be construction materials entering Gaza and we think that it's not helpful for there to be flotillas that try to provoke actions by entering into Israeli waters and creating a situation in which the Israelis have the right to defend themselves.

Deborah L. Guido  
Spokesperson  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
Office: 90-312-457-7312  
Cell: 90 0532 341-2862  
Email: [guidodi@state.gov](mailto:guidodi@state.gov)  
U.S. Embassy Web Page  
Visit us on Facebook

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RELEASED IN FULL

RB

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 1:44 AM  
**To:** 'ricciardonemd@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Fw: FYI - Americans Joining Flotilla - NYT June 2

There is hope

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
American Embassy  
Ankara, Turkey

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Tel: +90 312 457 7280

---

**From:** Deborah GuidoOGrady <dgo999@gmail.com>  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Ankara-PMA-DL; Leary, Thomas M  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 02 07:19:33 2011  
**Subject:** FYI - Americans Joining Flotilla - NYT June 2

June 1, 2011 - New York Times

**Americans Are Joining Flotilla to Protest Israeli Blockade**

By LAURIE GOODSTEIN

When an international flotilla sails for Gaza this month to challenge Israel's naval blockade of the Palestinian territory, among the boats will be an American ship with 34 passengers, including the writer Alice Walker and an 86-year-old whose parents died in the Holocaust.

A year ago, nine people in a flotilla of six boats were killed when Israeli commandos boarded a Turkish boat in international waters off the coast of Gaza. The Israelis said their commandos were attacked and struck back in self-defense, but the Turks blamed the Israelis for using live ammunition. The raid soured relations between Israel and Turkey and intensified pressure on Israel to end the naval blockade.

Organizers said the new flotilla, scheduled to leave in late June from a port they would not identify, had at least 1,000 passengers on about 10 boats. One boat will carry Spaniards, another Canadians, another Swiss and another Irish.

The Americans have named their boat "The Audacity of Hope," lifting the title of a book by President Obama to make a point, said Leslie Cagan, a political organizer who is the coordinator of the American boat.

"We're sending a message to our own government that we think it could play a much more positive role in not only ending the siege of Gaza, but also ending the whole

occupation” of Palestinian land, she said. “The phrase does capture what we believe, which is that it is possible to make change in a positive way, and that’s a very hopeful stance.”

After Hamas took over Gaza in 2007, Israel imposed an embargo on the area, with Egypt’s help, essentially trapping the population in an effort to enforce security and to squeeze the militant group. Although Israel has maintained the sea blockade, it loosened the land blockade after the international condemnation that followed the raid on the Turkish boat. And last week, Egypt officially reopened the Rafah border crossing, allowing more people to pass between Egypt and Gaza.

Noam Katz, minister for public diplomacy at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, said in an interview, “We see this flotilla as a political statement in order to support Hamas in Gaza. Hamas is a terror organization that took control of Gaza and its people and is committed to the destruction of the state of Israel. We have a blockade, and we are going to enforce this blockade.”

The American passengers say they support the Palestinian people, not Hamas. They liken their strategy to that of the Freedom Riders, who 50 years ago rode buses to the American South to challenge segregation.

Gabriel Schivone, a student at the University of Arizona who is joining the flotilla, said, “It’s in the tradition of Dr. King’s direct-action principles, to create a situation so tension-packed that it forces the world to look and see what’s happening to the Palestinians.”

To explain why she was joining the flotilla, Hedy Epstein, the 86-year-old, said, “The American Jewish community and Israel both say that they speak for all Jews. They don’t speak for me. They don’t speak for the Jews in this country who are going to be on the U.S. boat, and the many others standing behind us.”

The American boat is owned by a Greek company and registered in Delaware, Ms. Cagan said. It will carry letters from Americans to Palestinians, not aid. About a quarter of the passengers are Jewish. Among the crew is a former captain in the Israeli Air Force who refused to fly missions in Gaza.

--  
Deborah Guido-O’Grady  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
0532-341-2862

R14

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 9:20 AM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L  
**Subject:** FW: Haaretz/ "Turkey denied Netanyahu effort to delay release of Gaza flotilla report"  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

fyi

---

**From:** fsinirlioglu@mfa.gov.tr [mailto:fsinirlioglu@mfa.gov.tr]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 29, 2011 12:18 PM  
**To:** Burns, William J; Gordon, Phillip H; Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** Fw: Haaretz/ "Turkey denied Netanyahu effort to delay release of Gaza flotilla report"

Bu e-posta, Turkcell BlackBerry ile gönderilmiştir.

---

**From:** Burcu Erdoğan <burcu.erdogdu@mfa.gov.tr>  
**Date:** Mon, 29 Aug 2011 11:29:42 +0300  
**To:** Feridun Sinirlioglu <fsinirlioglu@mfa.gov.tr>; <fsinirlioglu@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** Mehmet Kemal Bozay <Mehmet.Bozay@mfa.gov.tr>  
**Subject:** Haaretz/ "Turkey denied Netanyahu effort to delay release of Gaza flotilla report"

**HAARETZ.com**

**Turkey denied Netanyahu effort to delay release of Gaza flotilla report**

**Turkey claims Netanyahu attempting to buy time, add that they prefer an unfavorable report over waiting another two fruitless months; Palmer Report due to be published on Friday September 2.**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu suggested a few days ago that the Palmer Report on the Israel Defense Forces' raid of a Gaza-bound flotilla in which nine Turkish activists were killed, be delayed by six months.

The suggestion was made to the Turkish government and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, but Haaretz has learned that the Turkish government rejected Netanyahu's proposal, claiming it was not serious.

The UN investigative committee into the raid, headed by Geoffrey Palmer, is now due to publish the report this Friday, September 2.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1



The Palmer Report on the events that occurred on board the Turkish aid ship Mavi Marmara in 2010 has been delayed three times already, each time with the agreement of both Israel and Turkey, who made joint requests of the UN Secretary-General.

According to an official in Jerusalem, Netanyahu's latest suggestion to postpone the report's publication by six months was not warmly welcomed by the Turks.

Turkey saw Netanyahu's suggestion as an attempt to avoid reaching a decision on the reconciliation agreement and to stall progress. They explained that despite how problematic the report is for them, they would prefer for it to be published on September 2 than to wait another two grueling months, at the end of which it is not at all certain that Netanyahu would agree to apologize for what happened on board the Mavi Marmara.

An outline of the reconciliation agreement has already been approved by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and includes a softened Israeli apology for the events that occurred onboard the ship, in return for normalized relations with Turkey and a commitment on Turkey's behalf not to take legal proceedings personally against the Israeli soldiers and officers involved.

Turkey has said that if Israel does not apologize, it will carry out a series of actions detrimental to Israel-Turkey relations and that it would take legal action against Israel.

Netanyahu has avoided making a firm decision for a number of months regarding how Israel will deal with the situation. He told senior American officials that despite that he is interested in accepting the outline of the agreement and apologizing to Turkey, he feared such a move would lead Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman to withdraw from the coalition.

After Lieberman said he would not withdraw from the coalition, even if a decision was made to apologize to Turkey, Netanyahu changed his reasoning for postponing the report's publication, telling the Americans that he is not able to apologize, for he is under political pressure owing to the social protests.

Two weeks ago he informed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that Israel would not apologize for the 2010 Gaza flotilla raid. Speaking with Clinton via telephone, Netanyahu said that Israel does not intend to adopt an outline to restore its relationship with Turkey.

An official in Jerusalem said that Netanyahu told Clinton that Israel does not oppose the publication of the Palmer Committee's report, but that the date of the report's release depends on Ban Ki-moon.

RELEASED IN PART B6

R15

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2011 12:39 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Phillip H; 'esherwood-randall@nss.eop.gov'; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Cc:** Kim, Yuri J; Kaidanow, Tina S; Rubin, Eric S  
**Subject:** FW: Haaretz story on apology

In case you've not seen yet.  
Holding breath for Lieberman's reaction ...

---

**From:** Yuri Kim [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2011 7:31 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Subject:** Haaretz story on apology

B6

Looks like Israelis trying to prep their public or an apology:

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Home Print Edition News

Published 01:44 17.07.11 Latest update 01:44 17.07.11

Defense officials: Israel considering apology to Turkey over deadly Gaza flotilla raid

Cautious apology could stop possible lawsuits by Turkish organizations against Israel Defense Forces officers and bring the affair to an end.

By Amos Harel

Tags: Turkey Israel Turkey Gaza flotilla

The defense establishment is showing increased support for resolving the crisis between Israel and Turkey following the Mavi Marmara affair, even at the price of an apology to Ankara by Jerusalem.

Internal discussions between defense officials and Justice Ministry officials over the past few weeks have suggested that a cautious apology could stop possible lawsuits by Turkish organizations against Israel Defense Forces officers and bring the affair to an end.

A report by the UN-sponsored Palmer Committee on the incident, of which Israel received a draft earlier this month, is scheduled to be released in a few weeks. The report focuses on the events of May 31, 2010, when nine Turkish nationals were killed and dozens of participants were wounded after Israeli commandos took over the ship, which was part of a flotilla to Gaza.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been trying to reach a compromise between Turkey and Israel.

The committee has accepted Israel's claim - as has the Turkel committee which investigated the incident (where there were two foreign observers) - that Israel's maritime closure of the Gaza Strip is legal, and that Israel acted lawfully in deciding to stop the flotilla.

However, the report harshly criticized the way Israel acted in doing so; these actions led to the deaths of nine Turks, members of the radical Islamic group IHH, who were shot by Israeli naval commandos aboard the Mavi Marmara.

The committee determined that Israel used excessive force and said deaths could have been prevented in several cases - although participants armed with clubs and iron rods attacked the commanders as they descended from a helicopter to the ship.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has recently come out publicly against an apology, which he said would humiliate Israel and serve as a blow to national pride. Defense officials counter that an apology now will prevent legal problems

later for officers and soldiers.

Photographs of several IDF personnel involved in the raid have been posted on the Internet and are now in the hands of leftist and Islamic groups in Europe. Defense and justice officials have expressed concern that these groups will take steps similar to those of British pro-Palestinian groups, which have prevented senior Israeli officials from entering Britain for quite some time.

In this case, however, a ban would extend to young soldiers who took part in the raid, many of whom are about to be released from the army and are planning trips abroad.

Senior defense officials told Haaretz that Israel has a major stake in improving relations with Turkey in light of Turkey's standing in the region, its past economic relationship with Israel and the opportunity to renew defense-related export to Turkey.

Although these views do not represent the Defense Ministry's official stance, Defense Minister Ehud Barak intimated as much in an interview last week on Channel 1: "From a strategic point of view, we have an interest in smoothing things over with Turkey," Barak said. "National pride is important [but] in the end, we have to understand that we have other interests here ... Turkey can have an important role in issues relating to Syria, Iran, Lebanon and Hamas."

This story is by:

Amos Harel

R16

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:19 PM  
**To:** 'ricciardonemd@gmail.com'; 'berivan\_orucoglu@yahoo.com'  
**Subject:** Fw: Israel: Turkish leak

RELEASED IN FULL

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
American Embassy  
Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90 312 457 7280

---

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Silliman, Douglas A  
**Cc:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Thu Jul 07 16:31:27 2011  
**Subject:** Israel: Turkish leak

AFP report featuring unhelpful comments attributed to "a Turkish source."

Israel-Turkey flotilla talks 'break down'

(AFP) -- 14 hours ago

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

ISTANBUL — A UN-sponsored report accused Israel of using force prematurely and causing "unacceptable" deaths in its assault of a Gaza-bound ship that killed nine Turks over a year ago, a Turkish source said Thursday.

Israel and Turkey failed to reach agreement, refusing to sign the report about the Israeli raid on the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara in May last year, which was due to be handed to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon later Thursday, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"Non-violent options should have been used in the first instance," the Turkish source quoted the report as saying.

The dead and wounded resulting from the raid were "unacceptable," the report added.

The Mavi Marmara was leading a flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory, subject to an Israeli-imposed blockade, when an intervention by Israeli security forces in international waters ended in bloodshed.

Nine Turkish passengers were killed in the assault on the ship that had been chartered by a Turkish Islamist group.

Following the May 31 raid, Turkey withdrew its ambassador in Tel Aviv, vowing that bilateral relations "would never be the same."

Israel refused to sign the report after a commission of inquiry concluded that its forces had acted in an "excessive" manner by swooping on the Mavi Marmara a long way from the Gaza Strip and without giving a final warning to the vessel.

The source said Turkey's refusal to sign off on the report stemmed from the fact that it did not say Israel's blockade of Gaza was illegal.

Over the past year, Ankara has repeatedly said it was demanding apologies and compensation from Israel for the victims' families.

Still, there have been signs in recent weeks that the two countries were trying to overcome their differences.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel and Turkey were looking to heal the breach in relations that followed the flotilla incident.

"We are seeking ways of improving our current relations," Netanyahu told journalists in Bucharest on Wednesday.

Several attempts to restore ties between the former close allies have led nowhere, but Israel was encouraged after the owners of the Turkish ferry said it would not be participating in a second attempt to reach Gaza this month.

"We are trying to make concrete steps," Netanyahu said.

"Apart from the fact that Turkey did not participate in the (latest) flotilla, there are other signs allowing us to talk of an improvement in our relations."

Key to any reconciliation is Turkey's demand that Israel apologise for its actions.

But Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman reiterated his opposition to such a step in remarks to the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

"We have no interest in a confrontation with Turkey and we are in favour of renewing our relations with Turkey; we have no territorial dispute with Turkey and we are ready to reach a compromise," he said.

"We are not prepared to be dictated to and we are not prepared to be humiliated or to abandon our troops.

"An apology is not a compromise -- in my view, it is humiliation and abandonment of our soldiers," he continued.

On Tuesday, Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said contacts with Turkey had been intensified in order to solve the crisis and "turn the page" on previous disagreements.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

R17

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 8:22 AM  
**To:** Kim, Yuri J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Pierce, Thomas JN; Avery, David; Stafford, Edward G  
**Subject:** FW: Israeli Navy boards French M/V Dignite/Karama of the Gaza flotilla (SBU)

**Categories:** Working

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
Ankara, Turkey  
tel: +90 312 457 7280

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 1:04 PM  
**Subject:** Israeli Navy boards French M/V Dignite/Karama of the Gaza flotilla (SBU)

(SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv confirmed the the Israeli Navy boarded the ship at 0535 EDT/1235 Tel Aviv approximately 1-2 miles outside Israel's Gaza blockade line. The navy is reportedly in control of the ship and is taking it to the Israeli port of Ashdod. The Israeli Foreign Ministry is not aware of any injuries or casualties. Embassy Paris reports the French Foreign Ministry has been in regular contact with Israeli counterparts and has urged Israel to use minimal force and to guarantee French consular access.

**Automatic electronic distribution to:** S, D(S), D(N), P, E, C, M, DG, T, R, PA, G, AF, EAP, EUR, NEA, SCA, WHA, IO, S/CRS, S/CT, S/HSC, H, DS, CA, PMAT, INR, AVC, IIP, ISN, CMS, S/ES, S/ES-O, NSOC, and WHSR.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

R18

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 04, 2011 4:02 AM  
**To:** 'ricciardonefmd@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Fw: Israeli op-eds/articles on Turkey

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Yuri Kim <yurijkim@hotmail.com>  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Ricciardone, Marie D.; Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Sun Sep 04 10:37:58 2011  
**Subject:** Israeli op-eds/articles on Turkey

Three items below from Israeli press: the op-ed and article from the Jerusalem Post both mention Turkey's need for Herons; Haaretz frets that international opinion will be on the side of the Turks and in calling for the Netanyahu gov't to apologize to Egypt before things get worse seems to imply advocacy for an apology to Turkey as well.

JP:

Analysis: From '0-problem' to '10-problem' policy

By EFRAT AVIV

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

04/09/2011

In the current atmosphere, Israel must play a new, sharp and calculated game of diplomacy and let Turkey act first.

A famous Turkish proverb expresses similarities between relationship and a string – when a string is cut, it says, there is always a possibility connecting both ends of the thread gives no option to avoid the knot.

If that is the path Turkey chooses to take when it comes to Israel, Israel is in big trouble.

But Turkey will not gain too much from the conflict either.

The *Mavi Marmara* affair was grasped as "The 9/11 of Israeli- Turkish relations," a term used for manifesting the shock coming from Ankara.

Despite all precautions, the Turks never dreamed the result of the flotilla would occur as they did.

The death of nine Turkish citizens from IDF-fire was taken as if it was a declaration of war. They were furious and made the *Marmara* incident relations with Israel, unless the latter bowed down and apologized.

In addition, the Turks complained about extensive leaks of information in Israel (e.g. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's initial decision to have more carefully observed the importance the Turks attributed to the incident and its effect on bilateral ties. Israel should have also kept it

\* Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and the AKP government are just part of the problem. Tu taken into consideration as well.

The responses following the *Marmara* raid were similar in all segments of Turkish society, creating a growing wave of criticism against Israel. elections-campaign was "Hedef 2023," (Aim: 2023, Erdogan believes his government will still be ruling when the Turkish Republic celebrates but no one can guarantee that of course. How can Israel bring back the Turks' alliance as well as friendship on the day after Erdogan?

- In the unusual diplomacy of the Middle East, especially when Israel can look at the great Turkish example, why does Jerusalem ignore the haven't we learned from Erdogan how to negotiate and twist reality to satisfy our own needs and interests? Some believe that especially in th means humiliation, submission and a blow to "national pride." But following the Turks, their famous pragmatism anchored in their days as an good. Why would Israel be interested in making it easier on Erdogan, who already called to lower the level of diplomatic relations in the past? up on the staggering \$2.6 billion the two nations exchange in trade every year? Why fall into the trap of Erdogan instead of learning from his must play a new, sharp, calculated game of diplomacy and let Turkey act first.

On the other hand, Israel might emerge as the greater loser here, but Turkey will not carry the day either. Domestic criticism accompanied by coming especially from the opposition leading party CHP, on AKP's decision, claiming that Erdogan's "zero problem policy" does not prove it: the price, on the other hand, is just too high.

Turkey's need for special military equipment required for combating the terrorist organization PKK, produced and made in Israel is a concern

losing trade and other options. Turkey's current problems with Syria and the heated declarations against Turkey coming from Ahmadinejad, a "problem policy" more relevant to this region.

Since AKP took control in Turkey, it has been trying to persuade the world, especially the West, that being at the same time a democratic and possible, Turkey has no tendencies of becoming "a second Iran" and that it can mediate between East and West. After downgrading the ties with "extra measures," Turkey will have to work harder on proving its "balanced policy" to us all.

*Dr. Efrat Aviv is a lecturer in Bar-Ilan University's Department of Middle Eastern Studies and a research associate at the Begin- Sadat (BESA) Studies at BIU.*

JP:

Turkey to hike naval presence in eastern Med

By YAAKOV KATZ

04/09/2011

"Israel will no longer be able to exercise its bullying practices freely," a Turkish diplomatic source tells a local newspaper.

The Turkish Navy will bolster its presence in the eastern Mediterranean Sea to prevent Israeli operations, Turkish officials said over the week between Jerusalem and Ankara intensified following the publication of the Palmer Report on last year's flotilla conflict.

"A more aggressive strategy will be pursued. Israel will no longer be able to exercise its bullying practices freely," a Turkish diplomatic source in the *Hurriyet Daily News*. The source said that the navy would accompany ships bringing aid to the Gaza Strip.

Turkey has threatened to deploy its navy to accompany aid ships to the Gaza Strip in the past.

Ahead of the recent flotilla that tried to set sail from Greece in June, the Israel Navy had raised concern that Turkish Navy ships would accompany. Such a scenario however never materialized.

Despite the new crisis, the IDF does not plan on recalling the newly-appointed military attaché to Ankara who took up his post last month. The Moshe Levi, former head of the Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration.

Israeli and Turkish defense ties mostly came to a standstill following Israel's operation to stop the Turkish flotilla last year, which ended with 10 nationals aboard the *Mavi Marmara* passenger ship.

"There are no sales and no joint exercises between us and Turkey," a defense official said on Friday. "There is also nothing planned for the n

The official noted that if Turkey followed through with cutting all defense ties with Israel, the move would have a negative impact on Turkish d which are dependent on Israeli companies for technology and exports.

One example is the joint venture that Israel Aerospace Industries, Elbit Systems and Turkey's Aselsan established, which won a \$183 million deliver Heron 1 unmanned aerial vehicles to the Turkish military. UAV deliveries have been completed, but Israeli defense contractors continue provide maintenance support.

Another example is a joint venture between Israel Military Industries and Aselsan to upgrade M60A1 main battle tanks. The two companies c last year of 170 tanks to the Turkish army in a \$687m. deal. According to recent reports, the companies were vying for a new contract in Cok

"The Turkish companies will not be able to bid for contracts without the Israeli companies," the official explained.

Meanwhile, as ties with Turkey continue to deteriorate, Israel is bolstering its ties with Greece.

On Sunday, the Greek Defense Minister Panos Beglitis will arrive in Israel for talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Benny Gantz.

Beglitis will be met by an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on Sunday and will tour IDF bases, as well as Israeli defense indust

Greece and Israel have strengthened defense ties in recent years and both air forces have held a number of joint drills in Greece over the pa

Haaretz:

- Published 00:51 04.09.11
- Latest update 00:51 04.09.11



## **World will likely support Turkey's moves against Israel**

**Supporting legal actions against Israel by families of the raid victims in Turkish and international courts, and appealing to International Court of Justice against the blockade of Gaza could have far-reaching effects.**

By Zvi Bar'el Tags: [Israel](#) [Turkey](#) [Gaza flotilla](#) [anti-Israel](#)

The expulsion of Israel's ambassador from Ankara and downgrading of diplomatic ties to the level of second secretary could turn out to be the lightest of the sanctions Turkey intends to impose on Israel. Supporting legal actions against Israel by families of the victims of the 2010 naval commando raid of the Mavi Marmara, in both Turkish and international courts, and appealing to the International Court of Justice against the blockade of the Gaza Strip could prove to be much more powerful. The former could affect the foreign travel plans of Israeli officers and decision makers, while the latter would move the Gaza issue from the local arena, where Israel maintains a relative advantage, to the international stage, which has not as yet interfered in Israeli policy vis-a-vis Gaza.

Turkey is judged likely to gain international support for its actions against Israel, in light of its climb in status in the global community in recent weeks. Contributing to Ankara's rising star are its harsh criticism of the Assad regime in Syria, despite heavy pressure from Iran; its cooperation with Libya's provisional government, and its support of the revolution in Egypt. Turkey's consent to the deployment of early warning radar, part of a NATO missile-defense system whose undeclared purpose is to protect Europe from Iranian missiles, is particularly important in this regard. The decision signals Turkish commitment to its alliance with NATO in general and to the United States in particular, deflecting the "accusation" that Ankara is turning away from the West and toward the East - that is, toward Tehran. It is Israel that may have to pay a price for Turkey's growing ties with the West and Ankara's decision to refuse Russia's entreaties to reject the radar deployment on its territory.

But Turkey's demand that Israel apologize, compensate the victims and lift the Gaza blockade is rooted primarily in Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's obligation to his electorate. It has become a common, uniting, national denominator, an integral part of Turkey's national prestige and its domestic policy.

The concept of national prestige has also trapped Israel, which on at least two occasions rejected a skillfully crafted apology to Turkey due to the objections of Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Vice Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon. Turkey is not an enemy state. Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu emphasized that Ankara's actions are a result of the policies of the Netanyahu government and are not intended to hurt the Israeli or Jewish people. He called on the Israeli government to amend its mistakes, which he said were not constructive to the remarkable friendship between Turkey and the Jewish people.

Davutoglu's remarks in effect are a declaration that Turkey sees the sanctions as a means of changing Israeli policy rather than as a policy or strategy in themselves. They place all the options for action in Israeli hands and emphasize Turkey's desire to maintain relations with Israel despite the enormous disagreement between the states.

Egyptians yesterday celebrated the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from Turkey. In a headline, Al-Masry Al-Youm termed the action a "lesson that Turkey taught Egypt" - an allusion to what Cairo should have done in the wake of last month's attack near Eilat. To keep relations with Egypt from deteriorating further, Jerusalem must put aside its "national prestige" and apologize for killing five Egyptian soldiers while responding to the terror attack near the Egyptian border.

RELEASED IN PART B6

R19

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 01, 2011 2:43 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Baily, Jess L  
**Subject:** Fw: MFA flotilla effort

I'm in touch with  in Sinirlioglu's office.

B6

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**To:** Levin, Jan; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Cc:** Silverman, Robert J; Berns, David B; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Cyril, Todd A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Stafford, Edward G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Blome, Donald A  
**Sent:** Tue Nov 01 20:40:30 2011  
**Subject:** Re: MFA flotilla effort

I have contacted U/S Sinirlioglu's office, which has played a critical role in managing previous flotilla-related issues. MFA will look into this and get back to us.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Levin, Jan  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Cc:** Silverman, Robert J; Berns, David B; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Cyril, Todd A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Kim, Yuri J; Stafford, Edward G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Blome, Donald A  
**Sent:** Tue Nov 01 19:03:50 2011  
**Subject:** MFA flotilla effort

Gary Koren just called to report that the Irish MFA told the GOI that it has confirmed that the yacht Saorirse is planning to sail from an unnamed Turkish port in two days, organized by Irish citizen Fintan Lane, who is a veteran of previous flotillas. The GOI has reached out to the Turkish MFA for assistance but received no concrete response.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

R20

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Monday, September 05, 2011 3:19 PM  
**To:** 'ricciardonemd@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Fw: NYT/Cohen op-ed on Turkey/Israel

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**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**To:** 'yurijkim@hotmail.com' <yurijkim@hotmail.com>; Ricciardone, Francis J; Ricciardone, Marie D.; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Grubisha, Thomas J  
**Sent:** Mon Sep 05 21:55:03 2011  
**Subject:** Re: NYT/Cohen op-ed on Turkey/Israel

Cohen wrote w/ passion on amcit death in july 2010 ("the forgotten american") so this view not new.  
Jess L. Baily  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey

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**From:** Yuri Kim <yurijkim@hotmail.com>  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Ricciardone, Marie D.; Baily, Jess L; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Mon Sep 05 21:11:42 2011  
**Subject:** NYT/Cohen op-ed on Turkey/Israel

Roger Cohen shames U.S. for silence on the death of the Amcit, calls for Israel to do the strategically right thing and apologize.

September 5, 2011

# Israel Isolates Itself

By **ROGER COHEN** REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

LONDON — Here's what the United Nations report on Israel's raid last year on the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara had to say about the killing of a 19-year-old U.S. citizen on board:  
"At least one of those killed, Furkan Dogan, was shot at extremely close range. Mr. Dogan sustained wounds to the face, back of the skull, back and left leg. That suggests he may already have been lying wounded when the fatal shot was delivered, as suggested by witness accounts to that effect."  
The four-member panel, led by Sir Geoffrey Palmer, a former prime minister of New Zealand, appears with these words to raise the possibility of an execution or something close.  
Dogan, born in upstate New York, was an aspiring doctor. Little interested in politics, he'd won a lottery to travel on the Gaza-bound vessel. The report says of him and the other eight people killed that, "No evidence has been provided to establish that any of the deceased were armed with lethal weapons."  
I met Dogan's father, Ahmet, a professor at Erciyes University in Kayseri, last year in Ankara: His grief was as deep as his dismay at U.S. evasiveness. It's hard to imagine any other circumstances in which the slaying in international waters, at point-blank range, of a U.S. citizen by forces of a foreign power would prompt such a singular American silence.  
Senior Turkish officials told me Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan had raised Dogan's fate with President Obama. But of course no U.S. president, and certainly no first-term U.S. president, would say what Prime Minister David Cameron of Britain said: "The Israeli attack on the Gaza flotilla was completely unacceptable." Even if there's an American citizen killed, raising such questions about Israel is a political no-no. So it goes in the taboo-littered cul-de-sac of U.S. foreign policy toward Israel, a foreign policy that is in large measure a domestic policy.  
The Palmer report, leaked to The New York Times last week, is a split-the-difference document, with the Israeli and

Turkish members of the panel including notes of dissent. My rough translation of its conclusion would be this message to Israel: You had the right to do it but what you did was way over the top and just plain dumb.

It found that Israel's naval blockade of Gaza is legal and appropriate — "a legitimate security measure" — given Hamas's persistent firing of thousands of rockets from the territory into Israel; that the flotilla acted recklessly in trying to breach the blockade; that the motives of the flotillas organizers raised serious questions; and that the Israeli commandos faced "organized and violent resistance."

But it also called the raid — 72 nautical miles from land — "too heavy a response too quickly." The flotilla, it says, was far from representing any immediate military threat to Israel. Clear prior warning should have been given. The decision to board "was excessive and unreasonable." It criticizes Israel for providing "no adequate explanation" for the nine deaths or explaining "why force was used to the extent that it produced such high levels of injury." The panel is left dismayed by Israel's inability to give details on the killings. It calls Israel's policy on land access to Gaza "unsustainable."

Overall, the panel finds that Israel should issue "an appropriate statement of regret" and "make payment for the benefit of the deceased and injured victims and their families."

Yes, Israel, increasingly isolated, should do just that. An apology is the right course and the smart course. What's good for Egypt — an apology over lost lives — is good for Turkey, too.

Israel and Turkey have been talking for more than a year. Feridun Sinirlioglu, a senior Turkish foreign ministry official, has met with numerous Israeli officials. At times agreement has been close. Ehud Barak and Dan Meridor, Israel's defense and intelligence ministers, have argued the case for an apology; Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has led the hawks saying Israel never bends; Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has had his finger to the wind. In the end, Lieberman and the far right have won, as they tend to with this abject Israeli government.

"It's a typical case where coalition considerations trumped strategic thinking, and that's the tragedy," Shlomo Avineri, an Israeli political scientist, told me. "Given the Palestinian issue at the U.N., and relations with the new Egypt, we could use strategic wisdom."

That's right. Instead, locked in its siege mentality, led by the nose by Lieberman and his ilk — unable to grasp the change in the Middle East driven by the Arab demand for dignity and freedom, inflexible on expanding settlements, ignoring U.S. prodding that it apologize — Israel is losing one of its best friends in the Muslim world, Turkey. The expulsion last week of the Israeli ambassador was a debacle foretold.

Israeli society, as it has shown through civic protest, deserves much better.

"We need not apologize," Netanyahu thundered Sunday — and repeated the phrase three times. He's opted for a needless road to an isolation that weakens Israel and undermines the strategic interests of its closest ally, the United States. Not that I expect Obama to raise his voice about this any more than he has over Dogan.

RELEASED IN FULL

R21

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 23, 2011 9:42 AM  
**To:** 'fjr96515@yahoo.com'; Ricciardone, Francis J; 'ricciardonemd@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Fw: Turkel report out

Israel's report into Mavi Marmara shootings is out and will get lots of negative press here tonight and into the week.

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Sun Jan 23 16:36:53 2011  
**Subject:** Turkel report out

FYI. Turkel commission report in NYT and Turkish on line media, released a little while ago.

Israeli Panel Rules Flotilla Raid Legal By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Published: January 23, 2011 at 8:20 am

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2011/01/23/world/middleeast/AP-Gaza-Blockade.html?hpJERUSALEM>

(AP) – An Israeli inquiry commission defended the actions of the country's troops during last year's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound protest flotilla sailing from Turkey, finding in a report released Sunday that Israel had not violated international law.

"Mavi Marmara baskını hukuka uygun"  
CNNTurk <http://www.cnntrk.com/2011/dunya/01/23/mavi.marmara.baskini.hukuka.uygun/604255.0/index.html>

İsrail, Mavi Marmara raporunu açıklıyor Sabah İsrail'de dokuz Türk'ün ölümüyle sonuçlanan Mavi Marmara baskınına soruşturan Turkel Komisyonu, beklendiği gibi İsrail'i akladı. Raporunun ilk bölümünü açıklayan Komisyon, oy birliğiyle, "İsrail, operasyon sırasında uluslararası hukuka uygun hareket etti" görüşünü benimsendi.

<http://www.sabah.com.tr/Dunya/2011/01/23/>

israil\_mavi\_marmara\_raporunu\_acikliyor

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

R22

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 10:31 AM  
**To:** Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; EUR-SE-DL; 'jcollins@nss.eop.gov'  
**Cc:** Ricciardone, Francis J; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey's Mavi Marmara Report; TRT (3); USG Gets Pulled In  
  
**Importance:** High  
**Categories:** Working

All,

The Turks today publicly released their Mavi Marmara report. We had not seen it before, but had gotten an outline form Amb Mithat Rende, the TU commission head.

Note TU claim in the report that there was a TU-US-IS deal that Israel would not go after the Mavi Marmara and that it would NOT try to run the blockade.

We might need to do guidance on that point. Please do NOT let the guidance go forward without checking the draft with us.

Thanks,

Doug

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 5:03 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Guido, Deborah L  
**Cc:** Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A; Ahn, Michael; Leary, Thomas M  
**Subject:** Turkey's Mavi Marmara Report; TRT (3); USG Gets Pulled In  
**Importance:** High

See highlight. We may need guidance.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:58 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara; TRT (3)

The AA carried excerpts from Turkey's Mavi Marmara report. Highlights follow:

- Israel did not abide by the agreement reached among the U.S., Israel and Turkey before the flotilla took off (which required the route to be toward Egypt's El Aris port in case of a confrontation by Israel);
- Once clashes began Israel forced the boat to sail toward Israel;
- In the 45-article "Conclusion" part of Turkey's report the Turkish Commission stressed that it reached some objective and legal conclusions;
- The stressed that the humanitarian assistance convoy was a "civilian initiative" with peaceful intentions. It did not pose a threat to Israel;
- The passengers were subject to all border and customs controls;
- There was no firearms on board;
- Israel, before confronting the boat, did not try to inspect or search the ship and Israelis cut the communication among the vessels, something that put the ships and passengers at risk;
- The attack took place 72 miles to the closest shore, in other words, in international waters;
- Nine passengers died and Israel violated the basic right to live;
- Five of those who died were shot at close range in the head. Furkan Dogan received five bullets including three in the head. First bullet hit his foot and when he fell down, two Israeli soldiers kicked him and then shot him in an execution style;
- Photographer Cevdet Kiliclar was shot from a long range in the forehead. In the nine dead passengers there were 30 bullets;
- More than 50 passengers were injured and one still is in coma;
- The Israeli forces, who used helicopters, zodiac boats, submarines, frigates and commandoes did not fire in the air for warning that it might use force;
- As Israeli soldiers by using zodiacs tried to board the ship they opened fire;
- Passengers panicked and they tried to legitimately defend themselves;
- In response Israel did not reevaluate the situation;
- Israel used real ammunition against the passengers;
- Israeli soldiers continued to fire despite the fact that passengers showed white flags;
- Israeli soldiers attacked the other boats as well and number of injured was more than 70. Nobody used firearms against Israeli aggressors;

(more to follow)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara; TRT (2)

"TRT News" reported that Turkey today submitted its final "Mavi Marmara Report" to the UN.

The highlight of the report was that Israel used excessive force and fired at close range.

The TRT correspondent in Israel noted that Tel Aviv would disclose the second part of its report soon. The UN HR Commissioner today held a press conference and said that they asked Israel to cooperate with the UN on this issue. The second part of the report is expected to focus on the mistakes of Israel.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:21 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Mavi Marmara; TRT

Amb Mithat Rende, the Turkish official briefed the media on their Mavi Marmara report.

They found out that there was no firearms on the Turkish ships that took off from the Turkish ports. The three Israeli soldiers were carrying firearms and those on the ship threw those weapons in the sea.

The right to live was violated. Five of those who died were shot at close range. When Furkan Dogan, Turkish-American citizen, when injured was kicked and then shot and killed. Another was shot in the forehead. Around 50 were injured, including one still in coma.

Israel used a serious force, zodiacs, helicopters, boats.

If Israel wanted, it could have stopped the flotilla peacefully. Unfortunately it did not try to stop it peacefully. One reason might be to create fear and deter future such attempts.

The Israeli side claimed that the passengers attacked its soldiers. This is true. Passengers were terrorized when they were subject to firing. So passenger, whom we talked to, thought that they all would be killed and tried to protect themselves.

Another mistake by Israel was, when confronted by such a reaction from passengers Israel should have stopped and made a reevaluation.

The "TRT News" stopped live broadcast here.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:08 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara; TRT



Jale:

NTV is airing a program now on the Mavi Marmara report. Would you monitor for us, please.

Thank you.

— Jerry

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

R23

Home » Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs » Bureau of Public Affairs » Bureau of Public Affairs: Press Relations » Press Releases » Press Releases: 2011 » Press Releases: June 2011 » Gaza "Anniversary" Flotilla

## Gaza "Anniversary" Flotilla

### Press Statement

**Victoria Nuland**

Department Spokesperson, Office of the Spokesperson

**Washington, DC**

**June 24, 2011**

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Last month marked the one-year anniversary of the confrontation between Israeli forces and activists when a flotilla attempted to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza on May 31, 2010. The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in that incident aboard the Gaza bound ships.

We are concerned that a number of groups are organizing a one year "anniversary" flotilla to commemorate the incident by sailing from various European ports to Gaza in the near future. Groups that seek to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that risk the safety of their passengers. Established and efficient mechanisms exist to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza. For example, humanitarian assistance can be delivered at the Israeli port of Ashdod, where cargo can be offloaded, inspected, and transported to Gaza. We urge all those seeking to provide such assistance to the people of Gaza to use these mechanisms, and not to participate in actions like the planned flotilla.

Recent seizures by Israel and Egypt of advanced military systems, weapons, and ammunition bound for terrorist groups in Gaza, as well as periodic rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza against Israeli civilians, highlight the continuing problem of illicit arms smuggling to Gaza. These seizures underscore the vital importance to Israel's security of ensuring that all cargo bound for Gaza is appropriately screened for illegal arms and dual-use materials.

The United States remains concerned by conditions in Gaza, but notes that the humanitarian situation has significantly improved over the last year, including a marked increase in the range and scope of goods and materials moving into Gaza, an increase in international project activity, and the gradual expansion of exports. The United States will continue to work with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, donors, and the international community to do more and ensure that the needs of the people of Gaza are being met.

We also continue to call on Hamas to play a constructive role by renouncing violence, recognizing Israel's right to exist, and accepting past agreements. We underscore that delivering or attempting or conspiring to deliver material support or other resources to or for the benefit of a designated foreign terrorist organization, such as Hamas, could violate U.S. civil and criminal statutes and could lead to fines and incarceration.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

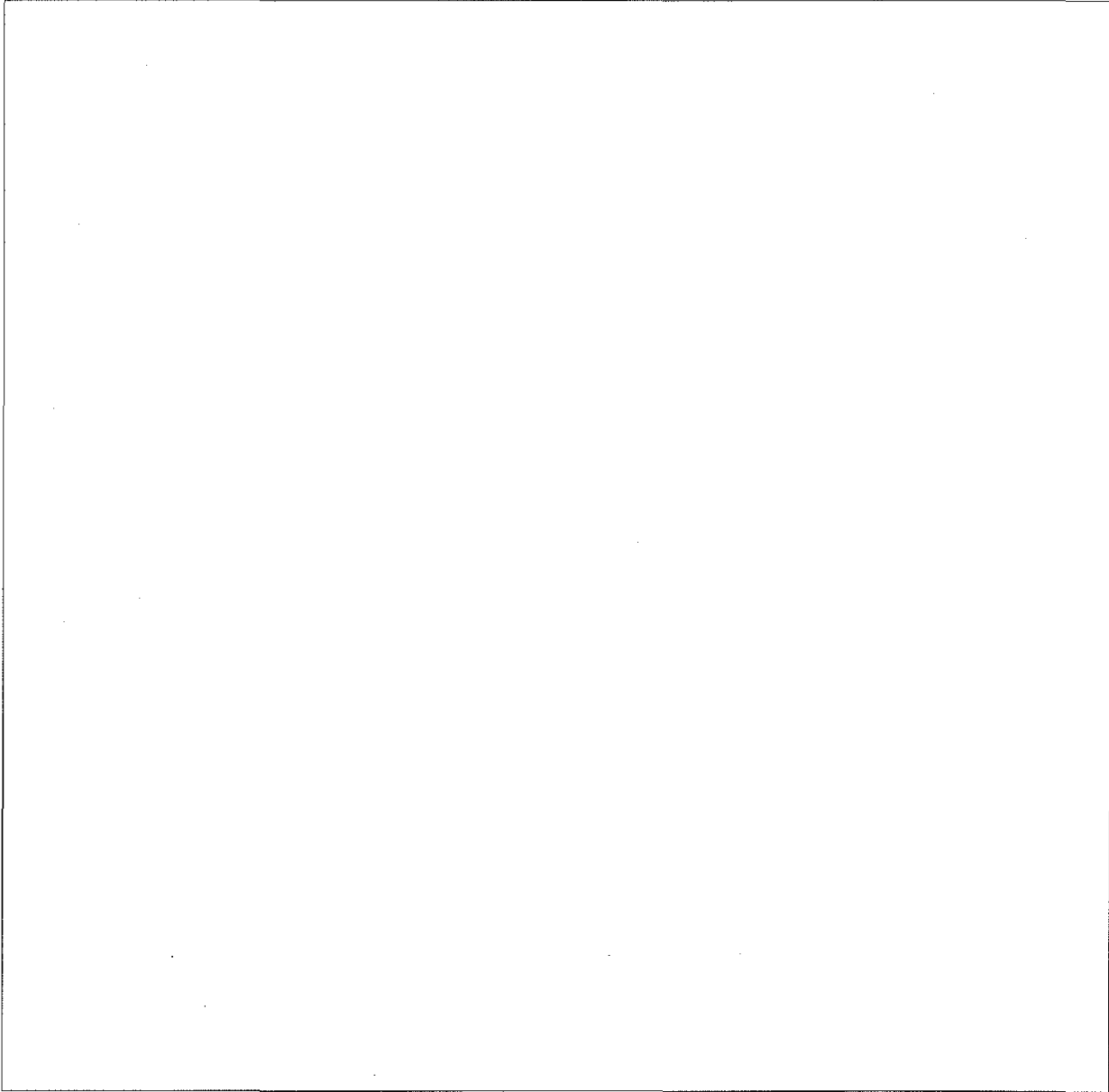
RELEASED IN FULL,  
Non-responsive deleted NR

R24

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Kim Scrivner [kimscrivner@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2011 1:29 PM  
**To:** Scrivner, Kimberly (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Media Monitoring, Thurs, 5/19, 8pm



NR

The United States has warned Turkey against a new flotilla to the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip, saying it would not be helpful, a senior US administration official has said. The US has been very clear with the Turkish government that a new flotilla would in no way be helpful, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Philip Gordon was quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency to a hearing at the Senate

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Foreign Relations Subcommittee on European Affairs. (AA) <http://www.todayszaman.com/news-244433-us-warns-turkey-against-new-flotilla-to-gaza.html>

NR

Compiled by Ates Oner, PAS Istanbul  
Cleared by Kim Scrivner, PAS Istanbul

RELEASED IN PART B5

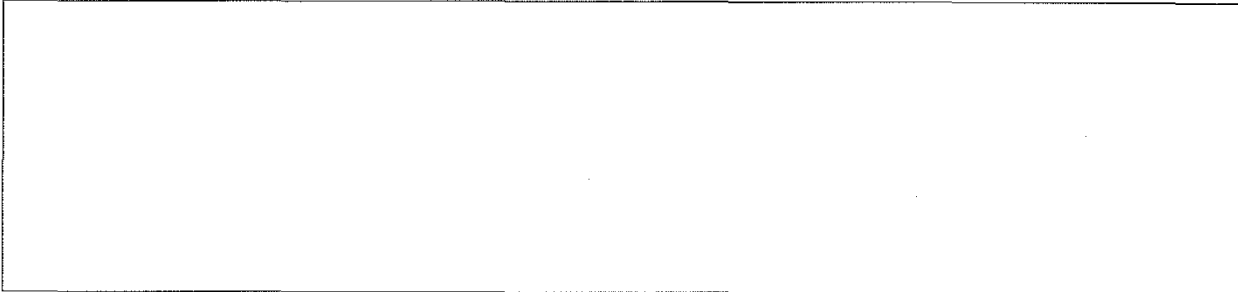
R25

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2011 11:21 AM  
**To:** Kim, Yuri J; Walston, Lysa M; Ahn, Michael  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L  
**Subject:** RE: Approaching Turks on Noor

Lysa, can I see these instructions this evening? Or first thing in the morning.



B5

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
Ankara,  
Republic of Turkey

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

tel: +90 312 455 7280

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**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 11:39 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** Fw: Approaching Turks on Noor

Amb: We have instructions to approach the Turks on the Noor, another vessel apparently seeking to break the Gaza blockade. Israeli CDA here has already approached MFA, who agreed last thing Turkey needs is another flotilla incident. We'll approach MFA tomorrow morning and see if we need to take more aggressive action.

---

**From:** Kim, Yuri J  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Stafford, Edward G; Jaworski, Richard E; Rubin, Eric S; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Tue Jul 19 23:32:07 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Approaching Turks on Noor

We'll take this up with the Turks first thing tomorrow morning.

---

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**To:** Kim, Yuri J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Stafford, Edward G; Jaworski, Richard E; Rubin, Eric S; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Tue Jul 19 22:43:28 2011  
**Subject:** Approaching Turks on Noor

Yuri et al.,

As Jerry noted earlier, here is a bit more concrete info on the Noor. At this point seems appropriate for Emb Ankara to approach MFA per instructions in State 36240 on Gaza Flotilla (I just sent copy to you on high side) and ask them to do whatever they can to avoid a problem. Please let us know how they respond.

Many thanks for all your help,

Bob

Robert J. Riley  
Acting Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-5120  
rileyj@state.gov

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Berns, David B

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 2:06 PM

**To:** Miller, James N; Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H ; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'; SES-O; NEA-ELA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; EUR-SE-TU-DL; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"

**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Waters, John R; Taplin, Mark A; Bauer, Jen M (Paris); Klein, Christopher C; Sharma, Sujata; EUR-WE-France-DL

**Subject:** Re: Another Ship

SBU

MFA contact said the GOI is now focused on the "Noor" in Turkey. Israeli CDA in Ankara raised the issue with the Turkish MFA -- the economic dept and the territorial dept -- asking the GOT to prevent the ship from leaving. Initial Turkish response was "somewhat encouraging." Turks said the "last thing they need now is another flotilla." Israel has not raised with the Turks at a senior level. Israelis keen for us to reinforce with the Turks.

The ship was Sierra Leone-flagged, and the Israelis interceded with Sierra Leone so the ship now has no flag. Israelis will inform the Turks of this. MFA believes it will take 2-3 days for the ship to get a new flag. The ship is a ferry that can carry 300 people but Israelis believe 150-200 would be the maximum number the ship would take on the voyage. The ship is not designed to safely cross the Mediterranean, but it could. Israelis also using this safety issue to convince the Turks not to let it sail. GOI believes the Noor would carry mostly Arab passengers.

Israelis concerned about participation on the ship of a Jordanian NGO called "Lifeline." Believe the ship could sail to Egypt and pick up members of this NGO there. The ship's crew is now Bulgarian, but Israelis believe an Egyptian crew will soon take its place.

Re the Karama passengers, MFA confirmed they disembarked from the Israeli naval ship at Ashdod about 7 pm local. They were put on the naval ship at sea. Their processing in Ashdod will finish at about 9 pm tonight. GOI will then transfer them to an administrative facility in Holon where they will be able to meet with consular reps from their countries. GOI wants to repatriate them as soon as possible, and will urge them to sign papers consenting to repatriation. GOI will plan to put those who sign on planes to Europe as early as tonight or early tomorrow morning. Those who don't sign will be granted access to a lawyer and go through administrative procedures that could take a few days before they are repatriated. The GOI is not allowing the passengers to leave GOI custody before repatriation, but so far is not pursuing any criminal charges against them. The passengers so far have not been violent.

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**From:** Berns, David B  
**To:** Miller, James N; Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H ; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com' <melissa.h.russell@gmail.com>; SES-O; NEA-ELA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov' <PKumar@nsc.eop.gov>; Waters, John R; Taplin, Mark A; Bauer, Jen M (Paris); Klein, Christopher C; Sharma, Sujata; EUR-WE-France-DL  
**Sent:** Tue Jul 19 18:06:04 2011  
**Subject:** Re: Another Ship

SBU

We received the message below this afternoon from the Israeli MFA.

After "Dignite", now we are concerned with Jordanian ferry "Noor" which is located in the vicinity of Anatalya, Turkey. According to reports in Al-Jazeera it is planned to take on board 120 activists mostly from Arab countries and to leave as early as tomorrow, apparently to an Egyptian port. We have no doubts that their intention is to arrive at Gaza. We have already approached Turkish authorities on this matter with requests to prevent ship's departure. We will appreciate if the US Embassy in Ankara could follow up on this matter with the Turkish authorities.

---

**From:** Miller, James N  
**To:** Berns, David B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H ; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com' <melissa.h.russell@gmail.com>; SES-O; NEA-ELA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov' <PKumar@nsc.eop.gov>; Waters, John R; Taplin, Mark A; Bauer, Jen M (Paris); Klein, Christopher C; Sharma, Sujata; EUR-WE-France-DL  
**Sent:** Tue Jul 19 16:07:39 2011  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

French MFA spokesman Bernard Valero called this afternoon for "caution" and "responsibility" on the part of Israeli authorities toward passengers of the "Dignity Al Karama." Here is his statement:

"We told Israeli authorities for several days that if this French boat were to attempt to break the blockade and Israeli authorities decided to stop it, we expect that they will act with responsibility and caution, respect all the rights of our citizens and enable their prompt return to France. The Ambassador of France to Israel transmitted that message yesterday and this morning to the National Security Advisor and to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have done the same this morning with the Israeli Ambassador to France."

Valero added that the French Embassy in Tel Aviv is mobilized on site to exercise its consular functions to protect French citizens.

James N. Miller  
Political Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Paris  
millerjn@state.gov  
+33 (0)1.43.12.25.75

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Berns, David B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Sutphin, Paul R; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'; Miller, James N; SES-O; NEA-ELA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Miller, James N  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

I asked and MFA did not have clarity on that.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:59 PM  
**To:** Berns, David B; Sutphin, Paul R; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'; Miller, James N; SES-O; NEA-ELA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Miller, James N  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

Was it in international or Egyptian waters?

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Berns, David B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'; Miller, James N; SES-O; NEA-ELA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Miller, James N  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

MFA just confirmed that the Navy boarded the ship at 1235 local time 1-2 miles outside Israel's Gaza blockade line. MFA said the Navy is in control of the ship and is taking it to the Israeli port of Ashdod. MFA is not aware of any injuries or casualties.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



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**From:** Berns, David B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 12:38 PM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'; Miller, James N; SES-O  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMPEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

From MFA at 1225 local: the Israeli Navy has communicated with the ship, telling it not to proceed to Gaza. (An IDF press release at 10:50 local today said the Navy offered to allow the ship to unload its humanitarian supplies at the Israeli port of Ashdod for transfer to Gaza.) MFA said the ship responded to Navy communications, but stressed it will proceed to Gaza, not to Ashdod. MFA said the Navy will have to take control of the ship and take it to Ashdod. He expects the Navy to take control of the ship shortly, but could not give an estimate of when. The GOI has told the French government (ship is French, and organizers are French) that it expects to take control of the ship shortly.

Earlier information from the MFA: Ship was off the coast of Port Said last night, and at 0600 this morning started moving toward Gaza. It traveled toward Gaza this morning on the border between Egyptian territorial waters and international waters. The GOI had asked the Egyptian Government to stop the ship and take it to an Egyptian port if the ship travelled through Egyptian waters.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Berns, David B  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 6:19 PM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMPEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

From MFA at 1815 local:

The ship is off the coast of Port Said but not in Egyptian territorial waters, and currently not moving toward Gaza. Ship could move into Egyptian territorial waters overnight. MFA will keep us posted.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2011 6:18 PM  
**To:** Berns, David B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H; Eilts, Colin C; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R; NEA-IPA-DL; 'melissa.h.russell@gmail.com'

**Cc:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-SEMEP-DL; 'PKumar@nsc.eop.gov'

**Subject:** Re: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

+others

This is a small yacht full of Euro activists (and Haaretz's Amira Hess and an al Jazeera crew). If it is intercepted there should be no need for violence.

Paul Sutphin  
Director, NEA/IPA  
Via Blackberry

---

**From:** Berns, David B

**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2011 08:34 AM

**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H ; Eilts, Colin C; Sutphin, Paul R; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Blome, Donald A; Cline, Melissa R

**Subject:** Re: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

SBU

MFA flotilla coordinator just confirmed to me that the Dignite has left Greece. He said the ship told the Greek authorities its destination is Alexandria. So far the ship is charting a course toward Alexandria, but this could change in the next few hours. Israeli Navy plans to make contact with the ship if it does begin a course toward Gaza. Navy will tell the ship it can go to Alex, Ashdod or "other destinations" excluding Gaza.

Another ship, the Giuliano, is still in Greece. After losing its registration last week from a west african country following GOI intervention, it briefly gained registration with St Kitts/Nevis before the GOI interceded again. It now has no registration.

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H

**To:** Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew; Berns, David B; Palm, Robert H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Greene, Elisa; Vincent, Wendy M; George, Leah; Russell, Melissa H ; Eilts, Colin C; Sutphin, Paul R; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)

**Sent:** Sun Jul 17 14:38:12 2011

**Subject:** Fw: PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

<http://www.freedomflotilla.eu/en/information/4-members-announcements/176-french-boat-dignite-of-freedom-flotilla-ii-leaves-greece>

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**From:** Angela Godfrey-Goldstein <anjie@netvision.net.il>

**To:** 'Angela' <anjie@netvision.net.il>

**Sent:** Sun Jul 17 11:54:56 2011

**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE: French boat Dignite of Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece for Gaza [+ Passenger List]

16 July 2011

For Immediate Release

## French boat Dignité of the Freedom Flotilla II leaves Greece

The French boat "Dignité/Karama" (Dignity) left the Greek island Kastellorizo around 8:30PM local time on Saturday July 16, 2011, heading south. The ten passengers onboard view themselves as representatives of the whole Freedom Flotilla II – Stay Human. The rest of the Flotilla's ships have been detained in different Greek ports, through bureaucratic obstruction, sabotage, sudden restrictions and withdrawals of flags.

The Dignité, sailing under a French flag, left Corsica on June 25th, and has, over the past weeks, been in Greek waters. It has now left— so far without being followed by the Greek coast guard or Navy.

Among the delegates on board is Jacqueline Le Corre, member of the French Communist Party, Jean Claude Lefort, former French Member of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of the Canadian, French, Greek and Swedish initiatives within Freedom Flotilla II. Onboard the Dignité are also renowned Israeli journalist Amira Hass, reporting for Haaretz, and a team from Al-Jazeera TV. (Full list of passengers below).

Kastellorizo, in the far east of the Greek archipelago, is only miles from Turkish mainland. A substantial part of Kastellorizo's population fled during the Second World War to Gaza, where they stayed for years. The present mayor of the island, Paul Panigiris, was born in Gaza, and feels strongly, as do many other people from Kastellorizo, for a population that once hosted them and is now under siege.

The action of Dignité is not a mini-version of Freedom Flotilla 2, but a first wave that will be followed by others. It is a message to the Israeli government, to the international community and to the besieged people of Gaza: The Free Gaza Movement and the coalition of Freedom Flotilla II are not giving up, until the inhumane and illegitimate blockade of Gaza is lifted.

Gaza, we are coming!

[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)  
[www.witnessgaza.com](http://www.witnessgaza.com)  
[www.freedomflotilla.eu](http://www.freedomflotilla.eu)

And see Amira Hass' report: [www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/gaza-bound-ship-carrying-pro-palestinian-activists-sets-sail-from-greece-1.373601](http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/gaza-bound-ship-carrying-pro-palestinian-activists-sets-sail-from-greece-1.373601)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Passengers on the Dignité:**

**Stéphan Corriveau**, Coordinator of Canadian boat to Gaza

**Dror Feiler**, spokesperson of Ship to Gaza-Sweden, President of the European Jews for a Just Peace, artist, musician, composer

**Jérôme Gleizes**, France, Europe Ecologie Les Verts

**Jacqueline Le Corre**, France, Médecin-Collectif 14 de soutien au peuple palestinien, member of Parti communiste francais

**Jean Claude Lefort**, former MEP, French Communist Party –PCF

**Claude Léostic**, spokesperson of Un bateau français pour Gaza

**Yamin Makri**, France, Collectif 69 de soutien au peuple palestinien

**Omeyya Naoufel Seddik**, Tunisian, Fédération des Tunisiens pour une citoyenneté des deux rives (FTCR), and Ligue tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH), Phd in Political Science

**Thomas Sommer-Houdeville**, spokesperson of Un bateau français pour Gaza, Researcher, Political Science, Middle East Studies, Institut francais du proche Orient

**Vangelis Pissias**, spokesperson of Ship to Gaza-Greece, Professor at Technical University of Athens

**Amira Hass**, Israeli journalist - Haaretz

**Ayyache Derradji**, Journalist from Al Jazeera

**Stéphane Guida**, Cameraman from Al Jazeera

**Zacharia Stylianakis**, Captain

**Hilaire Folacci**, Mariner

**Yannick Voisin**, Mariner

**Jo Leguen**, Navigator

R26

**Law, Rosemary C**

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2011 1:21 PM  
**To:** Allegrone, Kathleen H  
**Subject:** Re: Netanyahu to Clinton: Israel won't apologize to Turkey for Gaza flotilla raid  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Duh!

---

**From:** Allegrone, Kathleen H  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Kim, Yuri J; Ricciardone, Francis J; Avery, David; Grubisha, Thomas J  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Sent:** Wed Aug 17 16:05:45 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Netanyahu to Clinton: Israel won't apologize to Turkey for Gaza flotilla raid

Yes, folks are working on guidance here, as you can imagine. I raised the press issue in the staff meeting today and Tina urged us to refrain from commenting at post, if possible. If you get questions, her advice is that you refer them to Washington.

BTW – one of the Turkish contacts – Sinirlioglu – was on the phone with Phil this morning.

I also mentioned in the staff meeting the PKK incident yesterday.

Best.

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2011 7:09 AM  
**To:** Kim, Yuri J; Ricciardone, Francis J; Avery, David; Grubisha, Thomas J  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Netanyahu to Clinton: Israel won't apologize to Turkey for Gaza flotilla raid

This will not take long before it hits TU press.  
Jess

Jess L. Baily  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
90-312-455-5555  
[bailyjl@state.gov](mailto:bailyjl@state.gov)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2011 1:46 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Subject:** FW: Netanyahu to Clinton: Israel won't apologize to Turkey for Gaza flotilla raid

This should be showing up in your press...

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 17, 2011 1:44 PM  
**To:** Russell, Melissa H ; Buzbee, John R  
**Cc:** Shapiro, Daniel B (Tel Aviv); Silverman, Robert J; Hoyer, Kurt J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Hale, David M  
**Subject:** Netanyahu to Clinton: Israel won't apologize to Turkey for Gaza flotilla raid

The author called me for comment and told me he had confirmation from 3 different Israeli officials. I told him that I had no information. Tom

<http://www.haaretz.com/misc/article-print-page/netanyahu-to-clinton-israel-won-t-apologize-to-turkey-for-gaza-flotilla-raid-1.379110?trailingPath=2.169%2C2.216%2C2.217%2C>

## **Netanyahu to Clinton: Israel won't apologize to Turkey for Gaza flotilla raid**

### **PM Netanyahu informs U.S. Secretary of State Clinton that Israel will not accept an outline for restoring relationship with Turkey.**

By [Barak Ravid](#)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has informed U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton that Israel will not apologize for the 2010 Gaza flotilla raid in which nine Turkish pro-Palestinian activists died.

Speaking with Clinton via telephone on Tuesday, Netanyahu said that Israel does not intend to adopt an outline to restore its relationship with Turkey.

An official in Jerusalem said that Netanyahu told Clinton that Israel does not oppose the publication of the report of the Palmer Committee, which investigated the events surrounding the flotilla, but that the date of the report's release depends on UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The official added that the head of the UN investigatory committee, former New Zealand prime minister Jeffrey Palmer, will present the report to Ban Ki-moon next Monday and that the UN chief will release the report to the public the following day.

On Tuesday, deputy prime minister Moshe Ya'alon referred to the possibility of an Israeli apology while speaking at a Likud founders conference.

"God forbid we apologize," Ya'alon said. "National pride is not just something people say on the street but it has strategic significance. If Erdogan goes around afterwards and says that he brought us to our knees, he will appear as a regional leader in the Middle East. He won't leave it alone, even after we apologize."

Ya'alon noted that the Palmer Committee had completed its work and had ruled in favor of Israel in regards to the legality of the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

"The Turks are not ready to accept this," Ya'alon said. "But the relationship had deteriorated even before [the flotilla raid]. This is their policy, this is what they wanted, shame on them. So I said the Palmer Report needs to be published and I hope it will be published. Afterwards, we will meet [with the Turks]."



• Barak Ravid

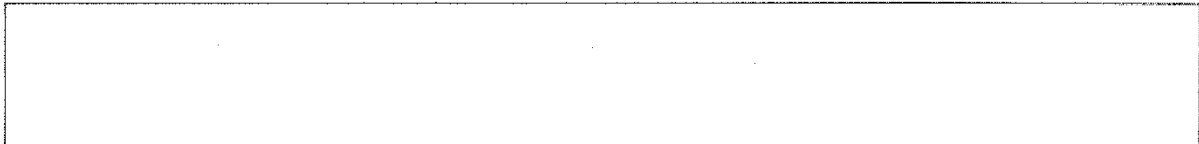
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R27

Law, Rosemary C

From: Silliman, Douglas A  
Sent: Sunday, January 23, 2011 10:28 AM  
To: Ricciardone, Francis J  
Subject: Re: Turkel report out

RELEASED IN PART B5



B5

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

----- Original Message -----  
From: Silliman, Douglas A  
To: Ricciardone, Francis J  
Sent: Sun Jan 23 17:15:14 2011  
Subject: Re: Turkel report out

No - DC wanted to see it first.

Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

----- Original Message -----  
From: Ricciardone, Francis J  
To: Silliman, Douglas A  
Sent: Sun Jan 23 17:03:51 2011  
Subject: Re: Turkel report out

Have we pre-cooked Washington's / our line on this?

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Department of State  
Cell: +1 202 445 7438  
Ofc: +1 202 647 6112

----- Original Message -----  
From: Silliman, Douglas A  
To: 'fjrjr96515@yahoo.com' <fjrjr96515@yahoo.com>; Ricciardone, Francis J;  
'ricciardonemd@gmail.com' <ricciardonemd@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sun Jan 23 16:42:18 2011  
Subject: Fw: Turkel report out

Israel's report into Mavi Marmara shootings is out and will get lots of negative press here tonight and into the week.



Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
US Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

----- Original Message -----

From: Guido, Deborah L  
To: Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
Sent: Sun Jan 23 16:36:53 2011  
Subject: Turkel report out

FYI. Turkel commission report in NYT and Turkish on line media, released a little while ago.

Israeli Panel Rules Flotilla Raid LegalBy THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Published: January 23, 2011 at 8:20 am

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2011/01/23/world/middleeast/AP-Gaza-Blockade.html?hpJERUSALEM>

(AP) - An Israeli inquiry commission defended the actions of the country's troops during last year's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound protest flotilla sailing from Turkey, finding in a report released Sunday that Israel had not violated international law.

"Mavi Marmara baskını hukuka uygun"  
CNNTurk<http://www.cnnturk.com/2011/dunya/01/23/mavi.marmara.baskini.hukuka.uygun/604255.0/index.html>

İsrail, Mavi Marmara raporunu açıklıyor Sabahİsrail'de dokuz Türk'ün bölümüyle sonuçlanan Mavi Marmara baskınına soruşturan Turkel Komisyonu, beklendiği gibi İsrail'i akladı.Raporunun ilk bölümünü açıklayan Komisyon, oy birliğiyle, "İsrail, operasyon sırasında uluslararası hukuka uygun hareket etti" görüşünü benimsendi.

<http://www.sabah.com.tr/Dunya/2011/01/23/>

israil\_mavi\_marmara\_raporunu\_acikliyor

R28

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 11, 2011 2:02 AM  
**To:** 'fsinirlioglu@mfa.gov.tr'  
**Subject:** Re: WSJ/ "US Ties to Turkey Face New Strains" Jay Solomon

Feridun,

Recommend Namik speak w/ Mort, if he has not already done so. Henri B too. This is the second time Mort has been quoted along these lines.

I am en route to airport now for 10:00 flight to Istanbul. Can speak by phone @ your convenience now, or at these windows today: 11:20 - 12:20; 15:00-15:20; 18:00- 18:50. Doors close/ phones off on flight to BRX @ 19:00. Jess will be in charge till I return from Doha Saturday afternoon.  
Frank

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**From:** Feridun Sinirlioğlu <fsinirlioglu@mfa.gov.tr>  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 11 00:29:57 2011  
**Subject:** Fw: WSJ/ "US Ties to Turkey Face New Strains" Jay Solomon

Dear Frank,

Let us talk about this story tomorrow...

Feridun **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Bu e-posta, Turkcell BlackBerry ile gönderilmiştir.

---

**From:** Derle Demirel <derle.demirel@mfa.gov.tr>  
**Date:** Mon, 10 Oct 2011 09:08:54 +0000  
**To:** Feridun Sinirlioğlu<fsinirlioglu@mfa.gov.tr>  
**Subject:** WSJ/ "US Ties to Turkey Face New Strains" Jay Solomon

**\*\*\*WSJ/ U.S. Ties to Turkey Face New Strains**

By Jay Soloman and Marc Champion, Wall Street Journal

Escalating tensions in the Mediterranean are complicating the U.S.-Turkey alliance at a time when President Barack Obama views Ankara as central to helping the U.S. manage the Middle East's political upheavals.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton privately has pressed Turkish officials to back off from their threats to send warships to waters around Cyprus in a dispute over energy deposits, according to U.S. officials. The top American diplomat cautioned that any escalation could jeopardize U.S. interests in the Mediterranean, as the gas fields are being jointly developed by Cyprus and Houston-based Noble Energy Inc.

U.S. officials also are concerned by Turkish threats to deploy naval vessels to accompany flotillas headed to the Palestinian territories, which could heighten the potential for a military conflict between Turkey and Israel, both close U.S. allies. American diplomats have worked to broker a rapprochement between Turkey and Israel, but officials in the White House and State Department acknowledge the rift could endure.

Some strategists in Washington and Europe are calling on the Obama administration to lay down stricter red lines in the Mediterranean, by using more aggressive diplomacy and the U.S. Navy. This is seen as crucial for guarding against any miscalculations by Turkey, Israel or Cyprus, though they acknowledge such steps could anger Ankara.

**"I don't think the Turks are intent on starting hostilities, but you never know what can happen in this environment," said Morton Abramowitz, a former U.S. ambassador to Turkey. He added that Washington needs to be up-front with Ankara and tell them that if conflict breaks out between Turkey and Israel, "We'll choose Israel."**

Turkish officials stressed in interviews they aren't seeking a war with either Cyprus or Israel, and said Turkey has been forced to take action to guard against provocative steps by others. "Look, nobody wants any disasters here. We are aware of the situation," said a senior Turkish official.

Mr. Obama has cultivated Turkey as a major strategic partner since coming into office in 2009. White House officials say the U.S. president speaks regularly with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to coordinate on the political transformation in the Middle East and North Africa. And the Obama administration hailed Ankara's decision last month to house a North Atlantic Treaty Organization radar facility, which is focused on Iran's long-range missiles.

"Turkey is a NATO ally, a great friend and a partner on a whole host of issues," Mr. Obama said prior to a meeting with Mr. Erdogan last month.

Still, the deepening dispute between Turkey and Cyprus over energy exploration has placed Washington squarely in the middle.

Tensions flared last month when the Cypriot government announced that Noble Energy would begin drilling for gas in its Exclusive Economic Zone. Ankara doesn't recognize Cyprus's government and said the energy exploration undercuts prospects for a United Nations-backed process aimed at reunifying the island. Cyprus was divided into ethnic-Greek and Turkish enclaves in 1974, after Turkey invaded the island following a Greece-inspired coup.

In recent weeks, Turkey has dispatched naval vessels into this economic zone, including frigates and gunboats, according to senior Cypriot officials. They said these moves are a violation of international law and aimed at intimidating Cyprus and preventing Noble from moving ahead with developing the gas fields. Cyprus's government is calling on the U.N, U.S. and European Union to increase pressure on Ankara to pull out of Cypriot waters.

"The gravity of the problem stems from the threats that are being voiced, nearly daily, by the Turkish leadership," said Cypriot Foreign Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, in an interview.

Turkish officials said the international community should be focused on the Cypriot actions, which they believe are aimed at undermining the U.N. talks.

More recently, Turkey also began exploring for energy deposits in Cypriot waters. "We just need to make a point... to show the Greek Cypriots that they don't own the whole island," said the Turkish official.

Continuing tensions between Turkey and Israel are also undercutting U.S. efforts to stabilize the Middle East. Once close allies, Turkey and Israel have been locked in a growing war of words in the wake of Israel's military action last year against an international aid flotilla headed for the Gaza Strip. The operation killed eight Turkish nationals and one Turkish-American.

For months, the Obama administration has worked to ease tensions between Israel and Turkey. But the process broke down after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government refused to apologize to Ankara for the flotilla deaths. Turkey cut military ties with Israel and downgraded diplomatic relations, saying it would use its navy to protect future aid flotillas headed toward Gaza.

On Friday, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davatoglu reiterated that threat, but specified that it applied to Turkish vessels in international waters.

Some Turkey analysts believe Mr. Erdogan is bluffing. But there are increasing fears that the Turkish leader, now among the most popular in the Muslim world, could have staked a position that will be hard to back away from. And they note that Washington would be likely be dragged into any conflict.

**"At some point, the U.S. is going to have to say: This rhetoric is too much," said Henri Barkey, a Turkey scholar at Lehigh University.**

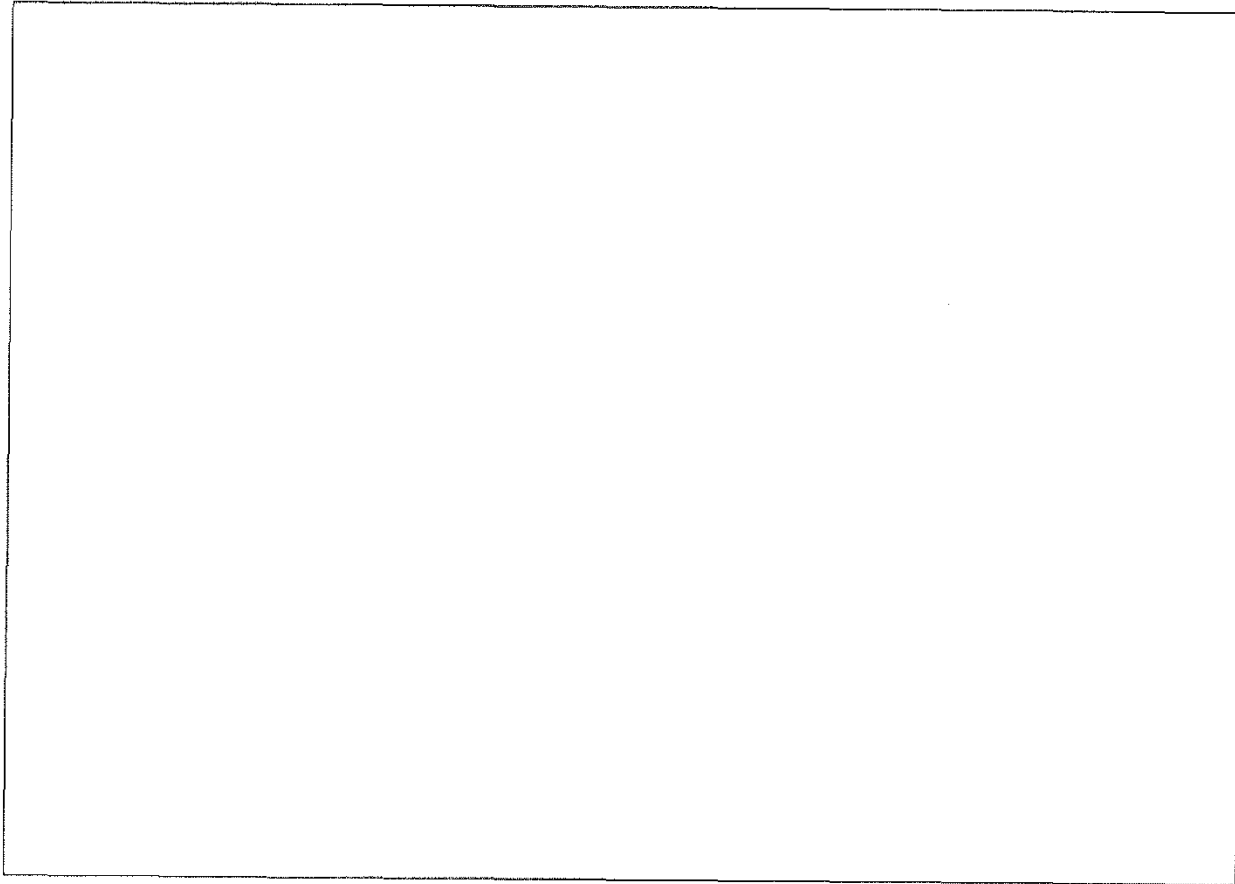
229

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Price, Gabrielle M (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2011 9:09 AM  
**Subject:** Thursday, April 21, 2011 4PM Media Monitoring Report  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.gif  
  
**Categories:** Working

RELEASED IN FULL,  
Non-responsive deleted  
NR

**Thursday, April 21, 2011 4PM Media Monitoring Report**



NR

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

The BBC Trust has ruled that a Panorama documentary about the Israeli boarding of the Mavi Marmara was "accurate and impartial" overall, but did breach editorial guidelines. The three complaints that were upheld included "insufficient detail about the circumstances of the deaths", "the omission of allegations about Israeli mistreatment of the passengers after the flotilla was taken over" and "the misrepresentation of the humanitarian aims of the flotilla and of the Turkish humanitarian organization, the IHH". Alison Hastings, chair of the BBC Trust's editorial standards committee, apologized for three breaches of accuracy and impartiality – out of 51 points raised in complaints – but commended the corporation for "an original, insightful and well-researched piece of journalism". (Guardian)

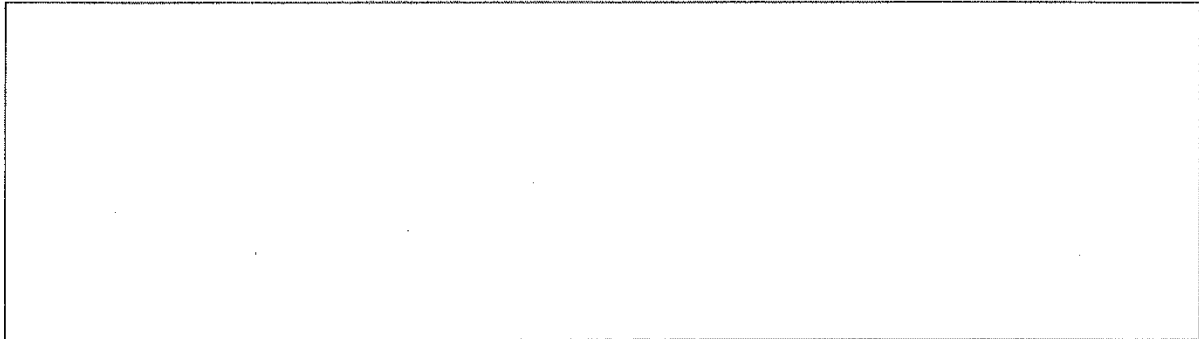
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/apr/19/bbc-film-gaza-aid-flotilla?INTCMP=SRCH>

The above story is picked by Turkish online news sites like NTVMSNBC which says that "The BBC apologized to the whole world".

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/id/25205264/>

Senior Fatah Central Committee member Nabil Shaath said on Thursday that his organization will join the next flotilla to Gaza in May. (Jerusalem Post)

<http://www.jpost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=217392&R=R3>



NR

**Gabrielle M. Price**  
Information Officer  
Public Affairs Section  
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

Phone: +90 (212) 335-9145  
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<http://www.facebook.com/istanbul.usconsulate>

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R30

Law, Rosemary C

B6

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 5:13 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Frank:

I have heard about the alleged advance understanding from the Turks relatively recently. It is possible that the flotilla got so close to the coast that the Israelis decided they could not wait any further to test the ships' intentions. I do not know what the truth of the matter is but it is impossible for me to believe that the Israelis would have decided on the boarding if they had been persuaded that they really had that kind of easy way out of what everyone recognized as a looming crisis.

As to the events on board the *Mavi Marmara*, I happen to have been in Israel while they were occurring and learned that there were serious Israeli casualties, though fortunately not deaths. The first two soldiers on the rope from the helicopter, armed with paint ball guns, were assaulted by a mob with iron bars even before they hit the deck. They were badly injured, knocked to the deck and, in the melee that immediately ensued, were dragged away from the scene and locked in a room below decks. The next soldiers to land in the midst of the mob, seeing what was happening, drew lethal weapons and fired in self defense against the mob members who they believed were intent on killing them. So, sure, it was point blank, but so was the assault on the first two. All of this occurred in a matter of a few seconds. The two injured Israelis were found only after the Israelis had secured and searched the ship.

I couldn't agree more about the utility of compromise. I understand that the rejection came not from Lieberman alone and I can well understand the motivations of both the rejectionists (the angry mood among the Israeli public, left, right and center, and the questionable utility of appeasing the AKP at the expense of what they and the public considered the truth) and of Netanyahu (quite possibly turning over the leadership of Israel's dominant political right of center to Lieberman with elections coming up next year).

While I think the Petraeus/Gates analogy is inexact, I take your point. I wonder whether recent events in the Arab world which threaten Israel with even greater isolation - a possibility of which the Israeli government is certainly aware - might not strengthen Netanyahu's hand in dealing with his colleagues on the Turkish issue if it were reopened. I'd have to guess that it would take US diplomacy, and pretty skillful diplomacy at that, to get it reopened and that the USG could be helpful to the PM if it were.

I'd have to repeat that the Israeli government has certainly not written off Turkey, even if some of its members have. Netanyahu's disagreement with some of his colleagues on the ad ref compromise says as much. But as I see it, the question is not only whether the compromise could be revived but whether an Israeli government responsible for approving it would then be discredited by continuing evidences of gross Turkish hostility towards Israel as the country heads towards elections.



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B6

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 3:36 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

[Redacted]

B6

This is important so I will check w/ my colleagues in TA and follow up on this end.

You probably know that the Turks allege they had an advance understanding w/ Israel that if the flotilla attempted to approach Gaza (probably vague on whether in Intl waters or whatever mile limit Israelis claim off Gaza), Israelis would deter the ships to Ashkelon or Egypt.

The parties do have irreconcilably different sets of "facts" as well as different interpretations of their meaning. Turks will not concede Israeli "good faith" in boarding the boats and using bullets evidently at point blank range, even against some apparently aggressively suicidal provocateurs armed with bicycle chains. Nonetheless, while both sides feel gravely offended, what no one disputes is that Israeli soldiers killed 9 Turkish civilians and injured others, with zero Israeli casualties. Given the tragic results of both sides' folly (that's my editorial judgment) I doubt the Turks will concede the Israelis' legal "right to board," but I know for sure they were prepared not to challenge it.

in their ad ref agreement to disagree last December, the diplomats' art was to distinguish each side's subjective judgment of the ethical/moral "justice" of the case, from any independent international legal determination of the same. That is, under the ad ref draft agreement, accepted by the Turkish leadership but publicly rejected by Lieberman evidently in order to corner Netanyahu, the parties would agree to disagree; each side would be free to proclaim the morality, ethics, "justice", and even "legality" etc of what each side did, with neither taking the other to court over this - provided the Israelis would express condolences and pay compensation to victims' survivors.

If any life could be breathed back into the basics of this deal, it seems to me there might be an imperfect but perhaps, to the GOI, a politically useful analogy with Petraeus and Gates apologizing for US forces' genuine mistakes in (repeatedly) killing groups of Afghan civilians, including paying compensation, while retaining our legal right to keep on doing the things that inevitably result in such accidents.

Frank

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 9:58 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Frank: I am not, and have not been involved in attempts to settle this issue and am offering my thoughts entirely as an interested member of the public. Hence, I do not know whether or which Turks might have heard the point. But from what I hear the Israeli government is absolutely convinced that it had established a blockade recognized under international law which gave it the authority to board, in international waters, vessels that were clearly attempting to breach it - the announced purpose of the flotilla. I do not know what L's opinion is. I do think that GOT recognition that Israel acted in a good faith belief that it had the right to board would be very helpful.

Best,

[Redacted]

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 1:19 PM



[Redacted]

B6

**Subject:** Re: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

[Redacted] I didn't know about that "right-to-board" point. You are certain? Have right Turks heard this? Are you in touch w/ WH on this? I hope to see Sinirlioglu (point man on this for GoT - maybe Thurs (current blizzard permitting), + he will see Bill Burns Friday in Frankfurt. Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
American Embassy  
Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90 312 457 7280

**From:** [Redacted]

B6

**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Tue Mar 08 18:47:24 2011  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

Dear Frank:

Thank you very much for this valuable piece of information. I surmise that the opinions you sounded are those of official Turks who, I believe, have held to their policy line with remarkable fidelity all of these months. The policy has not varied from days after the incident until the present (a recent iteration occurred yesterday at SAIS by Namik Tan). It is that Turkey wants a positive relationship and that it can be restored if Israel will apologize for the flotilla incident and pay compensation (which is to say, accept full responsibility for an incident for which Israelis do not see themselves as responsible, let alone fully responsible).

As you know, there have been discussions between the governments which have produced significant progress, but not enough. The differences between the two governments are based on totally opposite factual narratives about what happened. Each party is "right" in its negotiating position if it is also right in its factual and legal perceptions, but the two sets of facts are irreconcilable. Therefore, if an agreement is to be reached it will have to be based on the maximum concession each side is prepared to make to the facts of the other and a willingness to move from a rigid adherence to it announced positions.

I understand further that Israel has indicated a preparedness to make some pretty major concessions and is looking for the Turks to balance these. My personal guess is that if the Turks were prepared to concede that Israel had a right to board (whether or not boarding was a good idea) under international law, that would go a long way toward bridging the remaining gap.

Finally, I have the strong impression that while there is considerable skepticism in Israel about the durability of a restoration of positive relations with the AK government following a settlement of the flotilla issue, the Israeli government as a whole has certainly not written off Turkey and that it has already demonstrated its willingness to go the extra kilometer to bring the dispute to an amicable resolution and to restore relations to their pre-Gaza level, or at least their pre-flotilla level.

With renewed thanks for your concern, your efforts, your openness, for reaching out, and with very best wishes,

[Redacted]

B6

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2011 9:22 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: YOUR VISIT to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

[redacted]

After sounding out a lot of opinions here, I have a sense that Turkey still very seriously wants to restore a positive official and broader relationship with Israel, but that the Israelis have written off the Turks. I believe that is a grave error that will become a self-fulfilling outlook if the current impasse persists much longer, i.e. as we approach the anniversary of the flotilla incident.

Should you wish to speak by phone at any point, I'm at your disposal.

Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
Ankara,  
Republic of Turkey

tel: +90 312 455 7280

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 8:46 PM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Dear Frank:

I think you're right about the father.

Thanks for your endorsement of a meeting with Messrs. Gordon and Feltman. We do, of course, understand the pressures under which they operate and will do our best to accommodate their schedules.

In the meanwhile we will keep you informed.

With very best wishes,

[redacted]

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**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 4:36 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

[redacted] you are right. it won't even occur to the bereaved father to ask to see any American Jewish organizations. And if it did, his motives could be open to serious question. he'd know that, even if he ever did have such a thought; hence another reason he'd not consider such an idea. We'll forget about it.

I've always favored maximum contact between Dept of State officers and knowledgeable, concerned private US citizens on any subject. I support doing this at most expert and senior available levels for such distinguished people and on such critical issues as your group and your purposes. Do feel free to ask to see Phil Gordon + Jeff Feltman, both of whom I've alerted to your interest, with my endorsement. But also please understand if their impossible span of vexing issues makes it a challenge to match your own group's collection of scheduling issues.

Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
American Embassy  
Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90 312 457 7280

**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Sent:** Sat Feb 19 00:02:27 2011  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Dear Frank:

I'm just back from our study session which turned out to be fascinating, with as many views as guests.

Thanks for your message. We will consider about the father. But at this point it is, in a sense, moot since we have not received any inquiry from him.

Thank you for pointing out that Jess Baily is a man which, embarrassingly, I hadn't realized. We are starting to plan our next session for late March/early April and would certainly appreciate participation by him and Messrs. Gordon and Feltman. When the time comes to set this up may I make reference to your recommendation?

Again, your support and assistance is greatly appreciated.

Warm regards,

[redacted]

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 18, 2011 1:32 AM

**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

I have to imagine that it would confound the haters and the fearful ones on all sides -- plus really set up a warm welcome for you here -- if members of your del [redacted] would meet with the grieving father. What would better demonstrate true Jewish tradition? But I can't judge how that would play either in Israel or w/i [redacted] - sensitive calls only you could make.

B6

Btw Jess Baily, the country director for Turkey, Greece + Cyprus will be starting in Ankara this summer as DCM. He is a good man. I've also recommended to both Phil Gordon + NEA's Jess Feltman to see you. so don't hesitate to enquire when the time is right  
Frank

Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
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American Embassy  
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Tel: +90 312 457 7260

**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Fri Feb 18 05:58:17 2011  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Dear Frank:

Thanks so much, once again.

Do you think we have something to learn from the father?

Jess Baily very kindly offered to participate in our session tomorrow but most regrettably we are fully booked for the relatively brief window within which we have to work, given travel schedules. But I've asked if she might join us at another session which we will arrange during our three month delay period. The same goes for your very kind offer to participate by phone. Perhaps, with your consent, I will not wait for the next session.

I am greatly disappointed that we are unable to travel on schedule as I thought it would be useful to get the picture now and then consult experts after the election results have become clear. But that was not to be.

I do hope you succeed in your good efforts to keep the election campaign from escalating our problems.

I will certainly keep you abreast of our schedule as it takes shape.

With thanks and very best wishes,

[redacted]

---

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2011 2:59 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Gregonis, Meghan E; Stimmann, Douglas A; Baily, Jess L; Walston, Lysa M; Kilner, Scott F (Istanbul); O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** Re: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Dear [redacted]

Of course I'm disappointed, as I was hoping to see you here both before the election campaign starts and even more importantly, after the results are in and a new government is in place. That's unlikely much before July.

Meanwhile we'll keep striving to put a floor under the problem and specifically to keep this issue out of the election campaign, and we'll hope our mutual friends will repair and rebuild their ties under a refreshed GOT. Sure could use any help from the other side during this particularly sensitive period.

(Btw the Turkish father of the Turk-AmCit killed in the flotilla incident will be visiting the US in the coming days. Jess + Meghan can tell you more, if there is any [redacted] interest.)

This state.gov address is best for me as I do read it personally + it comes to my BB.

If you judge it may be useful and appropriate, one or another of us in Turkey may be available to participate in your group discussions by DVC or phone.

Let's stay in touch as the calendar and your visit plans advance.

Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
American Embassy  
Ankara, Turkey

Tel: +90 312 457 7280

**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J.  
**Cc:** Gregonis, Meghan E; Silliman, Douglas A; Baily, Jess L; Walston, Lysa M; Kilner, Scott F (Istanbul); O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Wed Feb 16 04:52:34 2011  
**Subject:** RE: your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Dear Frank:

Thank you very much for your extraordinarily warm and supportive message of this morning; one which makes me all the more abashed at having to tell you at this late date that we have had to postpone our visit. Staffing issues combined with the need, per Ambassador Tan's advice, to complete our visit to Turkey before the start of the campaign on March 12, left us with little wiggle room and several days ago obliged us to make the decision to travel after the election. We are meeting on Friday to decide on a new date subject, of course, to your advice and that of Ambassador Tan.

My colleagues and I will be gathering on Friday and on other occasions prior to our departure to meet with academic and governmental authorities in preparation for our trip and we would be most anxious to include senior officials at the Department in this process.

On the technical level, the reason I found it necessary to write you by snail mail, thereby holding up our exchanges, was that my email of several weeks ago to the address from which your message of today was sent was returned to me. Is this the address to which all future email should be sent?

Allow me to renew my colleagues and my own personal thanks for your support and concern. I greatly look forward to our continued contacts.

[redacted]

**From:** Ricciardone, Francis J [mailto:RicciardoneFJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 9:48 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Gregonis, Meghan E; Silliman, Douglas A; Baily, Jess L; Walston, Lysa M; Kilner, Scott F (Istanbul); O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Subject:** your visit to Ankara and Istanbul

B6

Dear [redacted]

Many thanks for your letter of February 3, which I've just now received. My colleagues and I are looking forward to your visit to Istanbul and Ankara with [redacted] in early March. As we discussed when we met in Washington last month, we will be keen to support in any way. There is no more urgent and important objective even on the crowded US-Turkey agenda than getting Turkish-Israeli relations back on a productive track. This has been a principal subject of my first official

calls all around the Turkish Government, and much quality time with my Israeli colleague in my first days here in Ankara. I expect that senior colleagues in the Department will be eager to see you before you depart for Turkey.

Other business obliges me to be in Istanbul from late on February 28 until return to Ankara the morning of March 3. In order further to show USG support for your purposes, I would be happy to join any or all of your official calls on top officials in Ankara, though I will defer to your wishes should you see any advantage in making your calls independently. In any case, we will close the loop with the MFA here on planning for your visit, which they will have begun through Ambassador Tan's initiative.

If you'll permit, Lysa Walston and I will be glad to work with you and the Turkish Government to arrange mutually convenient appointments in Ankara, and perhaps also for a pre-brief in Istanbul. I will copy Lysa on this message, along with DCM Doug Silliman, political counselor Dan O'Grady, and our CG in Istanbul, Scott Kilner. Please do feel warmly welcome to use my email or to phone me or any of us at any time.

Sincerely,

Frank

Francis J. Ricciardone  
US Ambassador  
Ankara, Turkey  
tel: +90 312 457 7280

cell: +90 533 482 0762

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R31

Law, Rosemary C

From: Todd Pierce  
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2011 5:53 AM  
To: Ricciardone, Francis J; Jess Baily; Kim, Yuri J; berivan Grubisha, Thomas J;  
Subject: Today's Zaman piece

B6

Here you go. The quote in the JP comes from this piece published two days ago.

RELEASED IN PART B6



## Erdoğan's misinterpreted remarks on escorting aid vessels touch raw nerves

A warning by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to Israel reiterating his country's firmness on ensuring freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean sent shockwaves throughout the region after it was interpreted as a prelude to a naval confrontation with its former ally.

But officials in Ankara made clear on Friday that Erdoğan's remarks during an interview with Al Jazeera were quoted out of context. Some of his quotes were compiled later both by Al Jazeera and Reuters in a way that implied these quotes had followed each other, the same officials said. "Turkish warships, in the first place, are authorized to protect our ships that carry humanitarian aid to Gaza," Erdoğan was quoted as saying by Reuters in the interview, broadcast by Al Jazeera with an Arabic translation.

"From now on, we will not let these ships be attacked by Israel, as what happened with the Freedom Flotilla," Erdoğan was also quoted as saying by Reuters.

In the Turkish version of the text of the interview provided by the Anatolia news agency, however, Erdoğan, in response to a question on ensuring the freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean, says: "At the moment, no doubt, Turkish warships are first of all liable to protect their own ships. This is the first step. And there is humanitarian aid which we will extend. Our humanitarian assistance will no longer be attacked as happened in the case of the Mavi Marmara."

A senior government official speaking to Today's Zaman on Friday said Erdoğan's remarks cannot be interpreted to mean that Turkey has been preparing to send humanitarian aid ships to the region that will be escorted by Turkish warships. "We have put forth a principle by saying that we will ensure the freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean and that this

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

field is not an Israeli playground.

As long as Israel does not interfere in the freedom of navigation, we do not plan on sending any warships to escort humanitarian aid ships," the official, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, told Today's Zaman. "The misquoted remarks suggest that we have been readying to provide a warship to escort each humanitarian aid ship. This is not the case. However, Turkey will protect its citizens' rights in the event of any interference in international waters," the official added.

Turkey downgraded its relations with Israel following a raid by the latter on the Mavi Marmara, a ship that was part of an international aid flotilla attempting to breach an Israeli blockade of Gaza. Turkey said relations between the two countries would only return to normal if Israel offered a formal apology for the resultant killings and paid compensation to the victims' families. Israel, however, refused, saying its soldiers had acted in self-defense. Months-long diplomatic efforts to mend relations failed to produce an agreement.

The Turkish government last Friday announced a set of sanctions against Israel, including the further downgrading of relations to second secretary level -- effectively expelling senior-level Israeli diplomats -- and measures it will take to ensure freedom of navigation in the eastern Mediterranean after Israel made clear that it would not apologize for the May 31, 2010 raid.

In Jerusalem, Erdoğan's compiled remarks found a response from Deputy Prime Minister Dan Meridor, who termed "Turkey's announcement that Turkish warships would escort any future convoys to the Gaza Strip" "harsh and serious" but said Israel wanted to avoid a war of words with its former ally.

"The things Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan said are harsh and serious, but I don't think it would be right to get into any verbal saber-rattling with him," Deputy Prime Minister Meridor told Israeli Army Radio. "Our silence is the best response. I hope this phenomenon will pass." Meanwhile, Israel's hawkish foreign minister is planning a series of measures to retaliate against Turkey in the recent row over the apology, including military aid to the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a news report said on Friday.

Other planned measures are cooperation with the Armenian lobby in the US in its efforts to win recognition for Armenian claims that 1.5 million Armenians were victims of a genocide campaign in the late Ottoman Empire during World War I and to issue a travel warning urging all Israeli military veterans to refrain from traveling to Turkey, according to a report in Israel's Yedioth Ahranoth newspaper. The travel advisory will also urge Israelis to refrain from boarding connections in Turkey, the report said.

Yedioth Ahranoth said Lieberman had planned meetings with PKK leaders in Europe in order to find ways to cooperate with them "in every possible area." In these meetings, the PKK leaders may ask Israel for military aid in the form of training and arms supplies, the report said. Lieberman is also



planning active Israeli participation in efforts worldwide to report Turkey's "violations of human rights" in the treatment of minorities in Turkey.

"We'll exact a price from Erdoğan that will prove to him that messing with Israel doesn't pay off. Turkey better treat us with respect and common decency," Lieberman was quoted as saying. Whether Lieberman's threats could ever be implemented remains questionable.

2011-09-09

Muhabir: Today's Zaman

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**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2011 5:19 AM  
**Subject:** Turkey Media Reaction - April 8, 2011

RELEASED IN FULL

**Categories:** Working

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**1. Turkey Media Highlights, April 8: Government Shutdown; Wikileaks Comments from Koc and Saluting US Diplomats; IHH on New Gaza Flotilla; PM Erdogan's Libyan Roadmap; Rebels Respond; Syria – New Terror Agreement with Turkey; Assad Reforms; TGS Draws Reactions for 'Sledgehammer' Statement; Third anti-Turkey Demonstration in TRNC (Prepared by PAS Information Section, US Embassy Ankara)**

**How the US is Playing****2. Government Shutdown: "Big Crisis in the US" (Hurriyet)**

*Hurriyet* gives prominent play to reports that 800,000 federal public employees will be given compulsory leave if no agreement is reached between the two parties in the Congress. Hundreds of places from the Statue of Liberty to the US embassy services will be shut down, and several staff in the White House will go home, says *Hurriyet*. Internet newsportal *Haber FX* headlines, "Obama: Do not Force Government Shut Down."

**3. Wikileaks Explanation from Koc (Zaman)**

All major Turkish papers and TVs report that Koc Holding Executive Board Chairman Mustafa Koc responded to WL documents that were published by Taraf this week. While pro-government papers interpret Koc's explanation as 'he accepted WL claims,' mainstream media tend to report exactly what he said. Islamic oriented *Zaman* today says Koc owned up to his comments in Wikileaks, confirming that he met U.S. Ambassador James Jeffrey during the days of economic crisis (in 2009) and that at that time he said that AKP would lose in the next elections. "I talked about political scenarios and coalition," says Koc, "however, in today's conditions, AK Party will be the top party of the general elections." Koc, in an interview with *CNBC-e* on 4/7 criticized *Taraf's* headlines, characterizing them as sensational and "ugly." Mainstream *Milliyet* and liberal *Vatan* report that Koc underlined he was only discussing possible scenarios 20 months ago with Ambassador Jeffrey.

**4. Commentary: "Wikileaks teaches lots of things" (Posta)**

Mehmet Ali Birand in *Posta*: "Each Wikileaks document, as printed in a Turkish newspaper every day, is indicative of not only the meticulousness of the work of American diplomats, but also how deeper they go in some of their analyses compared to local experts. Wikileaks documents also show us how carefully and closely the US diplomacy searches and scrutinizes developments. They are working like Swiss watches. Sometimes they make mistakes, but it's obvious that a mechanism which never misleads Washington exists. One cannot help but envy them."

**In the News: Israel, Libya, Syria****5. Gaza Flotilla: "IHH - Don't Let Israeli Tourists to Alanya" (Milliyet)**

Mainstream *Milliyet* reports that Islamic Human Rights and Freedom Organization (IHH) head Bulent Yildirim told an audience of over 1,000 that the IHH plans to send a second flotilla to Gaza, but apparently it will not set sail from Turkey. According to *Milliyet*, Yildirim said at an event in Alanya: "We are getting ready for another flotilla. There will be a ship from every country. Our own Mavi Marmara will set sail from Europe. Vessels will come from everywhere in the world. Israel will learn this: The Mediterranean does not belong to Israel. Just because we have had martyrs, we are not afraid. We will not step back. Let all know this: Until the blockade on Gaza is lifted and until our march to al-Aqsa is completed, this sea and land operation will continue. Also, it will not be only by sea. We are preparing for land convoys as well. Our project for the purchase of an airplane will soon be realized. What do we say to the world leaders? Do not expect us to live in comfort, when people in Gaza are dying and don't expect us to remain silent when al Aqsa mosque is a prisoner. We are saying this: We don't have a problem with the Christians or Jews. But we do have a problem with one place! And we declare it with courage, without fear. Our problem is Zionism, which, like a virus, has infected all humanity." *Dogan News Agency* (DHA) quoted Yildirim on 04/07 as saying "There is a flotilla for the memory of 31 May, but it will be in mid June. Our own Mavi Marmara will set sail from Europe." Yildirim also called Alanya residents 'not to let Israeli tourists to Alanya before Israeli government apologizes and pays compensation because of Mavi Marmara.' Alanya, on Turkey's southern coast, is a popular package tour destination for Israelis.

**6. PM Erdogan's Libyan Roadmap; Rebels Respond (Hurriyet)**

All media report PM Erdogan's "roadmap" for Libya that he unveiled in a press conference yesterday in Ankara. The roadmap consists three elements: A ceasefire should be called and military forces loyal to Gaddafi should lift their siege on some cities; safe humanitarian zones should be set up for uninterrupted humanitarian aid to all Libyans; a democratic change process should be launched at once. Pro-government Star headlines "Step down, Gaddafi" and underlines the PM's comments that "Gaddafi needs to withdraw from besieged cities and the process of constitutional transition must commence." In "Erdogan Calls on Gaddafi: 'Open the Path to Democracy,'" pro-government *Zaman* reports Erdogan also said the anti-Turkey demonstrations in Libya were "black propaganda," and urged the Libyans to not believe in them. In "Erdogan: 'We Know the Centers of Libel in Libya,'" leftist-nationalist *Cumhuriyet* quotes Erdogan as saying, "It's a saddening development that some centers of power who see themselves close to the people in Libya has launched a slander campaign against Turkey. We know who are behind this campaign, and take note of it." "I'm calling on the Libyan administration to open the path to constitutional democracy in which the people of Libya will elect their administrators freely," said Erdogan. In "Libyan Rebels Respond to Erdogan Fast," *Hurriyet* reports the Libyan rebels refused to hold negotiations with Gaddafi. The insurgents' spokesman Colonel Ahmad Bani told *al-Arabiya TV*, "We respect the position of the Turkish people, but Erdogan's position does not reflect the views of the Turkish people. Erdogan is not speaking for the interests of Libya or the Turkish people, he is speaking only for his own interests."

**7. Syria Agreement: Red Line Between Turkey and Damascus (Milliyet)**

In a front page report, mainstream *Milliyet* reports that a Turkish-Syrian counter-terrorism agreement has been approved. Under the agreement, *Milliyet* says that Turkey will be able to extradite PKK members who are Syrian citizens. *Milliyet* also writes: "Direct telephone line will be established between the chiefs of general staff of the two countries." In "Counter-Terrorism Agreement," mainstream *Hurriyet* reports: With this agreement, Syria and Turkey aim to stop terrorist organizations activities. It also includes intelligence sharing, joint operations, as necessary, and the return of terrorist group members."

**8. Syria: First Concrete Step from Assad to Stop Anti-Government Protests; 250,000 Kurds Granted Syrian Nationality (Hurriyet, Milliyet, Aksam)**

Today's papers report that, following the uprising results in Northern Africa and the middle East, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad announced a reform package to calm down his own people. The package, which will be implemented immediately, covers the Sunni population as well as the Kurds who were unable to benefit from their minority rights for years. Mainstream *Milliyet* cites Syrian State News Agency SANA and reports that Assad issued a decree granting citizenship to more than 250,000 Kurds registered as aliens in Hasaka province. Kurds, which which make up 20 per cent of Syrian population, were not considered as citizens since 1962 and they have long complained of neglect and discrimination, add the papers. The second big reform decision of Assad was allowing the Sunni population to be involved in politics. According to Assad's childhood friend and activist Abdul Nur, Assad met with Islamic leader Said Ramadan al-Buti and talked about the possibilities of establishing a party in Syria similar to AKP in Turkey which is loyal to the regime and with an Islamic background, notes mainstream *Hurriyet*.

**Commentary: Syria-Turkey; Press Freedom in Syria**

**9. "Assad can continue his hold on power only through reforms" (Milliyet)**

Sami Kohen in *Milliyet*: "Ankara has taken a different attitude against the movement of change in Syria, which is suitable with its southern neighbor's conditions and Turkey's interests. Ankara defends change and reforms in Syria, but does not call for a toppling of the regime or ousting of its leader. FM Davutoglu has advised President Assad in Damascus to 'hurry up' for reforms. Assad can continue his power if he quickly opts for a way to meet the expectations of his people. Syria's will be an interesting test to see whether change can happen under the same regime."

**10. "Press Freedom in Syria" (Hurriyet)**

Ferai Tinc in *Hurriyet*: "The support Ankara has given to Bashar Assad actually serves the interests of the Syrian President. Now it's time for difficult demands. Press freedom is the most critical issue in Syria, on which Turkey must be persistent. If Ankara presses for it, wouldn't it be seen as an advice coming from a country which has been ranked 138th in the lineup for world press freedom list? True, but if Turkey is defending the thesis that it sees suitable for its own interests a continuation of the Assad administration by making reforms, then Ankara has to insist on press freedom. Who knows, while pressing Damascus on press freedom, it might be possible for Turkey to perceive the situation of the press at home in an objective manner within the framework of the common principles of democracy. If Turkey doesn't press Syria for freedoms, this 'friendship' will go no further than providing a cover for an oppressive regime."

**Other News**

**11. General Staffs Draws Reactions From the Government and the Opposition for Sledgehammer Statement (*All media*)**

TV channels last night and the papers today cover the reaction of both the government and the opposition showed to the TGS statement of Wednesday saying that it had difficulty understanding the continued detention of 163 military personnel as part of the Sledgehammer probe. Parliament Speaker Mehmet Ali Sahin said "it would be better if the General Staff had not issued such a statement, as they could be interpreted as a move to interfere in the judicial process." AKP official Suat Kilic said "the statement could be perceived as intervention in the judicial process. Akif Hamzacebi of the main opposition party CHP, described the TGS remarks as a sign of excessive sensitivity and said that he didn't find the remarks right.

**12. Cyprus: Third Anti-Turkey Demonstration in TRNC (*Vatan*)**

Turkish media report on yesterday's protests against Turkey in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Mainstream *Vatan* in its front page reports "Syndicated Platform members held the third demonstration to protest the tight austerity measures claimed to have been taken with the demands of Turkey. Around 2500 people attended the demonstration. Some groups opened placards writing 'occupier Turkish Republic get out of Cyprus'." Liberal *Radikal* in "Crowded Demonstration in TRNC," notes demonstrator planted a Greek Cypriot flag on the wall of Turkish Embassy and shouted slogans."

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R33

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 5:15 AM  
**Subject:** TURKEY Media Reaction June 27, 2011

RELEASED IN FULL

**Categories:** Working

**1. Turkey Media Highlights, June 28:** US Say Turkey a Source for Trafficking; Israel Will Stop Second Flotilla to Gaza; Turkey Deploys Gendarme Commandoes at Syria Border, Turkey Briefed Allies; Brinkmanship in Turkish Parliament Opening; PM Erdogan on CHP, BDP Boycott of Parliament; Pundits Evaluate 'Oath-Taking Crisis'; Say Boycotting Parliament Will Have High Costs; Police Operations on Energy

**How the US is Playing/Stories of Interest****2. US Says Turkey a Source, Destination and Transit for Trafficking (Today's Zaman)**

In its annual "Trafficking in Persons" report, the State Department said Turkey is a source, destination, and transit country for women, men, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor, reports *Today's Zaman*. *Zaman* says the report accuses the government of not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but stressed that Turkey is making significant efforts to do so.

**3. Israel Will Stop Second Flotilla again on Open Seas (Zaman)**

Turkish media report the second aid flotilla to Gaza will set sail from Greece over the weekend with 9-10 ships and over 400 activists from 22 countries onboard. "Israel Will Stop Flotilla again on Open Seas," headlines Islamist, pro-government *Zaman* and reports Israel continued its diplomatic pressure on Athens to stop the flotilla. In "Stop the Flotilla without Bloodshed," mainstream *Hurriyet* reports seven ships setting sail from Athens will meet on the Mediterranean with three ships from France and Spain, and reach offshore Gaza on Thursday. *Hurriyet* reports ministers from yesterday's Israeli security cabinet meeting said the aid cargos can be offloaded at Israel's Ashdod and Egypt's al-Arish ports, and transported to Gaza after inspections. Meanwhile, six Democrat members of the US Congress have urged Secretary Clinton in a letter to do all she can to ensure the security of the American citizens aboard the flotilla, notes *Hurriyet*. Liberal *Radikal* in "Athens Under Pressure, Flotilla Can't Depart," reports "the Flotilla organizers are facing technical and administrative difficulties in Greece due to Israeli diplomatic pressure." Meanwhile, in "Israel Should Apologize," pro government mainstream *Sabah* reports that "Israeli *Haaretz* says Israel should apologize to Turkey for the Mavi Marmara raid, meanwhile, Israel approved a plan to intercept Gaza Freedom Flotilla II. Israel's security cabinet decided that Israel will be determined to prevent the arrival of the flotilla to Gaza, and ordered the army to adamantly stop the sail in case it tries to breach the siege."

**4. Special Commandoes at the Syria Border (Sabah)**

Pro-government *Sabah* reports "security measures are tightened in the region when Syrian soldiers opened fire at the border last week. Turkey deployed 300 elite gendarme commandoes at the border with Syria. The commandoes will deal with possible tensions at the border, at the same time they will control the influx of Syrian refugees to Turkey and will prevent the infiltration of PKK terrorists." *Sabah* notes "the commandoes will also be responsible for the safety of Syrian refugees." Meanwhile, in "Turkish Army To Enter Syria," Islamist moderate *Zaman* asserts that Turkey advised Western countries that it would launch military operations into Syria to topple the Assad regime. The *Zaman* report is based on a story from Kuwait's Es-Siyasseh Daily, which cites a British source saying that Turkey briefed Britain, France, Italy, Germany and NATO.

**5. "NATO's Libya Test" (Zaman)**

Fikret Ertan in 6/27 Islamist moderate *Zaman*: "It is clear that NATO's Libya mission is not proceeding the way it was expected. The hypothesis that Gaddafi's regime would collapse after a couple weeks of heavy bombardment has collapsed itself. This indicates that reaching easy and fast results through air bombardment will not be possible everytime and everywhere. In Kosovo, NATO had made Milosevic give up with heavy aerial bombardment, but it had happened only after the threat that a ground operation would follow the bombardment. Today, there is no such option for Libya because UN Security Council No: 1973 does not permit ground operations. And there is no possibility that a resolution allowing ground operations can ever be taken. NATO, which exerted itself so much in Libya which was seen as a piece of cake, can never easily think of intervening anywhere else from now on."

**In the Headlines**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**6. Brinkmanship Pushes Ankara to Edge of Abyss (*Hurriyet Daily News*); The Most Painful Parliament Opening (*Milliyet*)**

All media report the Turkish Parliament will convene today with an oath-taking ceremony following the June 12 elections (at 1500). Today's ceremony will occur under the shadow of the boycott of Kurdish BDP and the main opposition CHP over the fate of eight independent deputies not released from prison despite the fact that they were elected. In "CHP Awaits Judicial Decision," leftist-nationalist *Cumhuriyet* reports the 132 deputies from CHP will go to the parliament today, but they will not take oath to protest the ruling of the court. "CHP Awaits Erdogan's Pledge to Solve Jailed Deputies Crisis," headlines *Hurriyet* and notes this was CHP's "last call" to Erdogan. In "They Invested in Chaos," Islamist, pro-government *Yeni Safak* reports CHP, BDP and MHP knew from the start that their candidates who were in prison when they were nominated would not be released when elected, but that they still nominated them. "Parliament to Open with 'Oath Crisis,'" headlines *Radikal* and reports that in 1991, Kurdish MP Leyla Zana and in 1999, 'headscarf MP' Merve Kavakci had put their marks on the opening ceremonies. In "I Would Have Released Them," *Vatan* quotes the justice in charge of appointments at High Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) as saying if he was dealing with their cases, he would have released the elected deputies from prison. Papers note that the AKP and the MHP will take part in the opening ceremony.

**7. Erdogan Believes Nomination of Imprisoned Deputies Had Been 'Intentional' (*Hurriyet*)**

Media report Prime Minister Erdoğan said Turkish people elected the deputies to handle their problems, not to boycott the legislature. According to *Hurriyet*, Erdoğan told reporters yesterday that political parties and independent candidates were aware of the risks before they were nominated. "Couldn't they have found other candidates? Apparently, their goal was to lay the ground for bending the laws," said Erdoğan, and noted that they will have to wait for a decision from the judiciary. In "Erdogan Can Relieve all Turkey," leftist-nationalist *Cumhuriyet* reports CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu said all CHP deputies would swear in if Erdoğan assures them in front of the public that he would resolve the problem of the deputies in prison. "Erdogan himself has gone through the same difficulties, and CHP had helped him to become a member of parliament despite the fact that Erdoğan was then in a more grave situation compared to BDP's Hatip Dicle today. The deputies in prison are not convicted, so there is no need for legal arrangements," said Kilicdaroglu. Meanwhile, opposition far right MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli warned everyone to not take steps they will regret in the future, and called for a "compromise through friendship."

**8. Commentary: The Oath-taking Crisis (*Opposition: Radikal, Milliyet, Vatan*)**

Murat Yetkin in *Radikal* notes the BDP decision to boycott the parliament was important, but the CHP decision to boycott the oath-taking ceremony was more important, because it can "shake the grounds of the system." Yetkin writes: "In a parliament where the main opposition does not participate in the work of General Assembly and commissions, the AKP can pass every law it wants, and take the constitutional changes to referendum. This would be in line with the laws, but it is debatable whether it would be legitimate. As of yesterday night, no one had a clear idea what will happen at the swearing in ceremony today, and everyone was looking at what Erdoğan would say. This process is not anything that will carry Turkey to the advanced levels of pluralist democracy." After speaking with the CHP's former leader Deniz Baykal, Asli Aydinbas writes in *Milliyet* that Baykal called on everyone who has self respect to not take the oath and predicted that Baykal "will give strong support to Kilicdaroglu at a critical time." Columnist Okay Gönensin in mainstream *Vatan* suggests that AKP could file a proposal for delaying the oath-taking ceremony in the parliament until the judiciary finalizes all requests for the release of the imprisoned members of the parliament, which can help defuse the tensions.

**9. Commentary: "Boycotting Parliament Will Have High Costs" (Pro-government: *Zaman*)**

*Zaman's* Editor in Chief Ekrem Dumanli opines: "The Turkish Parliament must push aside all the tutelage systems which were the byproducts of the September 1980 military coup, and establish a libertarian, participatory, and democratic system. Those who say 'I'll boycott the parliament' are part of the problem, not the solution. And Turkish people will hold to account everyone who excludes the parliament. Those who boycott the parliament would have boycotted the people, and will pay a high cost."

**10. MGK Discusses Tensions in Middle East (*Sabah*)**

Media report Turkey's National Security Council (MGK) convened on 6/27 and identified in a final statement the meeting's main agenda items as consideration of the security ramifications in southeast Turkey of the BDP's parliamentary boycott, Syria, and Libya. *Cumhuriyet* comments the MGK signaled that the Turkish government's Kurdish democratic initiative would continue, and that this was a message for the BDP. *Hurriyet* reports that in the meeting, the Turkish Ambassador in Damascus, Ömer Önhon, briefed the officials on the possible scenarios for the developments in Syria. "We have evaluated the recent developments in Syria, Libya, the Middle East and North Africa regions. Within this frame, we have highlighted the importance of meeting the legitimate demands of the regional peoples by comprehensive political, social and economic reforms and realistic political change that would facilitate constitutional democracies," the MGK statement said, and added the meeting also discussed the activities in meeting the needs of Syrian citizens who took temporary shelter in Turkey. *Sabah* and *Cumhuriyet* report the MGK also warned that the unrest in the region could spread to Iraq.

**11. Police Operations on Energy (Sabah)**

Pro-government *Sabah* reports in its front page "30 people in 10 cities, including Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Sivas, Kirsehir, Zonguldak, Mersin, Kayseri, Urfa and Manisa, on charges of rigging energy bids and bribery within the scope of an energy corruption investigation launched into the state-run electricity generation company Elektrik Uretim A.S. (EUAS), which is Turkey's most profitable institution. The former director general of the EUAS, two department heads, branch managers and some businesspeople were among the suspects detained."

*Compiled by the Press Office, US Embassy*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R34

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Gunay, Serdil  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 5:49 AM  
**Subject:** TURKEY Media Reaction June 29, 2011  
**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**1. Turkey Media Highlights, June 29:** Ambassador Ricciardone on Turkey; US Trafficking in Persons Report--Turkey; Gaza Flotilla; US Bases in Turkey; Turkey's 'Oath-Taking Crisis'; Three Views on the Crisis

**How the US is Playing/Stories of Interest**

**2. Ambassador Ricciardone: "Ethnic Elements Strengthened Turkish Parliament" (Milliyet)**

Turkish papers and online news portals give wide coverage to Ambassador Ricciardone's visit to the southeastern city of Mardin where the US Ambassador met with Governor Turhan Ayvaz. "Mardin has developed immensely, and became richer. There is no impediment for American businessmen to come and invest in Mardin," mainstream Milliyet quotes Ricciardone. Ricciardone, commenting on the stance of the CHP and the Kurdish BDP on yesterday's oath-taking ceremony at the parliament, told reporters that Turkey would overcome the crisis, thanks to its strong and robust democracy, and added, "the presence of ethnic groups under the roof of the parliament has been a good decision for the strengthening of democracy."

On a question whether the change in Egypt could be true for Syria as well, Ricciardone said: "I am not a prophet, I cannot predict Syria's future. Egyptians are a people open to change. Syrian people, too, want change, but I cannot guess what eventually will happen. Syrian government treats its own people very bad; this was not the case in Egypt. But in Syria, there are limits to the patience." Islamist, pro-government Zaman reported online Ambassador Ricciardone talked about their love of travel in Turkey and that "we'd like to support tourism and business," noting that the 600-year old Deyrulumur Monastery was a "very important place for history and for humanity... It's an important treasure for both Christians and Muslims. It's like fine jewelry that must be protected." Ambassador said one of his priorities is to integrate the US and Turkish businesses in the region, and that "we have efforts underway for the US business to have a positive outlook on Turkey." Answering a question on Syria, Ricciardone explained: "the US stance is clear on this issue – the Syrian government must stop the violence." The Sondakika.com online news portal reports that when asked about the Turkish elections, Ricciardone commented "I congratulate the government and opposition parties on their success in the elections, but other subjects [you are asking about] concern Turkish domestic political issues and I don't want to evaluate them."

**3. US Trafficking in Persons Report Categorizes Turkey among 'Tier 2' Countries (Milliyet)**

Mainstream Milliyet reports the US State Department, in its annual Trafficking in Persons report, placed Turkey under the category of countries "working on the issue," and accused the government of "not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," but said Turkey is making significant efforts to do so. According to the report, women and child sex trafficking victims found in Turkey originate predominately from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe but Turkish women are also subjected to forced prostitution within the country. Milliyet reports that the report said the government of Turkey demonstrated some limited progress in protecting trafficking victims in 2010; however, it did not address critically needed improvements to achieve a more victim-centered approach.

**4. Slander Campaign on Gaza Flotilla (Hurriyet)**

Turkish media report Israel has launched a "counter-propaganda campaign" days before a second aid flotilla to Gaza sets sail from Greek ports, tomorrow or Friday. Hurriyet reports Israeli Prime Ministry sources told Ha'aretz several units of the state of Israel, "in compliance with the country's interests, is using the opportunities of the internet media." In "Bibi Production," Islamist, pro-government Yeni Safak opines "Israel, after trying everything to stop the second Gaza flotilla, this time uses black propaganda," comments Yeni Safak.

**5. Iran's Target is US Bases (Milliyet)**

Opposition Turkish media report "the commander of Iran's aerospace force General Ali Hajizadeh sent a pointed message to Israel and the US that they were within range of Iranian missiles." Hurriyet's front page story notes "Hajizadeh made his comments as Iran was conducting the Prophet 6 war games which include testing of the Shahab-3 ballistic missile, which has a range of up to 2,000 kilometres and is capable of reaching any part of Israel." Milliyet headlines "Iran's Show of Force," while Radikal in "Iran's Missile Threat," notes "Foreign Ministry spokesman Mehmanparast said that Western worries over Iran's military strength was a 'source of delight' for the country." Radikal also adds "Iran says US economic sanctions against the country have made it harder for the national Iranian airline to refuel its planes abroad and calls the situation 'inhumane.'"



In the Headlines

**6. "Hope for Compromise" (*Sabah*)**

Mainstream *Hurriyet's* banner headlines "Oath in the Parliament with 169 Absent Deputies," and reports "for the first time, one third of the deputies of the 550 member parliament did not take oath due to the boycott of 134 deputies of CHP and 34 independent parliamentarians and absence of Engin Alan from MHP due to his arrest." Leftist-nationalist *Cumhuriyet* headlines "Heavy Political Crisis," while Islamist-oriented *Zaman* says "CHP-BDP Alliance in the Parliament." All media report "commenting on the deputies under arrest, PM Erdogan said they could evaluate the proposal that will come from CHP." Pro-government *Sabah* headlines "Hope for Compromise," while CNNTurk in "First Contact Today," reports "the first contact between CHP and AKP will take place today. Deputy PM Cemil Cicek will visit CHP leader Kilicdaroglu today to assess the process of election of Parliament Speaker." Meanwhile, liberal *Radikal* reports "independent deputies who were elected with the support of BDP convened in Diyarbakir on Tuesday and took a decision to hold BDP's group meetings in Diyarbakir rather than in the Turkish Parliament."

**7. "Bitter Parliament Opening" (*Hurriyet*)**

Sedat Ergin in *Hurriyet*: "Yesterday's boycotting of parliament by opposition CHP and BDP will damage the power of the ruling AKP on the international arena. The crisis, however, has helped the Turkish public see the hazards of granting extensive powers to 'specially authorized courts.' These courts ignore the European Human Rights Treaty and the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights. Turkey claims to adjust its legislature to European norms, but these courts draw Turkey away from Europe. While working to solve the problem with the deputies in prison, the parliament needs to abolish the specially authorized courts and to align its criminal procedure with European legal norms."

**8. "Turkish Summer" (*Radikal*)**

Murat Yetkin in *Radikal*: "Tensions in Ankara escalated with yesterday's boycotting of the parliament by CHP and Kurdish BDP. The Turkish Summer, unlike the Arab Spring, does not witness street riots or upheavals. The fact that there are efforts to work out the problems in the parliament shows that Turkish democracy is more mature than that of the Arab countries. Even if the boycott problem is resolved, the search for constitutional reforms and Turkey's Kurdish problem have suffered severe blows. Turkey should prepare for a hot and long Turkish Summer."

**9. "Who built this game?" (*Yeni Safak*)**

Ibrahim Karagül in pro-government *Yeni Safak*: "Whoever might be the builder of this game in Turkey, he deployed the sides to the fronts. [The oath-taking crisis in parliament] is a coup, a project to suspend democracy. Those who do not prefer to give their struggle in the parliament seem to have opted for crisis and fight outside the parliament. And at a time when we are witnessing earthquakes in the entire region from North Africa to Iran, and when the entire geography is being redesigned. Those who claimed that this wave of upheavals will strike Turkey after the elections through the Kurdish problem might prove to be right. If so, the division will deepen in Turkey, and Turkey will be put in a situation of deeply buried into its own problems. I hope all this is mere concern."

**10. Roundup: Ambassador Ricciardone in SE Turkey**

Ambassador Ricciardone liked the Hilton Hotel in Sanliurfa, where he was welcomed by the governor, mayor, university rector, chief public prosecutor, and justice commission chairman. The Ambassador told the press he has been in the region for two days and found the Southeast beautiful and flourishing, adding that not only the SE, but all of Turkey has developed democratically and economically.

<http://www.sanliurfa.com/haber34416-buyukelciden-hilton-reklami.htm>

Ambassador Ricciardone visited Mor Gabriel Monastery in Midyat, Mardin, where he lit a votive candle for world peace.

[http://www.haberalemi.net/HD265198\\_abd-buyukelcisi-ricciardone-midyat-ta.html](http://www.haberalemi.net/HD265198_abd-buyukelcisi-ricciardone-midyat-ta.html)

Ambassador Ricciardone paid a visit to Mardin Mayor Mehmet Beşir Ayanoğlu and stated that Mardin has become a model city. <http://www.haberler.com/abd-buyukelcisi-ricciardone-mardin-belediyesi-2829503-haber/>

Ambassador and Dr. Ricciardone enjoyed special Mardin coffee at a sidewalk cafe in Old Town Mardin.

[http://www.cafesiyaset.com/Ricciardone-Mardini-ziyaret-ediyor\\_180179.html](http://www.cafesiyaset.com/Ricciardone-Mardini-ziyaret-ediyor_180179.html)

Ambassador Ricciardone stated that to end the tension in Syria, Syria needs to avoid violence and concentrate on reforms immediately.

<http://www.sondakika.com/haber-abd-buyukelcisi-suriye-derhal-reform-yapmali-2829593/>

Compiled by the Press Office, US Embassy

RELEASED IN FULL

R35

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Friday, September 02, 2011 6:52 AM  
**Subject:** Update 1: Turkey To Downgrade Diplomatic Relations with Israel Over Palmer Report

(SBU) Concerned Israel will not apologize and pay reparations for last year's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla, Foreign Minister Davutoglu says Turkey will downgrade diplomatic relations with Israel to the second secretary level and cut military ties as well, media reports. Embassy Ankara comments Israel's ambassador to Turkey returned to Israel previously, and is unlikely to be replaced.

Automatic electronic distribution to: S, D(B), D(N), P, E, C, M, DG, T, R, PA, G, AF, EAP, EUR, NEA, SCA, WHA, IO, S/CRS, S/CT, S/HSC, H, DS, CA, PMAT, INR, AVC, IIP, ISN, CMS, S/ES, S/ES-O, NSOC, and WHSR.

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**From:** OpsAlert@state.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 01, 2011 1:28:08 PM  
**To:**  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** New York Times Publishes Palmer Commission Report (U)

(U) Ahead of the expected September 2 publication, The New York Times released the full text of the UN's findings. According to The New York Times, the review found Israel's naval blockade of Gaza to be legal and appropriate but deemed the way its forces boarded the Turkish-based flotilla to be excessive and unreasonable.

Automatic electronic distribution to: S, D(B), D(N), P, E, C, M, DG, T, R, PA, G, AF, EAP, EUR, NEA, SCA, WHA, IO, S/CRS, S/CT, S/HSC, H, DS, CA, PMAT, INR, AVC, IIP, ISN, CMS, S/ES, S/ES-O, NSOC, and WHSR.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

R36

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2011 4:47 AM  
**To:** Ricciardone, Francis J; Silliman, Douglas A; AnkaraAMB; Ankara-POL-DL  
**Subject:** US Statement on Gaza Flotilla, June 24  
**Attachments:** Statement on Mavi Marmara June 24.docx

**Categories:** Working

In case you didn't see....

Home » Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs » Bureau of Public Affairs » Bureau of Public Affairs: Press Relations » Press Releases » Press Releases: 2011 » Press Releases: June 2011 » Gaza "Anniversary" Flotilla

**Gaza "Anniversary" Flotilla**

**Press Statement**

**Victoria Nuland**

Department Spokesperson, Office of the Spokesperson

**Washington, DC**

**June 24, 2011**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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Last month marked the one-year anniversary of the confrontation between Israeli forces and activists when a flotilla attempted to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza on May 31, 2010. The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in that incident aboard the Gaza bound ships.

We are concerned that a number of groups are organizing a one year "anniversary" flotilla to commemorate the incident by sailing from various European ports to Gaza in the near future. Groups that seek to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza are taking irresponsible and provocative actions that risk the safety of their passengers. Established and efficient mechanisms exist to transfer humanitarian assistance to Gaza. For example, humanitarian assistance can be delivered at the Israeli port of Ashdod, where cargo can be offloaded, inspected, and transported to Gaza. We urge all those seeking to provide such assistance to the people of Gaza to use these mechanisms, and not to participate in actions like the planned flotilla.

Recent seizures by Israel and Egypt of advanced military systems, weapons, and ammunition bound for terrorist groups in Gaza, as well as periodic rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza against Israeli civilians, highlight the continuing problem of illicit arms smuggling to Gaza. These seizures underscore the vital importance to Israel's security of ensuring that all cargo bound for Gaza is appropriately screened for illegal arms and dual-use materials.

The United States remains concerned by conditions in Gaza, but notes that the humanitarian situation has significantly improved over the last year, including a marked increase in the range and scope of goods and materials moving into Gaza, an increase in international

project activity, and the gradual expansion of exports. The United States will continue to work with Israel, the Palestinian Authority, donors, and the international community to do more and ensure that the needs of the people of Gaza are being met.

We also continue to call on Hamas to play a constructive role by renouncing violence, recognizing Israel's right to exist, and accepting past agreements. We underscore that delivering or attempting or conspiring to deliver material support or other resources to or for the benefit of a designated foreign terrorist organization, such as Hamas, could violate U.S. civil and criminal statutes and could lead to fines and incarceration.

Deborah L. Guido  
Spokesperson  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
Office: 90-312-457-7312  
Cell: 90 0532 341-2862  
Email: [guidodl@state.gov](mailto:guidodl@state.gov)  
U.S. Embassy Web Page  
Visit us on Facebook

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R37

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:17 PM  
**To:** Wolff, Alex D (USUN); 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; McEldowney, Nancy E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Marsh, Denise M; Riley, Robert J; Baily, Jess L; Waser, Tamir G; Cunningham, James B; Leary, Thomas M; Operations Center; Rice, Susan E (USUN); Levin, Jan; Waser, Tamir G; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Cunningham, James B; SES-O; Watch Information; Delaurentis, Jeffrey A (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W; Germain, Ellen J (USUN); McLeod, Mary (USUN); Leedy, Jean B; Hof, Frederic C; Greene, Elisa; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nilli I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Goldberg, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ankara-POL-DL; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** Turkey: SitRep 2 on IHH Flotilla, 2:30 pm Turkey Time  
**Attachments:** Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla, 12:00 pm Turkey Time  
**Categories:** Working  
**AttachmentsClassification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

1. (SBU) In response to the intervention by the Israeli Military on the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla, the MFA announced it will recall its ambassador to Israel, Oguz Celikkol, and will cancel three military exercises it had planned with Israel. It will also recall the Turkish Youth National Soccer Team before it plays its scheduled match. The press reported that PM Erdogan cut his trip to Latin America short and will return to Turkey today, while FM Ahmet Davutoglu is on his way to New York to request that the UN Security Council meet in an emergency session to discuss the intervention today.

Ambassador Jeffrey has been summoned to the MFA today, with other Security Council Ambassadors, to hear the GOT position on the emergency session. Acting Prime Minister Bulent Arinc said that the intervention will be a "black stain in human history," and urged Israel to lift the blockade against Gaza so that humanitarian aid may reach Gaza. Arinc equated the intervention in international waters with an act of piracy, although he ruled out sending Turkish naval forces to the region for the time being. President Gul condemned the attack, saying that Israel "deeply wounded" the international public's conscience. He urged Israeli officials to bring an end to the developments, and urged Turks to act with restraint. Turkish Grand National Assembly Speaker Mehmet Ali Sahin said that the parliament may issue a condemnation declaration.

2. (SBU) Protests against the intervention continued. In Istanbul, a crowd of protesters that had been dispersed from the Israeli Consulate moved towards Taksim Square, in the city center. The media reported that the crowd was steadily building in size, to between 5,000-10,000 people. According to press reports, many of the protesters are carrying Turkish and Palestinian flags, are chanting slogans

denouncing Israel, and are reciting prayers in Arabic. The media reports that 9 of the apparent 16 dead were Turkish, and that all of them were killed on one Turkish ship, has inflamed passions here. Press pictures of the intervention have shown Israeli soldiers pointing rifles next to Turkish flags.

3. (SBU) In Adana, a number of people gathered in front of the U.S. Consulate for a peaceful protest. The Consulate local guard force estimated there were 500-700 people while the Turkish National Police (TNP) estimated there were close to 4,000. The group laid a black wreath in front of the consulate, said the U.S. is an invading country, and dispersed. The TNP cooperated very well with security staff, and sent nearly all of their branch chiefs as well as the Security Director.

4. (SBU) Turkish press reported that because of the intervention Greece canceled an air force exercise with Israel and canceled the visit of the Greek Air Force Commander, planned for June 1. According to the press, the Greek MFA said they have not received any information about the welfare of the 34 Greeks that had joined the flotilla, and protests outside the Israeli Embassy in Athens were planned for May 31 and June 1.

5. (SBU) Note: SitRep 1 incorrectly indicated that the RSO in Istanbul and Ankara sent out a warden message. RSO Adana sent a warden message regarding the protest at the U.S. Consulate, but the SMS messages in Istanbul and Ankara were sent only to the embassy intra-community regarding traffic alerts due to protests.

SBU

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R-39

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

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**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H RELEASED IN FULL  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:23 PM  
**To:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured  
**Attachments:** Turkey: SitRep 2 on IHH Flotilla, 2:30 pm Turkey Time; Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla, 12:00 pm Turkey Time

**Categories:** Working  
**AttachmentsClassification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Sure thing – here are the last 2 SitReps I've sent as well.

I just forwarded you an email from Win Dayton in Istanbul; please let me know if there's anything I should report to Washington (it's a growing audience) about additional TNP support that we have requested. You can also send along any other security-related stuff you'd like to report. ☺

Happy Memorial Day,

Laura

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 2:57 PM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

Hi Laura,  
Thanks for forwarding this update.  
Brad

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 2:27 PM  
**To:** 'Salvatore Amodeo'  
**Cc:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

Thanks, FYI Brad Gilmore is Acting RSO in Ankara.

SBU

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**From:** Salvatore Amodeo [mailto:sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 10:34 AM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** Fw: RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

--- On Mon, 5/31/10, Dayton, Win (Istanbul) <DaytonJW@state.gov> wrote:

**From:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul) <DaytonJW@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured  
**To:** "Salvatore Amodeo" <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** "McCarthy, David T (Istanbul)" <McCarthyD1@state.gov>, "Roundy, Brian A" <RoundyBA@state.gov>  
**Date:** Monday, May 31, 2010, 2:21 AM

Good report, Sal. Please also include CG and Dave McCarthy and Brian Roundy from RSO given their involvement now.

---

**From:** Salvatore Amodeo [mailto:sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:34 AM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

The IHH Head quarters in Istanbul informed post at 8:00 am that at least 3 people were killed and 50 were injured during an Israeli military attack on the Free Gaza Flotilla.

The IHH said that it no longer had contact with its ships (note media reports Israeli forces jammed the flotilla's communication at 3:30 am today)



Thus, they did not know how serious the injuries were. These numbers reflect information they had received from their passenger ship. They do not know about the condition of the people on the cargo ships.

Turkish NTV quotes Israeli media stating up to 16 people were killed.

BBC TV News featured the attack as it first news item at 8:00 am. Its showed footage of Israeli navy officers in the ship, passengers on the floor and bloodied cots. Al Jazeera showed same footage and with a commentator stating that Israeli officers were shooting at the passengers.

BBC also showed live a gathering outside of the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul. The crowd was calm but BBC noted that earlier the protests were heated. It then said that the Turkish police has contained the protest.

RSO sent an SMS to consulate community advising avoiding the area around the Israeli consulate.

BBC says Israeli Amb. to Turkey has been summoned by the MFA.

-- On Sun, 5/30/10, Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Re: 5/30 Free Gaza Update - Flotilla headed towards Gaza  
To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul)Amodeo" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "ViktoriaLopatkiewicz" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "MichelleBernier-Toth" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Teresa SMendel" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Marc JSievers" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "JanLevin" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "David RBurnett" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Desiree ABaron" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Julie DAdams" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Andrew CParker" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "ElisaGreene" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Sandra SZeroubavely" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Thomas GRogan" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Debra JTowry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera VHanania" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "SarahBeran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee BWalker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank JFinver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David JGreene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas JManring" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Paul HTyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey DFrederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric GFalls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia GReed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees CDavison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen LOgle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKeen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah JerryHoward" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A"

<ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Sunday, May 30, 2010, 12:28 PM

On 5/30 IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that:

- He confirmed that the flotilla has departed the rendezvous point near Cyprus for Gaza.
- He expected the flotilla would approach Gaza tomorrow morning.

--- On Sat, 5/29/10, Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com>  
Subject: 5/29 Free Gaza Update - IHH ships waiting at near Cyprus for Cypriot ship  
To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul)Amodeo" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "ViktoriaLopatkiewicz" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "MichelleBernier-Toth" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Teresa SMendel" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Marc JSievers" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "JanLevin" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "David RBurnett" <burnettidr@state.gov>, "Desiree ABaron" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Julie DAdams" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Andrew CParker" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "ElisaGreene" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Sandra SZeroubavely" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Thomas GRogan" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Debra JTowry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera VHanania" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "SarahBeran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee BWalker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank JFinver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David JGreene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas JManring" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Paul HTyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey DFrederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric GFalls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia GReed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees CDavison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen LOgle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKeen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah JerryHoward" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J"

<ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

This is an updated version of the 5/29 Update:

On 5/29 IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that:

- the IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for others ships to join the flotilla.
- The IHH said the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ship to leave for Gaza so the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
- Mr Dede also confirmed that the ship from Greece, Challenge 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers were transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara." The ship now has a total of 778 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla, to approach Gaza around 25 hours after they depart. It is unclear when they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.
- MFA informed Embassy Ankara that that 361 Turkish citizens are participating in the flotilla either as crew or passengers.

--- On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>  
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sindle, James M" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Struwe, Rebecca L" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "Bernier-Toth, Michelle" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Sievers, Marc J" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Burnett, David R" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Baron, Desiree A" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Adams, Julie D" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Greene, Elisa" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Zeroubavely, Sandra S" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Burgess, Richard J" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "Chere, John E" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "Waters, John R" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Towry, Debra J" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Hanania, Vera V" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Lewis, Glenn K" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Beran, Sarah" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Greengrass, Sara D" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "Kaplan, Dean" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Walker, Carolee B" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Finver, Frank J" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "Greene, David J"

<GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Manring, Nicholas J" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Tyson, Paul H" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Maggi, Robert W" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Frederick, Jeffrey D" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Falls, Eric G" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Reed, Julia G" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Davison, Kees C" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Ogle, Karen L" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Keen, Daniel G" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Parra, Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Dilworth, Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Osman, Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Netos, Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Taylor, Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Riley, Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Dayton, Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Marsh, Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Baily, Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Silliman, Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Rosenstock, Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Goodman, Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Reisser, Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com, "Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>, "Cross, Lisa T (Istanbul)" <CrossLT@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>  
Date: Friday, May 28, 2010, 4:32 AM

IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post at 10:45 am that:

- IHH ships are presently enroute towards the rendezvous point near Cyprus and expect to meet the other ships of the flotilla "in a few hours."
- They hope to arrive in Gaza tomorrow. "If something happens, it will happen tomorrow," he said.

As reported earlier, IHH informed post yesterday that only one Amciti, Ms Fatima Mohammadi, is aboard their passenger ship.

I plan to send an e-mail on the status of the flotilla over the week-end.

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:22 PM  
**To:** Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; 'sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com'; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Update - IHH say only 1 Amcit with them

At 4:00 pm today IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that Ms. Fatima Mohammed (please note this correct spelling) is the only American Citizen on any of its three ships to participate in the Free Gaza flotilla. They are expecting their passenger ship the Mavi Marmara to depart this evening, as previously announced.

Regards,

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodio*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:58 AM

**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; 'sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com'; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)

**Subject:** Free Gaza Update - IHH expects ship to leave Antalya at 5:00 pm today, still only 1 Amcit

On the morning of 5/27, IHH informed post that:

- They expect their passenger ship, the Mavi Marmara, to depart Antalya around 5:00 pm today.
- Only one American Citizen, Fatima Mohammed, has arrived in Antalya to board the Mavi Marmara.
- Two other American Citizens may join but it is uncertain if they will reach Antalya before the ship departs.
- They expect to approach Gaza Friday evening or Saturday morning.
- IHH will have three ships in the flotilla. The Mavi Marmara, as well as two cargo ships, named the Gazze and the Define, which only have IHH officials on board and no foreigners.

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R40

RELEASED IN FULL

Gilmore, Bradley T

**From:** de Olavarro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 4:38 PM  
**To:** Wolff, Alex D (USUN); 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; Gordon, Philip H; Kaidanow, Tina S; McEldowney, Nancy E; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Marsh, Denise M; Riley, Robert J; Baily, Jess L; Waser, Tamir G; Cunningham, James B; Leary, Thomas M; Operations Center; Rice, Susan E (USUN); Levin, Jan; Waser, Tamir G; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D; Gordon, Philip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; Cunningham, James B; SES-O; Watch Information; Delaurentis, Jeffrey A (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W; Germain, Ellen J (USUN); McLeod, Mary (USUN); Leedy, Jean B; Hof, Frederic C; Greene, Elisa; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ankara-POL-DL; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** Turkey: SitRep 3 on IHH Flotilla, 4:30 pm Turkey Time  
**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1. (SBU) At 1500 Ambassador Jeffrey and other ambassadors from UN Security Council member states were briefed by the MFA regarding the intervention by the Israeli Military on the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla. Following this, the MFA briefed other groups of ambassadors from (1) the Organization of the Islamic Council member states, (2) EU member states, and (3) all other states. All member states received the same briefing.
2. (SBU) The MFA confirmed that FM Davutoglu is going to New York with the purpose of addressing the UN Security Council today. The Ministry put particular emphasis on calling the intervention a "gross violation of international law," handing out maps to emphasize the location of the intervention. They placed the intervention at 64 nautical miles from the northeast corner of Israel's blockade area of Gaza, which covers 20 square nautical miles from the coastline. The Ministry stressed that it reserves its rights under international law, that this "grave" action should not go without a response, and that a response to the intervention is the responsibility of the entire international community.
3. (SBU) The Ministry also stressed that Israel bears the responsibility for the intervention, which involved an attack on innocent civilians -- including women, children and the elderly -- who were on a humanitarian mission. While Turkey has withdrawn its Ambassador to Israel for consultations, its first priority is to determine the whereabouts and identity of the passengers who were killed or wounded in action, and it would like all of the passengers returned to Turkey as soon as possible. (Note: Withdrawing the ambassador for consultations is less dramatic than recalling him, and does not necessarily require a response from the GOI. End note.)



4. (SBU) The Ministry estimated that the Turkish registered ship that was boarded, the Mavi Marmaris, carried 560 passengers not counting the crew. The majority of those passengers (353) were Turks, though there were also citizens from 43 other nations including Algeria (33 passengers), Jordan (31), the U.K. (28), between 10-20 passengers from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Kuwait, respectively, and 3 U.S. citizens.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

R42

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

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**From:** Leary, Thomas M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 2:06 PM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H; Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** Re: Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla, 12:00 pm Turkey Time

Laura: Brad Gilmore is acting RSO in Ankara. He's monitoring demonstrations here.

RELEASED IN  
FULL

Tom

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**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Roundy, Brian A  
**Cc:** Leary, Thomas M  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 06:54:32 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla, 12:00 pm Turkey Time

Please see the first SitRep on the IHH situation, below. Apologies for not including you on the first transmission. If you see others who should be included on the to: line for the next one, please let me know asap. Thanks.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Leary, Thomas M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:40 PM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H  
**Subject:** Re: Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla, 12:00 pm Turkey Time

Laura,

Can you add CONS and RSO to this distribution.

Tom

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**To:** Waser, Tamir G; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D; Gordon, Phillip H; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; Cunningham, James B; SES-O; Watch Information; Ahn, Michael; Arvey, Jason M; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Ersoy, Jale; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Hunter, Rodney M; Keen, Berna; Miles, Barbara J; O'Grady, Daniel J; Price, Adam P; Reynolds, Carol T (Ankara); Tayla, Suheyia  
**Cc:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; O'Grady, Daniel J; Miles, Barbara J; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G;

Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)

**Sent:** Mon May 31 05:54:35 2010

**Subject:** Turkey: SitRep 1 on Humanitarian Aid Foundation Flotilla, 12:00 pm Turkey Time

1. (SBU) According to Turkish press sources, at approximately 4:30 a.m. on May 31, the Israeli military allegedly landed soldiers on the deck of the Turkish flag ship "Blue Marmara", while it was in international waters, between 69 and 70 miles from Israel's shore. The ship was part of the Turkish NGO Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla attempting to reach Gaza and allegedly deliver humanitarian supplies. The latest press reports indicate that shots were fired on the ship and somewhere between 10 and 16 people were killed. Israel Prime Ministry Spokesman Gendelman said that there were firearms, knives and batons on the ship, and that fire was opened against the Israeli soldiers. Gendelman reported that between eight and ten soldiers were wounded, some in serious condition.

2. (SBU) So far the press has not identified any Americans among the victims. According to Al Jazeera TV, 9 of the dead are Turkish citizens. According to the Associated Press, IHH Official Omer Faruk Korkmaz reported that Israeli soldiers are taking the ship to Haifa. IHH Headquarters in Istanbul also reported that they have lost radio contact with the flotilla. The Turkish press reported that the Israeli military jammed the flotilla's radio communication starting at 3:30 a.m. Israeli television stations have reported that the wounded – civilians and soldiers – were transferred to hospitals in Ashkelon. Turkish television stations reported that preparations are underway to detain some civilians in prisons.

3. (SBU) Following the intervention, the Prime Ministry established a crisis task force to follow events after 7:00 a.m. Deputy PM Bulent Arinc, Interior Minister Besir Atalay, Prime Ministry Undersecretary Efgan Ala, and Turkish General Staff Operations Commander General Mehmet Eroz are following the issue. The Turkish MFA released a strong statement that condemned the attack and protested the use of force by the Israeli Defense Forces against the civilians on the flotilla, who were from many countries and wanted to transport humanitarian assistance to the people in Gaza. It pointed out that there were women and children among the passengers, and that they had received reports so far that the intervention had caused 2 deaths and more than 30 people to be injured. It said Israel has "once again clearly demonstrated that it does not value human lives and peaceful initiatives through targeting innocent civilians." Calling the intervention an "inhuman act," it said the incident, which took place on the high seas in a gross violation of international law, "might cause irreversible consequences in our relations." It said that the Embassy in Tel Aviv would conduct initiatives to protest the event, and that the incident is being "strongly protested" in Ankara, while an explanation from the Israeli Ambassador in Ankara has been demanded at the Ministry. It said the actions against civilians conducting peaceful activities – whatever their motives – were unacceptable and that Israel will have to bear the consequences of the actions, which constitute a violation of international law. In closing the statement said "May God bestow His mercy upon those who lost their lives. We wish to express our condolences to the bereaved families of the deceased, and swift recovery to the wounded."

4. (SBU) MFA Undersecretary Feridun Sinirlioglu told the Ambassador that he personally could not understand how the intervention could have happened. He and others were working with the Israelis, he admitted, and they thought that they had a solution to keep everything under control. He stressed as well that there will be consequences to the intervention. He emphasized that Turks are outraged that the Israelis acted when the ships were 69 miles from Gaza, in international waters. He intimated that 'a solution' might have been possible, or at least more understanding, were the ships intercepted as he had thought they would be closer to Gaza. The Ambassador stressed the need to protect both U.S. and Israeli diplomatic establishments from crowds of protesters in Turkey, and urged

caution on any action until all of the facts were in. Sinirlioglu in turn urged for us to ask Washington to say something critical about this operation, indicating that this would help, although the Ambassador did not respond to the request.

5. (SBU) Israel's Ambassador to Turkey, Gaby Levi, told the Ambassador that while he had been summoned to the MFA, his residence had been blockaded by protestors and so he was unable to move. He was "under siege" at his embassy. He anticipated "the worst" from the Turks, and that there will be diplomatic consequences to the intervention. The Turkish press reported that MFA Deputy U/S Unal Cevikoz spoke to Ambassador Levi for 20 minutes, and in addition to condemning the attack, he urged Israel to send the passengers and wounded to Turkey immediately. Cevikoz also reminded Levi that Turkey preserves all its rights stemming from international law. The Turkish press also reported that the visit of an Israeli tourist ship to Alanya port today was cancelled.

6. (SBU) There were protests in several cities Turkey against Israeli and U.S. installations. Media outlets reported that a large crowd of protestors gathered outside the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul starting at 5:00 a.m. The group had been very agitated but at the moment was calm, and had been contained by Turkish police, using water cannons and pepper gas. Mission RSOs sent SMS messages through its warden network to avoiding protests in the areas around Israeli or U.S. diplomatic buildings. In Adana at approximately 1:45 a.m. a group of 30-40 protestors held a sit-in in front of the U.S. Consulate for half an hour, and another protest is expected.

7. (SBU) Turkish media outlets report that Hamas called the operation "brutal", and urgently urged the UN to interfere, while Palestinian President Abbas termed the attack as "massacre" and declared three days of mourning.

8. (SBU) Post will continue to monitor events and report as needed.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

R43

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

---

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 2:27 PM  
**To:** 'Salvatore Amodeo'  
**Cc:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** RE: RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Thanks, FYI Brad Gilmore is Acting RSO in Ankara.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Salvatore Amodeo [mailto:sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 10:34 AM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Subject:** Fw: RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

--- On Mon, 5/31/10, Dayton, Win (Istanbul) <DaytonJW@state.gov> wrote:

**From:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul) <DaytonJW@state.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured  
**To:** "Salvatore Amodeo" <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com>  
**Cc:** "McCarthy, David T (Istanbul)" <McCarthyD1@state.gov>, "Roundy, Brian A" <RoundyBA@state.gov>  
**Date:** Monday, May 31, 2010, 2:21 AM

Good report, Sal. Please also include CG and Dave McCarthy and Brian Roundy from RSO given their involvement now.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** Salvatore Amodeo [mailto:sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:34 AM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 injured

The IHH Head quarters in Istanbul informed post at 8:00 am that at least 3 people were killed and 50 were injured during an Israeli military attack on the Free Gaza Flotilla.

The IHH said that it not longer had contact with with its ships (note media reports Israeli forces jammed the flotilla's communication at 3:30 am today)

Thus, they did not know how serious the injuries were. These numbers reflect information they had received from their passenger ship. They do not know about the condition of the people on the cargo ships.

Turkish NTV quotes Israeli media stating up to 16 people were killed.

BBC TV News featured the attack as it first news item at 8:00 am. Its showed footage of Israeli navy officers in the ship, passengers on the floor and bloodied cots. Al Jazeera showed same footage and with a commentator stating that Israeli officers were shooting at the passengers.

BBC also showed live a gathering outside of the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul. The crowd was calm but BBC noted that earlier the protests were heated. It then said that the Turkish police has contained the protest.

RSO sent an SMS to consulate community advising avoiding the area around the Israeli consulate.

BBC says Israeli Amb. to Turkey has been summoned by the MFA.

--- On Sun, 5/30/10, Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Re: 5/30 Free Gaza Update - Flotilla headed towards Gaza  
To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul)Amodeo" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "ViktoriaLopatkiewicz" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "MichelleBernier-Toth" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Teresa SMendel" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Marc JSievers"

<SieversMJ@state.gov>, "JanLevin" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "David RBurnett" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Desiree ABaron" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Julie DAdams" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Andrew CParker" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "ElisaGreene" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Sandra SZeroubavely" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Thomas GRogan" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Debra JTowry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera VHania" <HaniaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "SarahBeran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee BWalker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank JFinver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David JGreene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas JManring" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Paul HTyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey DFrederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric GFalls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia GReed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees CDavison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen LOgle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKeen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah JerryHoward" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>

Date: Sunday, May 30, 2010, 12:28 PM

On 5/30 IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that:

- He confirmed that the flotilla has departed the rendezvous point near Cyprus for Gaza.
- He expected the flotilla would approach Gaza tomorrow morning.

--- On Sat, 5/29/10, Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Salvatore Amodeo <sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com>

Subject: 5/29 Free Gaza Update - IHH ships waiting at near Cyprus for Cypriot ship

To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul)Amodeo" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger"

<GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle"

<SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter"

<RichterKB@state.gov>, "ViktoriaLopatkiewicz" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "MichelleBernier-Toth"

<Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Teresa SMendel" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Marc JSievers"

<SieversMJ@state.gov>, "JanLevin" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "David RBurnett" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Desiree

ABaron" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Julie DAdams" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Andrew CParker"

<ParkerAC@state.gov>, "ElisaGreene" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Sandra SZeroubavely"

<zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess"

<BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>,"

"Thomas GRogan" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Debra JTowry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera VHania"

<HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "SarahBeran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee BWalker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank JFinver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David JGreene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas JManring" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Paul HTyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey DFrederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric GFalls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia GReed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees CDavison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen LOgle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKeen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah JerryHoward" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>

Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

This is an updated version of the 5/29 Update:

On 5/29 IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that:

- the IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for others ships to join the flotilla.
- The IHH said the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ship to leave for Gaza so the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
- Mr Dede also confirmed that the ship from Greece, Challenge 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers were transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara." The ship now has a total of 778 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla, to approach Gaza around 25 hours after they depart. It is unclear when they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.
- MFA informed Embassy Ankara that that 361 Turkish citizens are participating in the flotilla either as crew or passengers.

--- On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>  
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sindle, James M"



<SindleJM@state.gov>, "Struwe, Rebecca L" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "Bernier-Toth, Michelle" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Sievers, Marc J" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Burnett, David R" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Baron, Desiree A" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Adams, Julie D" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Greene, Elisa" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Zeroubavely, Sandra S" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Burgess, Richard J" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "Chere, John E" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "Waters, John R" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Towry, Debra J" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Hanania, Vera V" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Lewis, Glenn K" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Beran, Sarah" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Greengrass, Sara D" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "Kaplan, Dean" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Walker, Carolee B" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Finver, Frank J" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "Greene, David J" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Manring, Nicholas J" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Tyson, Paul H" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Maggi, Robert W" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Frederick, Jeffrey D" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Falls, Eric G" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Reed, Julia G" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Davison, Kees C" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Ogle, Karen L" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Keen, Daniel G" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Parra, Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Dilworth, Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Osman, Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Netos, Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Taylor, Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Riley, Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Dayton, Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Marsh, Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Baily, Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Silliman, Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Rosenstock, Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Goodman, Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Reisser, Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com, "Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>, "Cross, Lisa T (Istanbul)" <CrossLT@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>  
Date: Friday, May 28, 2010, 4:32 AM

IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post at 10:45 am that:

- IHH ships are presently enroute towards the rendezvous point near Cyprus and expect to meet the other ships of the flotilla "in a few hours."
- They hope to arrive in Gaza tomorrow. "If something happens, it will happen tomorrow," he said.

As reported earlier, IHH informed post yesterday that only one Amciti, Ms Fatima Mohammedi, is aboard their passenger ship.

I plan to send an e-mail on the status of the flotilla over the week-end.

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:22 PM

**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindie, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; 'sal\_amodeo@yahoo.com'; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)

**Subject:** Free Gaza Update - IHH say only 1 Amcit with them

At 4:00 pm today IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that Ms. Fatima Mohammadi (please note this correct spelling) is the only American Citizen on any of its three ships to participate in the Free Gaza flotilla. They are expecting their passenger ship the Mavi Marmara to depart this evening, as previously announced.

Regards,

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)

**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:58 AM

**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nihil I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manring, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; 'sai\_amodeo@yahoo.com'; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)

**Subject:** Free Gaza Update - IHH expects ship to leave Antalya at 5:00 pm today, still only 1 Amcit

On the morning of 5/27, IHH informed post that:

- They expect their passenger ship, the Mavi Marmara, to depart Antalya around 5:00 pm today.
- Only one American Citizen, Fatima Mohammed, has arrived in Antalya to board the Mavi Marmara.
- Two other American Citizens may join but it is uncertain if they will reach Antalya before the ship departs.
- They expect to approach Gaza Friday evening or Saturday morning.
- IHH will have three ships in the flotilla. The Mavi Marmara, as well as two cargo ships, named the Gazze and the Defne, which only have IHH officials on board and no foreigners.

Sal

*Salvatore A. Amodeo*

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

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R46

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:32 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Goodman, Ian A; Sillman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ankara-POL-DL; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Cetin, Mevin (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Gilmore, Bradley T; Allison, Alicia P; de Otaivaro, Laura H; Grubb, Jason B; Howe, Geoffrey G; Chue, Jason; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza  
**Categories:** Working

**Colleagues:**

There is press reporting that the Free Gaza Movement is sending two additional vessels to Gaza. The first ship is Ireland's "Rachel Corrie," with about 10 passengers on board including Denis Halliday, the Irish former UN Human Rights Coordinator in Iraq. The second ship is the US-flagged "Challenger II", which dropped out of the first flotilla to undergo repairs in Nicosia. According to Free Gaza Movement spokesperson Audrey Bomse in Larnaca, the Rachel Corrie left Malta on her way to Gaza the night before last and she should be coming near Crete today. Arrival is expected around Gaza between late Wednesday and sometime Thursday.

If anyone has additional information on the status of the vessels and the number, nationalities, and the names of the passengers aboard please forward it to the collective. It should help us in terms of tracking any Amrcits in advance of detainment. CG Istanbul and Embassy Ankara reaching out to the IHH organizers was valuable in this regard during the first iteration. GOI has told Embassy Tel Aviv that the IDF still intends to intercept these vessels, but is reviewing how to do it.

Many Thanks,

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: [SindleJM@state.gov](mailto:SindleJM@state.gov)  
Classified: [SindleJM@state.sgov.gov](mailto:SindleJM@state.sgov.gov)

202-647-4386 (office)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

R48

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

**From:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H; Darnell, Daria L; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Eppler, Dale B; Godfrey, Anthony F; Appleton, Richard H; Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Cc:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul); McCarthy, David T (Istanbul); Mitchell, Shamar P (Istanbul); Solomon, Robin D; Ones, Leyla L; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Read, Anthony M  
**Subject:** Istanbul SitRep input

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

From Istanbul: **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

AKP activity related to demonstrations in Istanbul: As Ibrahim Yildirim stated yesterday, AKP is present at the demonstrations for the purpose of letting the demonstrators know that they care (more than Saadet) and keeping the events from getting out of control. We are unaware that the party is organizing events per se.

The media reported that the Dep. PM Bulent Arinc was at the airport to meet the activists when they returned. The front page of AKP Istanbul's website carries a picture of the Provincial Chairman Aziz Babuscu visiting the IHH. There were also statements by government officials including PM Erdogan saying that they "respected the democratic reactions of people." Thus, there are signs that the AKP is supporting the demonstrators who go out but no evidence of an official call to attend the events. There was high-level AKP attendance at yesterday's funeral, including Istanbul Mayor Topbas, Energy Minister Yildiz and Fatih Mayor Ahmet Demir.

[Redacted]

B5

Comments from [Redacted]

B6

What I've noticed on the news shows I've been watching – which admittedly are BBC and CNN International, I'm not sure that Turkish television would have shown quite the same camera angles – is that the coffins at the funeral were all draped in a large Turkish flag, with two smaller flags pinned to them – one Palestinian, the other a modification of the Saudi flag (ie, white Arabic text of the creed of faith "There is no god but God, and Mohammad is the prophet of God" on a field of green, but without the white sword on the Saudi flag).

In video shots of protests, I've seen people waving this modified flag as well as a yellow flag that I couldn't see well – however, it was the same shade of yellow as the Hizbollah flag. The men's green headbands appeared to be the same script as the larger green flags.

From PAS:

NTV was fairly straightforward in its 9:00 newscast – calling it "bloody" incident but not going much past that. Gave the names of all 9 nine of the dead and where they were from, but did NOT say that Furkan was an amcirt, at least not that I heard. Showed new footage from the incident itself of the commandos boarding the ship and them walking around through the passengers, who were all wearing lifevests.

R50:

TNP has not received any additional information regarding planned organized demos or protests; however, they expect that there may be demonstrations throughout the weekend. Their security posture remains the same.

At 1100 hours the IHH are reportedly planning to give a press release outside of the Israeli Consulate.

Today at 1300 a funeral will be held at the Bayazit Mosque for an individual who died in the incident. The ceremony is expected to draw large crowds.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 9:31 AM  
**To:** Darnell, Daria L; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Eppler, Dale B; Godfrey, Anthony F; Appleton, Richard H; Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Cc:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); McCarthy, David T (Istanbul); Mitchell, Shamar P (Istanbul); Solomon, Robin D; Ones, Leyla L; Borenstein, Jeffrey D; Witmer, Kami A; Lee, Robert D; Read, Anthony M  
**Subject:** Please send me inputs for another SitRep by 11:30

The Front Office would like another SitRep to go out today before oob EST. Please prepare consolidated information from your offices (Istanbul and Adana, please focus on both security and socio/political/economic aspects) and send them to me by 11:30. In your reports, please examine (in addition to your routine news) whether you see an impact so far on the U.S. or U.S.-Turkey bilateral relations.

For Daria and Sharon, the Front Office is also interested in your regional thoughts on:

B5

Looking forward to your inputs. Please let me know if you have concerns.

Laura

**Laura H. de Otalvaro**  
Internal Unit Chief and Labor Attaché  
Political Section  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
IVG Prefix 295, ext. 7191  
External: 90.312.457.7191  
Cell: 90.(0)533.523.3592

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.  
Use Green fonts! See 10 State 45224

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R51

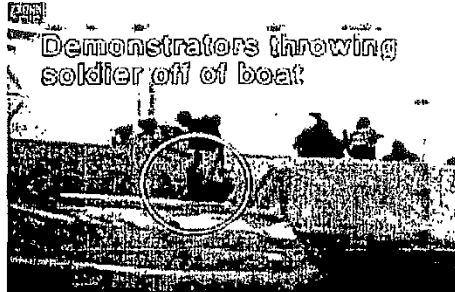
RELEASED IN FULL



## Behind the Headlines: Turkel Commission publishes first part of report

23 Jan 2011

This background document has been prepared before the release of the Turkel Commission's Report. It is based on information made available over the past six months.



IDF soldiers assaulted by dozens of armed activists on the Mavi Marmara

### Turkel Commission (23 January 2011):

Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Government resolution no. 1796 of June 14, 2010, we respectfully submit to the Government a report on the following matters:

- The security circumstances in which the naval blockade on the Gaza Strip was imposed and whether the blockade complies with the rules of international law (paragraph 4a of the Government resolution).
- Whether the actions carried out by Israel to enforce the naval blockade on May 31, 2010, complied with the rules of international law (paragraph 4b of the Government resolution).
- The actions carried out by the organizers and participants of the flotilla and their identities (paragraph 4c of the Government resolution).

### Concluding Remarks of Report Summary.

Today, approximately five months after hearing the first testimonies, the Commission is completing this part of its work. After a journey full of obstacles and pitfalls, and after exhaustive investigations, inquiries, studies and discussions, here are our conclusions:

The naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip - in view of the security circumstances and Israel's efforts to comply with its humanitarian obligations - was legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

The actions carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, to enforce the naval blockade had the regrettable consequences of the loss of human life and physical injuries. Nonetheless, and despite the limited number of uses of force for which we could not reach a conclusion, the actions taken were found to be legal pursuant to the rules of international law.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

[http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/Behind+the+Headlines/Flotilla\\_operatio...](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/Behind+the+Headlines/Flotilla_operatio...) 1/24/2011

Behind the Headlines

Israel was entitled under international law to board the Mavi Marmara. Maritime blockades are recognized by international law as legitimate, and may be enforced in international waters.

Israel is engaged in an ongoing armed conflict with Hamas, a terrorist organization which violently seized de facto control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. Hamas and other Gaza-based terrorist groups have launched more than ten thousand rockets at Israeli cities and towns. Israel has imposed a maritime blockade on the Hamas regime in order to prevent it from building up its military capabilities, smuggling terrorists and weapons and staging attacks from the sea.

Security considerations have likewise led Israeli to impose a number of restrictions on the transfer of goods and supplies to Gaza via its land crossings. At the same time, Israel has continued to facilitate the import of hundreds of thousands of tons of food, medicine and other goods into Gaza, thereby ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the civilian population are met.



Hamas fighters prepare to launch rockets at Israel

International law recognizes maritime blockades as a legal and legitimate measure within the context of armed conflicts. A blockade may be enforced against breach. Article 98 of the San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea states "Merchant vessels believed on reasonable grounds to be breaching a blockade may be captured." Furthermore, "Merchant vessels which, after prior warning, clearly resist capture may be attacked" (see similarly art. 67a.)

The blockading party has the right under international law to stop ships which intend to evade the blockade, even if they have not yet entered the blockaded area. Ships may be stopped even if they are in international waters. The U.S. Commander's Handbook on the Law of Naval Operations explains that an "attempted breach of blockade occurs from the time a vessel or aircraft leaves a port or airfield with the intention of evading the blockade."

International law requires that a blockade must "be applied impartially to the vessels of all States." (San Remo, art. 100). The blockading party may stop ships claiming to carry humanitarian aid. The duty to ensure that the humanitarian needs of a blockaded territory

are met, which Israel complies with, does not imply a duty to allow the passage of a particular ship.

Israel publicly declared the imposition of a maritime blockade on the Gaza Strip in full compliance with international law. It informed the flotilla ships of the blockade numerous times through diplomatic, media and maritime channels.

The flotilla's cargo was in no way essential for meeting Gaza's humanitarian needs. In any case, even if allowing a particular ship to enter the blockaded territory were essential to meeting the humanitarian needs of the civilian population, international law would still allow the blockading party to insist on inspecting the ship. It would also have the right to demand that the ship's cargo be distributed by a recognized neutral party. Such a security inspection could not be carried out at sea. Neither the Turkish IHH nor the Free Gaza Movement, the organizations which lead the flotilla, is a recognized neutral party.



Non-neutral parties- members of the Free Gaza Movement receive medals from Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh (center, first row)



IHH head Bulent Yildirim with Hamas Political Chief Khaled Mashari

Israel took numerous steps to avoid the need to employ force while taking control of the Mavi Marmara.

Israel made numerous efforts to avoid employing force and had no desire to cause harm to civilians. It repeatedly communicated the following or similar messages to the flotilla activists both before and during their journey (video):

*"Mavi Marmara, you are approaching an area of hostilities, which is under a naval blockade... The Israeli government supports delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian*

*population in Gaza Strip and invites you to enter Ashdod port. Delivery of supplies will be in accordance with the authorities' regulations...and under your observation, after which you can return to your home ports aboard the vessels on which you arrived."*

The ships were also warned that if they proceeded, Israel would be forced to take all necessary steps to enforce its blockade.

No effective method currently exists for forcing a ship the size of the Marmara to change course without taking physical control. Attempts to block the ship's passage with other vessels or to disable its systems would have endangered the flotilla participants. Israel had no choice but to board the vessel.

The naval commandos were instructed to use the minimum force necessary to take control of the vessels, and to avoid lethal force unless necessary for self-defense in the event that their lives were in immediate danger.

Accordingly the first teams to land on the Marmara were equipped primarily with riot-control equipment such as tear gas and paintball guns.

Using similar methods, Israel had stopped a number of previous attempts to violate its blockade without having to resort to lethal force. Five out of the six ships in the May 2010 flotilla were brought under Israeli control without serious injury to flotilla participants or soldiers. Since the Marmara, the IDF has prevented several additional attempts to violate its blockade without the need to employ a significant degree of force. This indicates that the problem stemmed not from Israeli methods, but from the violent behavior of the flotilla activists.

Soldiers abseiling onto the ship from helicopters were assaulted immediately by dozens of activists wielding knives and clubs, who also seized four of the soldiers' firearms. Facing an immediate threat to their lives, the soldiers had no choice but to use force to repel the attack.



Activists making preparations to confront Israeli soldiers



Soldiers assaulted by dozens of armed activists

A number of the Marmara's passengers were members of hardcore Islamist groups. These activists openly declared their desire for a violent confrontation and their hope to die as shahids (martyrs).

While the majority of the flotilla passengers may well have been peaceful civilians, some (approx. 40-50) were hardcore extremists determined to violently attack the Israeli boarding party.

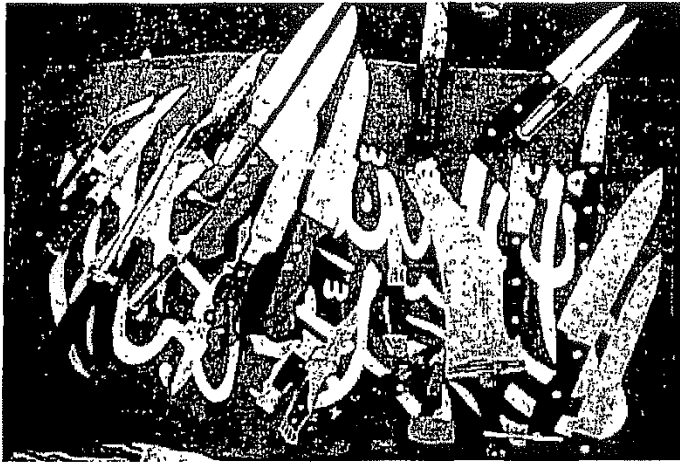
Many of the members of this group were affiliated with the Turkish Islamic organization IHH, which Western countries and terrorism experts have described as a supporter of terrorist groups including Hamas.

IHH head Bulent Yildirim declared on board the Marmara: "We're going to defeat the Israeli commandos... If you bring your soldiers here, we will throw you off the ship and you'll be humiliated in front of the whole world." During the voyage, IHH activists chanted songs celebrating the killing of Jews and openly declared their desire to die as shahids (martyrs) (view videos [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)).

Former U.S. Marine Kenneth O'Keefe, who took part in the assault on the soldiers, told the Haaretz newspaper ("Rough Passage", 24 Sept 2010) "I knew that if the Israelis boarded that ship, it would be a disaster... You have to be an idiot to board that ship and think it will be a ship of passive resistance."

This group of hardcore extremists took control of the ship prior to the IDF's boarding. According to the Chief Officer of the Marmara, they limited the movement of the other flotilla participants and carefully controlled entrance to certain parts of the ship.

These activists were equipped with commando knives, daggers, tear gas, gas masks, night vision goggles, and ballistic vests (view [here](#) and [here](#)) - objects not found on a humanitarian passenger ship.



Weapons used by the Marmara passengers (Photos: IDF Spokesperson)

Israeli soldiers employed a necessary and proportionate degree of force.

The first several Israeli commandos who boarded the Marmara were rushed by dozens of activists wielding knives, clubs and chains. The first soldier to land was stabbed and thrown to the deck below. The second was shot in the stomach. Others suffered knife and gunshot wounds as well.

The attackers were able to take four of the soldiers' firearms. O'Keefe told the BBC that "myself and another brother descended on him [a wounded soldier] and the first thing I did was to go for his 9mm pistol." While O'Keefe claims that the gun was not used, two soldiers suffered gunshot wounds. Video released by the IDF records the commandos' surprise at being shot at with live fire.

Three soldiers from the first landing party were seriously wounded and taken by the activists to the ship's interior.

Therefore the soldiers had no choice but to use limited and precise force against their attackers in self-defense.

Nearly all of those killed were IHH activists or members of affiliated Islamist groups, the very people who led the assault on the descending soldiers. About half had previously declared their hope to be martyrs.

**Claims that soldiers summarily executed activists, or that they fired live ammunition indiscriminately from the air, are completely false.**

Given that the soldiers were mobbed and intense hand-to-hand combat ensued, it is not surprising that a number of those shot were hit at close range. This does not in any way indicate that they were summarily executed, as the Report prepared for the UN Human Rights Council facetiously states.

The claim that activists were shot from the air is also unfounded; the commandos rappelling from helicopters required both hands to grasp the rope and could not have fired. The helicopters carrying the commandos were not equipped with firing systems, nor did they carry snipers who could have fired from the air.

Israel began its operation using stun grenades, paintball guns, and other crowd control equipment.

**The timing and manner of the operation were a result of the complex situation and Israel's desire to avoid harm to civilians.**

The early morning timing of Israel's boarding was the result of numerous factors. Given the expected time that it would take to board six ships carrying more than 700 flotilla participants, and the fact that the ships continued ahead at full speed, Israel decided to carry out the operation at a distance from the Israeli coast. Israel also allowed time to observe whether the ships would heed its numerous warnings to change course.

Once it became clear that boarding the ships would be necessary, Israel employed one of its most highly-trained and disciplined units, which had carried out several similar missions while avoiding the use of lethal force. The timing was likewise meant to contribute to a rapid and non-violent transfer of control.

**As soon as the danger to the soldiers subsided, IDF medics attended to wounded activists. The flotilla participants were treated in a respectful manner while specially-trained units searched for additional weapons.**

Immediately following the completion of the operation, IDF medics attended to the injured. Given the violent confrontation that had just taken place, the participants and ship were searched for additional weapons by soldiers specially trained in such procedures. Activists judged to constitute a potential threat were restrained, while the other flotilla passengers were not.

31 activists were airlifted from the ship directly to Israeli hospitals. Another 24 were transferred to Israeli medical facilities after docking in Ashdod. These activists were given professional medical care at six of Israel's leading hospitals.

**The flotilla participants were processed in an orderly manner and offered the option of being quickly deported. Those who refused this offer were given access to medical care and diplomatic personnel while detained. Within a week, all foreign flotilla participants had departed.**

Israel prepared extensively to quickly and efficiently process the flotilla participants. Those in need of medical attention were taken to hospitals. The rest were registered in a specially erected reception center staffed by government officials and translators. In special cases, such as that of a mother with a one-year old baby, passengers were immediately sent back to their countries of origin.

The flotilla participants were then taken to the new 'Aileh' detention center in southern Israel. There they were held in open units where, other than during roll calls, they were free at all times to leave their rooms and congregate in common areas. They were provided with all their needs including medical care.

Flotilla participants willing to be deported were able to leave the country within a very short time of their arrival. The departure of those who refused was delayed by several days.

The activists were not held incommunicado. They were given access to the diplomatic officials of their home countries. Consular representatives from 26 countries, as well as 19 lawyers providing legal services, visited the flotilla participants. Participants were also provided with phone cards.

As the flotilla ships were still making their way to Ashdod, a petition was filed with Israel's Supreme Court which challenged the custody of the flotilla passengers by Israeli authorities. The Court held hearings on the matter within 48 hours and ultimately dismissed the petition.

While Israel could have begun prosecutions against those who had assaulted its soldiers, it decided to release all of the flotilla participants. Six days after the ships were brought to Ashdod, all of the foreign flotilla participants had left Israel.

**The Mavi Marmara itself did not carry humanitarian aid. The limited amount of aid carried by the other ships included outdated and useless medicines.**

The Mavi Marmara did not carry humanitarian aid. The humanitarian aid that was carried by three of the flotilla ships appears to have been carelessly packed, leading to some of it being damaged. The BBC's Jane Corbin found that two-thirds of the medicines aboard the flotilla "are out of date and useless."

Of the 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies which the flotilla claimed to be carrying, approximately 8,000 tons consisted of construction materials. Hamas uses such materials for building rockets, bunkers and launching sites. Therefore, while Israel regrets the difficulties that may be caused to Gaza's civilians, it can only allow the import of such materials in coordination with recognized international bodies.

Hamas initially refused to allow aid from the flotilla into Gaza. Israel made good on its promise to quickly prepare the aid for transfer. Hamas, however, apparently felt that the need was less pressing. An unnamed Gaza official told the Guardian, "Israel brought five truckloads of wheelchairs to the crossings, but Hamas turned them back."

**Israel's import restrictions and blockade are legal under international law.**

International law recognizes the right of a state to impose a naval blockade within the context of hostilities.

The blockade on Gaza has been imposed strictly for security reasons and is not aimed at harming the civilian population. These security considerations include the need to prevent the smuggling of terror operatives and military-use materials into and out of Gaza, and to



prevent terrorist attacks against Israeli towns and vessels.

With regard to Israel's restrictions on the transfer of goods into Gaza- such a policy is neither illegal nor considered collective punishment. This is indicated by the numerous examples from the international community (for example, the UN's 13-year sanctions against Iraq.) Although international law requires that Israel facilitate the transfer of humanitarian aid to Gaza, Israel has no obligation to engage in economic relations or maintain open borders with the territory.

**Israel has facilitated the transfer of well over a million tons of goods and supplies to Gaza, thereby more than ensuring that its humanitarian needs are met.**

Despite the armed conflict with Hamas, Israel has gone far beyond the demands of international law in assisting Gaza's civilian population. Israel has provided or facilitated the transfer of over a million tons of humanitarian goods and supplies to the Gaza population. At no point has there been a humanitarian crisis in the territory.

From the end of the 2008-2009 Gaza War until approximately the time of the IHH flotilla, Israel facilitated the delivery to Gaza of 1,025,686 tons of aid, 49,610 tons of cooking gas and 136,097,330 liters of fuel. This aid includes wheat, meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, baby formula, seeds, clothes, school supplies, medical equipment, glass, wood and equipment for the flower industry.

Numerous indicators show that there is no humanitarian crisis or extreme hardship in Gaza. According to the CIA World Factbook, the projected life expectancy in Gaza is 73.68, greater than that in half of the world's countries, including many in Europe. The infant mortality rate in Gaza is 17.71 per 1000, lower than in the West Bank and in more than 50% of countries worldwide.

As explained, Israel has been forced to restrict the import of construction materials in order to prevent Hamas from using such materials for military purposes. However, Israel does facilitate the import of construction materials in coordination with recognized international agencies.



Truckloads of aid at the Gaza border crossing (Photo: IDF Spokesperson)



A Gaza market, September 2009 (Photo: Reuters)  
([Video of daily life in Gaza](#))

**Israel facilitates the transfer of medical supplies into Gaza and treats thousands of Gazans each year in Israeli hospitals.**

In 2009, 4,883 tons of medical equipment and medicine were brought into the Strip. 10,544 patients and their companions left Gaza to receive treatment in Israeli hospitals (Israel also treats patients and trains doctors from the West Bank.)



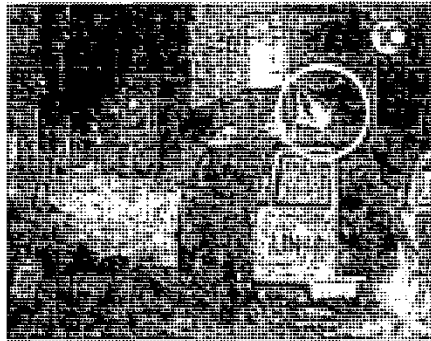
Gazan children with cancer enter Israel for treatment  
(Photo: Rafael Ben-Ari/Chameleons Eye). [View video](#)  
[Video from Israeli hospital program for training Palestinian doctors](#)

The medical corridor is maintained despite the fact that since 2005, Palestinians have used medical cooperation arrangements to carry out more than 20 terrorist attacks.

Hamas refuses to allow the International Red Cross or any other organization access to an Israeli soldier which it has been holding hostage since June 2006. This is a gross violation of his basic human rights.

**Israel's restrictions are necessary in light of Hamas' repeated diversion of goods and supplies for its own purposes. Israel's border crossings have been attacked numerous times since Hamas' takeover of Gaza.**

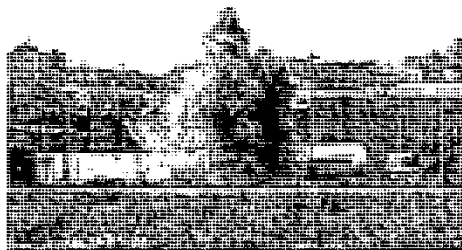
The Hamas regime's control of the Gaza Strip has enabled it to divert goods and supplies on numerous occasions in order to build its military and economic capabilities. For example in February 2009 [UNRWA halted its import of goods into Gaza](#) after Hamas repeatedly seized thousands of tons of aid from the UN agency. In August 2009 [Hamas claimed to have seized three ambulances transferred from Israel to UNRWA](#) (UNRWA officials issuing conflicting reports regarding the claim.) Palestinian officials have complained that [Hamas commandeers fuel trucks](#) coming from the Nahal Oz crossing for its own needs.



Video of Hamas using ambulances to transfer armed militants in Gaza  
(Reuters, 2004)

The transfer of fuel to Gaza has been disrupted at times due to disputes between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. A UN official described this as a "Palestinian problem, made by Palestinians, and causing Palestinian suffering." Hamas has also repeatedly attacked the Nahal Oz fuel depot. Quartet envoy Tony Blair explained that "most people don't understand- that we're trying to urge Israel to get fuel into Gaza, and then the extremists come and kill the people bringing the fuel in. It's a crazy situation."

Since Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza, more than a dozen bombs and mortar attacks have been launched at the crossing points at which goods are transferred. Israeli servicemen and civilians have died in these attacks.



April 2008 mortar attack on the Nahal Oz fuel terminal at the Israeli-Gaza border, in which two Israelis were killed. (Photo: Flash90)

Nevertheless, Israel has assisted in the export of several of Gaza's main commodities, such as strawberries and flowers, in accordance with security considerations.



## Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### No: 29, 23 January 2011, Press Statement by the National Inquiry and Investigation Commission Instituted Upon Israel's Attack on the International Humanitarian Aid Convoy

On 31 May 2010, Israeli armed forces attacked, on the high seas, a convoy brought together by aid volunteers from 37 countries and different faiths to deliver humanitarian relief material to the people in the Gaza Strip. Nine persons were killed and scores were wounded during the attack.

In order to shed light upon all aspects of the attack, Turkey established a National Inquiry and Investigation Commission composed of representatives from pertinent institutions. The UN Secretary-General also set up a Panel of Inquiry in accordance with the Presidential Statement adopted by the UN Security Council which held an emergency meeting on 1 June 2010 upon Turkey's request. Israel initiated, through a commission, its own national inquiry as well. Moreover, the UN Human Rights Council has mandated an International Fact-Finding Mission to establish the violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law in connection with the attack.

Heeding the UN's call for prompt consideration of the issue, our Commission has worked intensively and submitted its Interim Report to the UN Panel on 1 September 2010. Also respecting the confidentiality of the process, our Commission has refrained from disclosing its report to the public. In contrast, the Israeli side impeded the Panel's work by constantly delaying its own report, and has chosen to share it with the public even before submitting it to the UN Panel.

Our Commission, convened on 23 January 2011 to thoroughly evaluate these developments, has decided to share, at this stage, the following with the public in view of Israel's unconstructive attitude:

- Israel's so-called "maritime blockade" against the Gaza Strip is devoid of legal basis and legitimacy. Israel's attack which is an extension of this unlawful practice is, therefore, equally illegal. **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Under international law, blockades are warfare methods applicable only in armed conflicts of "international" character. Israel is seen to avoid characterizing its armed conflict with Hamas as "international", while claiming reliance on the San Remo Manual, an important compendium of international law applicable to naval war, for its so-called blockade and related practices. Yet, the San Remo Manual, including its provisions relating to the establishment of blockades and the interception of vessels on the high seas, comprise legal rules applicable only to international armed conflicts. As long as Israel does not qualify its armed conflict with Hamas as international, it is stopped from relying any of its practices within the framework of this conflict on the San Remo

Manual.

- Even if Israel's alleged blockade had not been lacking of legal basis to such an extent, it would still have been unlawful due to the manner in which it is enforced, since Israel has not met various requirements for a naval blockade to be accepted as lawful.

Furthermore, Israel's so-called blockade does not fulfill the requirements of "proportionality", "necessity" and "reasonableness" under international law. Having extended its restrictive policies towards the Gaza Strip far beyond what was required for its actual security needs, Israel has banned even daily consumer goods, none of which could constitute military contraband, in order to punish the civilian population. This clearly demonstrates the arbitrary nature of the so-called blockade.

International law prohibits blockades having aimed at starving the civilian population, or inflicting them with disproportionate damage. Given that numerous international organizations such as the UN Security Council, the UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Program, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Development Program, and the UN Relief and Works Agency have all described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as "dire", "unacceptable", "unsustainable" or "illegal", Israel's so-called blockade is clearly in violation of international law in this respect as well.

All personalities, including the high level officials of the Human Rights mechanism, who examined this issue have described the so-called Israeli blockade as collective punishment of civilians. With these practices, Israel has violated humanitarian law and in particular the prohibition of collective punishment.

All these clearly illustrate that Israel's so-called blockade and all practices thereunder are devoid of legitimacy and legal basis. Indeed, the Fact-Finding Mission mandated by the Human Rights Council with respect to the attack, has determined the "blockade" to be illegal and inferred therefrom that the interception of the humanitarian aid convoy by Israel and its subsequent detention of passengers and crew were unlawful.

- All the above show that Israel has violated the "Law of War" which it relies on with respect to the attack it carried out against the international aid convoy. Israel's attack on the international aid convoy also violates international peace time law which should in fact be applicable in this case. The freedom of navigation on the high seas and the principle of the Flag State's exclusive jurisdiction are fundamental rules of the Law of the Sea. Israel has flagrantly violated these rules by carrying out an attack, without any authority and jurisdiction, on the international aid convoy while it was sailing on the high seas.

- Israel's attack against the humanitarian aid convoy, which violated both wartime and peacetime international law, has also trampled all international principles, rules and norms with the manner in which it was conducted.

While it had the possibility of intercepting the convoy carrying unarmed civilians without causing bloodshed, Israel opted for a course which made loss of life inevitable. Instead of employing numerous established means of interdiction such as firing across the bow or disabling the rudder, Israel chose to first intimidate and terrorize the passengers, and then to raid the ships in the darkness with lethal force. While so doing, Israel imposed a total electronic blackout on the vessels so that the terror it anticipated would not be transmitted to the outside world.

While Israel should have re-assessed the situation upon the passengers' exercise of self-defense, and had ample time to do so, it chose, on the contrary, to attack with increased violence.

The result is self-evident and requires no further explanation.

Basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, first and foremost the right to life, have been flagrantly violated, and these violations have continued massively up to the moment that the passengers left Israel. The report of the Fact-Finding Mission of the UN Human Rights Council vividly depicts Israel's violations and the violence it used.

Our Commission is surprised, appalled and dismayed that the national inquiry process in Israel has resulted in the exoneration of the Israeli armed forces despite all the facts that have also been confirmed by the International Fact-Finding Mission.

R53

## Ahn, Michael

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**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Monday, November 01, 2010 3:13 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-PAO-IO-DL; Ankara-POL-DL; Ankara-ECON-DL  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Guidance - as cleared

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

On Friday, the final guidance was released – FYI

EUR Draft Press Guidance  
October 29, 2010

### Turkey: Gaza Flotilla

Q: Did the US have advanced notice that the Free Gaza Flotilla was in fact headed to Egypt and not Gaza?

- **The flotilla organizers consistently declared in public their intention to sail directly to Gaza.**

Q: Was there an agreement between the U.S., Israel and Turkey to get the flotilla to reroute to Al-Arish (Egypt)?

- **The United States encouraged direct contacts between Israel and Turkey prior to May 31, but was not involved in any negotiations between Turkey and Israel.**

#### If Asked:

Q: Can you confirm assertions by Turkish officials that the U.S. was informed by Turkey that the ships were going to Al-Arish?

- **We do not comment on the contents of diplomatic exchanges.**
- **We continue to regard the UN Secretary General's panel as the primary method for the international community to review the incident. We again express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his efforts to establish this panel, and to the governments of Turkey and Israel for their constructive participation.**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Drafted:  
EUR/Press Valerie O'Brien 7-8602

Cleared:

EUR/FO: TKaidanow ok  
EUR/SE: JBaily ok  
NEA/IPA:PSutphin ok  
NEA/Press:EVasquez ok  
P: ABaez ok  
D(S): D Duty ok  
S/P: TNavratil ok

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**The X Meeting with Turkish X**  
**September 20-29<sup>th</sup> 2010 (NY/GENEVA/ANKARA)**

**Context**

We welcomed UNSYG Ban's establishment of -- and Israel and Turkey's participation in -- a panel to receive and review the Israeli and Turkish investigations of the May 31 flotilla incident. We remain opposed to the HRC flotilla fact-finding mission (FFM), which is mandated to investigate possible Israeli violations of international law related to the incident and oppose a renewal of its mandate in the September session. The FFM mission's report will be released during the September HRC session (between September 27 and 29), after which Turkey will probably introduce a resolution reacting to the FFM report. OIC members may take advantage of such an opportunity to make a politicized statement. We are urging the Turkish government to limit the scope of their resolution and not call for new UN follow-up mechanisms or further reporting. Turkey is a strong supporter of the HRC flotilla process; Israel has not cooperated with the FFM. Turkey is not pleased with USG objections to the FFM though Turkish officials have placed greater emphasis on the UN SYG panel over the HRC effort in our bilateral discussions.

**Key Objectives**

- We recognize that the Government of Turkey takes the tragic May 31<sup>st</sup> incident seriously. Convey that and the USG shares its concern. Reiterate our sincere regret over the loss of lives.
- We appreciate Turkey's constructive and cooperative spirit in participating on the Secretary General's panel regarding the incident of May 31<sup>st</sup>. The United States believes that the UNSYG panel, which includes the participation of both Israel and Turkey, offers a balanced and credible channel to address these very serious issues.
- **Urge the Turkish government to avoid new follow-up mechanisms or reporting in the HRC, drawing on the following points.**
  - We understand the depth of Turkish concerns over this episode but would appreciate Turkey's help in identifying a way to move forward that avoids further inflaming the situation, complicating the direct peace talks that seek to produce a Palestinian state, or increasing and prolonging tensions among longstanding friends and partners.

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**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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Charting a constructive way forward can also help reinforce Turkey-U.S. bilateral relations.

- In an environment where direct Israeli-Palestinian talks have recently resumed, we are eager to ensure that the work of the HRC FFM come to its natural conclusion now and avoid further politicization, friction, or divisions between the parties, within the region, and with the United States. We must work together to find a way forward, and we need help from our friends in the Government of Turkey to do so.
- It is not helpful to have Turkey and Israel fighting in Geneva or in front of the Human Rights Council during a time of direct talks between Israelis and Palestinians.
- A restrained approach could have a positive effect on the U.S.-Turkey relationship, especially with members of Congress.

**If Raised**

- Turkey officials have stated that they are concerned about Israeli compensation for victims. We urge Turkish officials to discuss this issue with the Israelis directly.

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A/HRC/RES/14/1

## Advance Edited Version

Distr.: General  
23 June 2010

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**  
Fourteenth session  
Agenda item I  
Organizational and procedural matters

### Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council<sup>1</sup>

#### 14/1 The grave attacks by Israeli forces against the humanitarian boat convoy

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Taking into consideration the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, of 12 August 1949,*

*Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, including humanitarian personnel,*

*Expressing grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in occupied Gaza,*

*Emphasizing the need to ensure the sustained and regular flow of goods and people into occupied Gaza, and welcoming the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid,*

1. *Condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous attack by the Israeli forces against the humanitarian flotilla of ships, which resulted in the killing and injuring of many innocent civilians from different countries;*
2. *Deeply deplores the loss of life of innocent civilians, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families;*

<sup>1</sup> The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its fourteenth session (A/HRC/14/37), chap. I.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

GE.10-

Please recycle 

A/HRC/RES/14/1

3. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of detained and injured persons;
4. *Demands* that the occupying Power, Israel, immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands;
5. *Calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to immediately lift the siege on occupied Gaza and other occupied territories;
6. *Also calls upon* the occupying Power, Israel, to ensure the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment, to the occupied Gaza Strip;
7. *Welcomes* the statements made by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks;
8. *Decides* to dispatch an independent, international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance;
9. *Also decides* to authorize the President of the Council to appoint members to the above-mentioned fact-finding mission, who should report on their findings to the Council at its fifteenth session;
10. *Further decides* to remain seized of this matter.

10<sup>th</sup> meeting

2 June 2010

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 to 3, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Uruguay;

*Against:*

Italy, Netherlands, United States of America;

*Abstaining:*

Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.]

RELEASED IN FULL



## Gaza flotilla: international independent fact-finding missions opens in Geneva

10 August 2010

GENEVA – The international independent fact-finding mission of high-level experts appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council to inquire into the Gaza flotilla incident on 31 May 2010 held its inaugural meeting at the Palais Wilson in Geneva yesterday.

Further to an urgent debate held on 1 and 2 June, the Human Rights Council decided to dispatch an independent fact-finding mission to determine whether any violation of international law, international humanitarian and human rights law had taken place.

The Mission of high-level experts is chaired by Judge K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, and has two other eminent members. Sir Desmond de Silva, Queen's Counsel, was Chief Prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal and Ms. Shanthi Dairiam was a human rights expert of Malaysia and former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Chairman indicated that in approaching the task the Mission had been given the authority to settle its own terms of reference taking into account the resolution of the Council. He indicated that the Mission interprets the resolution as requesting it to ascertain the facts surrounding the flotilla incident and then give an opinion as to whether there had been any violation of the law.

Judge Hudson-Phillips emphasized that the Mission intended to approach its task in a totally unbiased manner, free from any assumptions or prejudgments.

The Chairman of the Mission noted that the Mission's principal task is to conduct an inquiry into legal issues and possible violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. He hoped that the Mission would be permitted full access to all relevant persons and material in all of the countries concerned, so as to enable the Mission to ascertain the proper factual basis for its legal opinion.

To this end, the Mission intends to make contacts with all ambassadors of the countries involved in the coming days. It is its intention to travel to the region in order to interview persons and gather first-hand information as far as possible.

As requested by the Human Rights Council's resolution, the Mission will present its report at the next session of the Council in September.

(\*) See the Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council:  
[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/RES.14.1\\_AEV.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/RES.14.1_AEV.pdf)

For further media information, please contact [flotillaaffm@ohchr.org](mailto:flotillaaffm@ohchr.org)

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### Gaza flotilla: UN fact-finding mission concludes visit to Turkey

GENEVA (27 August 2010) – The international, independent fact-finding mission of high-level experts appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council to inquire into the Gaza flotilla incident has concluded a one-week visit to Turkey.

During the week, the three high-level experts interviewed witnesses and government officials who provided first hand information on the incident that took place on 31 May 2010. In addition, technical and legal experts accompanying the mission held meetings with forensic and judiciary officials and also inspected the ship Mavi Marmara.

The fact-finding mission will start a visit to Jordan (29 August - 4 September) to interview witnesses based in Jordan and in neighboring countries.

As requested by the Human Rights Council resolution, the Mission is taking steps to present a report at the next session of the Council in September.

The fact-finding mission is chaired by Judge K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and has two other eminent members: Sir Desmond de Silva, Queen's Counsel, who was Chief Prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal and Ms. Shanthi Dairiam, human rights expert of Malaysia and former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

(\* See the Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council:  
[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/hodocs/hrCouncil/docs/14session/RES.14.1\\_AEV.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/hodocs/hrCouncil/docs/14session/RES.14.1_AEV.pdf)

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### Gaza flotilla: UN fact-finding mission to interview witnesses in Turkey and Jordan

GENEVA (23 August 2010) – The international independent fact-finding mission of high-level experts appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council to inquire into the Gaza flotilla incident on Sunday began a two-week visit to Turkey (22-29 August) and Jordan (29 August – 4 September) to interview witnesses and government officials, it was announced today. Technical and legal experts are accompanying the mission which intends to inspect the ship Mavi Marmara in which nine passengers died on 31 May 2010.

The fact-finding mission has just spent two weeks in Geneva, drafting its terms of reference and holding meetings with different Permanent Missions in Geneva, including with the ambassadors of Israel and Turkey.

The three high-level experts also started interviewing witnesses in London and Geneva last week, with the aim of gathering first-hand information to assess the facts under their consideration.

As requested by the Human Rights Council's resolution, the Mission will present its report at the next session of the Council in September.

The fact-finding mission is chaired by Judge K. Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in the Hague, and has two other eminent members: Sir Desmond de Silva, Queen's Counsel, who was Chief Prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal and Ms. Shanthi Dairiam, human rights expert of Malaysia and former member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

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R59

### Turkey presents report on Israeli raid on Gaza aid ship to UN

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*Turkey presented its report to UN about Israeli raid on Mavi Marmara aid ship.*

Turkey presented its report to UN on Thursday about Israeli raid on Mavi Marmara aid ship.

Turkish Ambassador Mithat Rende presented Turkey's report to UN investigation committee in New York.

Sources said that Turkey's contacts and initiatives in this issue would continue.

Nine people, including eight Turkish and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed by Israeli forces in a raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla including Mavi Marmara ship on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The UN Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

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# TODAY'S ZAMAN

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## Turkey sets up own national inquiry team for flotilla raid

Soon after a UN probe of Israel's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla began on Tuesday, Ankara announced that it has established its own national commission for investigating the May 31 raid in order to draft a report to be introduced to the UN panel of inquiry.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry, in a written statement released late on Wednesday, recalled that a committee led by Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu and Interior Minister Beşir Atalay had already been established for investigating the May 31 attack by Israeli security forces on the Gaza humanitarian aid convoy -- which took place in international waters and ended with the killing of eight Turkish and one Turkish-American civilians.



"This time, upon the UN secretary-general's establishment of the inquiry panel, a National Investigation and Examination Commission has been established by the Prime Ministry for the purpose of investigating said attack and the treatment to which persons in the convoy had been exposed to and for preparing a report to be introduced to the UN Inquiry Panel within this framework," the ministry said.

In New York, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met on Tuesday with the four-member panel of inquiry into the May Gaza flotilla incident as they sat down to map out how they will conduct the investigation.

The panel -- comprising Chairperson Geoffrey Palmer, the former New Zealand prime minister, Vice Chair Alvaro Uribe, the former Colombian president, Israel's Joseph Ciechanover and Turkey's Özdem Sanberk -- "will spend the coming days determining how they will undertake their task," according to information released by the UN Secretary-General's office.

Ban stressed during the meeting at UN headquarters in New York that the panelists "should seek the fullest cooperation of the national authorities" as they carry out their work, and that they should perform their mandate in line with the UN Security Council presidential statement issued following the flotilla incident on May 31. The first progress report from the panel is scheduled to be delivered to the secretary-general by Sept. 15.

Turkey's national commission will work under the coordination of the prime ministry with the participation of bureaucrats from the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, the Transportation Ministry, the Interior Ministry and the Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs. For communication with the commission of UN officials and the UN inquiry panel, Ambassador Mithat Rende has been

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appointed as "the contact point," the ministry said.

The number of members on the commission is not definite as of yet, Today's Zaman learned from diplomatic sources.

"It is envisaged that the National Investigation and Examination Commission will prepare its report via examining the incident in coordination with all related institutions and establishments," the ministry concluded.

Amidst debates over the scope of the mandate of the UN panel, UN sources said earlier this week that the panel is not designed to determine individual criminal responsibility, but to examine and identify the facts, circumstances and the context of the incident involving the flotilla, which had departed from Turkey and was bound for the Gaza Strip.

As part of that, the panel will receive and review the reports of national investigations into the incident and request clarifications and information as it needs from national authorities, according to the same sources.

Meanwhile, the UN Human Rights Council's independent fact-finding mission of high-level experts that is inquiring into the same incident held its first meeting on Monday in Geneva. The mission is charged with determining whether any violation of international law, international humanitarian and human rights law has taken place. Its report is expected to be presented to the council's next session, slated for September.

**Rende: an expert on maritime law**

Ambassador Rende, who has been chosen as the contact point for communication between the UN and Ankara concerning the inquiries on the attack, is a distinguished expert of maritime law.

Rende currently holds the position of director general for economic affairs, including energy, water and environment at the Foreign Ministry. Prior to serving in this position, he was Turkey's ambassador to Qatar. From 1996-2000 he was counselor at the Turkish Embassy in London and deputy permanent representative of Turkey to the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO). At the IMO, Rende was responsible for negotiating issues related to maritime law. He then completed the post-graduate program at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London on security and international relations.

13.08.2010

News

TODAY'S ZAMAN

R61

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# Two-hour Israeli raid video presented in Turkey's UN report

SEVİL KÜÇÜKKOŞUM  
ANKARA - *Hürriyet Daily News*  
Thursday, September 2, 2010

Turkey presented video cassettes, passenger testimonies and its legal reasoning that Israel's raid on the Mavi Marmara was an offense in its report Thursday to the United Nations about the attack on the Gaza-bound aid ship.

"We gave the Turkish Foreign Ministry a two-hour video of the Israeli raid of the ship, recorded by an American citizen. The images show how our friends were killed by Israelis," Hüseyin Oruç, a council member of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or İHH, told the *Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review* on Thursday.

Turkey included the testimonies of 55 Mavi Marmara passengers and forensic opinions on the wounded passengers in its report.

Following Turkish Ambassador Mithat Rende's presentation of Turkey's report to the U.N. investigating committee in New York, sources said Turkey's initiatives regarding the issue would continue.

Eight Turks and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, which included the Mavi Marmara, May 31. Approximately 30 people were wounded in the attack; all of those killed were aboard the Mavi Marmara - a vessel owned by the İHH.

Activists claim the troops started firing as soon as they boarded the ship, while Israeli authorities say passengers attacked the commandos with steel rods and wooden staves as they were abseiling down from helicopters.

The U.N. Human Rights Council established an international fact-finding mission June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including humanitarian and human-rights law, following the attack on the flotilla.

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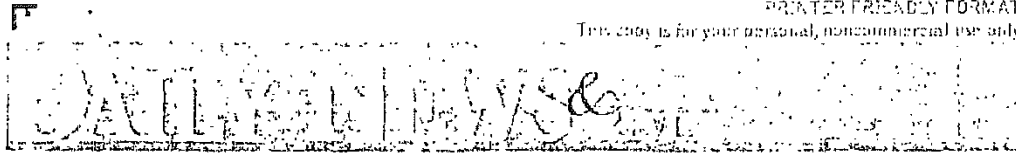
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## UN Gaza aid probe finds 'clear evidence' against Israel

GENEVA - Agence France-Presse  
Thursday, September 23, 2010

A U.N. probe said Wednesday there was clear evidence to back prosecutions against Israel for killing and torture when its troops stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in May.

In a scathing report, it also threw out Israel's argument that the aid activists were violent, thereby justifying the decision by Israeli soldiers to open fire. The incident left nine Turkish nationals dead and drew global condemnation.

Saying some were victims of actions "consistent with... summary execution," the inquiry ordered by the U.N. Human Rights Council said Israel's military used "unnecessary violence."

These "constituted grave violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law," it said, adding there was "clear evidence to support prosecutions" of crimes including "willful killing; torture or inhuman treatment; and willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health."

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu hailed the U.N. report on Thursday, Anatolia news agency reported.

The report by the U.N. Human Rights Council "is extremely unbiased and based on sound evidence. We appreciate it," Davutoğlu was quoted by Anatolia as telling reporters in New York on the sidelines of the U.N. general assembly.

"It meets our expectations. I hope the Israeli side will ... from now on act within international law," he added.

Israel rejected the report as "biased" and "one-sided." "As expected of a democratic country, Israel has been - and still is - investigating the events of the Gaza flotilla," said a statement released by the Israeli foreign ministry late Wednesday night.

It added that its own committee of inquiry, which includes two international observers, was still at work and that Israel had also agreed to take part in an inquiry set up by the UN Secretary General. "The report... is as biased and as one sided as the body that has produced it," the statement said. "Israel... is of the opinion that the flotilla incident is amply and sufficiently investigated as it is. All additional dealing with this issue is superfluous and unproductive."

Israel has insisted that it acted in line with international law, arguing that it had the right to retaliate against ships attempting to breach its blockade of the impoverished Gaza Strip. However, the probe said Israel's enforcement of a blockade was itself unlawful, since Gaza was suffering from a humanitarian crisis on the day of the deadly raid.

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"For this reason alone, the blockade is unlawful and cannot be sustained in law. This is so regardless of the grounds on which it is sought to justify the legality of the blockade," said the report, which will be presented to the rights council on Monday.

It said even those activists who did not try to stop Israeli soldiers from boarding the aid ships "received injuries, including fatal injuries." "It is apparent that no effort was made to minimize injuries at certain states of the operation and that the use of live fire was done in an extensive and arbitrary manner," said the inquiry.

"The circumstances of the killing of at least six of the passengers were in a manner consistent with an extra-legal, arbitrary and summary execution," it added. "The conduct of the Israeli military and other personnel towards the flotilla passengers was not only disproportionate to the occasion but demonstrated levels of totally unnecessary and incredible violence," said the probe.

The fact-finding mission, chaired by Karl Hudson-Phillips, former judge of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, had travelled to Turkey, Jordan and Britain to interview witnesses and officials for the probe.

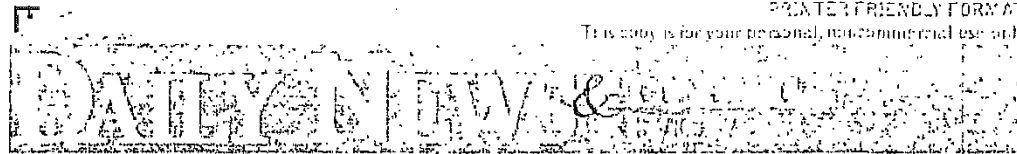
Desmond de Silva, former chief prosecutor of the Sierra Leone War Crimes Tribunal, and Shanthi Dairiam, as Malaysian human rights expert, are the other members of the panel.

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R63

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## Israel bracing for 'mother of all flotillas' to Gaza

**TEL AVIV - From wire dispatches**  
**Tuesday, September 7, 2010**

Israel is bracing for what is being described by its military as the "mother of all flotillas," comprising up to 20 ships planning to set sail for the blockaded Gaza Strip, a report said Tuesday.

The flotilla is being organized by a coalition of nongovernmental organizations from Europe and the United States, including a group calling itself European Jews for a Just Peace, Israel's Jerusalem Post reported. The groups hope to set off within the coming months.

"We hope to have a broad coalition from European countries, and also maybe the United States," Dror Feiler, a Stockholm-based Israeli-Swedish musician and artist who is one of the organizers behind the flotilla plans, told the Post on Monday. "We would like it to be double the size of the last flotilla, with at least a dozen ships and more than a thousand people."

According to the newspaper, the Israeli military is closely tracking the planned flotilla and is preparing for a wide range of scenarios, including the possibility that due to the large number of ships, it will need to stop the vessels far from Israel's shores.

"The Israeli army can stop 12 or 50 ships if it wants," Feiler said. "[Nonetheless] there are so many ships since so many people want to get together to stop the siege, which is a collective punishment on the people of Gaza and is unacceptable."

### **The May 31 attack**

The last flotilla aimed at breaking the Gaza blockade was stopped by Israeli commandos at the end of May. Nine activists, including eight pro-Palestinian Turks and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed during the May 31 attack, which reduced already-tense relations between Turkey and Israel to historic lows.

The coalition behind the new flotilla effort includes the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or İHH, and the Free Gaza Movement, which organized the flotilla stopped in May, the Post said.

The newspaper also reported Tuesday that the Israeli commission investigating the Gaza flotilla attack requested that the Israeli chief of staff's assistant, Col. Erez Weiner, give the court further information on the May 31 raid.

The Turkel Committee, headed by retired high court judge Yaakov Turkel, asked for electronic data and other materials that a committee headed by Maj. Gen. Giora Eiland analyzed when investigating the military aspect of the Gaza flotilla raid.

Turkel's probe also asked for explanations of the soldiers' behavior on the Mavi Marmara, the ship where

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the nine activists were killed, and for answers to additional questions that the Eiland Commission did not probe.

Uzi Arad, the head of the Israeli National Security Council, is expected to testify next week before the committee, as is Meir Dagan, the head of Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service. Foreign Ministry Director-General Yossi Gal will testify Wednesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Olmert and Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi have previously testified before the Turkel Commission.

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### Turkey says ready to help UN team, hopes Israel coop

*Davutoglu said, he hoped that Israeli party would also have cooperation with the UN missions.*

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with Sir Desmond de Silva, a member of the International Fact-Finding Mission of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council set up to examine the Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, in capital Ankara on Monday.

Officials from the Foreign Ministry said that Davutoglu and de Silva discussed the raid on Mavi Marmara ship and developments in the following period.

Officials quoted Davutoglu as saying that the stance to be assumed by international community was very important, because it would help the issue to be cleared up and also contribute to peace by showing that no country was superior to international law.

Davutoglu said that Turkey was ready to fully cooperate with UN commissions. "If you have any question, you can ask now. I am ready to share every information with you," he said in the meeting.

Davutoglu said he hoped that Israeli party would also have cooperation with the UN missions.

Members of the international mission are expected to hold a series of talks in Ankara, Istanbul and the southern town of Iskenderun till August 29.

As part of their visit, the delegation will come together with a national investigation commission, listen to those injured in the attack and the witnesses, and meet executives of Turkish ministries and institutions.

Committee members will also examine the "Mavi Marmara", "Defne Y" and "Gazze" aid ships.

Nine people, including eight Turkish and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

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## UN team in Turkey to probe Israel aid flotilla attack - UPDATED

*Members of an international fact-finding mission will pay a visit to Turkey to examine the Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.*

### World Bulletin / News Desk

Members of an international fact-finding team established by the UN Human Rights Council began meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara on Monday as part of an investigation into an Israeli attack on an aid flotilla on May 31 that left nine activists dead.

Members of the UN panel met with President Abdullah Gul and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Monday and are due to travel to Istanbul and Iskenderun, where three Turkish ships that were part of the aid flotilla are currently docked, before completing their visit on Sunday, Aug. 29, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released late on Sunday.

The fact-finding mission is composed of British lawyer Desmond de Silva -- a former UN war crimes prosecutor -- Trinidadian judge Karl T. Hudson-Phillips and Malaysian women's rights advocate Mary Shanthi Dairiam. Its mandate is primarily to investigate whether Israel breached international humanitarian or human rights law.

The Foreign Ministry statement said the investigative team will meet with representatives from a national inquiry delegation set up by Turkey, hear witnesses of the Israeli raid, including those injured in the attack, and confer with officials from the Foreign Ministry and other relevant state institutions. The Foreign Ministry also pledged full cooperation with the UN panel, saying "all sorts of assistance and facilitation will be offered" to the team during its work.

Their final report on the May 31 raid, said the statement, "carries great importance in terms of shedding light on the facts about the incident."

The UN Human Rights Council's investigation into the Israeli raid, which took place in international waters, is separate from a higher-profile UN probe announced by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The 47-member council's probe was launched before Ban's announcement of the high-level panel earlier this month.

The president of the Geneva-based council, Sihasak Phuanketkeow, has dismissed claims that Ban's announcement made the Human Rights Council investigation superfluous, saying earlier this month that the fact-finding mission should proceed because there is a clear distinction between the missions and mandates of the two inquiries.

Israel has said it would work with Ban's panel, which is led by former New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer and outgoing Colombian President Alvaro Uribe and includes members from Turkey and Israel. But the Jewish state has previously refused to take part in council investigations. Sihasak said it would be "in the interest of Israel to do so."

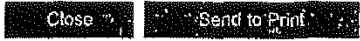
Both teams are expected to publish their findings in September.

Israeli commandos trying to prevent activists from breaking its blockade of Gaza killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American during the raid on one of the flotilla's six vessels.

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Turkey, on the other hand, is demanding an apology from Israel and compensation for the families of the victims.

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# TODAY'S ZAMAN

## UN fact-finding team in Turkey for aid flotilla probe

Members of an international fact-finding team established by the UN Human Rights Council began meeting with Turkish officials in Ankara on Monday as part of an investigation into an Israeli attack on an aid flotilla on May 31 that left nine activists dead.

Members of the UN panel met with President Abdullah Gül and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu on Monday and are due to travel to İstanbul and İskenderun, where three Turkish ships that were part of the aid flotilla are currently docked, before completing their visit on Sunday, Aug. 29, according to a Foreign Ministry statement released late on Sunday.



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would be "in the interest of Israel to do so." Both teams are expected to publish their findings in September.

Israeli commandos trying to prevent activists from breaking its blockade of Gaza killed eight Turks and one Turkish-American during the raid on one of the flotilla's six vessels. Israel has said the soldiers acted in self-defense after being attacked as they boarded the Mavi Marmara, owned by a Turkish charity. Turkey, on the other hand, is demanding an apology from Israel and compensation for the families of the victims.

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News

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# Int'l Gaza flotilla committee to visit Turkey

**ANKARA – Anatolia News Agency  
Monday, August 23, 2010**

Members of an international fact-finding mission are scheduled to visit Turkey to examine evidence from Israel's attack in May on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

The ministry's statement said members of the independent mission would hold talks in Ankara, Istanbul and the southern town of Iskenderun till Aug. 29. Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu will receive the delegation in Ankara.

The delegation is expected to confer with a domestic Turkish investigation commission, hear testimony from witnesses of the attack, including those who were injured, and meet leaders from Turkish state ministries and institutions.

Members of the international mission will also examine the Mavi Marmara, Defne Y and Gazze aid ships. In its statement, the ministry said the report the international mission would prepare was of vital importance in revealing the facts of what happened during the attack.

Around 30 people were injured when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on May 31. Eight Turkish citizens and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent were killed.

The United Nations Human Rights Council set up the international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate the possibility that Israel violated international law – specifically international humanitarian and human rights law – when it attacked the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance supplies.

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## EU-US insensitive to Israel-killed activists disappoint Turkey

*UN draft resolution was adopted by 30 votes against 1 vote (that belonged to USA). EU countries abstained at the voting.*

Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the United States objected and the European Union (EU) member countries abstained against the UN Human Rights Council's draft resolution regarding Israeli attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla.

The ministry released a statement and said report of the fact-finding mission established by the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the raid in the international waters and its consequences which resulted in death of eight Turkish citizens and a U.S. citizen, was submitted to the Council on September 22.

The draft resolution, submitted to the council by Pakistan on behalf of the 57 OIC-member states, was adopted by 30 votes against 1 vote (that belonged to USA). EU countries abstained at the voting.

The statement said the UN Human Rights Council approved the report of the international fact-finding mission which was prepared in a professional and objective stance and adopted a draft resolution on September 29 pertaining to points on following of the report.

"Despite evident EU principles on human rights, EU member countries, whose citizens were evacuated by Turkey following Israeli raid, used abstained vote and the United States, whose citizen was killed in the attack, used negative vote. Turkey was disappointed and conveyed its sensitivity on the matter to EU and the United States."

The statement said, "assessments of the report that Israel's armed attack in the international waters was evidently illegal, that Israeli troops used excessive, unnecessary and unbelievable violence and the intervention seriously violated human rights law and rules of humanitarian law were important. Turkey expects all the related parties, mainly Israel, to draw necessary lesson from the assessments in question."

Nine people, including eight Turkish citizens and one U.S. citizen of Turkish descent, were killed when Israeli forces raided a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters on May 31. Around 30 people were wounded in the attack.

The UN Human Rights Council set up an international fact-finding mission on June 2 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attack on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

Agencies **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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**Gaza flotilla: Statement by PM Netanyahu**

31 May 2010

This regrettable incident was the result of an intentional provocation of forces which support Iran and its terrorist enclave, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip.



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

*[Translated from Hebrew]*

Last night a regrettable incident occurred, during which people were killed and others were injured. IDF soldiers who were compelled to defend their lives were also injured. This incident was the result of an intentional provocation of forces which support Iran and its terrorist enclave, Hamas, in the Gaza Strip. This enclave, Hamas, has fired thousands of missiles at the State of Israel, and it is amassing thousands more.

This is a clear case of self-defense. Israel cannot allow the free flow of weapons, rockets and missiles to the terrorist base of Hamas in Gaza. It's a terrorist base supported by Iran; it's already fired thousands of rockets at Israeli cities; it seeks to smuggle in thousands more, and this is why Israel must inspect the goods that come into Gaza. It's also a clear case of self-defense because as our soldiers were inspecting these ships, they were attacked - they were almost lynched. They were attacked with clubs, with knives, perhaps with live gunfire, and they had to defend themselves - they were going to be killed. Israel will not allow its soldiers to be lynched and neither would any other self-respecting country.

Our policy is simple. We say: any goods, any humanitarian aid to Gaza, can enter. What we want to prevent is their ability to bring in war materiel - missiles, rockets, the means for constructing casings for missiles and rockets. This has been our policy and yesterday we told the flotilla - which was not a simple, innocent flotilla - to bring their goods into Ashdod. We told them that we would examine their cargo and allow those goods that could not be used as weapons or shielding materials for Hamas into Gaza.

Five of the six ships accepted these terms without violence. Apparently, the sixth ship, the largest, which had on board hundreds of people, had a premeditated plan to harm IDF soldiers. When the first soldiers dropped down onto the deck of the ship, they were attacked by a violent mob and were compelled to defend their lives. That is when the unfortunate events took place.

We have a simple policy, which will continue. That policy is: we have no argument or fight with the population of Gaza. We are interested in allowing them to continue their regular routines. We want to prevent any humanitarian crisis in Gaza, but we are fighting the



Hamas organization, which threatens the citizens of Israel and fires missiles at Israeli cities. It is our duty to defend the citizens of Israel, protect Israel's cities and ensure the security of the State of Israel - and we will continue to do so.

\*\*\*

**Statement following meeting with Canadian PM Stephen Harper (31 May 2010):**

Gaza has become a base for Hamas terrorists backed by Iran, from which they fire thousands of rockets into Israel. They're amassing thousands more rockets to fire at our cities, at our towns, at our children. Our policy is this: we try to let in all humanitarian goods into Gaza, all peaceful commodities - food, medicine and the like. What we want to prevent coming into Gaza are rockets, missiles, explosives and war materiel that could be used to attack our civilians.

This is an ongoing policy and it was the one that guided our action yesterday. We told the flotilla of ships, we said: "You can take all your cargo. Put it in our port of Ashdod. We'll just ferret out if there are any war materials and the rest will go through." We succeeded doing this peacefully with five of the six ships. The sixth ship, the largest, which had hundreds of people on it not only did not cooperate in this effort, they deliberately attacked the first soldiers that came on the ship. They were mobbed; they were clubbed; they were beaten; they were stabbed and there was even a report of gunfire.

Our soldiers had to defend themselves, defend their lives or they would have been killed, and regrettably, in this exchange at least ten people died. We regret this loss of life. We regret any of the violence that was there. I would like to wish speedy recovery to the wounded, including four of our own soldiers.

Our policy was and will continue to be that we will let humanitarian aid, any kinds of goods that are meant for peace to the civilian population in Gaza. We have no quarrel with the people of Gaza. We do have a conflict with the terrorist regime of Hamas, supported by Iran. We want to maintain a situation where we prevent weapons and raw materials from coming into Gaza. That is our main task.

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# TODAYS ZAMAN

## Upcoming aid ship convoy may stoke tensions between Turkey and Egypt

The Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), together with several other international nongovernmental organizations, is planning to sail to Gaza with seven aid ships to draw attention to the embargo on the besieged area, but Egyptian and Palestinian diplomatic sources warn that such a move could create diplomatic problems and may not actually be beneficial to the people of Gaza.

The diplomatic sources recalled that a similar move by the Viva Palestina convoy last December caused problems and said this time the problems could be even more severe.



The December convoy, which carried British, Arab and Turkish aid to Gaza, first went to Aqaba, situated far from Gaza. Egyptian authorities did not allow the convoy to cross Egypt and directed it to El Arish, the closest harbor to Gaza. Demonstrations against Cairo were held in Turkey at that time.

IHH spokesman Salih Bilici said their goal this time is to enter Gaza via the Gaza harbor and that while they are aware of possible problems, they don't have an alternative plan. "We don't have a plan B, C or D. We have decided to reach to Gaza by sea and enter via its port," he told Sunday's Zaman.

He said they bought two ships for this purpose, one passenger vessel with a 1,083-person capacity, and a cargo vessel that can hold 3,500 tons. British NGOs will contribute two ships to the fleet, Greece one ship and Irish NGOs will send another. It is expected that five ships carrying aid to Gaza will set sail near the end of May.

Bilici said that in addition to medical aid, the ships would carry construction materials. "We are taking construction materials as a symbolic gesture. Since the war, construction materials have not been allowed in; there are many government buildings, schools and hospitals in Gaza that were devastated. We want to convey the message that 'they are destroying, we are rebuilding'," Bilici said.

Bilici claims that Israel does not have any right to prevent them from entering Gaza's port but said that Israel might find an excuse:

"They could find some pretexts, like holding military exercises, for not letting us reach Gaza. But we will. We will enter Gaza by sea via the Gaza port. We are determined," he said. According to Israeli sources, it is not possible to enter Gaza by sea, and additionally construction materials are not allowed in under any circumstances.

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"We think those kinds of convoys are political. They are more directed at

political propaganda and less directed at humanitarian aid," Amit Zarouk, a spokesperson at the Israeli Embassy in Ankara, told Sunday's Zaman.

He claimed that there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza now, that electricity to the area is supplied by Israel, that exports are allowed from Gaza, that hundreds of trucks carrying food enter Gaza every day and that all sorts of medical aid is free to enter Gaza.

"But there are well-known ways to do this, and these are the ways used by the UN aid agencies, other international organizations and the Turkish Red Crescent. There are two gates to Gaza, Karni and Kerem Shalom. The sea route is not acceptable for us," he said.

Zarouk underlined that the cement and iron will not be allowed to enter Gaza under any circumstances. "Those kinds of materials, instead of making houses for people, are used for building bunkers and reinforcing the armed capacity of Hamas and also constructing tunnels for smuggling weapons," he said. When he was asked what would happen if the ships tries to enter Gaza, Zarouk answered that he couldn't say at the moment.

"This propaganda is not acceptable, and we will deal with it accordingly," he said.

In the past, Israel had two tactics: Either the Israeli Navy would force ships to dock at the Port of Ashdod in Israel, unload the aid and after inspecting it send to Gaza or force ships to turn back to open sea. According to Palestinian Ambassador to Turkey Nabil Maarouf, Israel would never let such an aid fleet enter Gaza, and the fleet will be forced to alter its route to dock at the El-Arish port. If this is the case, the ambassador noted, such a situation could create diplomatic problems.

Egyptian Ambassador to Turkey Abderahman Salaheldin told Sunday's Zaman that the rules are very clear on sending humanitarian aid to Gaza:

"First of all they need to notify us ahead of time about their plans and give us details of their humanitarian aid. Medical supplies will go to the Refah crossing, but the non-medical assistance has to be coordinated with Israel," he said and added that so far they had not received any request from the IHH or the other NGOs.

The Egyptian ambassador recalled that any initiative aiming to help the Palestinian cause should remember that Israel wants to make the division of Palestine at Gaza and the West Bank in order to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Ambassador Salaheldin added that they are constantly sending aid to Gaza and working for the reconciliation of Palestine, which would be in the best interests of the Palestinians.

"To supply humanitarian aid is only one part of efforts to help our Palestinian brothers. We should be working hand-in-hand for peace and an independent Palestine state. If the Turkish public is not well educated in the situation, we will

lack the support of this very energetic public for this cause," he said and added that everybody should understand the laws and international obligations of Egypt and no one should put Egypt in the same boat with Israel the occupier.

The İHH 's Bilici said that they were aware of the fact that both Israel and Egypt might try to prevent them from entering but argued that since their motive is humanitarian and they have the support of 42 countries' NGOs, these two countries will be obliged to step back.

"Last time Egypt was criticized by the international community, especially by the Arab and Islamic media. We don't think they will repeat this," Bilici said. When he was asked if they had ever communicated with Israeli and Egyptian authorities about their planned trip, he said no.

Last time Egyptian authorities directed the convoy to the port of El Arish, where scuffles broke out between members of the convoy and the Egyptian police after part of the convoy was barred from entering Gaza. Violence erupted during solidarity protests held by Palestinians in Gaza awaiting the convoy's arrival, resulting in the death of an Egyptian policeman. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed About Gheit described the aid convoy as "farcical" and said the country would no longer allow such solidarity convoys and that from now on all aid to Gaza must be handled by the Red Crescent at El Arish.

Ambassador Maarouf warned that the same scenes could be repeated, that such a move might cause diplomatic problems and that the Palestinians might not be benefit from the aid.

"I have another proposal, and I am discussing it with the NGOs," Ambassador Maaruf said and explained his suggestion as follows: "I am suggesting we gather the Turkish, Palestinian and Egyptian Red Crescents, form a convoy, but not of ships, raise the three flags and coordinate it together and enter Gaza. This way the ultimate aim of helping Gaza will be achieved. The three Red Crescents can directly distribute food to the people. This will also serve to enhance relations between Egypt and Turkey, instead of creating problems in Ankara-Cairo relations."

When Bilici was asked about this suggestion, he said their journey aims to enter Gaza via the Gaza seaport. "We are not calculating anything but to enter Gaza. We are determined to do it, because by sea it is possible to carry more aid than over land. Secondly we want to show the world that it is possible to break the embargo for humanitarian reasons," he said.

11.04.2010

News

AYŞE KARABAT



Türkçe English العربية Deutsch Русский Français



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Where We Work

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- Senegal

Flotilla to be launched in May



Flotilla to be launched in May

Activists with different religions and languages gathered at the IHH head office to discuss the forthcoming humanitarian flotilla to Gaza. They will be sailing to Gaza in ships this May. IHH President spoke resolutely: "We can sleep in the ships for months"

The IHH-led campaign "Palestine Our Destination, Freedom Our Load" was launched with a meeting at the foundation's headquarters. Bülent Yıldırım, chairman of the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, a number of activists from Greece, Britain, the United States and Indonesia, Cihat Gökdemir, head of Mazlum-Der Istanbul Branch, TGTV Chairman Necati Ceylan, Erol Erdoğan, Istanbul provincial head of Saadet Party, Bayram Karacan, Istanbul provincial head of BBP, two Palestinians being treated in Turkey and scores of people were present at the press conference.

These medicines and dialysis machines not available in Gaza

Showing medicines and dialysis machine in front of him, Yıldırım said "These medicines used by cancer patients and this dialysis machine used by people suffering from kidney failure are not available in Gaza. These are just two simple examples. Even basic humanitarian stuff is not allowed into Gaza under the embargo. This embargo is sanctioned neither by the international law nor human conscience. Unfortunately, it has been in effect for four years. We will sail in May to break the embargo."

Yıldırım noted they had been campaigning in various countries to promote the flotilla initiative and they were receiving new participants each day.

Yıldırım: We can sleep in the ships for months if needed

Yıldırım stated the IHH had purchased a passenger ship with the capacity of 1,080 persons and a cargo ship that can carry 3,500 tons of cargo. "The last time we travelled to Palestine overland we said we could even sleep in the

Sierra Leone  
Svaziland  
Tanzanya  
Togo  
Tunus  
Uganda  
Zambiya  
Zimbabve  
Balkanlar  
Bulgaristan  
Romanya  
Arnavutluk  
Bosna-Hersek  
Hrvatistan  
Sırbistan  
Yunanistan  
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Keşmir  
Myanmar  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Patani  
Siri Lanka  
Tayland  
Vietnam  
Kafkasya  
Rusya  
Gürcistan  
Azerbaycan  
Abhazya  
Acara  
Adigey-Şapsig  
Abhaska  
Çeçenistan  
Dağıstan

desert. And now we are saying we can sleep in the ships for months. If Israel keeps us at the sea, it will be the losing side. This will lead to more reporting about the embargo. Israel has become very isolated at the international level. If Israel has a humane side as it claims, it has to let us enter Gaza. Then the world will say 'Israel also has a humane side.' This flotilla will serve as a test of sincerity for Israel. If it fires at our ships, it will be interpreted as declaration of war on our countries. Israel and Egypt should permit this international movement," he added.

#### We are doing what our states should be doing

Another participant Huwaida Arraf, spokeswoman of the Free Gaza Movement, is a Ramallah-born Palestinian Christian married to a Jew. Arraf recalled they had sailed for Palestine in ships three times in the past.

She expressed pride for being part of the initiative and said: "A humanitarian tragedy is unfolding in Gaza and governments of world countries are remaining silent to it. We are doing now what our governments should be doing. We know it well that the power of humanity fighting for human rights is much stronger than arms. We managed to deliver aid to Gaza before and we were given a hero's welcome. The truth is the real heroes are the people of Gaza, who are resisting. We had promised them we would return in a bigger movement and we are going to keep our promise with this organization."

Israel fired at our ships in earlier attempts, Arraf said and added "Israel fired and sank our ship. But we were not discouraged. We organized three flotillas of aid ships and achieved to reach Gaza at the third attempt. And we are now sailing with the IHH to make the embargo meaningless."

#### 'We are ashamed of our governments' silence'

Representing Greece's Ship to Gaza organization at the press conference, Vangelios Pissias said they were ashamed of their governments' silence on the issue. The Palestinian question is unifying and lessons should be learnt from the resistance of Gaza, he indicated. The Greek activist said irrelevant problems between regional countries should be made history and urged Mediterranean countries to unite against the Israeli aggression.

#### 700 died from embargo

Mazen Kehil, representative of the European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza, recalled 700 Palestinians had died because of the embargo and called for unity of world countries on the Gaza issue. The ships will not be carrying arms but only humanitarian supplies, Kehil noted and urged all countries to support the flotilla. Indonesian activist Nur Fitri said they were taking part in the organization to prove the Indonesian people are standing by the Palestinian people and added they were planning to found a hospital in Gaza.

#### Palestine Our Destination, Humanitarian Aid Our Load

The campaign with the slogan "Palestine Our Destination, Humanitarian Aid Our Load" includes seven ships in total, two from Turkey, two from Britain, one from Greece and one from Ireland. The goal of the campaign is to support the Palestinian people, to show that arbitrary Israeli blockade is not recognized, to prove that the embargo can be legally broken, to put pressure on Egypt to open Rafah border, and to deliver humanitarian supplies.

The ships will be carrying tons of medication, medical equipment, cement and iron. Houses, hospitals and schools that were damaged in the last Israeli offensive have not been repaired yet, because Israel and Egypt do not let construction materials into Gaza under the embargo.



was organized by Istanbul Peace Road March

İnguşetya  
Kabardey  
Balkar  
Karaçay  
Çerkes  
Kırım  
Osetya

The flotilla of passenger and cargo vessels is expected to set sail in May. The vessels will be carrying over 1,000 passengers to Palestine including human rights advocates, activists, representatives of civil society, journalists and artists.

IHH president stated that ship-owners were refusing to rent their vessels for security concerns and they, therefore, decided to purchase vessels for the organization. He said: "The IHH has so far purchased two vessels, one passenger boat and one cargo ship. They were financed by donations to the Palestine fund. Mavi Marmara passenger ship was purchased at TRY 1,800,000 and the cargo ship at TRY 850,000. Mavi Marmara has the capacity to carry 200 tons and 1,080 passengers. And the cargo ship has a capacity of 3,500 tons. The flotilla will also be joined by three vessels from Britain, one from Greece and one from Ireland. There will be seven vessels in total."

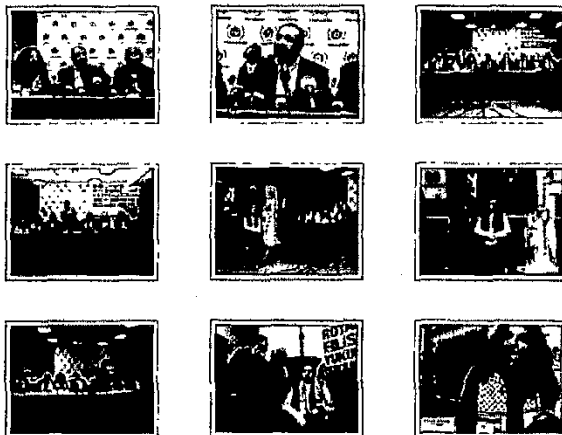
Responding to the question "What will be done with the ships after the organization?" Yıldırım said "The ships will be used in future aid flotillas. And after the removal of the embargo they will be donated to the Palestinian people."

**Route of flotilla**

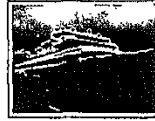
Passenger ships will depart from Istanbul and sail for Gaza in international waters, calling at the ports of Antalya, Kyrenia and Famagusta. The ships laden with relief supplies, however, will call at Istanbul and Mersin ports. Some of relief supplies will be loaded to ships, in Istanbul, while those collected in Anatolian cities will be loaded in Mersin. The journey will take between 10 to 15 days depending on weather condition and possible Israeli hurdles.

**What supplies will be carried in ships?**

Many relief supplies that are not allowed into Gaza because of embargo will be carried in ships, including construction materials such as cement, iron, etc., generators (over 100 KW), MR devices (preferably new or less than two years old), ultrasound machines, dentist chairs and equipment, CBC blood testing and devices (preferably new or less than three years old), and electric wheelchairs. The participants will return to Turkey in the same ships after delivering relief supplies to Gaza.



IHH İnsani Yardım Vakfı



IHH İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri İnsani Yardım Vakfı  
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Telefon: +90 212 631 21 21 Faks: +90 212 621 70 51  
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**From:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 6:28 PM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael; Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A  
**Subject:** FW: Mavi Marmara; TRT (4)

Jale's final installment on Turkey's Mavi Marmara report.

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 5:06 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Mavi Marmara; TRT (4)

- Israeli soldiers moved the route toward Ashrod port and during this hours long journey passengers were subject to serious physical, verbal and psychological maltreatment;
- Maltreatment continued during transfers to prisons/hospitals and Ben Gurion Airport as they were deported;
- During this process all passengers were subject to intensive violence by Israeli forces;
- The attack on the ships violated the rights of the passengers to live, their security. They did arbitrary detentions and arrests and inflicted torture and inhumane treatment;

The sanctions requested in the Report follow:

- Israel is responsible for the compensation of the losses that it inflicted;
- It is necessary to condemn the attack of Israel.

(The end)

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:58 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara; TRT (3)

The AA carried excerpts from Turkey's Mavi Marmara report. Highlights follow:

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- Israel did not abide by the agreement reached among the U.S., Israel and Turkey before the flotilla took off (which required the route to be toward Egypt's El Aris port in case of a confrontation by Israel);
  - Once clashes began Israel forced the boat to sail toward Israel;
  - In the 45-article "Conclusion" part of Turkey's report the Turkish Commission stressed that it reached some objective and legal conclusions;
  - The stressed that the humanitarian assistance convoy was a "civilian initiative" with peaceful intentions. It did not pose a threat to Israel;
  - The passengers were subject to all border and customs controls;
  - There was no firearms on board;
  - Israel, before confronting the boat, did not try to inspect or search the ship and Israelis cut the communication among the vessels, something that put the ships and passengers at risk;
  - The attack took place 72 miles to the closest shore, in other words, in international waters;
  - Nine passengers died and Israel violated the basic right to live;
  - Five of those who died were shot at close range in the head. Furkan Dogan received five bullets including three in the head. First bullet hit his foot and when he fell down, two Israeli soldiers kicked him and then shot him in an execution style;
  - Photographer Cevdet Kiliclar was shot from a long range in the forehead. In the nine dead passengers there were 30 bullets;
  - More than 50 passengers were injured and one still is in coma;
  - The Israeli forces, who used helicopters, zodiac boats, submarines, frigates and commandoes did not fire in the air for warning that it might use force;
  - As Israeli soldiers by using zodiacs tried to board the ship they opened fire;
  - Passengers panicked and they tried to legitimately defend themselves;
  - In response Israel did not reevaluate the situation;
  - Israel used real ammunition against the passengers;
  - Israeli soldiers continued to fire despite the fact that passengers showed white flags;
  - Israeli soldiers attacked the other boats as well and number of injured was more than 70. Nobody used firearms against Israeli aggressors;
- (more to follow)

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara; TRT (2)

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"TRT News" reported that Turkey today submitted its final "Mavi Marmara Report" to the UN.

The highlight of the report was that Israel used excessive force and fired at close range.

The TRT correspondent in Israel noted that Tel Aviv would disclose the second part of its report soon. The UN HR Commissioner today held a press conference and said that they asked Israel to cooperate with the UN on this issue. The second part of the report is expected to focus on the mistakes of Israel.

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**From:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:21 PM  
**To:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Mavi Marmara; TRT

Amb Mithat Rende, the Turkish official briefed the media on their Mavi Marmara report.

They found out that there was no firearms on the Turkish ships that took off from the Turkish ports. The three Israeli soldiers were carrying firearms and those on the ship threw those weapons in the sea.

The right to live was violated. Five of those who died were shot at close range. When Furkan Dogan, Turkish-American citizen, when injured was kicked and then shot and killed. Another was shot in the forehead. Around 50 were injured, including one still in coma.

Israel used a serious force, zodiacs, helicopters, boats.

If Israel wanted, it could have stopped the flotilla peacefully. Unfortunately it did not try to stop it peacefully. One reason might be to create fear and deter future such attempts.

The Israeli side claimed that the passengers attacked its soldiers. This is true. Passengers were terrorized when they were subject to firing. So passenger, whom we talked to, thought that they all would be killed and tried to protect themselves.

Another mistake by Israel was, when confronted by such a reaction from passengers Israel should have stopped and made a reevaluation.

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The "TRT News" stopped live broadcast here.

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**From:** Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:08 PM  
**To:** Ersoy, Jale  
**Cc:** Ahn, Michael  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara; TRT

Jale:

NTV is airing a program now on the Mavi Marmara report. Would you monitor for us, please.

Thank you.

-- Jerry

**Jeremiah Howard**  
Deputy Political Counselor  
Embassy Ankara - Turkey  
T: 90 312 457-7149  
IVG: 295-7149

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**From:** Guido, Deborah L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:19 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; Ankara-PMA-DL  
**Subject:** Crowley on Turkish Rejection of Israeli Commission, June 14 PB

*Excerpt Press Briefing on Monday, June 14: Crowley on Turkish Rejection of Israeli Commission – repeating this*

**QUESTION:** Thank you. The Government of Israel, according to the White House yesterday, took an important step forward in proposing an independent public commission to investigate the circumstances of the recent tragic events aboard the flotilla headed for Gaza. Could you please explain for us why this independent public commission is an important step forward? Was that something that the U.S. side had encouraged the Israelis to unveil? And what would be the U.S. involvement in that commission going forward?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, first of all, this commission was set up by the Israeli Government. We've had conversations with the Israeli Government about how to assure the credibility and partiality that were called upon in the presidential statement of the UN Security Council. But these were Israeli decisions. I think the commission is – will be led by a respected Israeli jurist. There will be international participation through the – a Nobel Laureate from Northern Ireland and a judge advocate from Canada.

So we believe that Israel certainly, as a government, has the institutions and certainly the capability to conduct a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation. So I think this is an important step forward in what is called for in the UN Security Council presidential statement. That said, we're not going to prejudge the process or the outcome.

**QUESTION:** Wait. Just to be clear, you said that the U.S. encouraged – spoke with the Israelis about ways to encourage international participation?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, we were completely supportive of the UN Security Council presidential statement calling for a transparent, impartial, credible investigation. And we think what Israel announced yesterday is a step in that direction.

**QUESTION:** On the same topic? The Turkish Government said today they were not satisfied with this commission. The Turkish Government, they were not – they are not satisfied with it because they are not party to it.

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, Turkey, as any sovereign country, has a right to conduct its own investigation. I'm not aware that Turkey has reached its own judgment on how to proceed. But I think this is precisely why, in our discussions with the Israeli Government, we understand that there are a number of countries, the United States included, that are looking for an impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. Certainly, we continue to believe that Israel is fully capable of conducting one.

**QUESTION:** Wait, so you think that the Turks should be allowed – should go out and conduct an investigation if they want?

**MR. CROWLEY:** Well, the Turks have that right.

**QUESTION:** Well, what do you mean that they have that right? So, what if Iran wants to conduct an investigation? Is that okay, too?

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, this was an event that directly affected Turkish citizens. We understand that!

QUESTION: Yeah, but the reason I'm -- because you voted against the resolution at the Human Rights Council which called for -- which sent -- which is, actually, since it passed, sending a team to look into this. So I'm just --

MR. CROWLEY: Well --

QUESTION: It's okay with you if the Turks want to get in the game here?

MR. CROWLEY: Again, what we are looking for in -- with any country that decides to conduct an investigation is an impartial, is credible, is a transparent -- we stand by Israel and will voice our strong views against any action that is one-sided or biased by an international organization. That's why we voted against the resolution at the Human Rights Council!

QUESTION: Okay. So all of this talk about you guys and the UN supporting some kind of an international, separate probe other than the Israeli one is not correct?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, I'm not aware that the Secretary General has yet made any decisions on steps that the UN might take.

QUESTION: Well, that means that you would be willing to support something that the Secretary General comes up with?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, again, we'll listen to what the Secretary General has in mind and make a judgment at that time.

QUESTION: There are reports of aid ships from Iran that have departed recently with an intention to break the blockade. What advice or what -- how should the Israelis respond to this one since you had very strong views on how they responded last time?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, look. We are going to -- we are continuing to work with Israel, Egypt, and others to try to figure out how to expand the amount of assistance to the people of Gaza. We think there are better ways to do this than what Iran has perhaps announced.

QUESTION: Are you considering --

QUESTION: Well, but -- hold on. Specifically with regard to the reports of these ships coming, I mean, how --

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, Iran does not have a particularly constructive role in Gaza. It's a divisive country. I suspect very strongly that its intentions here are not humanitarian in nature. But we are focusing our efforts, working to see how we can, through the land borders between Israel and Gaza and Egypt and Gaza, increase the amount of assistance to the people of Gaza?

QUESTION: Are you suggesting that the ships are not carrying the humanitarian aid that they claim to be carrying?

MR. CROWLEY: Well, I mean, I don't know.

QUESTION: Or that they (inaudible) carrying?

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Page 3 of 3

**MR. CROWLEY:** But that is -- that remains a -- it remains a very legitimate concern that Israel have. They have, in fact, in the past, intercepted ships that were carrying weapons and armaments that have been used to threaten the Israeli people. But we think through land routes is a much more effective way of increasing the flow of humanitarian assistance while being able to protect Israel's security interests.

**QUESTION:** But what I'm trying to understand is whether you believe these ships are carrying some sort of weapons or --

**MR. CROWLEY:** I do not know.

Deborah L. Guido  
Spokesperson  
U.S. Embassy Ankara  
Office: 90-312-457-7312  
Cell: 90 0532 341-2862  
Email: [guidodl@state.gov](mailto:guidodl@state.gov)  
U.S. Embassy Web Page  
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Printed By: Witmer, Kami A

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R74

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 7:05 PM  
**To:** Guido, Deborah L; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A; Dayton, Win (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** FW: Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident

Fyi... in case you have not yet seen...

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---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 11:05 AM  
**To:** EUR-SE-DAR-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident

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---

**From:** Katsoulos, Athena  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 8:13 AM  
**To:** EUR-FO-DL; EUR-Directors-DL; EUR-SE-DAR-DL  
**Cc:** EUR-Press  
**Subject:** FW: Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident

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---

**From:** State Department Press Office [<mailto:Press@state.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 7:39 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 13, 2010

Statement by the Press Secretary on Israel's investigation into the flotilla incident

Today, the Government of Israel took an important step forward in proposing an independent public commission to investigate the circumstances of the recent tragic events on board the flotilla headed for Gaza. Through a presidential statement of the United Nations Security

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Page 1 of 2



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Council, the United States joined the international community in condemning those acts which led to nine fatalities and many injuries on board the flotilla, and supporting the completion of a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation.

We believe that Israel, like any other nation, should be allowed to undertake an investigation into events that involve its national security. Israel has a military justice system that meets international standards and is capable of conducting a serious and credible investigation, and the structure and terms of reference of Israel's proposed independent public commission can meet the standard of a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. But we will not prejudge the process or its outcome, and will await the conduct and findings of the investigation before drawing further conclusions.

While Israel should be afforded the time to complete its process, we expect Israel's commission and military investigation will be carried out promptly. We also expect that, upon completion, its findings will be presented publicly and will be presented to the international community.

###

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Page 2 of 2

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Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010

# Operation Sea Breeze

## Summary and Background

May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

R75



# Table of Contents

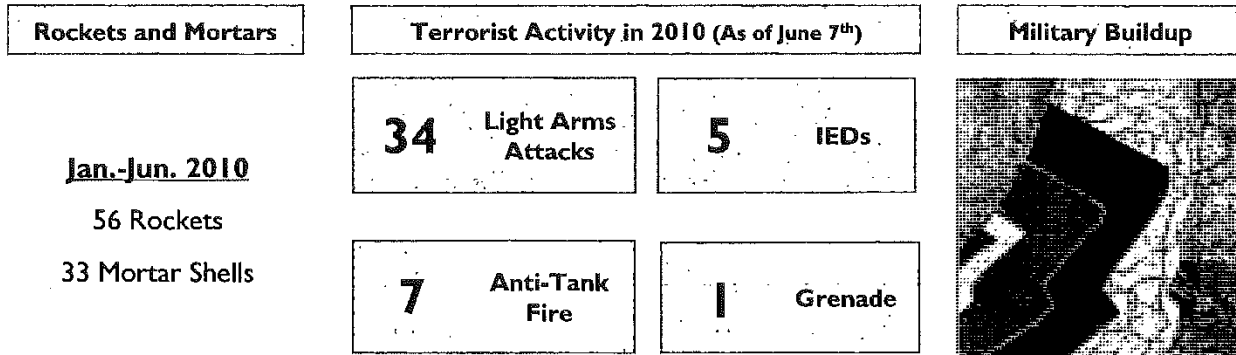
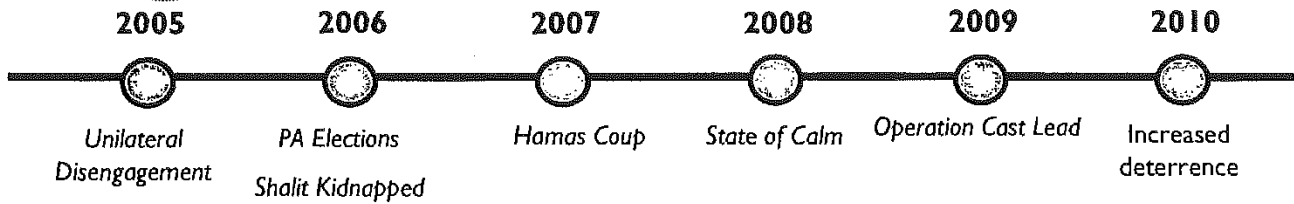
Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

<b>1</b>	<b>Strategic Context</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Flotilla Background</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Flotilla Participants</b>
	State of Armed Conflict		General		The IHH
	The Naval Blockade		Blockade Enforcement		IHH and Turkey
	Humanitarian Status: Gaza		Diplomatic Efforts		Other Terrorist Links
	Hamas & Humanitarian Aid		Participating Boats		
		<b>4</b>	<b>Interception</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>The Aftermath</b>
			Intercepting the Boats		Materials Onboard
			Interception to Repatriation		IDF Investigation
			<i>The Rachel Corrie</i>		

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## The Broader Context



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Refusal of International Community Conditions:</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cessation of hostile terrorist activity against Israel</li> <li>• Recognition of agreements between Israel and the PA</li> <li>• Recognition of the State of Israel's right to exist</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

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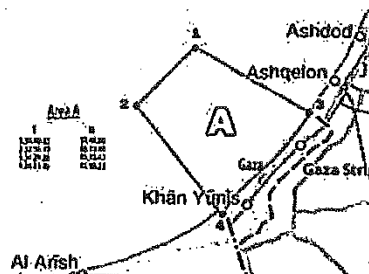
# The Naval Blockade on Gaza

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

Israel enforces certain restrictions aimed at ensuring its security, by preventing Hamas military buildup. This is subject to ongoing scrutiny by the Supreme Court.

Under International Law, naval blockades is a legitimate mean in armed conflicts. Its use requires the fulfillment of a number of conditions:



**Declaration**

The date the blockade begins, the duration and location must be notified to every affected country. [Israel began the blockade on 03/01/09]

**Effectiveness**

A State that declares a naval blockade must enforce it in practice

**Impartiality**

Blockades must be applied impartially to vessels of all States

**Purpose**

The goal of the blockade must not be to punish the population or refuse supplies vital for its survival.

**Proportionality**

The damage to the population must not exceed the military advantage.

**Neutral Access**

A naval blockade must not bar access to the ports and coasts of neutral States

Unclassified // Slide 4



## Humanitarian Status in Gaza

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

In coordination with the PA and NGOs, supplies and goods are transferred **on a daily basis** to the Gaza Strip, extending **beyond the requirements of international law**. Israel continues to assist in ensuring that basic water and infrastructure requirements in Gaza exist, allowing equipment transfers when necessary.

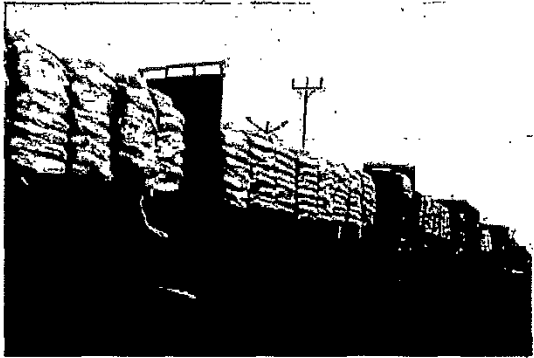
### Weekly Transfers (30/5-5/6)

**Trucks: 484**

**Tons: 12,413**

**Medical Evacs: 373**

**Fuel: 1.08 million liters**



Pictures of a Gaza Market (2009)

### Transfers in 2009

**Trucks: 30,920**

**Tons: 738,576**

**Medical Evacs: 10,544**

**NGO Personnel: 21,200**

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## Hamas and Humanitarian Aid

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

Hamas seeks to create an illusion of a humanitarian crisis within the Gaza Strip. This relies largely on preventing the entry or distribution of aid and exploitation of the aid for its own purposes, achieving political and military gains at the expense of Gaza residents.

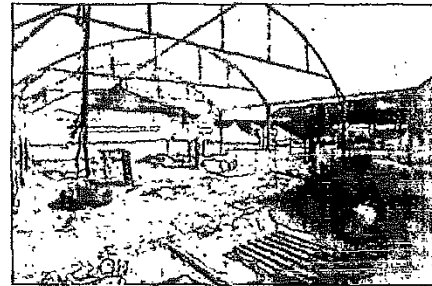
### Recent Examples

While the Hamas charges Gaza residents for electricity, it has refused to transfer the money to the PA for fuel, leading to a **Hamas instigated reduction in transfer.**

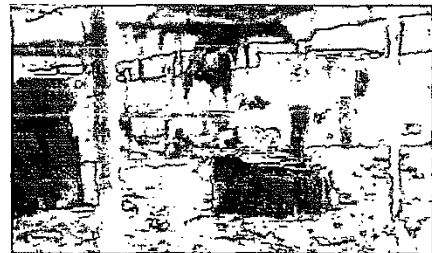
Using Molotov cocktails, radical elements in Gaza set fire to a UNRWA camp (23/5,10), apparently due to the non-religious agenda of the camp.

In mid-May 2010, the Hamas razed dozens of homes within the Gaza Strip, beating civilians who refused to leave them.

In early June 2010, Hamas forces raided and shut down numerous NGO charities in the Gaza Strip. UN officials expressed concern.



Pictures of the Burnt UNRWA Children's Camp



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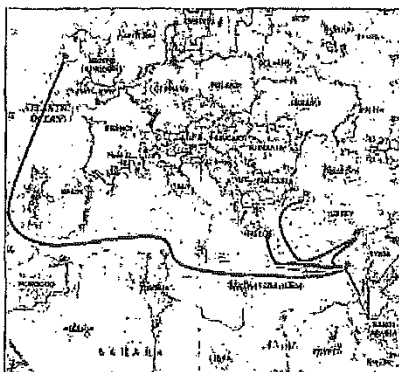


## Flotilla Background

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**On April 28<sup>th</sup>**, a number of organizations, led by the Turkish-based IHH, announced that they intended to sail a **flotilla to the Gaza Strip coast to breach the naval blockade** imposed in January, 2009.



The flotilla aimed to reach Gaza with approximately 10 ships, departing from south of Cyprus on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> flotilla since the blockade was imposed. **Two flotillas attempting to breach the blockade since have been stopped.** Humanitarian supplies aboard transferred to Gaza by the land crossings.

The option of transferring supplies via the land crossings was conveyed, **even suggesting that the organizers oversee the transfer.** This was declined by the organizers, who declared that the **purpose of the flotilla was to breach the blockade.** Israel unequivocally conveyed that **ships would not be permitted to breach the blockade.**

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## Enforcing Naval Blockades

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

### Attempted Breaching of the Blockade

The entry of a vessel into a blockaded area without permission constitutes a breach of a naval blockade. According to International Law, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a vessel has breached the blockade, it may be captured. If the vessel refuses to stop, **use of force** is permissible.

Moreover, a vessel may be captured when attempting to breach a naval blockade if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel intends to breach it, **even before the vessel reaches the blockaded area**. In such a case, the capture must take place outside of territorial waters of neutral states.

“ *Attempted breach of blockade occurs from the time a vessel or aircraft leaves a port or airfield with the intention of evading the blockade...* ”

**The Commander's Handbook on the Law  
of Naval Operations, US Navy**

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## Diplomatic Efforts to Avoid the Use of Force

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

Prior to the operation, a multi-pronged diplomatic effort was made in to prevent the flotilla from attempting to breach the naval blockade:

MFA and Others	Israeli Defense Forces
Messages conveyed to relevant countries.	Meeting between Navy Planning and Organization Department and relevant foreign attachés
Meetings on working levels and higher in relevant countries	Personal meeting between Navy Commander in Chief and relevant attachés
Message conveyed to flotilla organizers	Letter from Navy CoC sent to relevant naval CoCs.
Written messages conveyed to all foreign delegates in Israel	

Messages prior to interception and boarding	Reiteration of blockade
	Offer to transfer humanitarian supplies through Ashdod
	Warning that necessary measures would be taken if course unchanged
	Warning that ship would be boarded barring change

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## Naval Warnings

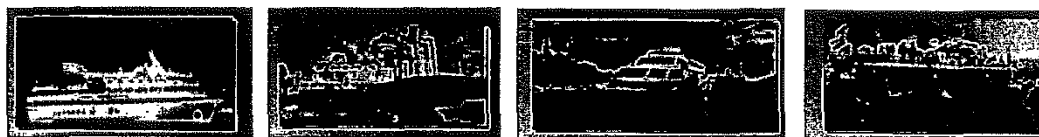
**Military-Strategic Information Section**  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**Insert Video**  
Naval Warnings Prior to Interception

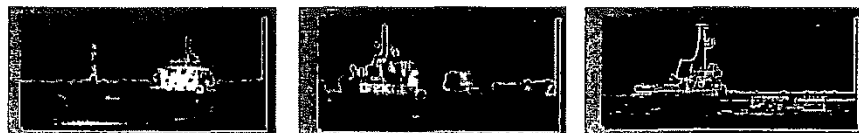


## Participating Boats

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces



<b>Name</b>	<i>Mavi Marmara</i>	<i>Gazze</i>	<i>Challenger I</i>	<i>Sfendoh</i>
<b>Max. Speed</b>	15 knots	13 knots	20 knots	15 knots
<b>Flag</b>	Comoros	Turkey	Unknown (Hoisted US flag)	Togo
<b>Passengers</b>	561	18	17	48



<b>Name</b>	<i>Defne Y</i>	<i>Sofia</i>	<i>Rachel Corrie</i>
<b>Max. Speed</b>	13 knots	12.5 knots	12.5 knots
<b>Flag</b>	Kiribati	Greece	Cambodia
<b>Passengers</b>	21	30	19

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Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

The IHH (*Insani Yardım Vakfı*) is a radical Islamic organization established in 1992, formally registered in Istanbul (1995) and led by **Bulent Yildirim**. While its activities include legitimate humanitarian activity, it also includes the **support of radical Islamic terrorist organizations:**



**Hamas**

The IHH openly supports the Hamas, as a member of the *Union of Good (UoG)*, which supports Hamas institutes in the PA. UoG was defined a terrorist entity by the US government in 2008.

**Global Jihad**

IHH has links with the GJ in the Middle East, as well as Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya. A CIA report (1996) exposed the IHH's connection with extremist groups. It also provided aid to a terrorist planning an attack in the US (2000)

**al-Qaeda**

In 2006, a Danish research group showed IHH involvement in recruitment, the purchase of weapons and the planning of attacks for al-Qaeda.

IHH provided **40 core activists, three boats**, including the *Mavi Marmara*, as well as **aid to the Hamas regime** in preparing to receive the flotilla. Bulent Yildirim also admitted to having children and elderly on board as a **deliberate human shields** (30 May)

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# The IHH and Turkey

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

## Core group of 40 IHH activists on *Mavi Marmara*

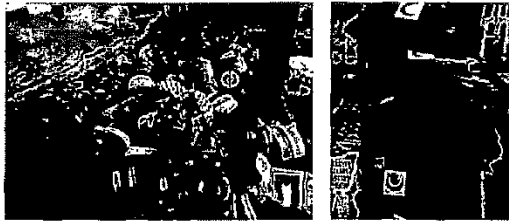
Boarded without security inspection in *Istanbul*

Hierarchy based on regional coordinators. Wore security badges during journey and carried radio communication devices

Top deck restricted to IHH access alone

Conducted instructional briefing regarding resistance during the boarding process.

The *Mavi Marmara* contained passengers alone, no humanitarian aid.



Gas masks and Turkish military vests used by IHH activists

## Turkey and the IHH

Elements in the Turkish government continue to defend and praise the IHH, despite the organization's terrorist affiliations and the blatant, organized attack on Israeli soldiers.

Turkey refused to nine separate Israeli requests to provide security oversight over the ships' loading, unlike other countries which provided oversight.

The *Mavi Marmara* was acquired from a Turkish company (IDO), created in 1987 by the Istanbul municipality. Interviews with passengers aboard reveal that the Turkish government aided the flotilla prior to its departure.

Unclassified || Slide 13



## Other Terrorist Links

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**While internal investigations continue, it is becoming more and more evident that individuals affiliated with terrorist groups were aboard the boat:**

### Armed Groups

A large number of passengers involved in the extreme violence were found without any identification papers and with large thousands of Euros in envelopes, indicating that they may be mercenaries, or people wanted for unlawful activity, therefore hiding their identity.

### Passengers

Specific passengers with known terror involvement:

- *Fatimah Mahdami* – Iranian-born US resident caught smuggling into the Gaza Strip and an active member of *Viva Palestine*
- *Ken O'Keefe* – British citizen; operative in the *Hamas* organization; has attempted to enter Gaza to form a commando unit
- *Hassan lynasi* – Turkish citizen; supported the *Islamic Jihad* financially
- *Hussein Urosh* – Turkish citizen who sought to smuggle Al-Qaeda operatives into the Gaza Strip
- *Ahmed Umimon* – French citizen of Moroccan origin; *Hamas* operative

Unclassified || Slide 14



## Interception of the Ships

On 31 May, at 0428, after numerous warnings were given to ships approaching the Gaza Strip, clarifying that entrance to the blockaded area would not be allowed, the six ships were boarded.

Passengers	<b>Mavi Marmara</b>	561
	<b>Challenger</b>	17
	<b>SFENDONH</b>	48
	<b>Gazze</b>	18
	<b>Sofia</b>	30
	<b>Defne Y</b>	21

### Boarding Preparation

Soldiers boarding the boats were instructed personally by the Chief of the Navy to use the **minimal amount of force necessary**, as befits operations involving civilians. They were equipped with paintball guns, beanbag ammunition, tasers and stun grenades, as well as pistols to be used when facing a clear and immediate threat to life.

Despite **some resistance** from passengers on five boats (excluding the *Mavi Marmara*), no injuries or casualties were sustained. The boats were brought to Ashdod port without extraordinary incidents.





## Violence Onboard Ship

---

**Military-Strategic Information Section**

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**Insert Video**  
**Violence Before Boarding**



## Violence on the 'Mavi Marmara'

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**Soldiers upon the *Mavi Marmara* encountered organized, life-threatening violence.** Troops limited fire to aggressors alone, after non-lethal force failed to prove effective. All casualties resulted from attacks immediately threatening the life of **Israeli soldiers.**

Calls on the boat directed non-IHH members (including 16 parliament members & 34 journalists) below deck prior to the IDF boarding. Weapons were prepared and IHH members split into squads for the violent confrontation.



### IHH Violence Upon Boarding

Soldiers were fired upon, thrown off the top deck, abducted, stabbed and attacked with metal rods, slingshots, and other weapons. **Soldiers were forced to respond with force in self-defense.**



**7 IDF Wounded**  
**(2 critical)**

**9 IHH casualties**  
**34 wounded**

Unclassified || Slide 17



## Violence Onboard Ship

---

**Military-Strategic Information Section**

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**Insert Video**

Violence Against Soldiers - Overhead

**Insert Video**

Violence Against Soldiers - Side View

---



“

We will definitely resist  
and we will not allow  
the Israelis to enter  
here... if Israel wants  
to board the ship, it will  
meet strong resistance.

---

Bulent Yildirim, Head of the IHH  
May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

”



---

Testimony of one of the  
Navy commandos on the  
*'Mavi Marmara'*

“

*There were guys who they  
threw off the top deck,  
and who were stripped of  
their gear. They jumped  
into the sea as a last  
resort ...*

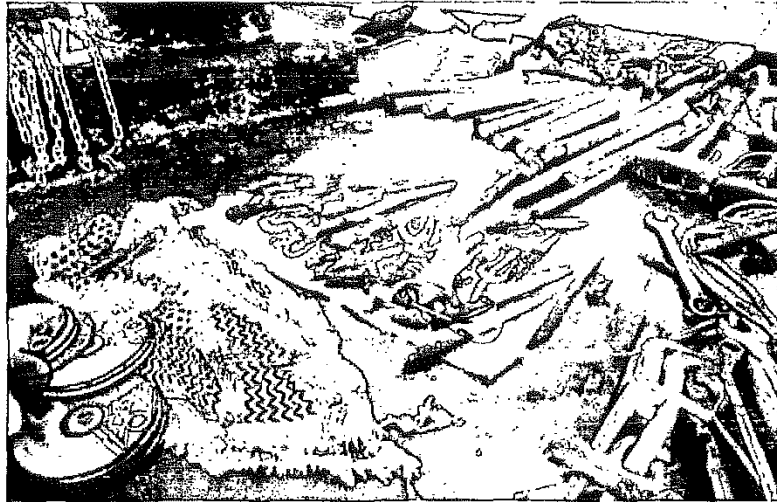
”



## IHH Preparation for Boarding

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

<b>Metal rods</b>	100
<b>Knives</b>	200
<b>Kevlar boards</b>	11
<b>Military vests</b>	150
<b>Electric saws</b>	7
<b>Large tools</b>	100
<b>Gas Masks</b>	200
<b>Axes</b>	20



Unclassified || Slide 21



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Testimony of one of the  
Navy commandos on the  
'Navi Marmara'

“

Every person who came down  
the ropes, was grabbed by  
three or four people and  
violently assaulted. We were  
lynched. They had metal rods,  
knives, slingshots, and glass  
bottles. At some point, live fire  
was shot at two of our  
soldiers.

”



## Violence Onboard Ship

---

**Military-Strategic Information Section**  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**Insert Video**  
Soldier Describes Violence





# Interception until Repatriation

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

## Injured passengers were evacuated by helicopter to five hospitals in Israel

Belinson

Hadassah Ein Karem

Tel Hashomer

Rambam

Barzilay



## Procedure Once in Port

In Ashdod Port, passengers were given medical examinations and screened for security purposes. Passengers who agreed to sign deportation notices were brought to Ben Gurion Airport for immediate repatriation. Those who refused were detained until deportation procedures were completed.

### June 1<sup>st</sup>

Two Egyptians returned to Egypt

Approximately 120 transferred to Jordan as final destination and as transfer point

### June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Four Lebanese residents returned via Rosh HaNikra crossing

### June 3<sup>rd</sup>

With the exception of 7 injured passengers and 3 others, all passengers returned to Turkey via 3 airplanes and 3 ambulance airplanes

### June 6<sup>th</sup>

One returned on flight to Turkey

Unclassified || Slide 24



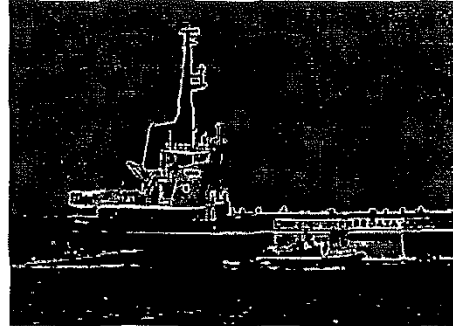
## The 'Linda' (Rachel Corrie)

Military-Strategic Information Section

Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

### Interception || July 5<sup>th</sup>

The *Rachel Corrie* arrived in the region on July 5<sup>th</sup> and, after ignoring calls to avert its course, was boarded by IDF forces. **The boarding was done calmly and peacefully.** All 19 passengers were brought to Ashdod port, where they underwent medical examinations and security screening.



### Repatriation || July 6<sup>th</sup>

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 8 of the passengers were transferred to Jordan via *Allenby* crossing. The remaining passengers were transferred to Turkey by airplane.



The perceptible difference between the behavior of the activists upon the 'Linda', as well as the other five ships, when compared to the **hostile aggression from the passengers of the *Mavi Marmara***, reflect upon the nature of the "peace activists" aboard each of the ships.

Unclassified || Slide 25



## Materials Aboard the Ships

### Materials Aboard the Ships

After passengers disembarked, the supplies were unloaded and transferred to some 80 trucks, sent to pass through the land crossings at *Kerem Shalom*. The supplies included **medical equipment** (including expired medicine), **clothing** and **children's toys**. Material requiring refrigeration are in IDF storage units.



However, large portions of the aid were rendered useless by poor packaging upon the boat. In addition, much of the materials did not match the standard definition of humanitarian aid. **Camouflage fabric** intended to be transferred was found on board. Much of the **clothing is old and not wearable** and **medical equipment** was not transferred in a sterile manner.



### Transferring the Materials

**Hamas has refused to accept the materials, threatening those who do try to transfer them.** The materials remain at *Kerem Shalom* crossing.

The routine, daily shipments of supplies continue – in the past week, 484 trucks (including two with concrete) were transferred.

Unclassified || Slide 26



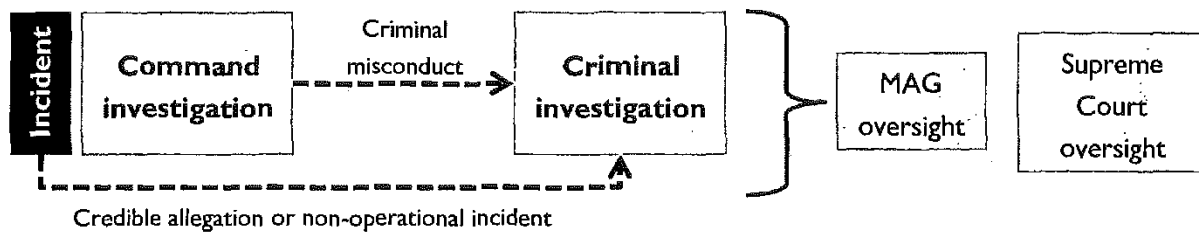
## IDF Investigation

Military-Strategic Information Section  
Strategic Division // Israel Defense Forces

**Field investigations within the navy are currently taking place.**

**In addition, the Chief of the General Staff has appointed a professional inquiry team, led by Maj. Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland to examine the flotilla operation and establish lessons. The team is to present the findings no later than July 4<sup>th</sup>. Consisting of professionals who are experts in the field, the investigative team was not part of the chain of command, allowing impartial investigation.**

### Model of IDF Investigations



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Page 1 of 7

R76

**From:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 8:46 AM  
**To:** Jeffrey, James F; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Godfrey, Anthony F; Witmer, Kami A; Leary, Thomas M; Guido, Deborah L  
**Subject:** FW: Eyewitness Reports about the Flotilla Clash

Israeli analysis of the Arab media on the Gaza flotilla incident.

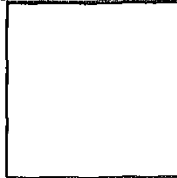
Douglas A. Silliman  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Ankara, Turkey  
90-312-455-5555 x7190

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** The Middle East Media Research Institute [mailto:memri@memri.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Silliman, Douglas A  
**Subject:** Eyewitness Reports about the Flotilla Clash

[If you are having trouble viewing this email click here.](#)



Special Dispatch | 3002 | June 6, 2010

Palestinians

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

## **Eyewitness Reports about the Flotilla Clash: There Was Resistance and Israeli Soldiers Were Captured; IHH**

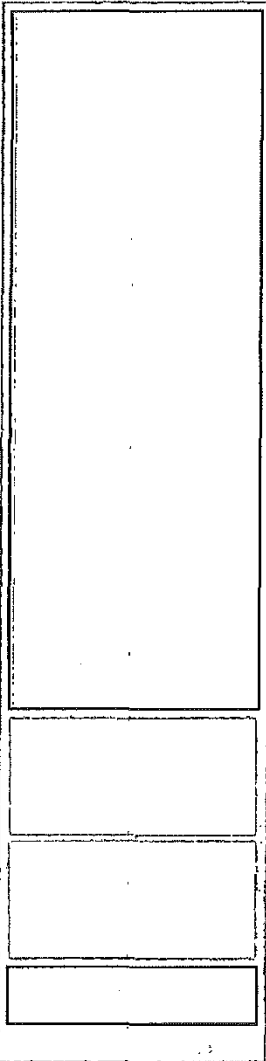
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Printed By: Witmer, Kami A  
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# Official: Our Goal Was to Reach Gaza or Die Trying

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*Following the flotilla clash, many eyewitness reports about what happened on board the Mavi Marmara ship were broadcast on Arab and Iranian TV channels.*

*According to some of the reports, several IDF soldiers were taken captive by the passengers. Journalist Saleh Al-Azraq, talking to the U.K.-based Al-Hiwar TV, said: "After the second landing attempt, Israel realized that some of its soldiers had been taken captive. That's when the heavy fire began." A Lebanese activist, interviewed by the Iranian English-language Press TV, said that when the soldiers first rappelled from their helicopter to the ship, "the Turkish resistance... grabbed four Israeli army [soldiers], and took them down."*

*IHH official Hussein Orush talked to the Qatari-based Al-Jazeera TV about the desire for martyrdom among the Turkish activists who were killed aboard the Mavi Marmara. "They all died smiling. Their fingers were pointing to martyrdom," he said. "Everybody wanted and was ready to become a martyr... Our goal was to reach Gaza or to die trying," he said.*

*Al-Azraq talked about the religious fervor among the passengers of the Mavi Marmara prior to its setting sail. "It made you feel like you were going on an Islamic conquest or raid," he said.*

*MEMRI TV has compiled various statements made by eyewitnesses to the clash. To view this clip on MEMRI TV, visit <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/0/0/0/0/0/2496.htm>.*

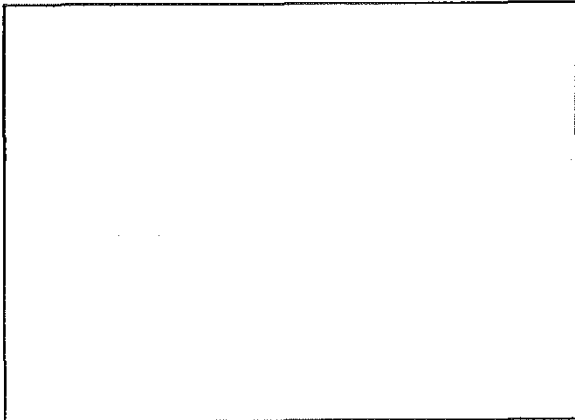
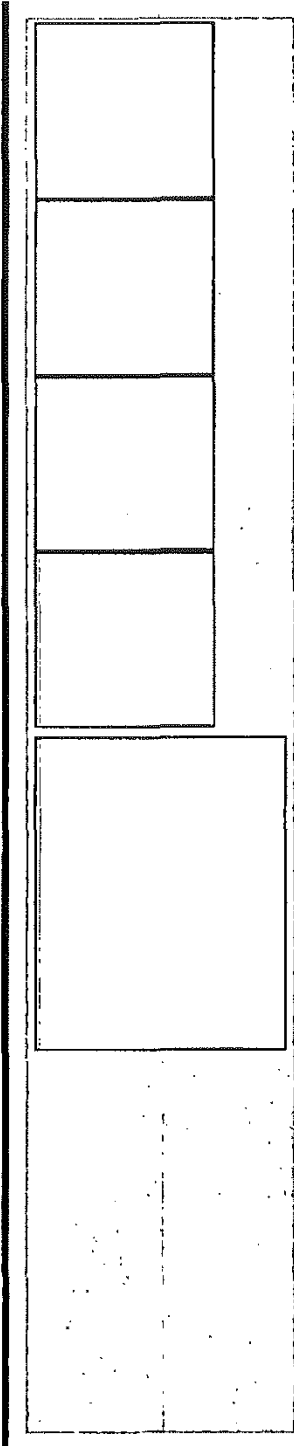
## Journalist Saleh Al-Azraq: We Felt Like We Were Going on an Islamic Conquest or Raid

*Al-Hiwar TV, June 4, 2010:*

**Journalist Saleh Al-Azraq:** "Religious fervor was very much present throughout the voyage. Maybe this is what led many to clash with the occupation soldiers later on. Some people ask how come not everybody was passive. They wanted to use everything they had to defend the ship, which they carried in their hearts to Gaza."

**Interviewer:** "We will get to that later."

**Saleh Al-Azraq:** "The moment the ship set sail, the cries of 'Allah Akbar' began. It was half past midnight on Friday. There were cries of 'Allah Akbar' and people reciting the Koran. It made you feel as if you were going on an Islamic conquest or raid. [...]"



"The [Israeli soldiers] began climbing down the ropes to the ship. Whenever a soldier reached the deck... I could see this because there was light. There was a clash with bare hands. There were no cold arms or anything. [...]"

"Did the activists go to the Israeli ships and beat the Israelis there? It was the Israelis who boarded our ship, so who is the aggressor?" [...]"

**"Civilians Captured an Israeli Soldier Armed to the Teeth"**

**Saleh Al-Azraq:** "Apparently, Israel felt that the first landing attempt had failed. One of its soldiers fell – or perhaps he was pushed – to the lower deck, but not to the water. Then the guys dragged him downstairs. I discovered in this journey – and I say this for the sake of history – that the Israeli soldiers are among the most cowardly soldiers I've ever met. They are armed to the teeth, wearing green fatigues, blue fatigues, and helmets in different colors, but they are cowards, cowards, cowards. [...]"

"The second landing attempt failed too. I saw that one of the Israeli soldiers who were captured... I was surprised to see civilians capturing an Israeli soldiers armed to the teeth. I saw a soldier... Perhaps he was exhausted from fighting, I don't know. He was terrified, and he was moving his hands like this, and the guys took him inside the ship, took his weapon, and left him there. [...]"

"After the second landing attempt, Israel realized that some of its soldiers had been taken captive. That's when the heavy fire began." [...]"

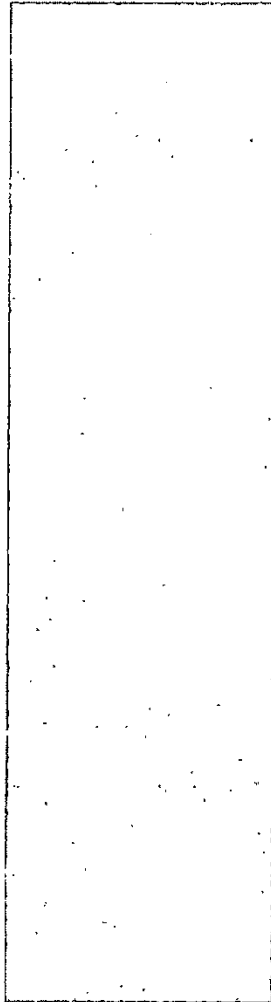
**Lebanese Activist: "The Turkish Resistance Grabbed Four Israeli Soldiers"**

*Press TV, June 2, 2010:*

**Interviewer:** "During the time you were in Israeli custody, were you subject to any kind of torture?"

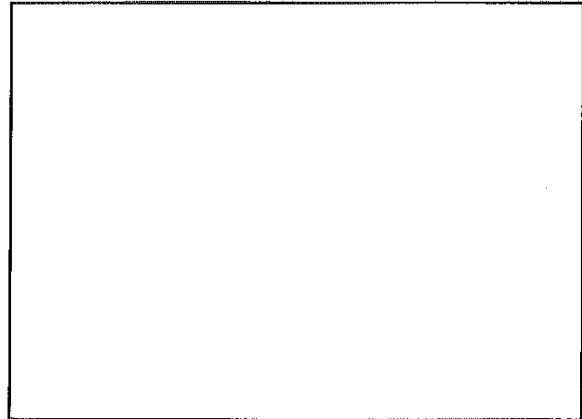
**Lebanese activist:** "No, no. Unfortunately not. At least not me. Others... Lots of people, especially the Turks... They really got a bad time – not torture, but investigation, and..."

**Interviewer:** "I have one more question. At the very time when the Israeli commandoes... How



did they board the ship? What was the way in which they boarded the ship?"

**Lebanese activist:** "The main boarding of the ship was by the helicopters and by sea, but the first attempt of the helicopter attack, or descent – the Turkish resistance, I can say, grabbed four Israeli army [soldiers], and took them down." [...]



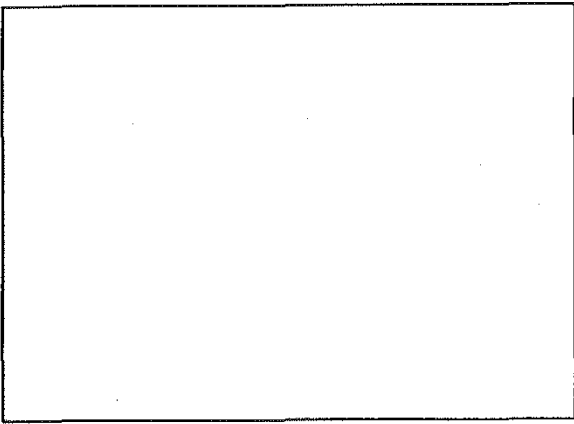
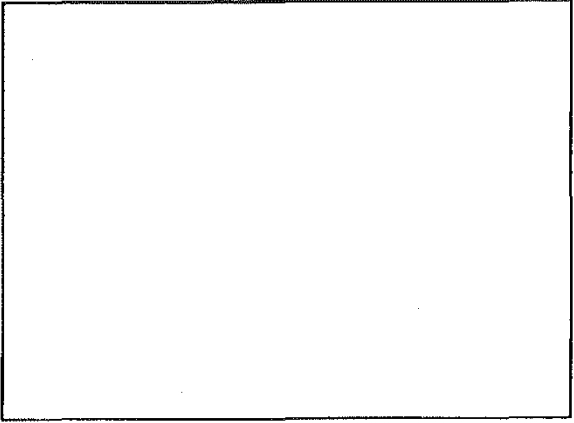
**IHH Official: "Our Goal Was to Reach Gaza or to Die Trying"**

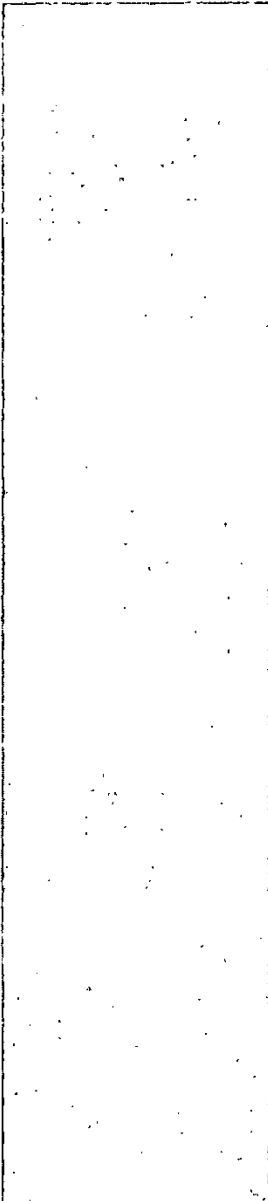
*Al-Jazeera TV, June 5, 2010:*

**IHH Official Hussein Orush:** "One of the martyrs was 19 years old. We've just found his last diary in his suitcase. The last lines he wrote before the attack were: 'Only a short time left before martyrdom. This is the most important stage of my life. Nothing is more beautiful than martyrdom, except for one's love for one's mother. But I don't know what is sweeter – my mother or martyrdom.' This was the last thing that the martyr Furkan wrote, and the last thing said by our brothers.

"They all died smiling. Their fingers were pointing to martyrdom. Their hands were pointing upward, and their faces were smiling. The smiles on some of their faces were very close to laughter. None of them died in a bad state. [...]



	
	<p>"All the passengers on board the ship were ready for this outcome. Everybody wanted and was ready to become a martyr. [...]"</p>
	<p>"Our goal was to reach Gaza or to die trying. All the ship's passengers were ready for this. IHH was ready for this too."</p>
	
<p><b>Mauritanian Activist: "They Brought Airplanes and Opened Fire at the People"</b></p>	
<p><i>Al-Jazeera TV, June 2, 2010:</i></p>	
<p><b>Muhammad Ghulam from Mauritania:</b> "They brought airplanes and opened fire at the people. Then we saw them rip out all the metal rods from all over the ship, and they put them at the bow of the ship, before we arrived at the Hebrew port. Then they brought all the Zionist journalists, who – instead of showing how we were not allowed to go to the restroom, how we were denied food and water and not allowed to pray for 24 hours – they started filming those metal rods, which they themselves had ripped off the ship."</p>	
<p><b>Sheik Raed Sallah: When We Heard There Were Martyrs, a</b></p>	



### Turkish Brother Said Congratulations

*Al-Jazeera TV, June 5, 2010:*

**Sheik Raed Sallah, Head of the Islamic Movement in Israel:** "When the events on board the Freedom Flotilla took place, and we all heard that there were martyrs and dozens of wounded, a Turkish brother came to me, shook my hand, and said to me: 'Congratulations, sheik. Blessings to all the martyrs.' What this means is that the power of truth that lies within us – within our minds, our hearts, and our conscience – is stronger than all of Israel's aggressive and barbaric means put together."

### Journalist Othman Al-Bteiri Describes the Fighting

*Al-Jazeera, June 2, 2010:*

**Interviewer:** "Tell us what happened."

**Journalist Othman Al-Bteiri:** "Yasser, we were witnesses to a massacre in international waters. At approximately 4:15 AM, dozens of dinghies, carrying dozens of Israeli commandos, tried to board the ship. There was resistance. As we've said, there was peaceful resistance from the start. Everybody on the ship – the participants and the supporters – tried to prevent the Israeli soldiers from boarding the ship. When they failed to board the ship, along came helicopters and landed soldiers from above onto the deck."

"There was resistance there too, and they did not manage to take control of the ship. That's when the shooting with live ammunition began. At first, they used stun grenades, tear-gas grenades, and rubber bullets, and some people were hit by the rubber bullets. But then live ammunition was used. [...]"

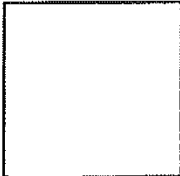
"Four Turks [were killed]. People said there were more above, but I only saw four. The real battle... The real massacre took place around the bridge. People tried to prevent the Israeli soldiers from taking over the captain's cabin. That was why live ammunition was used around the bridge. Live ammunition was also used in other parts of the ship, especially on the port side, where most of the martyrs and wounded were hit. Some 35-40 people of various nationalities were wounded."

**Interviewer:** "How long did the battle last?"

**Othman Al-Bteiri:** "The battle started at about 4:15. People were praying their dawn prayers, when there were cries of 'Allah Akbar,' and we knew that we were under attack. The attack lasted until 5:15 or 5:30. Then the Turks said that the Israelis had taken over the ship, and that everybody should sit down. Even so, we kept hearing gunfire."

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Please remember the environment before printing.



For assistance, please contact MEMRI at [memri@memri.org](mailto:memri@memri.org).

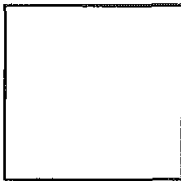
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RT7

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Fri Jun 04 07:03:47 2010  
**Subject:** Re: need info on pre-incident communications

After receiving an email from CA/OCS asking that we convey our concern for the safety of participants and urge that the Israelis use restraint, I made these points by telephone to MFA consular liaison office Rachel Shani. (I will need to look at my emails to figure dates.) On a following phone conversation she told me the points were conveyed to the office of the DG. Subsequently, the Ambassador said in a Mon or Thurs mtg that he had conveyed similar points to NSA Arad. We passed that point to CA as well. (Again, I need to review my notes to refresh my memory whether Elisa or I passed that point back to CA or to Wes in IPA.)

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**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Fri Jun 04 06:23:46 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: need info on pre-incident communications

Andy, I'm in touch with Ambassador and DAO on this. I believe you also conveyed concern for safety of Amcits to MFA in advance of May 31, right? Please send me a short summary of your contacts on this, just a few lines will do.

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Cunningham, James B  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Schlicher, Ronald L  
**Sent:** Fri Jun 04 02:35:50 2010  
**Subject:** need info on pre-incident communications

Michael Oren has called several people in the Department to assert that Israel has no record of the approaches described at the beginning of the below article and that he intends to issue a denial. As a consequence, S asked that NEA and EUR prepare a memo to her describing the conversations with the Israelis and the Turks in the run-up to Monday's raid.

We are aware of approaches to the GOI urging caution and expressing concern for safety of individuals, including Amcits, as described in the article. These took place in Washington as well as in Tel Aviv.

In addition, there were conversations of which we have only partial email records and less clarity about diverting the convoy and what it would take to do so. These took place between and among us, the Turks, and the Israelis.

We would appreciate it if you could reconstitute and summarize what you are aware of in 2-3 paragraphs that we could get by early morning our time. EUR is asking Embassy Ankara to assemble its recounting of discussions that took place in Ankara. We will work to mesh your and Ankara's understandings and assemble a finished product.

Thanks for your help.

Tom

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

R79

FYI

**From:** interpol israel [mailto:interpol@police.gov.il]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 12:56 PM  
**To:** Zuckerman, Eve  
**Subject:** RE: Request for info regarding Furkhan Dogan

Shalom Eve,  
I have inquired as to the possibility of answering your request.  
I have been told that all material from the flotilla – also that regarding deceased persons – is considered Investigative Material – and none of it can at this time be relayed to anyone outside of the Israel Police at this time.  
We are not sure when this policy will change – the matter is being handled directly by the Head of the Investigations and Intelligence Dept. and the State's Attorney (MOJ). As you are aware, there will be an international investigation into this matter and it may be that we will not be allowed to pass on any information until after that investigation has been completed.  
We will inform you when permission is given to pass on information to foreign bodies.  
Regards,  
Carol

---

**From:** Zuckerman, Eve [mailto:ZuckermanEX@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 9:34 AM  
**To:** interpol israel  
**Subject:** Request for info regarding Furkhan Dogan

Carol,

I have been requested by the Consul General, Andrew Parker, to contact you regarding the death of Furkhan Dogan; American citizen killed on the flotilla. We are interested in receiving photographs, reports, or documentation, from Abu Kabir pertaining to Furkhan Dogan. Please note that Mr. Dogan was an American citizen only.

We have been in contact with the Abu Kabir Institute for Forensic Pathology, and we understand from them that they are sending (or have already sent) the above items to Ms. Varda Shacham, Deputy Head of Investigations. Would it be possible for us to receive copies?

I will call you soon to discuss.

Thanks. Eve REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

*Eve Zuckerman*

*Consular Assistant*

*US Embassy, Tel Aviv*

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R80

RELEASED IN PART B6

To:

Subject: RE: [redacted] camera

B6

Attachments: RE: remaining missing personal items from the flotilla [RE remaining missing personal items from the flotilla.msg]

Dear ACS Team,

Please review the attached email. It appears that personal items for some of the Amcits on the Mavi Marmara may have been sent to the MFA.

Tomorrow (Wednesday), please check with the MFA to see if they have received or continue to have any cameras or photographic equipment for Amcits [redacted]

If they don't have it, please contact [redacted] to obtain specific information about the missing camera/equipment so that we can pass it along.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Daniel

Daniel Keen  
Acting Deputy Consular Section Chief  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey  
+90-312-455-5555

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**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 4:24 PM  
**To:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Cc:** Sisli, Fatih; Karadag, Isil; Tiglioglu, Aylin; Appleton, Richard H; Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] camera

Daniel,

Thank you for following up on this, please copy Kim Richter on your response with the information.

Teresa

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2011 2:22 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Cc:** Sisi, Fatih; Karadag, Isil; Tiglioglu, Aylin; Appleton, Richard H  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED] camera

B6

Hi Teresa,

This is not a problem. We may even have this information in our records somewhere as I recall seeing some emails about cameras/electronics previously.

We'll see if we have this information. If we don't, we'll reach out to [REDACTED] for the specifics and get it back to you. Do you know if he has returned to Turkey from his U.S. trip?

Best regards,

Daniel

Daniel Keen  
Acting Deputy Consular Section Chief  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey  
+90-312-455-5555

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**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 9:19 PM  
**To:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Subject:** FW: [REDACTED] camera

Daniel,

During [REDACTED] meeting with OCS DAS the issue of his son's camera came up. Kim is going to put in a request to the GOI but need the specifics on the camera to ask about it. Can you reach out to [REDACTED] and get this information?

Teresa

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Monday, February 28, 2011 2:06 PM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** [redacted] camera

B6

Can you ask Ankara to get the specifics on the camera so that Tel Aviv can ask the GOI about it?

Thanks.

Rosemary Law  
Program Analyst  
A/GIS/IPS/PP/LA  
lawrc@state.gov  
202-663-3906

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## COVER PAGE

USER ID : GOUSHESA

DATE : 07-11-2012

CADRE Reference ID: C18751305

R81 B6

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 09, 2010 10:01 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S; Ogle, Karen L  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H; Sisi, Fatih  
**Subject:** RE: remaining missing personal items from the flotilla  
**Categories:** Working

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Thank you. I believe that Rich and Fatih have already got the ball rolling on this.

Daniel

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**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 09, 2010 2:42 PM  
**To:** Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H  
**Subject:** FW: remaining missing personal items from the flotilla

I don't know what Post's holiday leave situation is, so I am forwarding to everyone. Please keep me updated on when you receive the items.

Teresa

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 09, 2010 7:39 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** FW: remaining missing personal items from the flotilla

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**From:** Brosius, Theodore A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 08, 2010 3:12 AM  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H  
**Cc:** Zuckerman, Eve; Richter, Kim B; Green, Jason H; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C  
**Subject:** remaining missing personal items from the flotilla

Hi Richard,

I'm writing from Embassy Tel Aviv regarding the remaining missing personal items from the flotilla .

The items listed below were originally sent to the Turkish Embassy here in Tel Aviv. I called them yesterday, and they said they had forwarded the items to the Foreign Ministry in Ankara. I would appreciate if you would contact them to help us locate these last items so that we can return them to their rightful owners.

The following Amcits are claiming items from the list of unclaimed camera equipment provided by the Press Organization.

- 1) [redacted] Item #101: Sony camera.
- 2) [redacted] Item # 37: Sony camcorder, listed as a hdv 1080, is a Z5U.
- 3) [redacted] Item #101 - A DSC N1 SONY (SN 578260).
- 4) [redacted] Item #47 Nikon Camera & Lens (SN 3413395) and #52 Nikon Lens (SN 1812902). They were both in a Lowe Pro "SlingShot" camera bag, along with three 8GB SD cards.

B6

I appreciate your help.

Teddy Brosius

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R82

RELEASED IN PART B6

To:

Subject: RE: Email Received from Prof. [redacted] with Regard to Mr. [redacted] Possessions

B6

Attachments: Second Gaza flotilla - May 31 [Second Gaza flotilla - May 31.msg] ,  
Second Gaza flotilla - IHH web page [Second Gaza flotilla - IHH web page.msg]

Hi Kim,

Thanks for taking care of this.

Yes, we'll be sure to keep you informed if we hear more about another flotilla. Current press statements have it between 10-15 boats. I've attached the two emails that Fatih Bey located today on the subject.

Best regards,

Daniel

Daniel Keen  
Acting Deputy Consular Section Chief  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey  
+90-312-455-5555

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 5:02 PM  
**To:** Keen, Daniel G; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H; Sisli, Fatih; Karadag, Isil; Tiglioglu, Aylin; Lally, Lilia V  
**Subject:** RE: Email Received from [redacted] with Regard to [redacted] Possessions

B6

Thanks Daniel. I will pass this along to Tel Aviv. I'm not all that confident that we'll find anything but we will try.

Yes, unfortunately we've already heard the rumblings of another Free Gaza Flotilla. If you get additional information please keep me in the loop and I will do the same.

Regards,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Kim

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**From:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:52 AM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Cc:** Appleton, Richard H; Sisli, Fatih; Karadağ, Isil; Tiglioglu, Aylin; Lally, Lilia V  
**Subject:** Email Received from [redacted] with Regard to Mr. [redacted] Possessions

B6

Dear Kim and Teresa,

We received a response from [redacted] about Mr. [redacted] belongings. The translated version is first with the original Turkish text at the bottom of this email. A photo of Mr. [redacted] ring is attached.

B6

I know that DAS Pettit was enquiring about this case and regret that it took so long to receive a response to our enquiries. It is my understanding that you will follow up with the GOI with regard to these items. If we may be of further assistance or if you have any additional information that we may pass along to [redacted] please let us know.

B6

Best regards,

Daniel

PS Please note that the one year anniversary of [redacted] death will be May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. There are already reports of a second Gaza Flotilla in the local press. They are planning to sail on the same day.

B6

Begin translated message:

“Dear Mr. Appleton,

I am forwarding you the list of my son [redacted] belongings including his camera and other belongings per your written request dated March 3, 2011.

B6

- 1) SONY SX34E Camera (together with its external memory card)
- 2) NOKIA 5800 Xpress Music Cellular Phone IMEI: 351531040269911 (photo attached)
- 3) Silver Ring (photo attached)
- 4) Adidas Sports Shoes (Dark Brown with hidden shoelaces)
- 5) White raincoat with hood
- 6) Adidas Black Tracksuit bottom
- 7) Black V-neck t-shirt

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As I have already expressed to Mr. Pettit, my son's above listed belongings have not been delivered to us. Especially his camera and its memory card are quite important as he was recording when he was shot. I thank you in advance for your interest and sensitivity in this issue.

I would be pleased if you could keep me informed on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

B6

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**From:** [Redacted] **B6**  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2011 11:35 AM  
**To:** Ankara-Consular-Public-MB  
**Subject:** Re: acsOther Müsteşar Yardımcısı Jim Pettit ile yapmış olduğunuz görüşme

Sayın Richard Appleton,

3 Mart 2011 tarihli yazınızla tarafımdan istediğiniz oğlum [Redacted] fotoğraf makinası ve diğer eşyaları ile ilgili listeyi aşağıda sunuyorum:

- 1) SONY SX34E Kamera (Harici Hafıza Kartı ile birlikte)
- 2) NOKIA 5800 XpressMusic Cep Telefonu IMEI: 351531040269911 (Fotoğrafi Ekte)
- 3) Gümüş Yüzük (Fotoğrafi Ekte)
- 4) Adidas Spor Ayakkabı (Gizli Bağcıklı Koyu Kahverengi)
- 5) Kapşonlu Beyaz Yağmurluk
- 6) Adidas Siyah Eşofman Altı
- 7) V yaka siyah tişört

Sayın Jim Pettit'e de ifade ettiğimiz gibi, bu eşyalar tarafımıza iade edilmemiştir. [Redacted] vurulduğu anda kamera çekimi yapmakta olduğundan özellikle Kamerası ve harici hafıza kartı son derece önemlidir. Konuya gösterdiğiniz ilgi ve hassasiyet için şimdiden teşekkür ederim.

Gelişmelerle ilgili bilgilendirirseniz memnun olurum.

Saygılarımla...

[Redacted]

B6

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R83

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Sisi, Fatih  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:12 AM  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H  
**Cc:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Subject:** Second Gaza flotilla - May 31

**Categories:** Working

<http://euobserver.com/24/32124>

The new flotilla will carry activists from Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Philippines and Turkey but is to have a more 'Western' composition than in 2010.

Around 15 boats are to set sail from a number of ports in the Mediterranean including Cyprus, Italy, Malta, Turkey and Tunisia.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

R84

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Sisli, Fatih  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 6:21 AM  
**To:** Appleton, Richard H  
**Cc:** Keen, Daniel G  
**Subject:** Second Gaza flotilla - IHH web page

**Categories:** Working

<http://www.ihh.org.tr/gazze-yardim-bekliyor/tr>

~10 boats from Turkey

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer