

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:00 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft  
**Attachments:** Gaza doc rev [CONSOLIDATED].docx

Thanks for your patience... the attached version is both consolidated and cleaned up aesthetically (set the track changes view to "final" vice "final showing markup" if you want to see what it looks like clean), so I'd say it's pretty close to being ready for prime time.

[Redacted]

Marc

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 June, 2010 16:31  
**To:** Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

All-

It looks like there are now two versions floating around (one that JoAnn and David edited, and one that Linda and I edited). To minimize confusion, I'm going to run a mail merge and then recirculate the combined version. Please don't make any additional mods until I've had a chance to consolidate.

Marc

**From:** Sullivan, David J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 June, 2010 16:28  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

[Redacted]

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:09 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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[Redacted]

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:59 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

I have added a few questions and comments.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: Blockade email--draft

Just a few non-substantive edits. Dave may have additional ones... This looks quite useful and concise.

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

Please work from this draft, which implements Stephen T's comments. I will be out until at least 6, so Stephen/Marc will be running the doc. Thanks, Steve

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:01 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

Just a quick plug to please send comments as soon as you can, as we'd like to ship this out to HHK too before launching. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:50 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Blockade email--draft

Folks—Here is a very rough draft email with some blank spots that is intended to help answer 7<sup>th</sup> floor questions on blockade issues. I unfortunately have to duck into something else but maybe Marc or Stephen could consolidate comments before this goes to Jim, Joan, and HK?

[Redacted]

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:57 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft  
**Attachments:** Gaza doc rev.docx

Sorry, have been in a Kazakhstan meeting all afternoon and just got to look this over. My edits are attached.

Marc

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 June, 2010 15:41  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: Blockade email--draft

Just a few non-substantive edits. Dave may have additional ones... This looks quite useful and concise.

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

Please work from this draft, which implements Stephen T's comments. I will be out until at least 6, so Stephen/Marc will be running the doc. Thanks, Steve

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:01 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

Just a quick plug to please send comments as soon as you can, as we'd like to ship this out to HHK too before launching. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:50 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Blockade email--draft

Folks—Here is a very rough draft email with some blank spots that is intended to help answer 7<sup>th</sup> floor questions on blockade issues. I unfortunately have to duck into something else but maybe Marc or Stephen could consolidate comments before this goes to Jim, Joan, and HK?

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

RELEASED IN PART B5

**From:** Guthrie, Peter A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:31 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Mortlock, David JL  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: CLEAR THIS VERSION ASAP: IHH PRESS GUIDANCE

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:35 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Guthrie, Peter A; Mortlock, David JL  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: CLEAR THIS VERSION ASAP: IHH PRESS GUIDANCE

[Redacted]

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:21 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** FW: CLEAR THIS VERSION ASAP: IHH PRESS GUIDANCE

Should have included you both.

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:19 PM  
**To:** Guthrie, Peter A; Shore, Rhonda H; P-NEA Duty; Rana, Gautam A; Hatcher, J Nathaniel; Reasor, Lonni H; Vasquez, Edgar J; Cohen, Jared A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL  
**Subject:** RE: CLEAR THIS VERSION ASAP: IHH PRESS GUIDANCE

[Redacted]

**From:** Guthrie, Peter A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:37 PM  
**To:** Shore, Rhonda H; P-NEA Duty; Rana, Gautam A; Hatcher, J Nathaniel; Reasor, Lonni H; Vasquez, Edgar J; Cohen, Jared A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: CLEAR THIS VERSION ASAP: IHH PRESS GUIDANCE

Edits attached. The questions are fairly similar, so I also think they (and the bullets) could be combined into one Q & A.

Copying David Mortlock on [Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



**From:** Shore, Rhonda H

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:41 AM

**To:** P-NEA Duty; Rana, Gautam A; Hatcher, J Nathaniel; Guthrie, Peter A; Reasor, Lonni H; Vasquez, Edgar J; Cohen, Jared A

**Subject:** CLEAR THIS VERSION ASAP: IHH PRESS GUIDANCE

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B5

**From:** Harris, Robert K  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Goroye, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H; Cleveland, Sarah H; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** FW: Israel -Flotilla and beyond  
**Importance:** High

I was a blind cc on this.

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Posner, Michael H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:05 PM  
**To:** 'Power, Samantha J.'; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Cc:** 'Busby, Scott W.'; Graze, Deborah E; Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Subject:** FW: Israel -Flotilla and beyond  
**Importance:** High

Samantha and Jeff

[Large Redacted Area]

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RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2011 1:19 PM  
**To:** Perina, Alexandra H; Jacobson, Linda; Conklin, Maegan L; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] analysis on international law governing blockades

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2011 12:44 PM  
**To:** Heinemann, Thomas B; Jacobson, Linda; Conklin, Maegan L; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] analysis on international law governing blockades

[redacted]

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2011 12:21 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Conklin, Maegan L; Perina, Alexandra H; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** [redacted] L analysis on international law governing blockades

[redacted]

Thanks.

[redacted]

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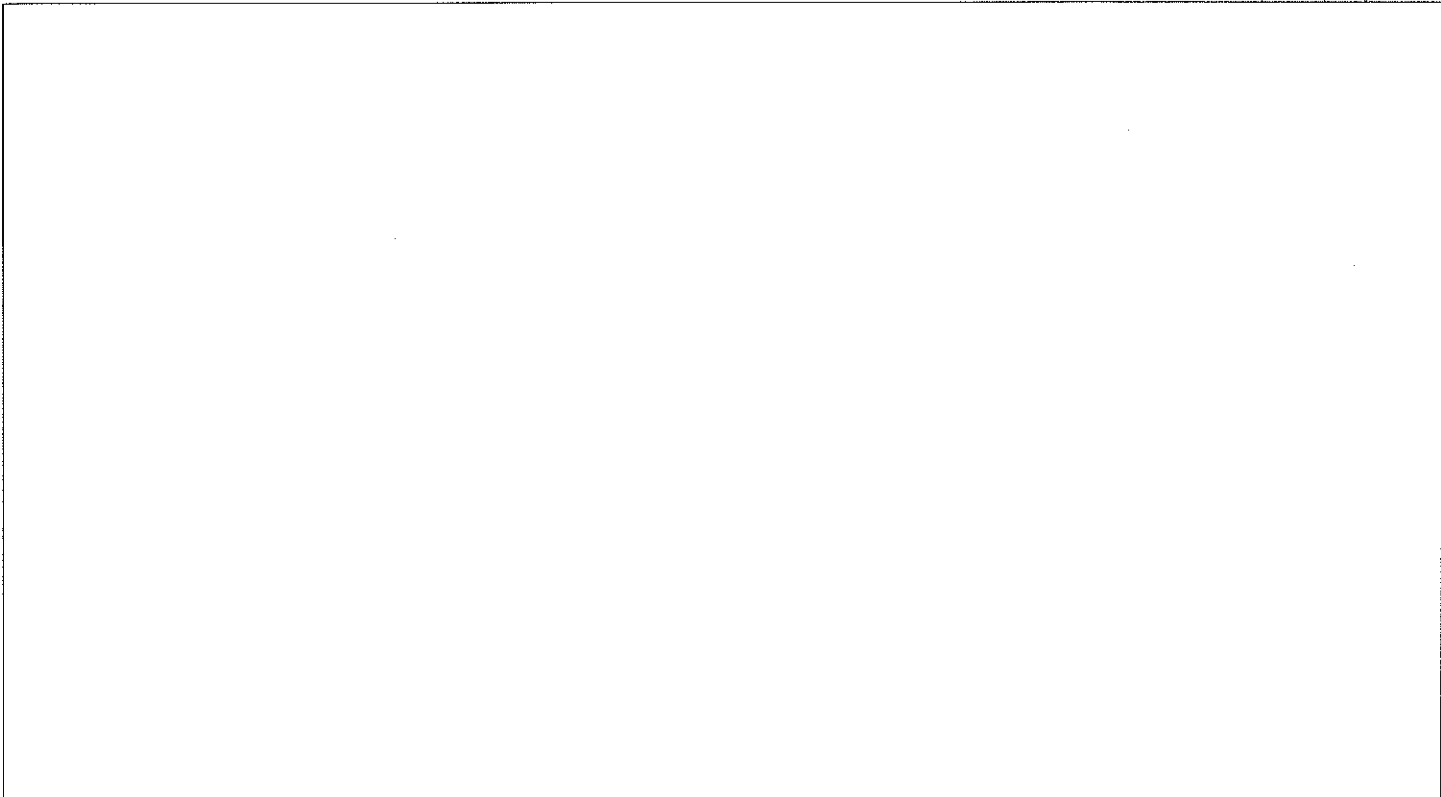
SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B5

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 06, 2011 12:29 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kimball, Emily J; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Buchwald, Todd F; Biniaz, Susan N; McLeod, Mary; Visek, Richard C  
**Subject:** RE: Turkey ICJ  
  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

A couple of additional thoughts on these points:



B5

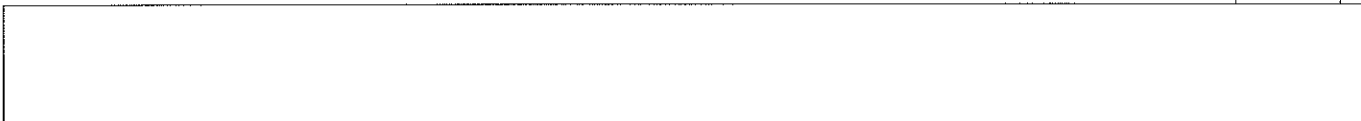
-- Also, in case anyone missed it, the report is now officially up on the UN website.

Sorry for the delayed response, I was offline over the weekend.

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

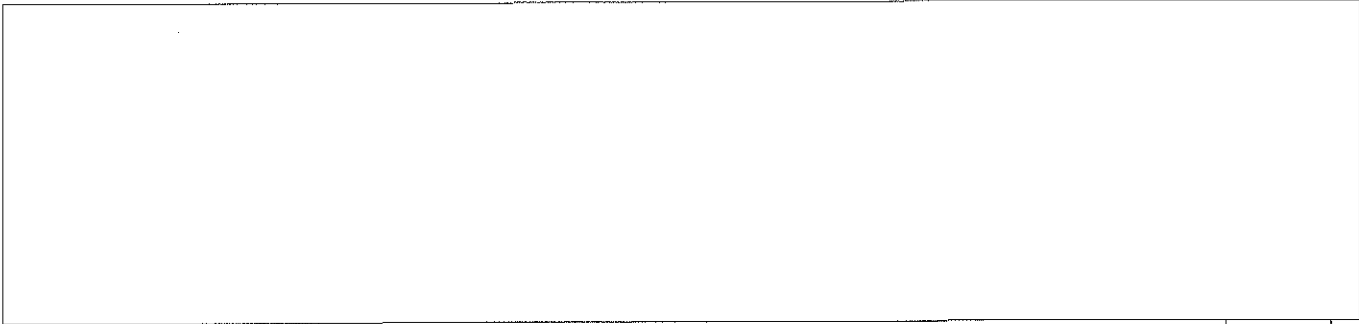
**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 03, 2011 5:28 PM  
**To:** Heinemann, Thomas B; Kimball, Emily J; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Buchwald, Todd F; Biniaz, Susan N; McLeod, Mary; Visek, Richard C  
**Subject:** Re: Turkey ICJ

Reading through the report, the following concerned me:



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Jon

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

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B

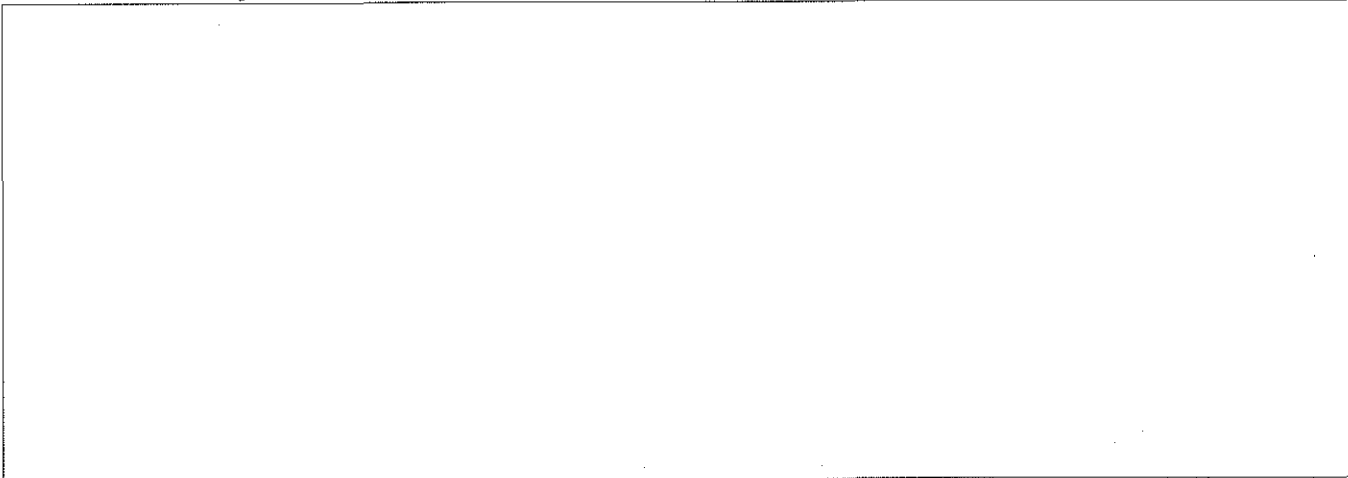
Sent: Saturday, September 03, 2011 03:47 PM

To: Heinemann, Thomas B; Kimball, Emily J; Gorove, Katherine M

Cc: Jacobson, Linda; Buchwald, Todd F; Biniaz, Susan N; McLeod, Mary; Visek, Richard C

Subject: Turkey ICJ

Tom/Emily/Kate - are any of you in a position to get me some thoughts on the Turkish announcement they will take the blockade issue to the ICJ (before I leave Monday morning)? I



Thanks

Jon

This email is UNCLASSIFIED



RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 5:36 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Cc:** Martin, Julie B; Buchwald, Todd F; Daley, John D; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: urgent - flotilla - D question

I can't tell from this if there is a question we are supposed to be answering. Can someone clarify?

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 4:18 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Martin, Julie B; Buchwald, Todd F; Daley, John D; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: urgent - flotilla - D question

Looping in Tom in Steve's absence.

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 4:16 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Cc:** Martin, Julie B; Buchwald, Todd F; Daley, John D; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** urgent - flotilla - D question

[Redacted] But, see below from Harold.

B5

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 3:55 PM  
**To:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Gorove, Katherine M; Martin, Julie B; Buchwald, Todd F  
**Subject:** URGENT--SEE BELOW

**From:** Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 3:42 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Buchwald, Todd F  
**Cc:** Daley, John D; Townley, Stephen G; Zelinsky, Aaron  
**Subject:** Turkey Flotilla ICC guidance

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Harold Hongju Koh  
The Legal Adviser  
United States Department of State

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

2201 C St. N.W. Suite 6421  
Washington, D.C. 20520  
202-647-9598 phone  
202-262-8295 cell  
202-647- 7096 fax

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Monday, September 12, 2011 12:14 PM  
**To:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** FW: Questions from the morning meeting regarding the blockade

---

**From:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:53 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Cc:** Thessin, James H; Townley, Stephen G; Pomper, Stephen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Guarin, Marc F; Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Subject:** Questions from the morning meeting regarding the blockade

Dear Jake--

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

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**Page Denied**



B5

I hope you find this helpful. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Joan

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:58 PM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Cc:** Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Waller, Robert P; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:** FW:  
**Attachments:** 053110-Israel-Palestinians - Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla.docx  
**Importance:** High

Couple edits.

B5

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Katsoulos, Athena; Waller, Robert P; Fuchs, Michael H; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Harutunian, Ruben; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:**  
**Importance:** High

Hi Everyone –

Please clear the attached press guidance on the raid on the Free Gaza flotilla. Please note that your clearance is appreciated **ASAP**. We will need to move this guidance to PA soonest so that it can be used by all that need it.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Ingber, Rebecca M  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:45 PM  
**To:** Banos, Mariano H; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Dolan, JoAnn; McLeod, Mary; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report  
**Attachments:** RE: AP -- Turks accuse Israel of war crimes at int'l court

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Banos, Mariano H  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:42 PM  
**To:** Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Ingber, Rebecca M; Dolan, JoAnn; McLeod, Mary; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

[Redacted]

**From:** Simonoff, Mark A (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:37 PM  
**To:** Ingber, Rebecca M; Dolan, JoAnn; McLeod, Mary; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

Colleagues,

My colleagues in the Political Section responded to Rebecca's suggested revision and the explanation as follows:

[Redacted]

From Amb Rice's Aug 2, 2010 statement:

The United States expects that the Panel will operate in a transparent and credible manner and that **its work will be the primary method for the international community to review the incident**, obviating the need for any overlapping international inquiries.

Best regards,

Mark **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

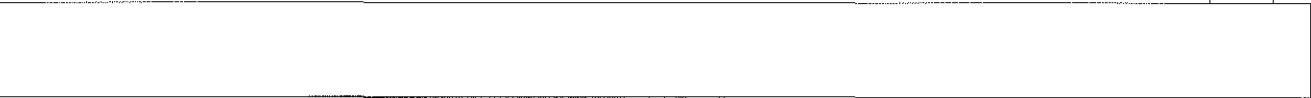
Mark A. Simonoff  
Acting Legal Adviser



U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
(212)415-4220

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Ingber, Rebecca M  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:09 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; McLeod, Mary; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report



B5

I just spoke with JoAnn and unless there are concerns with this, I will send back to NEA in the next 10 min.

Thanks!

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 1:45 PM  
**To:** McLeod, Mary; Ingber, Rebecca M; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

Mariano thought NEA guidance looked fine and Alexandra and Rebecca are going over it now. Did anyone else want to weigh in before we get back to NEA? I thought L/UNA in particular might because of references to SYG investigation. I have also attached version with point added by DRL, which I am not sure Mariano had yet seen. Would L/FO normally want to clear as well?

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** Ingber, Rebecca M; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** FW: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

In case others have not seen as yet.

**From:** Ventrell, Patrick H (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 1:03 PM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Schrepel, Dawn M; P-NEA Duty; Rand, Dafna H; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); Bass, Warren; Cooper, Kurtis A; Lapenn, Jessica; Owen, Evan; PRM-Press-DL; EUR-Press; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Hale, David M

**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

Attached are the suggested edits from USUN.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 12:15 PM  
**To:** Schrepel, Dawn M; P-NEA Duty; Rand, Dafna H; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); Bass, Warren; Cooper, Kurtis A; Lapenn, Jessica; Ventrell, Patrick H (USUN); Owen, Evan; PRM-Press-DL; EUR-Press; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Hale, David M  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report  
**Importance:** High

Please clear on the attached press guidance.

Thanks,  
Eddie

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Johnson, Clifton M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:10 PM  
**To:** Mitchell, Mary T; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Sharpe, Jeremy  
**Cc:** McDonough, Patricia E  
**Subject:** RE: Options Paper on Flotilla Investigation

Adding Trish, who's following this issue for LEI. Cliff

**From:** Mitchell, Mary T  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:04 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Johnson, Clifton M; Sharpe, Jeremy  
**Subject:** RE: Options Paper on Flotilla Investigation

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:02 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Johnson, Clifton M; Mitchell, Mary T; Sharpe, Jeremy  
**Subject:** FW: Options Paper on Flotilla Investigation

**From:** Mitchell, Mary T  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:00 AM

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5

**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Sharpe, Jeremy  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Options Paper on Flotilla Investigation

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:42 AM  
**To:** Mitchell, Mary T; Jacobson, Linda; Ramish, Timothy E; Prosser, Sarah E; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Eichensehr, Kristen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Thessin, James H; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F  
**Subject:** FW: Options Paper on Flotilla Investigation

All, attached is an options paper we (by that I mean Linda!) prepared at Jake Sullivan's request on possible ways to [Redacted]

[Redacted] Do any of you have other ideas we could add? We have not shared this outside of L yet. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 8:10 AM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J  
**Cc:** Donoghue, Joan E; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Thessin, James H; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Options Paper on Flotilla Investigation

Jake, Attached please find the latest draft of our paper on [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Thanks, Stephen

RELEASED IN PART  
B6,1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Johnson, Thomas A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 2:25 PM  
**To:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Baumert, Kevin A; Morrison, Andrew L; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil; Whittlesey, John K; Graves, Jackie M  
**Subject:** Re: IMO Council--Probable Solution for Israel-Turkey Dispute

B6

The deal described below held together in its entirety. There were no changes to the texts below. After reviewing the summary of decisions on all agenda items, the Council ended its 104th session without further incident.

The Turkish ambassador was nowhere to be seen on Friday. By the end of last meeting, the Turkish delegation was down to its normal size of one or two--from an earlier high of eight. The Israeli Embassy and Del expressed profuse thanks for USDEL assistance.

**From:** Johnson, Thomas A  
**To:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Baumert, Kevin A; Morrison, Andrew L; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil <[redacted]@uscg.mil>; Whittlesey, John K; Graves, Jackie M  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 10 12:51:32 2010  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Probable Solution for Israel-Turkey Dispute

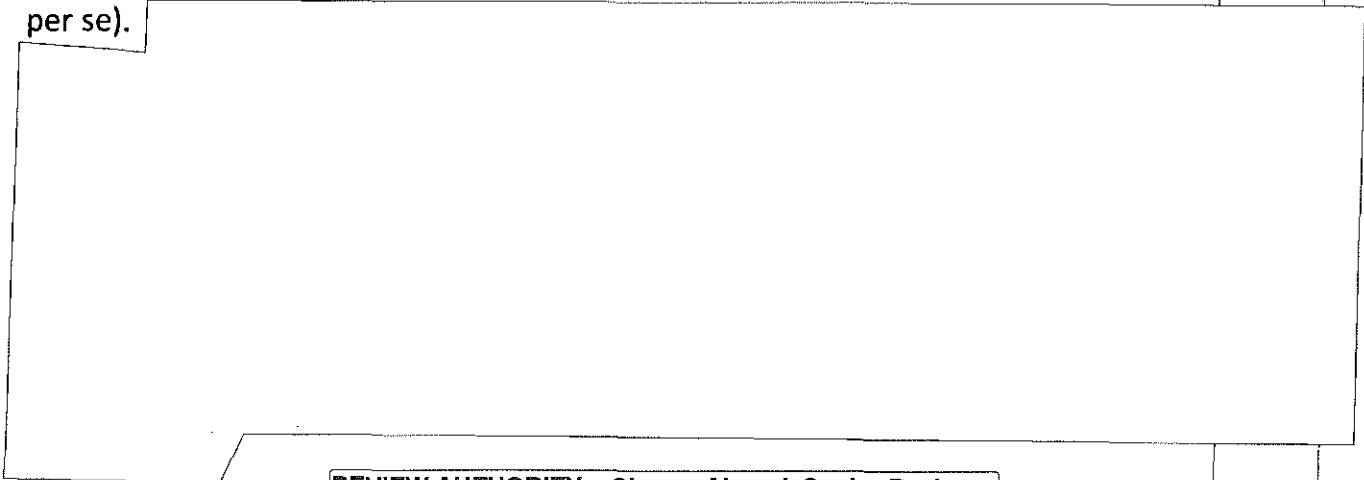
B6

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

USDEL believes that issues mentioned below have been resolved, if the current deal holds. It is reflected in the text below for an insert in the Record of Decisions (there is no Council report per se).



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Insert in Record of Decisions:

“In a subsequent discussion of the 31 May 2010 incident, at the instigation of the delegation of Turkey, the Council unanimously reiterated its expression of deep regret for the loss of life and injuries suffered in the incident and its condolences to the families and friends of the reported casualties. The Council noted that the Secretary-General would issue a press release encapsulating the essence of its debate on the issue.”

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on : 08/02/2012 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~  
Declassify on: 06/11/2020

Press Release:

“The Secretary-General of the IMO—the UN specialized agency responsible for the regulation of international shipping from, among other perspectives, the safety of human life at sea and safety of navigation—deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries sustained during an incident involving Israeli Defense Forces and ships carrying charity aid to the Gaza Strip in international waters of the Eastern Mediterranean in the early hours of Monday, 31 May 2010. In this context, he has conveyed his deep condolences to the families and friends of the casualties incurred in the tragic incident.”

**From:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:13 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Morrison, Andrew L; Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil'  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[redacted]

B5

v/r Greg

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 10:39 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Morrison, Andrew L; Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil'  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 9:22 AM  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Baumert, Kevin A; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[redacted]

B5

v/r Greg

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 09, 2010 8:42 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Baumert, Kevin A; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

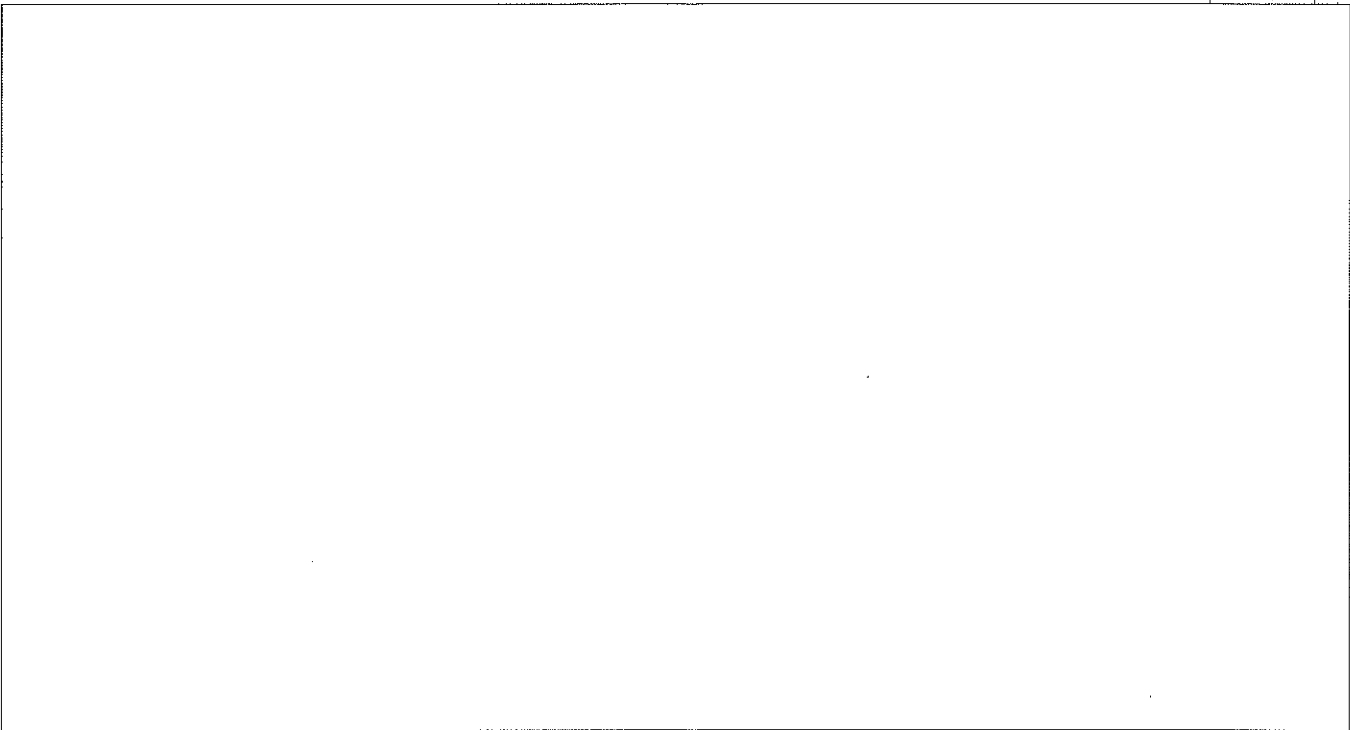
**From:** Johnson, Thomas A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 09, 2010 8:23 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Morrison, Andrew L; Frelich, Karlene H; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Baumert, Kevin A; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[redacted]

B5

B5





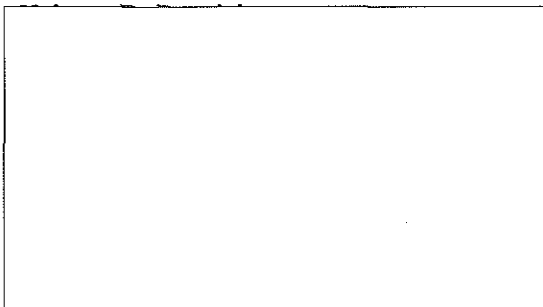
RELEASED IN PART B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:57 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fwd: Open Letter: People of Conscience Condemn Israeli Massacre and Call To Sustained Action

B6

Any possibility the State Department can express concern for the safety of Archbishop Hilarion Cappucci of Jerusalem. I met the archbishop in the home of my good friend Shafic Budron. I would really appreciate any actions u could take to express concern for the Archbishop's safety.



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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Shafic M. Budron, Ph.D." <SMBudron@AGSustainableSolutions.com>  
**Date:** June 1, 2010 9:50:16 PM CDT  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Open Letter: People of Conscience Condemn Israeli Massacre and Call To Sustained Action  
**Reply-To:** <SMBudron@AGSustainableSolutions.com>

Dear [Redacted]

I hope all is well with you.

On Board of the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla" which was attacked by Israeli forces in international waters, was my dear and special friend/ father figure "Peace Dove" Archbishop Hilarion

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Cappucci of Jerusalem. The Archbishop is near 90 years old and in frail health. You met the Archbishop in our home last year when we had him on a U.S. speaking tour which spanned Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York. He is a consummate humanitarian, and last June at ADC while seated next to President Bill Clinton, we bestowed on him "The Humanitarian Achievement Award". I am personally and especially concerned about his well being, and I have been reaching out to officials within our government to ensure his safety, healthcare and immediate release from his detention/ imprisonment by Israel.

Let's reach out to our friends and contacts within the U.S. government to ensure that Israel he receives decent and dignified treatment, proper healthcare and also ensure his immediate release. I would appreciate your help.

p.s. The Archbishop was the only person who was allowed to conduct religious services for the American hostages who were held in Tehran in 1979, and later was the individual who escorted the hostages with the International Red Cross from Tehran to Geneva, where they were handed to the U.S. government. Shortly thereafter, President Jimmy Carter sent Archbishop Cappucci a special thank you letter, in which President Carter told him that "America is indebted to you".


Warm regards,

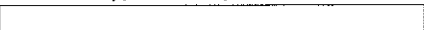
\*\*\*\*\*



**Shafic M. Budron, Ph.D.**  
President & CEO  
WasteTech\*AltEnergy\*Technology & Processes\*Construction & Development\*Design-Build\*MO&M  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
Cell (847) 489-7999 \* Fax (630) 794-9329 \* [www.AGSustainableSolutions.com](http://www.AGSustainableSolutions.com)

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**From:** Shafic M. Budron, Ph.D. [mailto:SMBudron@AGSustainableSolutions.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 2:50 AM  
**To:** 

B6

Cc: **Subject:** FW: Open Letter: People of Conscience Condemn Israeli Massacre and Call To Sustained Action

B6

Dear 

Like you and people of conscious all over the U.S. and throughout the world, we are truly saddened and appalled by the shocking dreadful news of the murderous attack committed by the Israeli forces against unarmed humanitarian activists on the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla". This massacre will NOT dissuade the determination of people of faith and conviction to break the illegal and criminal siege and end all acts of collective punishment. Plans are already under way for future humanitarian and relief convoy to break the siege, and will continue until the siege and blockade come to total end.

I know many fine and peace loving individuals who were on board the Flotilla. I am especially personally concerned about the safety of Beloved "Peace Dove" Archbishop Hilarion Cappucci, who bid me special farewell prior to leaving to Istanbul to join the Flotilla. Imagine for a moment, I and several of our mutual friends could have been on board of that ship, and could have been amongst those massacred by the Israeli forces on the high seas. May be soon you, I and a delegation of American Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other leaders will lead a convoy to break the siege, if not already ended.

No doubt, you agree that like the Israelis, and other peoples in the Free World, the Palestinians are entitled to and must have the same equal rights to live free, with justice, peace and security. Every human life is as dear as the other. Palestinian and Arab life is not less precious NOR less sacred than Israeli life. We the embracers and cherishers of justice and peace for all, need to shore up and substantiate our slogans and rhetoric with real serious action toward that end. History taught us that when people are determined to be free, they shall be free. Israel's survival rests in its ability to co-exist with the Palestinian people with equal justice, peace and security for all- nothing less.

I plan to be in Washington D.C. for the ADC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention on June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 6<sup>th</sup>, and call upon you to arrange for a joint-meeting with the "White House" to renew our commitment for justice and peace, and usher the way for concrete actions to achieve sustainable peace.

Best regards,

Shafic M. Budron

\*\*\*\*\*



**Shafic M. Budron, Ph.D.**  
**President & CEO**  
**WasteTech\*AltEnergy\*Technology & Processes\*Construction & Development\*Design-Build\*MO&M**  
**Burr Ridge, IL 60527**  
**Cell (847) 489-7999 \* Fax (630) 794-9329 \* [www.AGSustainableSolutions.com](http://www.AGSustainableSolutions.com)**

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---

**From:** Shafic M. Budron, Ph.D. [mailto:[SMBudron@AGSustainableSolutions.com](mailto:SMBudron@AGSustainableSolutions.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:42 AM  
**To:** Shafic M. Budron  
**Subject:** Open Letter: People of Conscience Condemn Israeli Massacre and Call To Sustained Action

*Open Letter To Esteemed Friends, Administration Officials and Congressional Leaders:*

This morning we wake up to the dreadful news of Israel's premeditated massacre committed by the Israeli forces against unarmed humanitarian activists on the "Gaza Freedom Flotilla". Twenty humanitarian workers were slaughtered and about eighty were wounded by the Israeli forces in International waters. This arrogant murderous act is another flagrant and provocative defiance for the International Community and another violation of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, The Fourth Geneva Convention, International Law and the U.S. Arms Export Act.

Israel's reprehensible and unfathomable actions are manifestations of a delusional, near-insane and deranged, yet routine, conduct, which threatens regional and world peace. These heinous actions with all the local and global implications, as well as the repercussions on U.S. leadership, responsibility and corresponding National Security and Interests demand from us to rise to the commensurate level. We must connect and do all which is necessary to restore reason and justice amidst insanity and oppression.

J-Street's Executive Director, Jeremy Ben-Ami, in a statement titled Shocking News Off Gaza said, "This shocking outcome of an effort to bring humanitarian relief to the people of Gaza is in part a consequence of the ongoing, counterproductive Israeli blockade of Gaza. J Street has been and continues to be opposed to the blockade" ..., "today is one more nail in the coffin for hopes of ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict peacefully and diplomatically".

Americans For Peace Now President & CEO, Debra DeLee, in a statement titled Tragedy off Gaza Coast said, "An Israeli attempt to intercept one of the ships that was part of an international Gaza aid flotilla ended in disaster." ..., "one thing is clear: Israel's policy of blockading Gaza is untenable and increasingly indefensible. The time has come for a re-evaluation of current policies." ..., "Israel has learned through painful experience that military force alone cannot eliminate threats. It is time for a new approach."

Peace Now Chief, Yariv Oppenheimer, in an Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv titled Israel's moral decadence wrote, "Tonight Israel marked a new low point in the way it chose to contend with its domestic and external policy dissidents" ..., "With the use of our repression mechanisms and the encouragement of the IDF spokesman we will again dissociate from reality and the world and manufacture our own unique script in which we are the victims and the whole world is against us as usual." ..., "The price for the unfortunate results of the fleet will be paid primarily by the families of those who were killed at sea last night. Next in line to pay the price will be the residents of Israel who want peace and the end of the conflict with all their hearts, and who wish to stop the cycle of bloodshed and live in a saner country." ..., "Without a loud voice of protest by a patriotic Israeli public calling on its leaders to change course, we will all find ourselves in a morally and politically decadent country, slowly sinking into the depths."

It is evident that we have an Israeli leadership which has gone insane and out of touch. This leadership has become a menace to both Israelis and Palestinians, regional and world peace. People of conscious can no longer stay silent and watch idly as Israel gets away with murder and "state-inflicted-terrorism" time and time again. For the sake of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, and the peoples of the region and the world, we must take a stand. We are the silent majority who failingly allowed insane megalomaniac radicals hijack the agenda and lead us closer to doomsday, while in our hearts we embrace and vie for reason, justice, peace, security and prosperity for all. It is imperative that, as a minimum, we mobilize and activate our coalition partners, like-minded organizations and leaders to join in a sustained Movement calling on the Obama administration and U.S. Congress to ensuring:

1. Independent International Investigation into the Massacre and holding accountable those responsible for planning, ordering and executing war crimes and crimes against humanity;
2. End of siege, sanction and embargo on Gaza;
3. The Palestinian people, including the Palestinians of Gaza, be afforded the same universal and inalienable rights as all other peoples in the Free World.
4. No one State, Group or Person is to be placed above the law.

Israel cannot rationally expect to enjoy peace and security, while at the same time deny them to the Palestinian people and its neighbors. Israel's survival will be neither guaranteed by its sheer military might nor the strengths of its bonds with an external force- no matter how powerful- but rather by its ability and resolve to live in justice and peace with the Palestinian people. Nothing else short of that will ever stand!.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Shafic M. Budron, Ph.D.**  
**Burr Ridge, IL 60527**  
**Cell (847) 489-7999**

Shafic M. Budron Co-founder of: 1.) Arab-Jewish For Justice & Peace in the Middle East; 2.) African Americans for Justice & Peace in Palestine/ Israel; 3.) Council of Arab American Organizations; and more...

Shafic M. Budron is a National Treasurer and Chair of the Planning Committee of The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), which is non-profit, non-sectarian and non-partisan, is the largest Arab-American civil rights organization in the United States. It was founded in 1980 by former Senator James Abourezk to protect the civil rights of people of Arab descent in the United States and to promote the cultural heritage of the Arabs. ADC has 38 chapters nationwide, including chapters in every major city in the country, and members in all 50 states.

The ADC Research Institute (ADC-RI), which was founded in 1981, is a Section 501(c)(3) educational organization that sponsors a wide range of programs on behalf of Arab Americans and of importance to all Americans. ADC-RI programs include research studies, seminars, conferences and publications that document and analyze the discrimination faced by Arab Americans in the workplace, schools, media, and governmental agencies and institutions. ADC-RI also celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Arabs.

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Kim, John J (Kimm)  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 16, 2010 6:05 AM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive



B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 9:31 PM  
**To:** Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

John/Karen -

The press is reporting today that lawyers for the families of those killed by Israeli forces in connection with the Flotilla incident this spring have sent a letter to the ICC Prosecutor urging him to take action. Evidently their jurisdictional theory is based on an allegation that the ship, although Turkish operated, was flying the Comoros flag and apparently

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

was registered there. While neither Turkey or Israel are Rome Statute parties, Comoros is [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Thanks.

B5



RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Kimball, Emily J  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 6:04 PM  
**To:** Banos, Mariano H; Swiney, Gabriel; Gorove, Katherine M; Buchwald, Todd F; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance: QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx  
**Attachments:** 110224 QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx

These are the edits we suggested for a similar piece in the HRC priorities demarche earlier today. Todd: Does this look ok to you?

Emily

**From:** Banos, Mariano H  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:50 PM  
**To:** Swiney, Gabriel; Gorove, Katherine M; Buchwald, Todd F; Jacobson, Linda; Kimball, Emily J  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance: QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx

We just did the complimentarity piece with Emily in a sep doc. Looping her in to send her latest language.

Mariano

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Swiney, Gabriel  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:16 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Buchwald, Todd F; Jacobson, Linda; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance: QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx

Passed the message along.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 2:14 PM  
**To:** Buchwald, Todd F; Swiney, Gabriel; Jacobson, Linda; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** FW: Clearance: QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx  
**Importance:** High



B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Swiney, Gabriel  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 1:57 PM  
**To:** Buchwald, Todd F  
**Cc:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Subject:** FW: Clearance: QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx  
**Importance:** High

Todd, I haven't followed Goldstone etc. at all. In Kate's absence, do you want to clear on this?

SBU  
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---

**From:** Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 24, 2011 1:54 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Doutrich, Jack T; Réed, Julia G; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Jacobson, Linda; Swiney, Gabriel  
**Subject:** Clearance: QA35 Goldstone Flotilla.docx  
**Importance:** High

Good afternoon,

Attached please find the HFACO Q&A on Goldstone and the Flotilla. As these papers draw 100% from previously cleared material – I appreciate any ability to provide your comments/clearance by COB today.

Thank you,  
Ken

SBU  
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RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Lapenn, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 5:02 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Ok, looping in Courtney

SBU  
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---

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 5:02 PM  
**To:** Lapenn, Jessica  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

Jessye, Todd and I just talked and he will be sending within minutes some language on this.

---

**From:** Laperin, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 5:01 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Naranjo, Brian R; Jacobson, Linda; Buchwald, Todd F  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

Given that time is ticking – we have minutes until this must go to Ambassador Rice – we won't resolve this issue, so will move the text without the additions – but be mindful of the issues that Andy raises for "next time," which surely there will be.

Attached version has new last para (DRL and NEA – plse have a look) taken from yesterday at UNSC that USUN would like to add.

Suzanne – can you plse review on BB, and we'll then pass to Gerry. Thanks! Jessye

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

---

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 4:40 PM  
**To:** Lapenn, Jessica; Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Naranjo,

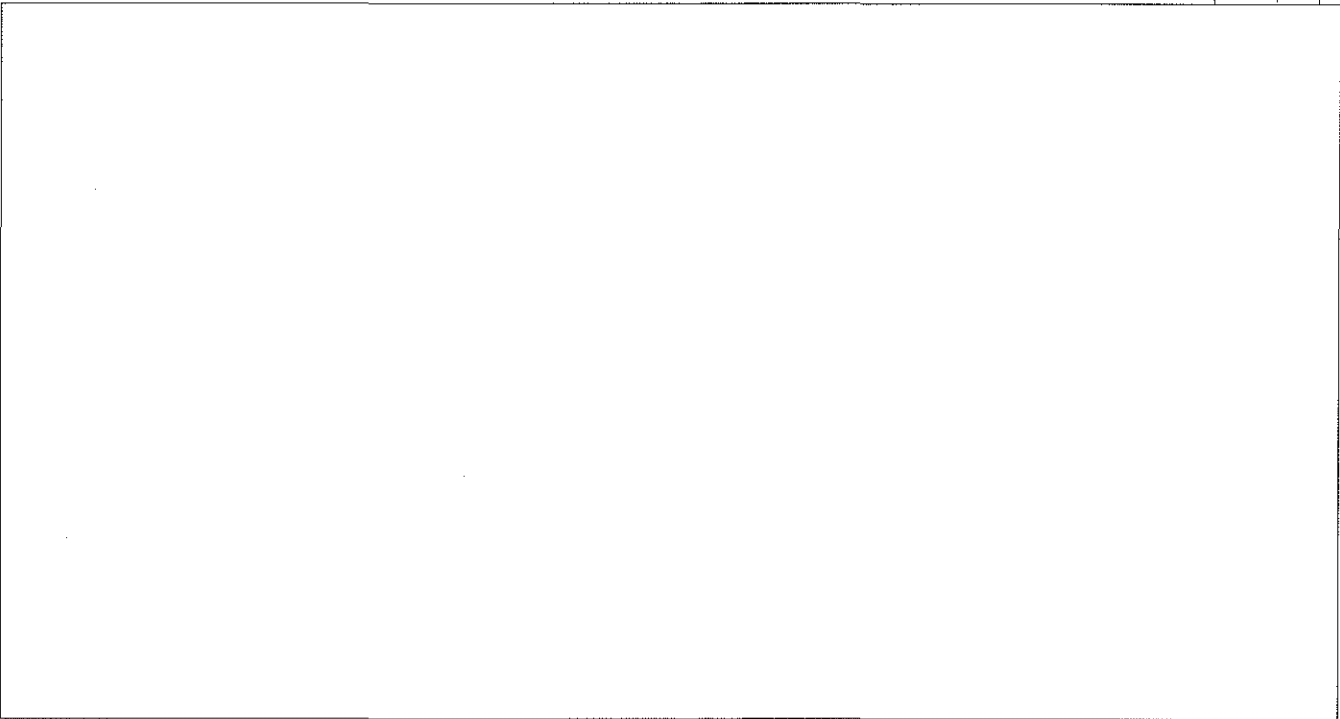
Brian R; Jacobson, Linda; Buchwald, Todd F  
**Subject:** FW: Falk report statement



B5

SBU  
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**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 4:34 PM  
**To:** Lapenn, Jessica; Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Naranjo, Brian R; Jacobson, Linda; Buchwald, Todd F  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement



SBU  
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**From:** Lapenn, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:46 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:33 PM  
**To:** Honigstein, Michael D; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN); Lapenn, Jessica  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

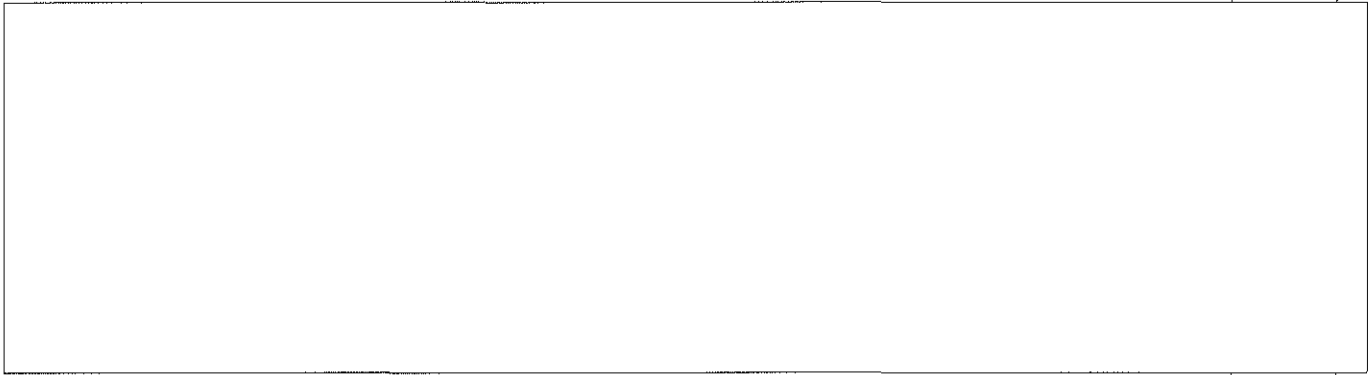
SBU  
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**From:** Honigstein, Michael D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 3:25 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN); Lapenn, Jessica  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Subject:** Re: Falk report statement

Mike

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

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN); Lapenn, Jessica; Honigstein, Michael D  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Evans, Heidi B; Dolan, JoAnn; Doutrich, Jack T; Nossel, Suzanne F; Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Sent:** Tue Oct 19 15:15:58 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement



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**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 2:53 PM  
**To:** Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN); Lapenn, Jessica; Honigstein, Michael D  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Morrison, Andrew L  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

Thank you. Barbara already looked at it and did not have any additions or need to clear. I think we need to move this up to the FOs of IO and DRL so get out of here by COB.

Will IO bring this to DAS Nossel for approval?

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:** Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 2:20 PM  
**To:** Lapenn, Jessica; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Honigstein, Michael D  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Morrison, Andrew L  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement



This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Lapenn, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 2:08 PM

**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Honigstein, Michael D  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Morrison, Andrew L; Nemroff, Courtney R (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: Falk report statement

[Redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 2:07 PM  
**To:** Lapenn, Jessica; Honigstein, Michael D  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**Subject:** Falk report statement

It has been cleared with D(S) and is attached. I am in discussions with NEA and SEMEP about it now, but otherwise it is cleared and ready for FO approval in IO and DRL.

[Redacted]

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:** Lapenn, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010 1:33 PM  
**To:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Honigstein, Michael D  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting with Arthur Lenk

Can you send me current draft of Falk statement? Thanks!

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 6:22 PM  
**To:** Honigstein, Michael D; Lapenn, Jessica  
**Cc:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**Subject:** Meeting with Arthur Lenk

Hello,

I ran into Eliav from the Israeli embassy and he told me Arthur Lenk from the MFA will be in town this Friday and is meeting with DAS Nossel. Would you mind if we joined?

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



**Law, Rosemary C**

RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6

**From:** Martin, Julie B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:25 PM  
**To:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: HRC Gaza resolution - status of negotiations  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks, Evelyn. Following our call with Suzanne, Eileen, et. al, Mariano and others will take a look at the text to identify

[Redacted]

B5

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:29 PM  
**To:** Martin, Julie B  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** FW: HRC Gaza resolution - status of negotiations

*L ONLY E-MAIL CHAIN*

[Redacted]

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:33 AM  
**To:** 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [Redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Khanna, B6  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Martin, Julie B  
**Subject:** HRC Gaza resolution - status of negotiations

[Redacted]

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[Redacted]

B5

There were some other minor suggestions for language changes, but nothing too major.

**From:** Shapiro, Daniel B. [mailto:Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 2:58 PM

**To:** Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Powell, Catherine [mailto:PowellC@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:56 AM

**To:** Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

Looping in Bill Burke-White and Dafna Rand for S/P.

**From:** Ostermeier, Amy A

**To:** Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [redacted] <jpcassidy [redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov>; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 08:49:16 2010  
**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

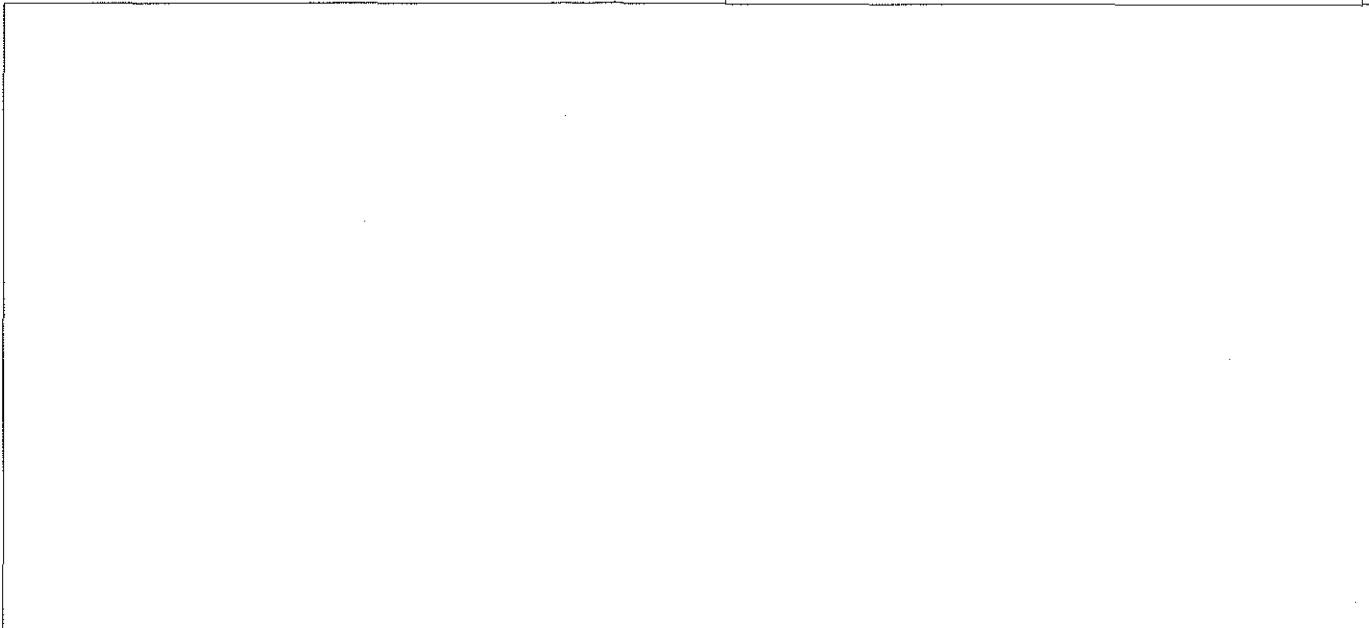
B6

Thanks to Warren and Scott for their suggestions. I've added a suggested [redacted] and the NSC's changes in the attached (tracked).

B5

We'd appreciate clearance/comments from others on the draft

B5



Many thanks,

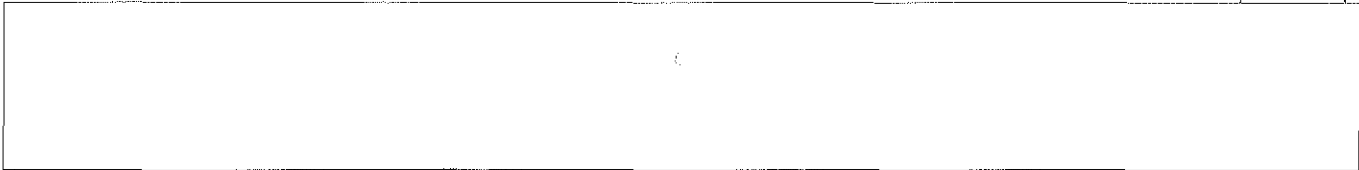
Amy

Amy A. Ostermeier, Deputy Director  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Office of Human Rights (IO/HR)  
(ph) 202-647-3901  
(fx) 202-647-4628  
ostermeieraa@state.gov

**From:** Bass, Warren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:38 AM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy@hotmail.com'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedibauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOv for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

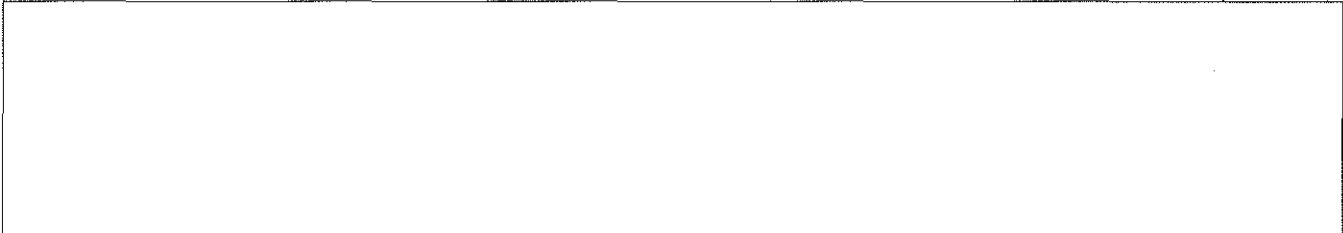
Adding USUN/NY and NSC/NENA.

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F  
**To:** 'jpcassidy@hotmail.com' <jpcassidy@hotmail.com>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 23:32:34 2010  
**Subject:** Instruction and EOv for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST



B5

Many thanks,  
Suzanne



B5

**The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy**

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

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,

Expressing grave concern also at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Occupied Gaza,

Emphasizing the need to ensure 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 possible 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;
3. Requests the ICRC to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons
4. Demands the Occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.
5. 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;
6. Welcomes the statements of the Secretary General UN and the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.
7. Decides to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.
8. Decides to remain seized of this matter.

**From:** Joseph Cassidy 

**To:** Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine;

B6

Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; jpcassidy@hotmail.com <jpcassidy@hotmail.com>; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 16:37:03 2010  
**Subject:** URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

I ask that you review and clear this statement, which will be delivered tomorrow morning by Ambassador Donohoe at a special event within this UN Human Rights Council session, as soon as possible.

B5

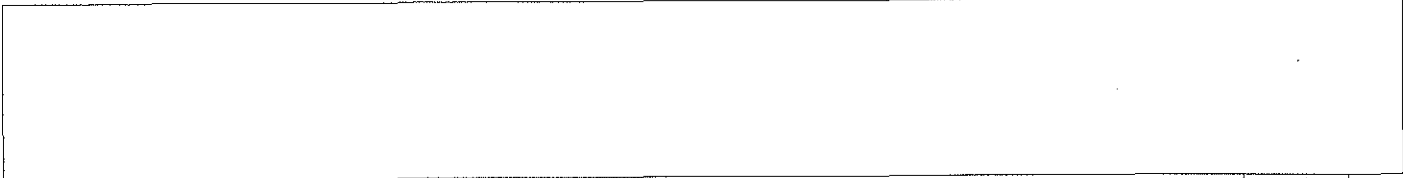
Thanks, Joe

(begin text)

**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident  
for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.

B5



B5

Thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Martin, Julie B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:35 AM  
**To:** Ostermeier, Amy A; Geneva HRC Delegation; Griffiths, Douglas M; Cassidy, Joseph P; Nossel, Suzanne F; Donoghue, Joan E; Pomper, Stephen E; Aswad, Evelyn M; Harris, Robert K; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Anderson, Gerald C; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent Guidance Request RE Gaza Flotilla Resolution

Amy - thanks, this is in our mark-up. [Redacted]

B5

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

**From:** Ostermeier, Amy A  
**To:** Martin, Julie B; Geneva HRC Delegation; Griffiths, Douglas M; Cassidy, Joseph P; Nossel, Suzanne F; Donoghue, Joan E; Pomper, Stephen E; Aswad, Evelyn M; Harris, Robert K; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Anderson, Gerald C; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 06:30:27 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Urgent Guidance Request RE Gaza Flotilla Resolution

Thanks,

AO  
Sent via blackberry

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

**From:** Martin, Julie B  
**To:** Geneva HRC Delegation; Griffiths, Douglas M; Cassidy, Joseph P; Nossel, Suzanne F; Ostermeier, Amy A; Donoghue, Joan E; Pomper, Stephen E; Aswad, Evelyn M; Harris, Robert K; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Townley, Stephen G; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 06:13:50 2010  
**Subject:** Urgent Guidance Request RE Gaza Flotilla Resolution

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted] we need to know how critical it is to address these points and others you may identify.

My blackberry is [Redacted] should you wish to reach me via phone.

B6

Thanks,

Julie



**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:09 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Gorove, Katherine M; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

[Redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:03 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

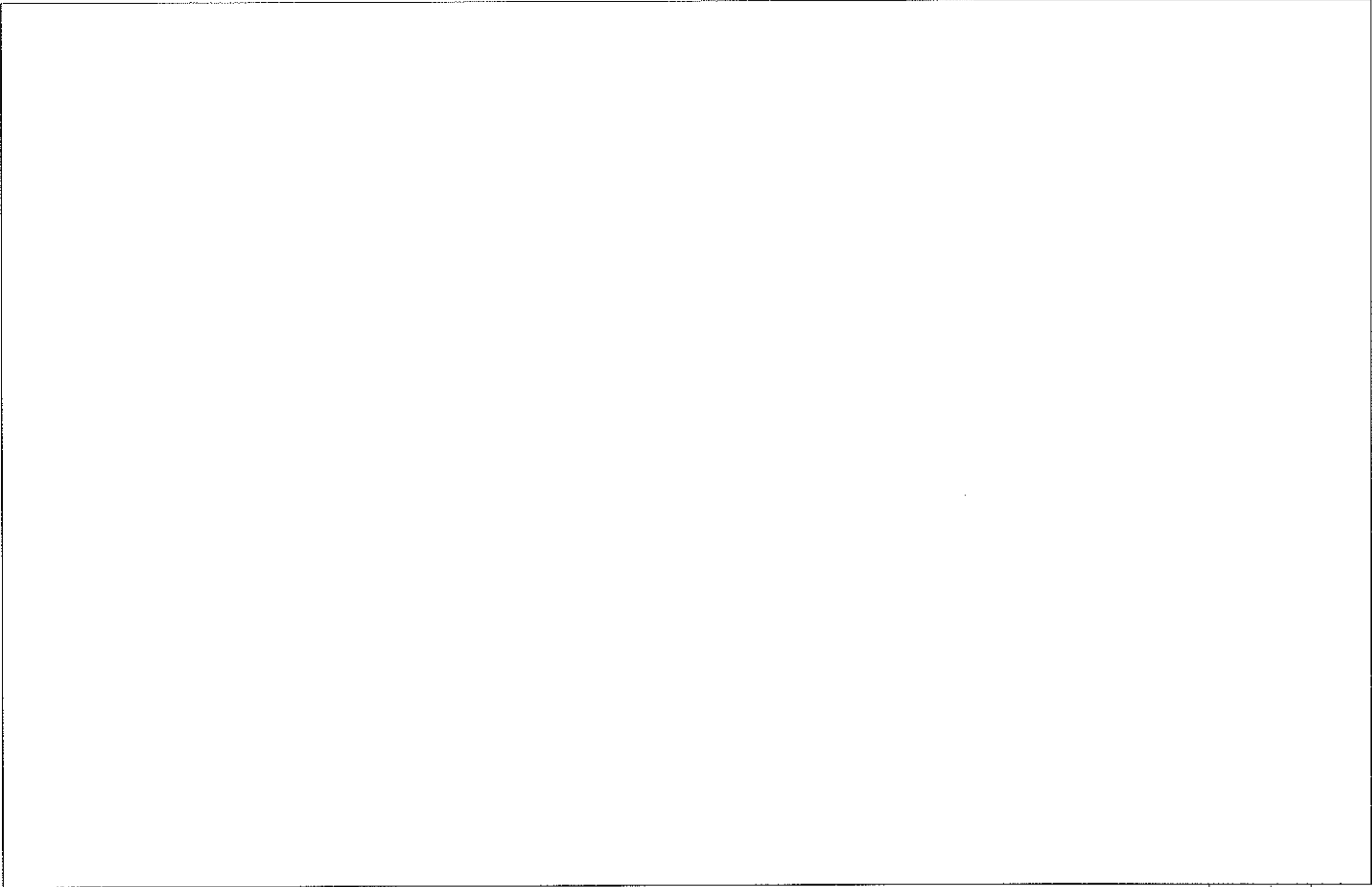
[Redacted]

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:53 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5



RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:35 PM  
**To:** Mitchell, Mary T; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla investigation

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

[Redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Mitchell, Mary T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:14 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla investigation

You're welcome, [Redacted]

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:08 PM  
**To:** Mitchell, Mary T; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla investigation

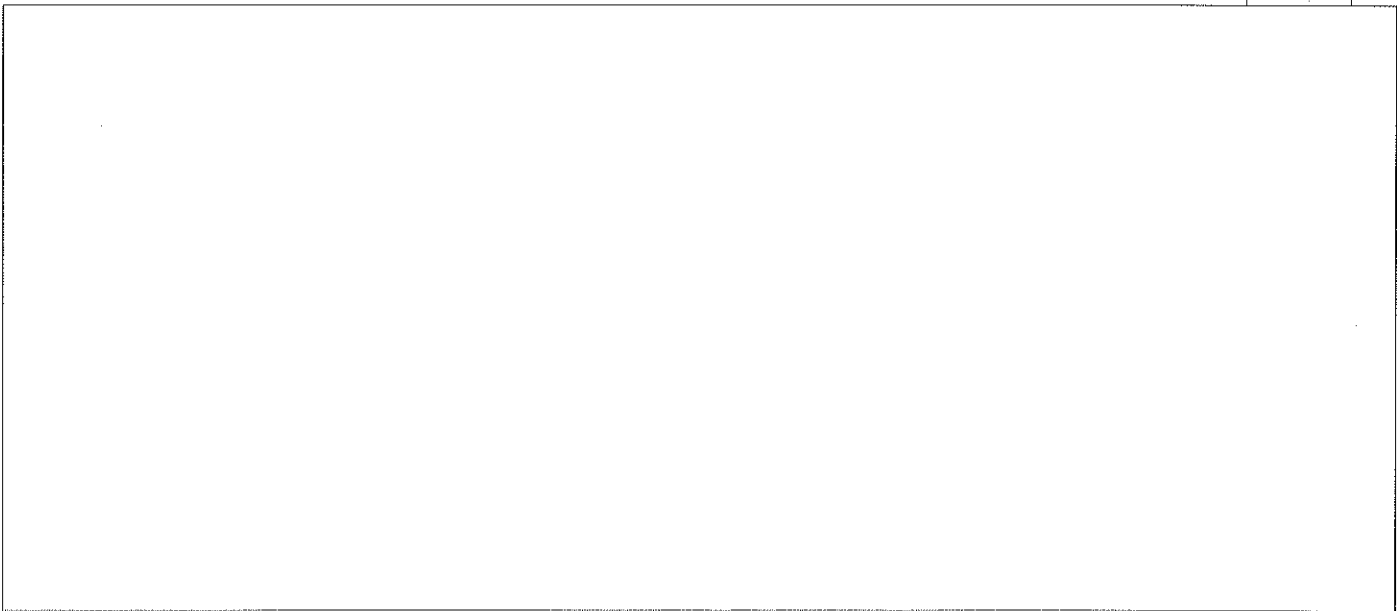
Thanks, very helpful.

**From:** Mitchell, Mary T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:06 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla investigation


Hi Linda

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** Mitchell, Mary T; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** Flotilla investigation

Steve and I were just asked by Jim to pull some material together (due tonight) on "options" 



Thanks for your help and sorry for the mad rush. Linda

**RELEASED IN FULL**

**REPORT ON THE ISRAELI ATTACK  
ON THE HUMANITARIAN AID CONVOY TO GAZA  
ON 31 MAY 2010**

**TURKISH NATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

**FEBRUARY 2011  
ANKARA**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Israeli military forces on the early hours of 31 May 2010 attacked in international waters an international and multi-faith convoy of six ships organized by a coalition of NGOs from 37 countries transporting certified humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The attack took place 72 nautical miles from the nearest coast, and 64 nautical miles from the zone declared unlawfully, as will be seen, blockaded by Israel. As a result of the attack, eight Turkish citizens and one US citizen of Turkish descent were killed. Over 70 passengers from a host of nationalities were wounded. One of these remains in a coma to this day.

The vessels that set sail from Turkey had been duly inspected for security, immigration and customs. The passengers on board, their personal belongings and the large volume of humanitarian aid had also been thoroughly checked. It was firmly established that there were no firearms or any sort of weapon on board the vessels. Those Turkish ports from where the ships in the convoy set sail are duly certified under the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization.

The Israeli forces mounted a full-fledged and well-planned attack with frigates, helicopters, zodiacs, submarines, and elite combat troops heavily armed with machine guns, laser-guided rifles, pistols and modified paintball rifles. The Israeli soldiers shot from the helicopter onto the Mavi Marmara using live ammunition and killing two passengers before any Israeli soldier descended on the deck. During the attack, excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate force was used by the Israeli soldiers against the civilians on board. The Israeli military action was of excessive disproportion to such magnitude that the United Nations Human Rights Council Fact-Finding Mission used the terms "totally unnecessary and incredible violence...unacceptable level of brutality". The

*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 4*



passengers only exercised a lawful right of self-defense, without any firearms, against the armed attack of the Israeli forces.

Once the Israeli forces took over the vessel, instead of exercising caution and restraint, they continued to brutalize and terrorize the passengers, abusing them physically, verbally and psychologically. The passengers were beaten, kicked, elbowed, punched, deprived of food and water, handcuffed, left exposed to sun, sprayed with sea-water for hours, and denied toilet access.

During and after the ten hours of sailing to the port of Ashdod in Israel, most of the passengers were kept handcuffed. Some of them were stripped and searched; women were subjected to sexually humiliating treatment; one of them, a journalist, was forced to strip multiple times and a metal detector was placed between her legs.

All passengers were forced to sign incriminatory statements in Hebrew which most did not even understand; they were not allowed access to legal assistance, or to consular officials, nor provided with proper and timely medical care. They were denied adequate food and were confined to restricted spaces with extreme temperatures.

The Israeli officials confiscated all property belonging to the passengers. Aside from the unlawful seizure of personal property, evidences of critical importance to shed light on the attack was destroyed, tampered with or despoiled.

The severe abuse against the passengers continued throughout their stay in Israel, including their transport to prison/hospital and therefrom to the Ben Gurion Airport which was the scene to the second most brutal episode in this tragedy. The passengers who arrived at the airport, exhausted by the ordeal they

*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 5*

were subjected to, were taunted, paraded as terrorists and enemies, verbally abused, spat on, bullied, pushed around and manhandled just to spark the slightest reaction which would be countered with massive retribution, resulting in mass beatings where officers brutalizing the passengers were shielded from view by their colleagues.

The bodies of the deceased were completely washed and repatriated to Turkey without any accompanying medical and autopsy reports. The Mavi Marmara itself, when returned after being held for 66 days in Ashdod, had been scrubbed down thoroughly, blood stains completely washed off, bullet holes painted over; ship records, Captain's log, computer hardware, ship documents seized, CCTV cameras smashed, all photographic footage seized and presumably destroyed or withheld.

The unlawfulness of the attack put aside, the killing of nine civilian passengers on the Mavi Marmara was first and foremost a violation of the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and also in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Israel has been a party since 1991. International law was also violated as a result of mistreatment of injured and other passengers on board of the Mavi Marmara and in Ashdod by the Israeli forces and officials.

Furthermore, the fact that the Israeli forces committed torture, engaged in degrading and inhuman treatment; forcibly deprived passengers of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to privacy, physical security and due process; and abused them physically and psychologically constitutes clear violations of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment under Article 7 of the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) to which Israel has been

*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 6*

a party since 1991. These acts also constitute a breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The Israeli attack on the humanitarian aid convoy in international waters constitutes a violation of freedom of navigation and safety of navigation on the high seas. Freedom of navigation on the high seas is a long-standing rule of customary international law. The 1958 High Seas Convention and the 1982 United Nations Law of the Sea Convention codify what widely recognized to be the customary international rules of the freedom of the high seas. One of the components of freedom of the high seas is the exclusive jurisdiction of the flag State.

The Law of the Sea restricts the right of warships to seize a foreign ship, and its property and arrest the persons on board only in the case of *pirate ships* or aircraft.

Israel's failure to recognize its armed conflict with Hamas as one of international character precludes it from establishing any lawful naval blockade off the Gaza Strip. Since Israel's naval "blockade" on the Gaza Strip is unlawful, any act it performs as a function of this "blockade" is also unlawful *par excellence*.

Israel's naval "blockade" against the Gaza Strip, as it existed on 31 May 2010, was also in violation of the principles of international law governing blockade, as laid down in the San Remo Manual.

Even assuming, *in arguendum*, the validity of the basis of Israel's "blockade", its implementation would render it unlawful. It was excessive, unreasonable, and disproportionate to any military advantage to be achieved in relation to its

*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 7*

impact on the civilian population. This has been documented by numerous UN agencies and the international community at large.

Numerous *official* statements acknowledged that Israel's blockade was "illegal" and had to be lifted, describing the blockade as "collective punishment on civilians."

The blockade failed to meet the other requirements of a lawful naval blockade under international law, such as specifying the duration and extent of the blockade.

Israel retains effective control over the Gaza Strip and is generally recognized by the international community and the UN as the occupying power there. As a result, Israel cannot lawfully impose a blockade on the Gaza Strip. From this perspective also, the Israeli blockade is illegal and any interdiction based on such blockade is, by definition, unlawful.

Finally, it is a central principle of international law that when a state violates its international obligations, it has a duty to make reparations for the wrongs committed and provide for compensation.

This case is a critical litmus test for the international community in upholding the rule of law. No State should be allowed to act above the law. Impunity must give way to accountability. Israel must acknowledge its responsibility and accordingly convey a public apology to the Republic of Turkey and provide compensation for all damages and losses resulting from its unlawful attack.

The condemnation of Israel's attack is also crucial for the future of the right of navigation on the high seas. Otherwise, a dangerous precedential derogation

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from that paramount right will be established—with far-reaching ramifications that may not be accurately estimated today.

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## INTRODUCTION

On 11 August 2010, a Turkish National Commission of Inquiry was established to examine the Israeli military attack in international waters against the international aid convoy on 31 May 2010 which resulted in the killing of nine civilians and injury of many others. The Commission investigated the factual background of the attack, the ensuing violence and mistreatment endured by the passengers, as well as the legal implications and consequences of these acts.

The Turkish National Commission of Inquiry included senior officials from the Board of Inspectors in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Under-Secretariat for Maritime Affairs. The Commission examined pertinent international legal instruments as well as numerous depositions made and complaints lodged by survivors to Turkish judicial authorities upon their return to Turkey, solicited verbal and written testimonies from key witnesses, met with relevant authorities, consulted international law experts of renown, and carried out an on-site inspection in the Port of Iskenderun on those vessels in the convoy which had set sail from Turkish ports.

The Turkish Commission of Inquiry was also tasked to prepare a report for consideration by the Panel of Inquiry set up by the UN Secretary-General on 2 August 2010 on the matter, in accordance with the Presidential Statement issued by the UN Security Council on 1 June 2010 which called for a "prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards".

The text of the abovementioned Presidential Statement is presented hereby to provide a full view of the basis of the UN inquiry process.

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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."*

This final report is a follow-up to the Interim Report submitted to the Panel on 1 September 2010, in pursuance of the abovementioned task.

The Commission remains committed to the fullest possible cooperation with the UN Panel of Inquiry. It accordingly stands ready and willing to furnish further information and clarification, wherever and whenever required.

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## I. STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

*"In international law, as in internal law, the ends do not justify the means. The state's power is not unlimited. Not all of the means are permitted." "It is when the cannons roar that we especially need the laws."*

*The Israeli Supreme Court, 11 December 2005*

### A. The international humanitarian aid convoy

In order to fully grasp the context and circumstances under which the tragedy unfolded in international waters on 31 May 2010, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the background which led to the organization of an international humanitarian aid convoy for the Gaza Strip and Israel's subsequent attack thereon.

Israel was in full occupation of the Gaza Strip between 1967 and 2005. Under the disengagement in 2005, Israel withdrew its military and civilian components from the Gaza Strip, while still maintaining effective control over this area.

Hamas' success at the legislative elections in 2006 prompted Israel to adopt policies aimed at delegitimizing Hamas. These policies picked up pace in 2007, as Hamas gained the upper hand against Fatah in the internecine struggle in the Gaza Strip.

While the makeshift rockets and mortars fired from the Gaza Strip to the southernmost areas of Israel caused few casualties and little material damage,

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they provided Israel with a pretext to take action. Israel disproportionately responded with strict measures suffocating the Gaza Strip's entire population of approximately 1.5 million, half of which are children. These measures were aimed at the movement of persons, goods and capital in and out of the Gaza Strip, as well as the provision of electricity and fuel. Meanwhile Israel also sustained its punitive military actions against the Gaza Strip, which included systematic air, naval and land operations causing many civilian deaths since 2005.

It was against such a backdrop that Israel also imposed air, maritime, and land "blockades" against the Gaza Strip.

At the end of 2008, Israel launched a full-scale military assault on the Gaza Strip. The attack caused some 1,400 deaths, mostly women and children, as well as the destruction of a substantial portion of the already weak infrastructure. The devastation was so great that an international donors' conference was convened to help Gazans rebuild their livelihoods. Despite pledges amounting to 4.5 billion USD, Israel's prohibitive policies against the Gaza Strip prevented any meaningful improvement on the ground, even bringing the United Nations projects to a standstill.

The continuing deterioration of the situation and the Gazans' plight caused ever increasing alarm and concern within the international community. As it became evident that Israel's policies would continue to hinder the provision of adequate supplies from land, attention was turned to the idea of bringing in the assistance via the sea. Ultimately, Mr. John Ging, UN Relief and Works Agency's then-

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Director of Operations in Gaza had to make a public call to the international community to bring aid to Gaza by sea.<sup>1</sup>

Attempts to assist Gaza by sea were not a novelty. The grim situation in Gaza had already led to the organization of various humanitarian missions. Following Israel's above-mentioned military operation, these attempts found a new source of inspiration in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1860 where the Council, expressing grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and emphasizing the need to ensure sustained and regular flow of goods and people through the Gaza crossings, called for the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment; welcomed the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid; and called on Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza.<sup>2</sup>

It is within such a context that a multitude of NGO's from a variety of countries came together in a coalition to help alleviate the alarming humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The principal Turkish NGO within the coalition was "İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri Vakfı" (the "Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms"—IHH), which enjoys consultative status within the UN ECOSOC and performs humanitarian activities in over 120 countries worldwide since 1992.

The coalition organized an international and multi-faith convoy of ships laden with certified humanitarian aid. The ships set sail in May 2010 from different

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<sup>1</sup> See John Ging's statements, Israel wants clarification about UNRWA Gaza Director's call to break the siege, *The Middle East Monitor*, 4 May 2010, <<http://www.middleeastmonitor.org.uk/news/middle-east/980-israel-wants-clarification-about-unrwa-gaza-directors-call-to-break-the-siege>> 3 February 2011

<sup>2</sup> Security Council, United Nations, Resolution on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, S/RES/1860 (2009)

countries. The convoy consisted of passenger vessels “*Mavi Marmara*” (Comoros), “*Sfendoni*” (Togo) (referred to in some instances as the “8000”), “*Challenger I*” (US) and cargo vessels “*Gazze I*” (Turkish), “*Eleftheri Mesogeio*” (Greek) (also referred to in some instances as the “*Sofia*”), “*Defne-Y*” (Kiribati).<sup>3</sup> The total cargo on the six ships was in excess of 10,000 tons.<sup>4</sup>

The passengers included Members of Parliaments from different European countries as well as a Member of the Knesset, academics, journalists, former diplomats including a retired US ambassador, religious leaders, elderly people, women, and the one-year-old son of the *Mavi Marmara*’s Chief Engineer.<sup>5,6</sup> These passengers, who came from different walks of life and backgrounds, had united behind the humane goal of helping other persons in distress.

#### **B. The vessels that departed from Turkish ports**

The *Mavi Marmara* left Istanbul on 22 May 2010 with a crew of 29 and a cleaning and maintenance personnel of 42.<sup>7</sup> The Port of Zeytinburnu (Istanbul), as all Turkish ports used by the vessels in the convoy, has an International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Certificate under the Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).<sup>8</sup> All crew members and passengers were subjected to x-ray checks, and customs and passport controls conforming to the pertinent international standards.<sup>9</sup> On 25 May 2010, the vessel docked at the Port of Antalya which it left on 28 May 2010 with a total of 546 passengers and 29 crew

<sup>3</sup>For photographs of the vessels, see: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, *Palestine Our Route Humanitarian Aid Our Load Convoy Campaign Summary Report*, p.12 <[http://www.ihh.org.tr/uploads/2010/insaniyardim-filosu-ozet-raporu\\_en.pdf](http://www.ihh.org.tr/uploads/2010/insaniyardim-filosu-ozet-raporu_en.pdf)>, (Accessed 14 July 2010)

<sup>4</sup>For a comprehensive description of the cargo, see Annex 3 (Section 1-4).

<sup>5</sup>For the crew and passenger lists of the vessels *Mavi Marmara*, *Gazze* and *Defne-Y*, see Annex 3 (Section 1-4).

<sup>6</sup>A video footage of the said baby is in Annex 7 (Clip19).

<sup>7</sup>For the testimony of Captain Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section1/i)

<sup>8</sup>For the Statement of Compliance Documents (ISPS) of the Ports of Istanbul, Antalya, Iskenderun and Zeytinburnu, see Annex 3 (Section 5)

<sup>9</sup>For the customs records of the passengers and crew of the *Mavi Marmara*, see Annex 4 (Section 2 & 7)

members.<sup>10</sup> Again, all the passengers and crew were subjected to the same stringent x-ray checks as well as customs and passport controls. All personal belongings and cargo were also thoroughly inspected and cleared.<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

The Gazze-I left the Port of Iskenderun on 22 May 2010 with a crew of thirteen and five passengers, while the Defne-Y departed the Port of Zeytinburnu, Istanbul, on 24 May 2010 with a crew of thirteen and seven passengers. Both vessels underwent similar rigorous checks and controls.

On 28 May 2010, the Mavi Marmara sailed towards the meeting point south of the island of Cyprus where all the vessels in the convoy were expected to get together. At the meeting point, Challenger-II was discovered to have become unfit to complete the rest of the planned journey. As a result, its 14 passengers were transferred to the Mavi Marmara.<sup>14</sup> The personal effects of the new arrivals were thoroughly checked by the crew of the Mavi Marmara.

The convoy sailed from the meeting point on 30 May 2010 at 16.00 on a bearing of 222°.<sup>15</sup>

### **C. Diplomatic contacts prior to the departure of the convoy**

A number of diplomatic representations were carried out by Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ankara, demanding that Turkish authorities deny the convoy departure from Turkish ports, also insisting that, should the convoy sail on as planned, the aid be routed to Israel for inspection and subsequent delivery to its destination.

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<sup>10</sup> For the customs records of the passengers and crew of the Mavi Marmara, see Annex 4 (Section 2 & 7)

<sup>11</sup> For the written deposition of First Captain Mr. Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>12</sup> For the Statement of Compliance Documents of the Port of Antalya, see Annex 3 (Section 5)

<sup>13</sup> For the Port Authority Records of Mavi Marmara, see Annex 3 (Section 1 & 2)

<sup>14</sup> For a list the passengers who boarded the Mavi Marmara from the Challenger-II, see Annex 3 (Section 8)

<sup>15</sup> For the map of the coordinates of the vessels during the time of journey see, Annex 3 (Section 5)

In reply, the Turkish authorities stressed the difficulties, in an open and democratic society, in preventing an NGO endeavor from lawfully departing Turkish ports. Nonetheless, the Turkish authorities pledged to inform the convoy's Turkish participants about the messages conveyed by Israel and to try to convince them to take the aid to Ashdod in Israel or to Al-Arish in Egypt. All these steps were taken prior to the departure of the convoy. The Turkish authorities also urged Israel repeatedly to act with maximum restraint and to avoid using force to intercept the vessels.

On 28 May 2010, the Undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the US Ambassador in Ankara that contacts with the convoy's Turkish participants were starting to bear fruit, and that the IHH representatives agreed to eventually dock at Al-Arish. But the convoy would first try to approach the Gaza Strip and, if necessary, alter its course to Al-Arish. The Undersecretary also cautioned that Israel should act with maximum restraint and avoid using force by any means. He asked the US Ambassador to pass this message on to Israel. A few hours later, the Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the Undersecretary to express their accord to the above.

#### **D. The Israeli attack**

Israeli forces, undermining the above-mentioned understanding, attacked the convoy in the early hours of 31 May 2010. The attack took place in international waters, 72 nautical miles from the nearest coast and 64 nautical miles from the so-called blockaded naval zone off the Gaza Strip.<sup>16</sup> The Israeli soldiers were heavily armed with machine guns, laser-guided rifles, stun grenades, tasers, pistols and modified paintball rifles.<sup>17,18,19</sup> The Israeli forces mounted a full-

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<sup>16</sup> For the coordinates of the area in international waters where the Mavi Marmara was attacked, see Annex 3 (Section 7)

<sup>17</sup> For witness accounts of weapons deployed by Israeli military personnel, see Annex 5

<sup>18</sup> For video footage of Israeli soldiers during the attack, see Annex 7 (Clip 6 & 9)

fledged military attack with frigates, helicopters, zodiac inflatable military boats and submarines.<sup>20,21</sup>

The attack on the Mavi Marmara resulted in the death of nine passengers, of whom eight were Turkish citizens and one was a US national of Turkish descent.<sup>22</sup> Moreover, several dozen civilians were injured in the attack, some with serious bullet wounds and one still in a state of coma from which he is not expected to emerge.<sup>23</sup> Other vessels in the convoy were not spared from the premeditated military attack by Israeli forces, either.

#### **i. Timeline of the attack**

##### **30 May 2010**

**22.00** - Israeli interference on the satellite communications of the Mavi Marmara<sup>24</sup>, as it sails at a south-southwesterly bearing of 222°.<sup>25,26,27</sup>

**22.30** - The Mavi Marmara receives the first communication from Israeli naval forces, but no visual contact is established yet. The Israeli Navy demands the ship *"to report the ship's identity and destination"*. Captain Mahmut Tural responds by *"identifying the ship, stating the number of passengers on board, describing the humanitarian mission of the ship and notifying the port of destination as Gaza"*. The Israeli forces caution the Captain that a naval

<sup>19</sup> For the testimonies of Barış Oktay, Cengiz Kandilci, Ahmet Abdülazizoğulları, Dilaver Kutluay, Michael Curt, Alper Mutlu, Ekrem Çetin, Yaşar Kutluay, Cenk Süha Tatlıses, Abdullah Keskin, Fatma Kanlıoğlu, Halis Akıncı, Musa Üzer, Nilüfer Ören, Garoglan Guruyev, Musa Çiftçi, Ersin Esen, Hakkı Aygün, see Annex 5 (Section 4)

<sup>20</sup> For video footage of Israeli naval vessels used during the attack, see Annex 7 (Clip 2, 3 & 7)

<sup>21</sup> For the testimonies of Yaşar Kutluay, Ekrem Çetin, Cenk Süha Tatlıses, Abdullah Keskin, Barış Oktay, Halis Akıncı, Musa Üzer, Nilüfer Ören, Garoglan Guruyev, Musa Çiftçi, İllas Yıldız, Ersin Esen, Mathias Gardell, and Gene St. Onge, see Annex 5 (Sections 4&5)

<sup>22</sup> For autopsy reports of those killed in the attack, see Annex 1

<sup>23</sup> For treatment reports of those injured and treated in Turkey, see Annex 2

<sup>24</sup> For the testimony of Mr. Ümit Sönmez see, Annex 5 (Section 1/v)

<sup>25</sup> For the testimony of First Captain Mr. Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>26</sup> For the coordinates and position of the Mavi Marmara during its trip beginning from 29 May 2010, see the Maps obtained from Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs, see Annex 3 (Section 7)

<sup>27</sup> For the coordinates and position of the Mavi Marmara during its trip beginning from 29 May 2010, see the Maps obtained from Republic of Turkey Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs, see Annex 3 (Section 7)

blockade exists off the coast of the Gaza Strip and that, approaching an area of hostilities, the ship should change course. The Captain insists that *"the convoy is in international waters and Israel cannot demand a vessel on the high seas to change course."*

Other ships in the convoy receive similar calls from the Israeli navy.<sup>28,29</sup> On board Challenger-I, Israeli citizen Huwaida Arraf, begins answering the Israeli Navy on behalf of the entire convoy, with the Captains' consent. Arraf repeatedly states the illegality of Israel's blockade, that they are unarmed civilians carrying only humanitarian aid, not constituting any threat to Israel, and that Israel should therefore refrain from using any violence against them.<sup>30</sup> Some passengers maintain that later Israeli communications contained expletives.<sup>31</sup> Arraf reports that the Israeli Navy stopped communicating with her at around 01.00-01.30.<sup>32</sup> In any event, no demand was ever made by the Israeli forces to "stop, visit and search" the vessel. Fear spreads among passengers. On the Mavi Marmara, passengers don their life jackets.<sup>33</sup>

**23.30** - The vessel adopts a course at a bearing of 185°, the final destination of which would have been a point between Al-Arish and the Suez Canal; radar spots the first Israeli naval craft about three or four miles away.<sup>34</sup> Israeli warnings continue in international waters, almost 100 nautical miles off the shores of Israel.

<sup>28</sup> For the testimony of First Captain Mr. Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>29</sup> rabbletv, 9 July 2010; *Gaza Freedom Convoy: Farooq Burney's eyewitness report (1/3)*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAbm-0yWZzw&feature=related> (Accessed 6 August 2010)

<sup>30</sup> For the testimony of Huwaida Arraf, see Annex 5 (Section 5/x)

<sup>31</sup> For the testimonies of Cengiz Kandilci and Dilaver Kutluay, see Annex 5 (Section 4)

<sup>32</sup> For the testimony of Huwaida Arraf, see Annex 5 (Section 5/x)

<sup>33</sup> For the testimony of Mr. Abdülhamit Ateş, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xi)

<sup>34</sup> For the testimony of Captain Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i); for the coordinates and position of the Mavi Marmara during its trip beginning from 29 May 2010, see the Maps obtained from Republic of Turkey Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs, see Annex 3 (Section 7)

**31 May 2010**

**02.00** - Lights from several craft sailing behind the convoy are spotted.<sup>35</sup> The last Israeli communication calls, specifically addressed to the captain of the Mavi Marmara, come to an end.<sup>36</sup>

**02.00 - 04.30** - No further communications from the Israeli Navy. Pursuit by the Israeli craft continues.

**04.00** - Israeli forces impose a total blackout on the vessels' satellite communication.<sup>37</sup> Panic among passengers sets in.

**04.32 and onwards** - Without any immediate prior warning, Israeli forces launch a massive attack on the Mavi Marmara in international waters, at 32° 43' North and 33° 31' East. Israeli forces, deployed in various categories of naval vessels and helicopters, employ laser guided automatic rifles, stun and sound grenades, tear gas canisters, as well as high powered paintball guns modified to shoot a variety of projectiles. An initial attempt to board the Mavi Marmara from zodiacs, employing fire, is unsuccessful. The first firing of shots which thus took place causes the passengers to genuinely fear for their lives and repel the boarding attempt. Israeli forces then open fire on the Mavi Marmara with live ammunition from both zodiacs and helicopters, resulting in numerous civilian casualties. Israeli commandos fast-rope down to the ship from helicopters. Bloodshed continues after the descent of airborne Israeli commandos. Even after white flags of surrender are raised and multi-lingual announcements to the same effect are made over the ship's PA system, Israeli

<sup>35</sup> For the testimony of Muhammet Cihat Ütkü, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxii)

<sup>36</sup> For the testimony of Captain Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>37</sup> For the testimony of Mr. Hilseyin Oruç, see Annex 5 (Section 1/vi)



forces continue to use live ammunition. They also carry on shooting at already wounded and incapacitated civilians.<sup>38,39</sup>

As soon as the attack commences, the captain changes the vessel's course to a bearing of 270° heading West, in opposite direction to the Israeli coast, increasing power to full speed. This change of course has been verified by the Turkish Search and Rescue Center. Israeli frigates approach from the starboard bow and close in, forcing the convoy to turn to the direction of Israel.<sup>40,41</sup>

**Appr. 05.30 onwards** - Israeli forces seize full control of the convoy and re-route it on a bearing of 130° towards Ashdod. The vessels reach Ashdod around noon. Throughout this period, Israeli forces commit numerous acts of brutality, inhumane and degrading treatment and taunting against the civilian passengers.

#### **ii. Accounts of witnesses of the Israeli attack on the Mavi Marmara**

As corroborated by eyewitness accounts and supported by forensic data, Israeli soldiers used excessive and indiscriminate force while and after boarding the Mavi Marmara.

The Israeli zodiacs, warships and helicopters concentrated at first on the Mavi Marmara. Witness accounts report sounds of machine guns coming from the zodiacs as these approached the ship. At this stage, extensive use of tear gas, stun and sound grenades is reported by numerous eye witnesses on board the Mavi Marmara as well as the other vessels.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>38</sup> For various accounts that verify the timing and the conduct of the attack, see Annex 5

<sup>39</sup> For a video footage of the moment of attack, see Annex 7(Clip 1)

<sup>40</sup> For the testimony of First Captain Mr. Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>41</sup> See Annex 3 (Section 7) for the Maps and Date obtained from Turkish Republic Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs.

<sup>42</sup> For various accounts, see Annex 5 (Sections 1, 3,4,5)

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There was also widespread use of paintball guns by soldiers on the zodiacs. While Israel minimizes the impact of paintballs, these are military variants specifically adapted for use in close quarter assaults by Special Forces. The pellets contain not only 'paint' but are usually filled with compressed gases and other chemical irritants to debilitate human targets. They are intended to sting sharply and shock the recipient, so as to give assailants the initiative.<sup>43</sup> Reports were given that the Israeli soldiers used the largest size pellets to inflict the greatest injury. Evidence further shows the magnitude of actual injuries received from paintballs.<sup>44</sup>

Once the passengers saw the hostile approach of the Israeli forces, they panicked and, in fear for their lives, attempted to dissuade the Israeli soldiers in the zodiacs from boarding, by throwing plastic bottles, waste bins and boxes, by swinging chains and by spraying jets of water.<sup>45</sup> Many passengers expressed their belief and fear that, once on board, the Israeli soldiers would kill them.<sup>46</sup>

Following the failure of the boarding attempt from zodiacs, helicopters appeared on the scene. Eyewitness accounts converge on the fact that, at this stage, Israeli forces began firing live ammunition onto the Mavi Marmara from helicopters and zodiacs.<sup>47</sup> For example, news producer Jamal Elshayyal saw live fire from the helicopter before the first Israeli soldier descended and said that one of the passengers killed was clearly shot from above.<sup>48</sup> Another journalist, the Spaniard Manuel Tapial recounts that *"real bullets started being shot from the zodiac*

<sup>43</sup> Counterfeet, Israel vs. Turkey – Hanin Zoabi UNCENSORED, [Youtube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkFnNss490&feature=related), 1 June 2010  
<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkFnNss490&feature=related>> (27 July 2010)

<sup>44</sup> For the testimony of Doctor Hasan Hüseyin Uysal, see Annex 5 (Section 1/x)

<sup>45</sup> For a video footage of the moment of attack, see Annex 7 (Clip 1)

<sup>46</sup> For the testimony of Elif Akkuş, see Annex 5 (Section 1/ix)

<sup>47</sup> For a sample, see the testimonies of Kenneth O'Keefe, Anne de Jong and Mehmet Ali Zeybek, see Annex 5 (Section 3/xvi & xii and Section 1/xii)

<sup>48</sup> Jamal Elshayyal, "Kidnapped by Israel, forsaken by Britain," [The Middle East Blog](http://blogs.aljazeera.net/middle-east/2010/06/06/kidnapped-israel-forsaken-britain), 6 June 2010  
<<http://blogs.aljazeera.net/middle-east/2010/06/06/kidnapped-israel-forsaken-britain>> (27 August 2010)

boats and helicopters that appeared above the ship, and thus the first injuries prior to their boarding the ship occurred".<sup>49</sup> Mattias Gardell testified that "before the first Israeli soldier came on board, two passengers were shot dead from the helicopter"<sup>50</sup>, while Aydan Bekar recollected how "without landing on the ship, they started to shoot with guns, using real bullets. Several friends were shot and fell down."<sup>51</sup> Elshayyal also recalled that soldiers pointed their guns down through some sort of hatch in the helicopter and fired live ammunition indiscriminately<sup>52</sup>. Kuwaiti MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei said that it was the killing of two unarmed Turkish men which provoked the resistance against the first three soldiers rappelling onto the vessel, while Kuwaiti lawyer Mubarak Al-Mutawa said that the soldiers opened fire from above without giving any warning, killing a number of volunteers before even boarding the ship.<sup>53,54</sup> A video footage taken during the attack that shows red-laser beams from rifles being directed from above supports these accounts.<sup>55</sup>

The Turkish Commission of Inquiry, which thoroughly inspected the Mavi Marmara, encountered bullet marks that were clearly the result of fire from above.<sup>56</sup> Forensic evidence also incontrovertibly established that a significant number of bullets penetrated victims' bodies from above. It is therefore not surprising that the UN Human Rights Council International Independent Fact Finding Mission "concluded that live ammunition was used from the helicopter onto the top deck prior the descent of the soldiers".<sup>57</sup>

<sup>49</sup> For the testimony of Manuel Espinar Tapial, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xiii)

<sup>50</sup> For the testimony of Mattias Gardell, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xvi)

<sup>51</sup> For the testimony of Aydan Bekar, see Annex 5 (Section 4/x)

<sup>52</sup> Jamal Elshayyal, "Kidnapped by Israel, forsaken by Britain," The Middle East Blog, 6 June 2010 <<http://blogs.aljazeera.net/middle-east/2010/06/06/kidnapped-israel-forsaken-britain>> (27 August 2010)

<sup>53</sup> Abdullah Al-Qattan, "Gaza heroes' welcomed home", Kuwait Times, 3 June 2010 <[http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read\\_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy](http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy)> (8 June 2010)

<sup>54</sup> For the testimony of Mehmet Ali Zeybek see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>55</sup> For the said video footage, see Annex 7 (Clip 9)

<sup>56</sup> For the relevant photos, see Annex 6 (Section 1)

<sup>57</sup> UN Document A/HRC/15/21, Annex 8, paragraph 114

The UN Fact Finding Mission, after its on-site inspection of the Mavi Marmara and conducting interviews of witnesses found no evidence to suggest that any of the passengers used firearms or that any firearms were taken on board the ship. The Mission stated in its report that, despite requests, it had not received any medical records or other substantiated information from the Israeli authorities regarding any firearm injuries sustained by soldiers participating in the raid.<sup>58</sup> Moreover, the doctors who examined the three soldiers taken below decks did not notice any firearm injuries.<sup>59</sup>

Once having landed on the upper deck of the Mavi Marmara, the Israeli soldiers began what can only be called a shooting spree. Ahmad Luqman Talib, who was already wounded from gunfire apparently from the helicopters, says *"soldiers were very aggressive and intentionally kicked and stepped on me, especially on my wounded leg"*.<sup>60</sup> Ryad Bustanji recounts how armed soldiers rappelled from the helicopter *"began firing at the people before them... one of the Israeli soldiers shot at me from nearby with a rubber bullet that landed above my ear... I fell to the ground... This was followed by three more bullets to my back."*<sup>61</sup> Halis Akıncı describes those moments with the following: *"The Israeli soldiers ruthlessly sprayed their bullets at us. They were shooting as if in a battlefield. Some of them were throwing bombs to the lower decks. I got two gunshot wounds... They were livid... They started shooting at people lying motionless on the floor... They were kicking and hitting with their rifle-butts those wounded who called for medical attention..."*<sup>62</sup> Medet Kan testified that *"Two Israeli soldiers appeared in the area in front the bridge. They started shooting at us... They were shooting at everyone made visible by projector lights. When Fatih Kavaktan attempted to throw a teargas canister overboard, he was*

<sup>58</sup> See paragraph 116 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>59</sup> For the testimony of Doctor Hasan Hüseyin Uysal, see Annex 5 (Section 1/x)

<sup>60</sup> For the testimony of Ahmed Luqman Mutlalib, see Annex 5 (Section 5/iii)

<sup>61</sup> For the testimony of Ryad Bustanji, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xv)

<sup>62</sup> For the testimony of Halis Akıncı, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxv)

*sprayed with bullets coming from above. Hit by four bullets, he was heavily injured.*"<sup>63</sup> Abdullah Özkaya, on board Gazze-I, recounts how he was shocked when he looked at the Mavi Marmara with his binoculars: *"They were shooting at people."*<sup>64</sup> One last recount about this stage of the attack calling for mention is by Ayetullah Tekin, who claims *"I was shot in my abdomen, in the left side, with a bullet. I was first shot with a real bullet. But, I and the other wounded were shot one after the other with rounds of plastic bullets. I think they did this to claim later that they first fired rubber bullets, and then resorted to using live ammunition."*<sup>65</sup> There were several reports of Israeli soldiers beating people with batons. Moroccan MP Abdelqader Amara said that the soldiers hit victims with their rifle butts before shooting them dead.<sup>66</sup> Video footage shows Israeli soldiers beating and shooting at point blank an unidentified passenger (apparently the 19-year-old Furkan Doğan) who was clearly lying on the deck.<sup>67</sup> Rifat Audeh was thrown onto the lower deck by four Israeli soldiers, blindfolded and had his hands tied behind his back while a soldier's knee was digging in his ribs.<sup>68</sup>

Once having boarded, the soldiers also began firing towards the lower decks with indiscriminate as well as targeted shooting at everyone who was visible.<sup>69</sup> One man was shot in the leg just in front of Kevin Ovenden and another man immediately to his right was shot in the abdomen. He said that the shots came

<sup>63</sup> For the testimony of Medet Kan, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxix)

<sup>64</sup> For the testimony of Abdullah Özkaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/iii)

<sup>65</sup> For the testimony of Ayetullah Tekin, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xi)

<sup>66</sup> Abdullah Al-Qattan, Gaza heroes welcomed home, *The Kuwait Times*, 3 June 2010 <[http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read\\_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy](http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy)> (8 June 2010)

<sup>67</sup> For the said video footage, see Annex 7 (Clip 4)

<sup>68</sup> Rifat Audeh, Israeli terror then and now: Rifat Audeh experienced first-hand what the sailors on the US warship experienced 43 years ago, *Uruknet.info*, 10 July 2010 <<http://www.uruknet.info/?p=67783>> (27 August 2010)

<sup>69</sup> Mavi Marmara attack: Exclusive first interview with Gaza Convoy activist Kevin Neish", *Rabble.ca*, 3 Jun 2010 <<http://rabble.ca/podcasts/shows/rabble-radio/2010/05/106-interview-gaza-peace-activist-kevin-neish>> (27 August 2010)

from above, and that the victims could not have posed any threat to the shooter.<sup>70</sup> Kevin Neish witnessed about 20 dead or wounded aid workers being carried towards the ship's stairway. Two of these bodies had twin bullet holes in the sides of their heads, appearing to have been shot in execution style killing.<sup>71</sup>

The bridge was taken over when ten Israeli soldiers, who tried to shatter the windows without success, gunned down the door and rushed in with guns ready and aimed to shoot. All the crew members were made to lie down on the floor littered with shards of glass, and handcuffed. Some of those lying were stomped upon.<sup>72</sup> All documents including the ship's certificates were seized.<sup>73</sup>

A very large number of testimonies all state that Israeli soldiers continued with their deadly shooting even after white flags were flown by a number of the passengers and a multi-lingual surrender announcement was made over the ship's loudspeakers.<sup>74</sup>

### **iii. Fatalities**

Turkish autopsy reports concluded that five of the deceased were shot in the head at close range, as detailed in Annex 1. The said reports also indicate that residues around the wounds had been deliberately cleansed prior to their repatriation to Turkey for the purpose of suppression of ballistic evidence. The following passengers lost their lives:

<sup>70</sup> Mavi Marmara Report: Ovenden, Doares and the Vile Zionists, [Youtube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5q1CVS3D6o), 21 June 2010 < <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5q1CVS3D6o> > (18 July 2010)

<sup>71</sup> Mavi Marmara attack: Exclusive first interview with Gaza Convoy activist Kevin Neish", [Rabble.ca](http://rabble.ca), 3 Jun 2010 < <http://rabble.ca/podcasts/shows/rabble-radio/2010/05/106-interview-gaza-peace-activist-kevin-neish> > (27 August 2010)

<sup>72</sup> For the testimony of Ali Mert Şahin, see Annex 5 (Section 4/v)

<sup>73</sup> For the testimony of First Captain Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>74</sup> For the testimonies of Nilüfer Ören, Ali Yunusoğlu, Ali Şahin Özdemir, Medet Kan, see Annex 5 (Section 4)

- Furkan Doğan received five gunshot wounds in the back of his head, nose, left leg, left ankle and in the back, all from close range. A citizen of the United States, Mr. Doğan was a 19-year-old high school student with ambitions of becoming a medical doctor.<sup>75,76</sup> Mr. Doğan's motionless, wounded body was kicked and shot upon, execution-style by two Israeli soldiers.<sup>77</sup>
- Cengiz Akyüz received four gunshot wounds, in the back of his head, right side of his face, the back and the left leg.<sup>78</sup> Mr. Akyüz was married and a 41-year-old father of three.
- Ali Haydar Bengi received a total of six gunshot wounds, in the left side of his chest, belly, right arm, right leg and twice in the left hand. Mr. Bengi was married, a 39-year-old father of four.<sup>79</sup>
- İbrahim Bilgen received four gunshot wounds, in the right temple, right chest, right hip and back.<sup>80</sup> Mr. Bilgen was married, 61-year-old father of six, who worked as an electrical engineer.
- Cevdet Kılıçlar, a photographer, was killed by a single distant shot to the middle of the forehead.<sup>81</sup> He was shot most probably with a laser-pointer rifle.<sup>82</sup> Mr. Kılıçlar was married, 38-year-old father of two.
- Cengiz Songür was killed by a single gunshot wound in the front of the neck.<sup>83</sup> He was a 47-year-old textile worker, married and the father of seven.

<sup>75</sup> Roger Cohen, *The Forgotten American*, 26 July 2010, *The New York Times*,

<[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/27/opinion/27iht-edcohen.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/27/opinion/27iht-edcohen.html?_r=2)> (19 January 2011)

<sup>76</sup> For Furkan Doğan's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 7)

<sup>77</sup> For the testimonies of Ekrem Sezer and Muharrem Güneş, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xviii and xxxiv respectively); for the related video footage, see Annex 7 (Clip 4)

<sup>78</sup> For Cengiz Akyüz's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 2)

<sup>79</sup> For Ali Haydar Bengi's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 1)

<sup>80</sup> For İbrahim Bilgen's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 8)

<sup>81</sup> For Cevdet Kılıçlar's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 4)

<sup>82</sup> For the testimonies of Erol Çıtır Barış Oktay, Musa Üzer, see Annex 5 (Section 3/ii, Section 4/xxxvi)

<sup>83</sup> For Cengiz Songür's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 3)

- Necdet Yıldırım received two gunshot wounds in the right shoulder and left back.<sup>84</sup> He was 32-years-old, married, father of one.
- Çetin Topçuoğlu was killed by three gunshot wounds in the back of the head, the hip and the belly.<sup>85</sup> He was 54-years old, married and a father of one.
- Fahri Yıldız was killed by four gunshot wounds: left chest, left leg and twice in the right leg.<sup>86</sup> He was 43 years-old, married and father of four, and worked as a fire-fighter.

At least one witness claims that Mr. Topçuoğlu and Mr. Yıldız were shot upon and killed after the passengers had waved the white flag of surrender.<sup>87</sup>

Numerous testimonies also indicate that at least three of the deaths occurred because Israeli soldiers denied timely medical attention to the wounded.<sup>88</sup> Sümeyye Ertekin and Halis Akıncı testified that the Israeli soldiers hit those doctors trying to help the wounded with the butts of their rifles.<sup>89</sup> Edda Manga says *"They did not allow the medics to treat the people; the doctors and nurses were forced at gunpoint to leave the wounded."*<sup>90</sup>

Ali Buhamd's testimony contains a grim mixture of some of the points made above: *"I saw a soldier shooting a wounded Turk in the head. There was another Turk asking for help, but he bled to death."*<sup>91</sup>

<sup>84</sup> For Necdet Yıldırım's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 9)

<sup>85</sup> For Çetin Topçuoğlu's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 5)

<sup>86</sup> For Fahri Yıldız's autopsy report, see Annex 1 (Section 6)

<sup>87</sup> For the testimony of Salim Seyyar, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xi)

<sup>88</sup> See for example the testimonies of Kevin Neish and Jamal Al-Shayyal, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xii & xvii)

<sup>89</sup> For the testimonies of Sümeyye Ertekin and Halis Akıncı, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xliii and xxv respectively)

<sup>90</sup> For the testimony of Edda Manga, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xiv)

<sup>91</sup> Israeli attack written into history with chilling survivor accounts, *Today's Zaman*, 5 June 2010, <  
[http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail\\_getNewsById.action;jsessionid=05CA12501D73BA0358BBD61F9B3FAASE?newsId=212265](http://www.todayszaman.com/newsDetail_getNewsById.action;jsessionid=05CA12501D73BA0358BBD61F9B3FAASE?newsId=212265) > (15 January 2011)



#### iv. Injuries caused by gunshots

The Israeli soldiers' widespread indiscriminate shooting also wounded over 50 of the Mavi Marmara's passengers:

- Uğur Süleyman Söylemez has been in a coma ever since the attack as a result of the wounds he sustained.<sup>92</sup>
- Abdülhamit Ateş reported that he collapsed on the deck upon being shot in the knee. Soldiers hit him in the forehead and his right eye, then turned him over and shot him with a plastic bullet in the chest. He barely survived.<sup>93</sup>
- Muharrem Güneş was lying on the deck when soldiers wielding laser-guided rifles approached him and shot him at close range in the left cheek. The bullet exited through his lower right jaw.<sup>94,95</sup>
- Mustafa Batırhan was shot in the lower abdomen from a range of about one meter.<sup>96</sup>
- Sadreddin Furkan, who was in the control centre on the bridge at the time, said that the soldiers were shooting in all directions, and that he felt a strong pain in his leg which began bleeding. He was shot from behind, three times in the leg and once in the foot.<sup>97</sup>
- Osman Çalık was shot in the knee.<sup>98</sup>
- Alper Mutlu was wounded by fire coming from above, the bullet entering his body at the level of his kidney and coming out of his leg.<sup>99</sup>
- Musa Çiftçi was shot upon from behind and wounded by an Israeli soldier as he was trying to help wounded passengers.<sup>100</sup>

<sup>92</sup> For the treatment report of Uğur Süleyman Söylemez, see Annex 2 (Section 24)

<sup>93</sup> For the testimony of Abdülhamit Ateş, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xi).

<sup>94</sup> For the interview of Muharrem Güneş, see Annex 7 (Clip 27)

<sup>95</sup> For Muharrem Güneş's medical report, see Annex 2 (Section 13)

<sup>96</sup> For Mustafa Batırhan's medical report, see Annex 2 (Section 6)

<sup>97</sup> For Sadreddin Furkan's medical report, see Annex 2 (Section 11)

<sup>98</sup> For Osman Çalık's medical report, see Annex 2 (Section 10)

<sup>99</sup> For the testimony of Alper Mutlu, see Annex 5 (Section 4/viii)

- Erkan Bayfidan says he was shot and injured by the very soldier he was trying to photograph.<sup>101</sup> Unlike his colleague Cevdet Kılıçlar, who was shot upon under identical circumstances, he survived.

The above are just a few examples selected to illustrate the frenzied atmosphere aboard the Mavi Marmara during the Israeli attack. The magnitude and nature of the force used by Israeli soldiers has been depicted as follows in the report of the UN Human Rights Council Fact Finding Mission: *"a large number of injured passengers received wounds to critical areas of the body containing vital organs [...]. Furthermore, a number of passengers who were clearly not engaged in any activities to resist the boarding by the Israeli forces, including a number of journalists and persons who had been sheltering from the fire, received injuries, including fatal injuries. It is apparent that no effort was made to minimize injuries at certain stages of the operation and that the use of live fire was done in an extensive and arbitrary manner. It is difficult not to conclude that once the order to use live fire had been given, no one was safe. Under the circumstances, it seems a matter of pure chance that there were not more fatalities as a result."*<sup>102</sup>

Israeli soldiers' prevention of timely first aid to the injured was mentioned earlier as a cause for a number of fatalities. It should not go unmentioned that when the captain asked an Israeli officer several times for medical assistance for the wounded, the response he got was: *"I don't care how many dead people you [will] have, now alter your course to Ashdod"*.<sup>103</sup> Once the soldiers took full control of the ship, Dr. Hasan Hüseyin Uysal, who had treated the lightly

<sup>100</sup> For the testimony of Musa Çiftçi, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxv)

<sup>101</sup> For the testimony of Erkan Bayfidan, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xix); see Annex 2 (Section 7) for his medical treatment report and photos at the hospital.

<sup>102</sup> See paragraph 169 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>103</sup> For the testimonies of Captain Mahmut Tural and Ali Mert Şahin, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i & Section 4/v)

wounded Israeli soldiers, was handcuffed tightly and made to kneel for three hours like the rest of the passengers.<sup>104</sup>

#### **v. Attacks on the other ships**

The brutal and tragic nature of the Israeli attack on the Mavi Marmara has overshadowed the raid on the remaining ships that were part of the humanitarian aid convoy. Contrary to repeated claims by Israel that the remaining ships were boarded peacefully, Israeli soldiers used force on the other vessels as well, and subjected their passengers to violent treatment.

The Sfondoni was sailing about 300-400 meters astern of the Mavi Marmara. The two ships were attacked simultaneously from zodiacs on either side.<sup>105</sup> The Captain disabled the engines and stopped the ship.<sup>106</sup> About 15 to 20 masked Israeli soldiers boarded the vessel and resorted to violence against the passengers who were engaged in passive resistance.<sup>107</sup>

Eyewitness reports are as follows:

- Bilal Abdulazziz witnessed soldiers using stun grenades and batons against activists who were merely locking arms. He was tasered in the head, legs and back. He also witnessed elderly people being beaten.<sup>108</sup>
- Dimitris Gielalis saw Israeli soldiers using plastic bullets and tasers and beating people.<sup>109</sup> He witnessed a cameraman getting hit in the eye with a rifle butt.<sup>110</sup>

<sup>104</sup> For the written deposition of Doctor Hasan Hüseyin Uysal, where he also describes how he attended to the wounded Israeli soldiers, see Annex 5 (Section 1/x)

<sup>105</sup> See paragraph 143 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>106</sup> TrishMaryHill, Dr Hasan Nowrah Convoy Massacre Survivor Clip of 1/3, [YouTube](#), 10 June 2010, <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNfq12\\_PLxk&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNfq12_PLxk&feature=related)> (9 July 2010)

<sup>107</sup> Mikael Stengård and Josefine Hökerberg, Teologen Ulf Carmesund tillbaka från Israel, [Aftonbladet](#), 2 June 2010 <<http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/article7231718.ab>> (7 July 2010)

<sup>108</sup> Adycousins, Gaza Flotilla Testimony of Bilal Abdulazziz, [YouTube](#), 9 June 2010. <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FJh91mCbkl&feature=related>> (1 July 2010)

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- Al Mahdi Alharati was hit with rubber bullets in the leg, beaten in the groin and over the head, hit with the back of a gun in the eye and hit with the butt of a machine gun on the back of the head.<sup>111,112</sup>
- Gene St. Onge was kicked and hit with a 'rifle or something' suffering a gash on his head. He was then restrained with handcuffs. He said their captain, who was pulled and hit, sustained a punctured eardrum along with neck and back injuries.<sup>113</sup>
- Yousser Benderbal said that the Captain's ear was torn and that he suffered injuries to his neck and leg.<sup>114</sup>
- Retired US Ambassador, the octogenarian Edward Peck said that as a result of the non-violent resistance outside the bridge, the Israeli soldiers roughly treated some people. Some ended up needing crutches, bandages and arm slings, and the Captain was in need of a neck brace.<sup>115</sup>
- Dr. Hasan Nowarah was hit by a rubber bullet. He saw Edward Peck knocked down by an Israeli soldier, and the captain lying on the floor with his face covered in blood and his arms full of cuts.<sup>116</sup>
- Television journalist Manolo Luppichini saw two people hurt by tasers.<sup>117</sup>

<sup>109</sup> Robert Booth et. al., Gaza convoy raid: We heard gunfire – then our ship turned into lake of blood, [guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk), 2 June 2010 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/02/gaza-flotilla-raid-gunfire-ship-blood>> (5 June 2010)

<sup>110</sup> Elena Becatoros and Suzan Fraser, Troops boarded and ship turned into a lake of blood, [independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie), 2 June 2010 <<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/troops-boarded-and-ship-turned-into-a-lake-of-blood-2203364.html>> (5 July 2010)

<sup>111</sup> Genevieve Carbery, Irish citizen 'beaten' by Israeli forces, [theirishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com), 9 June 2010 <<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/0609/1224272122281.html>> (12 June 2010)

<sup>112</sup> For the medical report of Almahdi Abdulhameed Alharati, see Annex 2 (Section 2)

<sup>113</sup> Testimony of Gene St. Onge, [The Free Gaza Movement](http://www.freegaza.org), 7 June 2010 <<http://www.freegaza.org/en/testimonies-from-israeli-jail/1221-in-their-own-words-survivor-testimonies-from-flotilla-31-may-2010>> (27 August 2010)

<sup>114</sup> "We were unarmed and didn't provoke anybody" – aid convoy member, [RT](http://rt.com), 6 June 2010 <[http://rt.com/Top\\_News/2010-06-06/gaza-aid-convoy-eyewitness.html](http://rt.com/Top_News/2010-06-06/gaza-aid-convoy-eyewitness.html)> (5 July 2010)

<sup>115</sup> Interview with Edward Peck, [Democracy Now, War and Peace Report](http://www.democracynow.org), 2 June 2010, <[http://www.democracynow.org/2010/6/2/israels\\_explanation\\_for\\_deadly\\_gaza\\_aid](http://www.democracynow.org/2010/6/2/israels_explanation_for_deadly_gaza_aid)> (19 January 2011)

<sup>116</sup> For the testimony of Hasan Nowarah, see Annex 5 (Section 5/ii)

<sup>117</sup> Dimi Reider, Italian convoy journalist: My credit card was used after IDF confiscated it, [Haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 11 June 2010 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/italian-flotilla-journalist-my-credit-card-was-used-after-idf-confiscated-it-1.295493>> (12 June 2010)

- Manuel Zani recounted how the soldiers used tasers, truncheons, sound bombs etc. against unarmed civilians. He reported the captain being badly beaten with blood coming from his ear.<sup>118</sup>

Once the Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara began, Challenger-I attempted to flee the scene and transmit reports about the attack to the outside world. This attempt was unsuccessful because of the telecommunications blackout executed by the Israeli forces. Moreover, the ship had to slow down due to loss of oil pressure in its engines. Eyewitnesses on the ship said rubber bullets were fired before they were boarded, and many passengers were hit.<sup>119</sup>

Witnesses recounted later that Israeli soldiers used stun grenades and high-powered paintball guns, hit people with their rifle butts, pushed people onto the deck and stomped on them.

- Pintan Lane had a gun pointed in his face. He genuinely feared for his life. He saw Fiachra Ó Luain dragged around the deck.<sup>120</sup>
- Photographer Kate Geraghty was trying to take photographs when she was tasered on the upper arm, which caused her to be thrown a meter and a half and collapse vomiting on the deck.<sup>121</sup>
- Huwaida Arraf told CNN that her head was banged on the deck after she was handcuffed and hooded.<sup>122</sup> She said soldiers beat many passengers.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>118</sup> For the testimony of Manuel Zani, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xviii)

<sup>119</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>120</sup> Shane Hickey and Anita Guidera, 'I tried to reason with them, but they attacked us', Independent <<http://www.independent.ie/service/about-us-24072.html>> (19 January 2011)

<sup>121</sup> Abdullah Al-Qattan, Gaza heroes welcomed home, The Kuwait Times, 3 June 2010 <[http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read\\_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy](http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>122</sup> CNN Wire Staff, Eyewitnesses recount Israel convoy raid, CNN, 1 June 2010. <<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/06/01/gaza.raid.eyewitnesses>> (1 June 2010)

<sup>123</sup> axis4 peace2, Convoy Survivor says Israeli marines boarded unarmed American ship throwing grenades, YouTube, 2 June 2010 <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfn\\_bScn08E&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfn_bScn08E&feature=related)> (6 June 2010)

- Theresa McDermott saw a Belgian woman named Margarita (apparently, Griet Deknopper) hit in the face by a projectile which burst her nose causing heavy bleeding. She also saw Huwaida Arraf and Anne de Jong, who tried to block the stairs, thrown to the ground, their hands cuffed with plastic ties that cut into their wrists, and their faces pushed on to the deck covered with broken glass. When Theresa shouted and tried to get to the two women, a soldier put his pistol to her head and said he would shoot her if she did not do as she was told.<sup>124</sup>
- Anne de Jong recalls how they were shot at from 2-4 meters and how she was hit by 6 rubber bullets on the back, the doctor in the Israeli port of Ashdod labeling the resulting bruises as "insect bites".<sup>125</sup>
- Ewa Jasiewicz saw Huwaida Arraf held by soldiers in stress positions. Jasiewicz was insulted and had her life threatened on more than one occasion by Israeli soldiers.<sup>126</sup>
- An 80-year-old man was not allowed to go to the toilet, forcing him to soil his clothes.<sup>127</sup>

Israeli vessels closed in on the Eleftheri Mesogios at around 05.30 and warned the ship to make a starboard turn or be shot upon. The Israeli soldiers boarded the ship and shot a number of Greek passengers with rubber bullets and paintballs. Tasers were also used against a number of passengers. A few passengers were knocked to the floor by the soldiers. Dror Feiler testified he was wrestled down with his arms bent and hit. He recollects being thrown on the floor and being kicked in the ribs, an Israeli soldier standing with his boot on his

<sup>124</sup> Fear, pain and propaganda: an activist's story, The Herald Scotland, 6 June 2010  
<<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/world-news/fear-pain-and-propaganda-an-activist-s-story-1.1033113>>  
(29 August 2010)

<sup>125</sup> For the testimony of Anne De Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>126</sup> Emine Saner, Gaza Convoy: protesters' story, guardian.co.uk, 5 June 2010  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2010/jun/05/gaza-flotilla-protesters-story>> (5 June 2010)

<sup>127</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

face, and being kicked even more after being handcuffed. Other passengers told him he was bleeding from his ear.<sup>128</sup> Famous author Henning Mankell also recounts soldiers shooting passengers with rubber bullets and tasing them. Mankell sarcastically recalls how an Israeli soldier, claiming to have found a weapon on board, brandished Mankell's disposable razor blade.<sup>129</sup>

Zodiacs and helicopters surrounded the Gazze-I at around 06.00 and fully armed Israeli troops came aboard shortly thereafter. Bayram Kalyon was hit with rifle butts on his back and his arm.<sup>130</sup> The detainees were searched and taken for individual questioning. They remained in the galley until the ship reached Ashdod.<sup>131</sup>

The attack against the Defne-Y occurred at 06.10 when helicopters landed soldiers on the ship. Everyone was transferred to the galley. The 20 persons were kept in a 15-square-meter unventilated area until the ship reached Ashdod.<sup>132</sup>

## **E. Mistreatment of passenger victims including journalists**

### **i. Mistreatment on the way to Ashdod**

Israeli soldiers committed crimes not only during the attack phase. Once they assumed control of the convoy, they continuously subjected the passengers to a variety of mistreatment, which amount to no less than torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the pertinent international conventions. The acts

<sup>128</sup> For the testimony of Dror Feiler, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vi)

<sup>129</sup> For the testimony of Henning Mankell, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vii)

<sup>130</sup> For the testimony of Bayram Kalyon, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xiii)

<sup>131</sup> The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Palestine Our Route Humanitarian Aid Our Load Convoy Campaign Summary Report, p. 29.

<sup>132</sup> The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Palestine Our Route Humanitarian Aid Our Load Convoy Campaign Summary Report, p. 27.

described below continued throughout the journey to Ashdod, which took some 12 hours.

Virtually all passengers, including the wounded and elderly, were handcuffed with plastic cords so tightly that these quickly caused swelling, discoloration and numbing in their hands. It should be noted that these cuffs cannot be loosened. Most passengers who complained of agonizing pain caused by the cuffs were either ignored or punished by having these even further tightened instead. The tightness of the cuffs was of such proportion that, as expressed in the Fact Finding Mission's report, over 50 passengers still suffered from medical problems months after the ordeal.<sup>133</sup>

Handcuffed passengers, including even the wounded, particularly on board the Mavi Marmara were beaten and forced to remain kneeling on the decks, exposed not only to the sun, but also to continuous seawater spray and wind gusts caused by the rotors of interchanging helicopters hovering nearby. Their already dire situation was further aggravated by almost constant physical and verbal abuse, as well as threats. Even the Chief Engineer's wife and her one year old baby were not spared<sup>134</sup>. Passengers with chronic illnesses requiring regular medication, such as diabetes and heart condition, were deprived of their medicine. Dogs were used to intimidate and taunt the passengers with at least one instance of biting. Some passengers were blindfolded while a number of others had hoods put on their heads. Many passengers also complained about not being given food and water. A number of passengers also report being filmed despite their protests. Some eyewitnesses also reported that the Israeli soldiers treated the passengers with discrimination based upon their complexion.<sup>135</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> See paragraph 135 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>134</sup> For the testimony of Chief Engineer Ekrem Çetin, see Annex 5 (Section 1/iii)

<sup>135</sup> For the testimonies of Manuel Tapial and Henning Mankell, see Annex 5 (Section 5)



A general practice warranting special mention was the denial of toilet access to the passengers. Some passengers ended up publicly wetting themselves and thus humiliated. In one extreme case, one kneeling passenger who tried to move away from urine coming from his neighbour had his face pressed down into the puddle.<sup>136</sup> Those who were ultimately permitted to use the toilets were kept handcuffed and watched while in the water closet.

Below are references to just a few testimonies to illustrate the gravity of the Israeli soldiers' misconduct en route to Ashdod. These testimonies represent a mere fraction of the passengers' ordeal. Other eyewitness accounts corroborating these abound in the annexes.

Mattias Gardell described how an elderly man apparently lost an eye due to the dire circumstances on the decks of the Mavi Marmara and the lack of medical attention.<sup>137</sup>

When Musa Üzer, a passenger with a severe kidney condition, wanted to take his medication out of his pocket, he was badly beaten and was deprived of his pills until he returned to Turkey days later<sup>138</sup>.

The Spanish reporter Manuel Tapial describes how another passenger was beaten up, hooded and forced to stay "*on his knees on top of two metal cylinders; because of the wind that the helicopter was causing, it was impossible for him to stay in that position. He kept falling over, and each time he would be violently beaten up.*"<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> For the testimony, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxii)

<sup>137</sup> For the testimony of Mattias Gardell, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xvi)

<sup>138</sup> For the testimony of Musa Üzer, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxvi)

<sup>139</sup> For the testimony of Manuel Tapial, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xiii)

Hüseyin Mutlu, already suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg, recounts, “*I was forced to wait under the sun for some 5 hours, as a result of which first degree burns developed on my arms, head, face and wounded leg. Throughout this period, I asked for painkillers and antibiotics, but these were not given.*”<sup>140</sup>

Selim Özkabakçı recalls “*After asking for my handcuffs to be loosened, an Israeli soldier put his handgun against my head and mockingly cursed to me in English. Then he hit me on the head with his gun’s barrel. At that moment I thought that he was going to shoot me.*”<sup>141</sup>

Muhammet Latif Kaya reports that he saw one of the German shepherd dogs used by the Israeli soldiers to intimidate the passengers bite a friend of his in the abdomen.<sup>142</sup>

Anne de Jong on board Challenger-I reports how she was beaten, handcuffed and hooded, denied her asthma medication, and how an elderly American man was refused toilet access and ended up wetting himself. She also reports that when asked why such treatment was being done, an Israeli soldier replied “*Shut up! Your boat has been lucky.*”<sup>143</sup>

Again on Challenger-I, Inge Neefs recounts how the wounded were denied treatment for a long time, the hoodings, the cuffing of hands and feet, and how she was watched while in the toilet.<sup>144</sup>

Henning Mankell is one of the eyewitnesses referring to Israeli soldiers filming the passengers against their will on the way to Ashdod. In his testimony,

<sup>140</sup> For the testimony of Hüseyin Mutlu, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxvii)

<sup>141</sup> For the testimony of Selim Özkabakçı, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xlii)

<sup>142</sup> For the testimony of Muhammet Latif Kaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxiii)

<sup>143</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>144</sup> For the testimony of Inge Neefs, see Annex 5 (Section 5/ix)

Mankell expresses suspicion that parts of these footages where passengers are shown with food, would be used to misrepresent the real circumstances on board.<sup>145</sup> Abdullah Özkaya supports this argument by stating that “*they [Israeli soldiers] put food and water in front of us, then took pictures and filmed us.*”<sup>146</sup>

## **ii. Mistreatment at the Port of Ashdod**

Following a journey, which lasted about 12 hours, the convoy was brought to the Israeli port of Ashdod where, some days prior to the attack, the Israeli authorities had already established a specifically designed processing center for the detained passengers.<sup>147</sup>

The passengers were subjected to severe humiliation throughout the disembarkation process. Some witnesses recount being brought ashore at gunpoint.<sup>148</sup> Some others were beaten up.<sup>149</sup> No preferential treatment was accorded to the wounded. Hüseyin Mutlu, who had been shot in the leg, had to wait about 9 hours to disembark. He ultimately got off the ship unaided.<sup>150</sup>

All the passengers were paraded before jeering hostile crowds as well as the media. At least one witness reports that Israeli soldiers had their photographs taken with the captives in what appears to be “trophy poses”.<sup>151</sup>

Once ashore, the passengers were taken to the processing center composed of numerous tents. In several cases, groups of female passengers were taken into the same tent and forced to remove all their clothes in front of military personnel

<sup>145</sup> For the testimony of Henning Mankel, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vii)

<sup>146</sup> For the testimony of Abdullah Özkaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/iii)

<sup>147</sup> For the relevant footage, see Annex 7 (Clip 20)

<sup>148</sup> For the testimonies of Inge Neefs, Barış Oktay and Hayrullah Küçükaytekin, see Annex 5 (Section 5/ix & Section 4/xxvi)

<sup>149</sup> For the testimonies of Henning Mankell, Griet Deknopper and Ewa Jasiewicz, see Annex 5 (Section 5)

<sup>150</sup> For the testimony of Hüseyin Mutlu, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxvii)

<sup>151</sup> For the testimony of Abdullah Özkaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/iii)

including men, in a move that was clearly intended to cause severe embarrassment and humiliation.<sup>152</sup> In at least one instance, soldiers pushed a metal detector between the legs of a Turkish female passenger.

Fiachra Ó Luain recollects having been threatened with cavity search in Ashdod. He was lucky to get away with threat only.<sup>153</sup> Not all were so fortunate, as they were subjected to this inhuman treatment.<sup>154</sup>

Apart from being meticulously searched, the passengers were finger-printed, photographed and repeatedly interrogated. They were not provided any information whatsoever of their rights, nor were they offered the possibility of obtaining legal counsel or consular support. In fact, one witness who protested this unlawful treatment was told by an Israeli officer: *"You are in Israel now; you have no rights."*<sup>155</sup>

With regard to the interrogations, it should also be noted that the edited footage of the secretly filmed interrogation of Mahmut Tural, First Captain of the Mavi Marmara, was later released to the media. The footage was edited in a manner to misrepresent and distort the events that had transpired on the Mavi Marmara with a view to misguiding the public opinion. Captain Tural's recount of the events taken in an interview without duress portrays an entirely different flow of events.<sup>156,157</sup> The same must be said also with respect to the testimony of the Second Captain, Gökhan Kökkıran.<sup>158</sup>

<sup>152</sup> For the testimony of Elif Akkuş, see Annex 5 (Section 1/ix)

<sup>153</sup> For the testimony of Fiachra O'Luain, see Annex 5 (Section 5/viii)

<sup>154</sup> For pertinent testimonies see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxx and ix)

<sup>155</sup> See paragraph 192 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>156</sup> For the testimony of First Captain Mr. Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>157</sup> İnsani Yardım Vakfı, Captain of The Mavi Marmara Recounts Attack On Convoy.

<<http://www.ihh.org.tr/mavi-marmara-nin-kaptani-konustu/en/>> (30 July 2010)

<sup>158</sup> For the testimony of Gökhan Kökkıran, see Annex 5 (Section 1/ii)

Passenger victims were required to sign statements to the effect that “they regretted attacking the State of Israel”<sup>159</sup> and that they “willingly entered Israel illegally”, in Hebrew, which most did not know.<sup>160</sup> People who refused to sign were threatened with prosecution that would result in years in Israeli prisons. Nilüfer Ören states that although she did not intend on signing the papers, she eventually did so after receiving threats related to her baby.<sup>161</sup>

Some Israeli officers went as far as to coerce passengers into signing the forms. A few passengers capitulated, while others were beaten or physically abused for still refusing to sign. Efforts to persuade passengers to sign the forms continued almost up to the moment of departure.<sup>162</sup>

### **iii. Mistreatment during transportation to prison**

The transfer of the passengers to the Ella Prison, near Beersheva, also took place under severe circumstances. In certain vehicles used to transfer the passengers the cooling systems were turned on excessively, while passengers in other vehicles were made to wait under the scorching sun without any air conditioning, which caused some passengers to lose consciousness. Though the distance between Ashdod and the prison would normally take two hours at most, the passengers had to wait much longer in the vehicles, with at least one passenger stating that he remained inside for 20 hours.<sup>163</sup> Throughout this period, the passengers had no access to water, food or toilets. Some passengers were subjected to particularly harsh treatment on the way to the prison. Dror Feiler was taken on a prisoner bus, but not allowed to sit with the others and instead “*was placed in a small barred metal cage that had small holes in it, it*

<sup>159</sup> For the testimony of Ümit Sönmez, see Annex 5 (Section 1/v)

<sup>160</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>161</sup> For the testimony of Nilüfer Ören, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxix)

<sup>162</sup> See paragraph 189 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>163</sup> See paragraph 195 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

*was like a small box, about 1x1 meters.*"<sup>164</sup> Huwaida Arraf underwent physical violence in the van that was supposed to take her to prison. The violence, which also included of her being literally thrown out of the van, was of such extent that she needed to be taken to a hospital in Ashkelon instead.<sup>165</sup>

#### **iv. Mistreatment in prison / hospital**

The mistreatment of the passengers continued in prison / hospital in different forms. At the Ella Prison, the passengers were subjected to further interrogations "*centering on any connections [...] with organizations like Al Qaeda or Hamas.*"<sup>166</sup> Some stated that they were interrogated with their clothes stripped down and subjected to degrading and humiliating searches.<sup>167</sup>

A number of passengers reported that they were kept in isolation and did not meet with other passengers until they left the prison. The access given to consular officers to contact their citizens was not only late, but also below the standards prescribed in international law. This was duly reflected also in the Presidential Statement adopted by the UN Security Council on 1 June 2010.<sup>168</sup>

The passengers were generally denied making phone calls to their relatives; those who were allowed could speak only English and their lines were cut as soon as they switched to their mother tongues.

Some passengers report they were forced to remove construction rubble from their cells.<sup>169</sup> This calls forced labor into question.

<sup>164</sup> For the testimony of Dror Feiler, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vi)

<sup>165</sup> For the testimony of Huwaida Araf, see Annex 5 (Section 5/x)

<sup>166</sup> For the testimony of Gene St. Onge, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xi)

<sup>167</sup> For pertinent testimonies, see Annex 5 (Section 4/ii and xliiv)

<sup>168</sup> See the UN Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2010/9,

<<http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/e74146ac22d2d71f8525773600528edb?OpenDocument>>

<sup>169</sup> For the testimonies of Murat Palavar, Barış Oktay, Musa Uzer, Hakkı Aygün, see Annex 5 (Section 4)

The presence of cameras in the showers and toilets caused discomfort among some passengers, particularly women.<sup>170</sup>

Virtually all passengers report that they were deliberately deprived of sleep. The Israeli authorities achieved this through a variety of means that included, but were not limited to, regular bangings on the doors and lights that were perpetually on.

Witnesses recount that beatings happened also in prison.<sup>171</sup>

Some passengers requiring regular medication for such conditions as diabetes were continued to be deprived of their medicine<sup>172</sup>. A number of passengers complained of inadequate water and food, with Israeli prison officials telling those asking for water to drink from the toilets<sup>173</sup>.

Moreover, as stated in the UN Fact Finding Mission's report: *"No foreign national detained at Beersheva was charged with any offence or brought before a judge. One passenger was, however, taken, after he had protested his right to appear before a judge, before what he considered to be a "sham court" close to the airport to have his deportation confirmed."*<sup>174</sup>

On the other hand, Lubna Masarwa, an Israeli citizen, states she was held in isolation and subjected to strip searches four times a day. She was taken to court

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<sup>170</sup> For the testimonies of Dilaver Kutluay, Cenk Suha Tatlıses, Barış Oktay, Gönül Memiş, Şahin Uzun, Abdullah Camioğlu, see Annex 5 (Section 4)

<sup>171</sup> For the testimony of Gene St. Onge, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xi)

<sup>172</sup> For the testimony of Selim Özkabakçı, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xi)

<sup>173</sup> For the testimonies of Bayram Kalyon and Uğur Akan, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xiii and xlv respectively)

<sup>174</sup> See paragraph 200, of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

in a small metal box inside a police car in which she was held for eight hours with her hands and legs shackled<sup>175</sup>.

With regard to maltreatment in hospitals, Ahmed Luqman Talib recounts being interrogated immediately after undergoing surgery, being cuffed to his hospital bed and subjected to verbal abuse, including threats of violence and long-term imprisonment<sup>176</sup>. The restraints imposed on the wounded, including Ahmed Luqman Talib and Mustafa Şimşek mentioned above, was done needlessly and in utter disregard and indifference to their injuries, as mentioned in the Fact Finding Mission's report<sup>177</sup>.

#### v. Mistreatment on the way to the Airport

The transportation of the passengers to the airport took place under similar circumstances with the journey between Ashdod and Ella prison. Again were instances of long, unwarranted delays with passengers waiting in extremely hot or cold vehicles. Michael Curt states that an elderly man suffocated from the extreme heat in the bus; Israeli soldiers ignoring their calls, finally giving half a bottle of water.<sup>178</sup> Dror Feiler and some others were forced once again into a 1x1 meter metal cage<sup>179</sup>, Theresa McDermott was crammed into a tiny cell in a high-security vehicle with two other women. They were kept in the vehicle for five hours. One of the women in the cell was pregnant<sup>180</sup>. One woman, overcome by the oppressive conditions in her vehicle, said that she was refused access to a

<sup>175</sup> Lubna Masarwa, *Time to break the siege on Gaza: A survivor's account of Mavi Marmara*; [International Solidarity Movement](http://palsolidarity.org/2010/06/12704/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+palsolidarity+(International+Solidarity+Movement)), 7 June 2010, <[http://palsolidarity.org/2010/06/12704/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+palsolidarity+\(International+Solidarity+Movement\)](http://palsolidarity.org/2010/06/12704/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+palsolidarity+(International+Solidarity+Movement))> (7 June 2010)

<sup>176</sup> For the testimony of Ahmed Luqman Muttalib, see Annex 5 (Section 5/iii)

<sup>177</sup> See paragraph 212 through to 214 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>178</sup> For the testimony of Michael Kurt, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxi)

<sup>179</sup> For the testimony of Dror Feiler, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vi)

<sup>180</sup> Fear, pain and propaganda: an activist's story, [The Herald Scotland](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/fear-pain-and-propaganda-an-activist-s-story-1.1033113), 6 June 2010 <<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/fear-pain-and-propaganda-an-activist-s-story-1.1033113>> (29 August 2010)



toilet despite making clear that she was menstruating<sup>181</sup>. In another instance, Edda Manga states *"We were placed in a small kind of transport box with little space and were locked in there for several hours. One person needed to use the toilets and we started to knock at the walls and started screaming so that they would allow her; but they did not. In the end, she had no choice but to urinate on herself and she was crying when she did it and for some time. It was very humilia[ting] and she was just crying. The guard that was outside told us that we were nothing but animals."*<sup>182</sup>

#### **vi. Mistreatment and violence at Ben Gurion Airport**

The second most violent episode of this entire saga took place at the Ben Gurion Airport. The incidents contain an entire range of unprovoked, violent, cruel and criminal behavior including humiliation, taunting, threats, as well as brutal and ruthless beatings by many uniformed officers. It must be emphasized that while officers were mercilessly beating the passengers, their colleagues, far from intervening to stop them, formed shields to hide those acts from view. It is apparent from the testimonies that the unusually high number of security personnel present at the airport was there only to engage in violence against the passengers.<sup>183</sup> This is further corroborated by the fact that the officers immediately began their provocations directed against the passengers without exception. The passengers were paraded to little children as terrorists and enemies, verbally abused, spat on, bullied, pushed around and manhandled just to spark the slightest reaction which would be countered with massive retribution.<sup>184</sup>

<sup>181</sup> See paragraph 162 through to 173 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>182</sup> For the testimony of Edda Manga, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xiv)

<sup>183</sup> For the testimony of Gülden Sönmez and Ewa Jasiewicz, see Annex 5 (Section 5/iv) & (Section 1/iv) respectively

<sup>184</sup> For the examples of passengers being paraded to little children, see the testimonies of Mustafa Bulut & Gönül Memiş; verbal abuses and bullying, see the testimonies of Inge Neefs and Cengiz Kandilci; spitting on passengers, see the testimony of Murat Palavar and for manhandling of passengers, see the testimonies of Barış Oktay and Halis Akinci, on Annex 5 (Sections 4&5)

It is also essential to note that this ferocity was directed against an utterly harmless group of people. This fact finds its full expression in the following excerpt from the UN Human Rights Council Fact Finding Mission's report "*All passengers had been subjected to multiple searches and were completely under the control of the Israelis by this stage.*".<sup>185</sup> The only act of protest coming from the passengers was their continued refusal to sign the deportation documents that were being imposed upon them.

Eyewitness testimonies are so consistent and vivid, to use the terms employed in the UN Human Rights Council Fact Finding Mission's report, that they defy being summarized in a manner that does them justice. Numerous incidents, including collective beatings, took place at the airport. In virtually all these cases, one or more members from the group of victimized passengers were then isolated from the rest to be subjected to further physical violence. Women and medical doctors were not spared from the Israeli officers' abusive behavior either. An aggressive fully armed soldier began hitting one of the women while grabbing her hair.<sup>186</sup> While some underwent physical violence, at least one passenger records being subjected to vaginal and rectal search at the airport.<sup>187</sup> There were even cases where some passengers were removed from the terminal, taken elsewhere to be battered and brought back covered in blood.<sup>188</sup> Those who had drip or drainage bags were left unassisted.<sup>189</sup> Many who had been wounded in the feet were denied assistance. Anyone trying to help them was shouted at,

<sup>185</sup> See paragraph 201 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>186</sup> İnsani Yardım Vakfı, I am just waiting for an announcement to go back to Gaza again, <<http://www.ihh.org.tr/yeniden-gazze-ye-gitmek-icin-sadece-bir-duyuru-bekliyoruz/en/>> (30 July 2010)

<sup>187</sup> For the relevant testimony, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxix)

<sup>188</sup> For the testimony of Gülden Sönmez, see Annex 5(Section 1/iv)

<sup>189</sup> Fear, pain and propaganda: an activist's story, *The Herald Scotland*, 6 June 2010 <<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/world-news/fear-pain-and-propaganda-an-activist-s-story-1.1033113>> (29 August 2010)

pulled away and beaten. Some people were slapped in the back of the head as they went up a staircase.<sup>190</sup>

When a Greek passenger with signs of severe beating and torture refused to sign the deportation document, he was slapped by an officer, who then attempted to drag him out of sight. A few passengers tried to intervene. At this moment, over a dozen uniformed officers charged all the passengers in that area. Muhammet Latif Kaya recounts that *"some of the officers pressed me onto the floor while pulling my hair whereas another soldier squeezed my head between his legs to prevent me from screaming. The other officers began kicking me mercilessly. Two officers twisted my arms. Another stepped on my upper leg to immobilize me. Yet another officer was trying to break my fingers."* Apparently, Muhammet Latif Kaya lost consciousness for a while. When he regained his senses, he was handcuffed and was subjected to further beatings and verbal abuse, including repeated insults of *"filthy Turk"*. Muhammet Latif Kaya was in this situation when he was taken to the bus for the airplane, where he saw *"an Irishman with blood gushing from his head"*.<sup>191</sup>

That Irishman was most probably Fiachra Ó Luain. Ewa Jasiewicz witnessed *"around 10 soldiers jump on top of Fiachra and hold him in stress positions as he screamed in pain"*.<sup>192</sup> Manuel Tapial saw Israeli officers *"hit an Irish volunteer [...] on the head and saw the blood gushing out."*<sup>193</sup> Fiachra Ó Luain himself recounts *"we were baton-charged for expressing dismay at how Paul Larudee was being manhandled [...] I saw the IDF use batons, rifle butts, boots and fists to break people's limbs and concuss men of all ages [...] On the third*

<sup>190</sup> Free Gaza Team, "Testimonies from Passengers begin to come in", The Free Gaza Movement, 3 June 2010 <<http://www.freegaza.org/en/boat-trips/passenger-lists/75-ninth-trip-to-gaza-in-may-2010/1200-testimonies-from-passengers-begin-to-come-in>>

<sup>191</sup> For the testimony of Muhammet Latif Kaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxiii)

<sup>192</sup> For the testimony of Ewa Jasiewicz, see Annex 5 (Section 5/iv)

<sup>193</sup> For the testimony of Manuel Tapial, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xiii)

*occasion one of them grabbed my left arm and straight away I felt hands all over me. I was wrested to the ground where 17 of them assaulted me in plain view of a CCTV camera. I stayed limp and repeated 'OK, OK, OK', but they kept on beating me, giving me at least three head wounds [...] Then they put their guns on me and threatened to shoot me in the head. I asked once again to see a Rabbi and was told that I would only see a Rabbi at my funeral."*<sup>194</sup>

In case the Irishman described by Muhammet Latif Kaya was not Fiachra Ó Luain, then it would have to be Ken O'Keefe. Ewa Jasiewicz had this to say about Ken O'Keefe's fate at the airport: "*Israeli soldiers beat Ken O'Keefe over the head with a baton—we heard a loud crack and saw his face streaming with blood.*"<sup>195</sup>

#### **vii. Mistreatment of journalists**

At least 60 journalists were covering the convoy.<sup>196</sup> As mentioned earlier in the report, Cevdet Kılıçlar, a photographer, was killed on board the Mavi Marmara. Indonesian cameraman Sura Fachrizaz was shot in the chest, while Issam Za'atar was hit with a stun gun while filming and suffered a broken arm. Despite his injury, he had to endure a long and exhausting interrogation.<sup>197</sup> Cameraman Valentin Vassilev's medication for hyper-tension was taken from him.<sup>198</sup>

<sup>194</sup> For the testimony Fiachra Ó Luain, see Annex 5 (Section 5/viii)

<sup>195</sup> For the testimony of Ewa Jasiewicz, see Annex 5 (Section 5/iv)

<sup>196</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>197</sup> Journalists on raided convoy speak out; one journalist killed in attack, International Freedom of Expression Exchange, 9 June 2010 <[http://www.ifex.org/israel/2010/06/09/speak\\_out/](http://www.ifex.org/israel/2010/06/09/speak_out/)> (5 July 2010)

<sup>198</sup> Bulgarian Gaza Reporter: Turkish Ship Was Provocation for Israel, novinite.com, (3 June 2010) <[http://www.novinite.com/view\\_news.php?id=116792](http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=116792)> (5 July 2010)

Journalists on the Mavi Marmara were identifiable by their press vests so they were grouped, searched, handcuffed and left in the sun for five hours.<sup>199</sup> Marcello Faraggi was forced to undress, which he found humiliating. He was squeezed into a truck with other prisoners in which they had to wait for more than an hour in the sun without air conditioning.<sup>200</sup> Mario Damolin complained about surveillance cameras in the showers and toilets in the Ella Prison.<sup>201</sup> At the airport, an Israeli official called Jan Línec a '*fucking Russian*'.<sup>202</sup>

All journalists' personal belongings were confiscated and no receipts were issued.<sup>203</sup> Of those confiscated electronic media equipment, some were later returned without any memory units or memory cards.<sup>204</sup>

Apart from photographic equipment, many passengers also reported the confiscation of money, credit cards, mobile phones, computers, electronic goods<sup>205</sup> and clothes.<sup>206</sup> Some electronic equipment was returned irreparably damaged.<sup>207</sup>

<sup>199</sup> Interview with convoy journalist, Reporters without Borders, 7 June 2010, <<http://en.rsf.org/israel-interview-with-flotilla-journalist-07-06-2010,37682.html>> (9 June 2010)

<sup>200</sup> Marcello Faraggi, As Turkish photographer is buried, other journalists aboard flotilla speak out, International Freedom of Expression Exchange, 9 June 2010, <[http://www.ifex.org/israel/2010/06/10/kiliclar\\_buried](http://www.ifex.org/israel/2010/06/10/kiliclar_buried)> (13 July 2010)

<sup>201</sup> Mario Damolin, Eyewitness report from the Gaza fleet, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, (7 June 2010) <<http://www.faz.net/s/RubB30ABD11B91F41C0BF2722C308D40318/Doc~E08164C9F915B4356A59A4A028667A884~ATpl~Ecomcommon~Scontent.html>> (29 August 2010)

<sup>202</sup> Czech camera man describes beating of Irish activist in Israeli prison, Workers Solidarity Movement, 2 June 2010 <<http://www.wsm.ie/c/beating-irish-activist-israeli-prison>> (7 July 2010)

<sup>203</sup> Interview with convoy journalist, Reporters without Borders, 7 June 2010, <<http://en.rsf.org/israel-interview-with-flotilla-journalist-07-06-2010,37682.html>> (9 June 2010)

<sup>204</sup> For the testimony of Elif Akkuş, see Annex 5 (Section I/ix)

<sup>205</sup> Robert Booth, Gaza convoy attack: British activists arrive in Turkey, guardian.co.uk, (3 June 2010) <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/03/gaza-flotilla-attack-british-activists-return-turkey>> (5 June 2010)

<sup>206</sup> Kate Connolly, Henning Mankell on Gaza convoy attack: 'I think they went out to murder'. guardian.co.uk, 3 June 2010 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/03/gaza-flotilla-attack-henning-mankell>> (5 June 2010)

<sup>207</sup> Stanley Heller, Grand Theft Convoy, OpEdNews.com, (17 June 2010) <<http://www.opednews.com/articles/Grand-Theft-Flotilla-by-Stanley-Heller-100616-410.html>> (17 June 2010)

The missing items included approximately 600 mobile phones, 400 video cameras, 350 laptops and cash raised for charities in Gaza. There are no reports of any detainees being allowed to keep money or of any money being subsequently returned. Some activists have reported that their stolen credit cards have since been used.<sup>208</sup> There were recent articles in the media reporting that were selling property such as laptops confiscated from the passengers.

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<sup>208</sup> *Encryptereality*, \$3.5mn stolen form Gaza convoy survivors by Israeli pirates, [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBqorI059xI), (11 June 2010), <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBqorI059xI&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBqorI059xI&feature=player_embedded)> (1 July 2010)

## II. STATEMENT OF THE LAW

### A. The right to freedom of navigation on the high seas

The high seas are governed under the rules of the law of the sea at all times. The law of the sea and the rights of freedom of navigation on the high seas was developed over the centuries and is one of the areas of international law that remains uncontested. Any derogation from this fundamental freedom must be of equal weight or greater to justify what would otherwise constitute a violation of international law.

Under the rule of *pacta sunt servanda*, a State is bound by a treaty to which it has consented and must perform its obligations in good faith.<sup>209</sup> Israel, although not a party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), has signed and ratified the 1958 Geneva Convention on the High Seas. UNCLOS, by its express terms, replaces the 1958 Convention between State Parties, but the 1958 Convention remains in force for those countries, such as Israel, that have not ratified the 1982 Convention.<sup>210</sup>

Freedom of the high seas is a long-standing rule of customary international law. As widely acknowledged, the 1958 Convention is declaratory of customary international law as are the provisions of UNCLOS on freedoms of the high seas, which are almost identical to the parallel provisions in the 1958 Convention. The burden is thus on Israel to provide legal justification under international law of an exception to the freedom of the high seas.

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<sup>209</sup> Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, 1969. Article 26

<sup>210</sup> Article 311(1) of the 1982 Convention provides that "This Convention shall prevail, as between States Parties, over the Geneva Conventions on the Law of the Sea of 29 April 1958."

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As one of the pillars of international law, freedom of the high seas has been zealously guarded over the centuries.<sup>211</sup> It is a right that belongs to all States.<sup>212</sup> One of the components of freedom of the high seas is the exclusive jurisdiction of the flag State, which was expounded in the well-known *S.S. Lotus Case*.<sup>213</sup>

Article 2 of the 1958 Convention establishes the universal character of freedom of the high seas and provides a non-exhaustive list, including freedom of navigation, that was reaffirmed and expanded under UNCLOS.<sup>214</sup> The exercise of these freedoms is subject to the conditions provided in the Conventions and by other rules of international law. Furthermore, both Conventions require that “these freedoms, and others which are recognized by the general principle of international law, shall be exercised by all States with reasonable regard to the interests of other States in their exercise of freedom of the high seas.”<sup>215</sup> Moreover, the high seas are to be “reserved for peaceful purposes.”<sup>216</sup>

The instant case, where the humanitarian aid convoy was attacked on the high seas, is subject to the laws of peace time, in particular the law of the sea.

## **B. Exceptions to freedom of navigation and the exclusivity of flag State jurisdiction**

### **i. Right of visit**

A state does not have any authority or jurisdiction to interfere in peacetime with the passage of a foreign vessel on the high seas, except in limited cases. The

<sup>211</sup> RR. Churchill and A.V. Lowe, *The Law of the Sea (Third Edition)*, (Manchester University Press 1999), p.204.

<sup>212</sup> Article 89

<sup>213</sup> *S.S. Lotus Case (Fr. v. Turk.)*, 1927 P.C.I.J.

<sup>214</sup> The other enumerated freedoms are freedom of fishing, freedom to lay submarine cables and pipelines, and freedom of overflight.

<sup>215</sup> Article 87 (2)

<sup>216</sup> Article 88



“right of visit”, which permits a warship to stop and board a foreign vessel on the high seas, is a narrowly-drawn exception to the right of freedom of navigation and the flag exclusivity rule. Codifying customary international law, both the 1958 Convention and UNCLOS limit the right of visit to a set of well-defined and exhaustive circumstances. The grounds allowing a right of visit found in Article 22 of the 1958 Convention and Article 110 of UNCLOS are identical *mutis mutandis* and limit the competence of a warship to stop and board a foreign-flagged vessel on the high seas.

These grounds arise when:

- there is bilateral treaty in force;
- a ship is engaged in piracy;
- a ship is engaged in the slave trade; or
- though flying a foreign flag or refusing to show its flag, the ship is, in reality, of the same nationality as the warship.

UNCLOS has added two more exceptions:<sup>217</sup>

- a ship engages in unauthorized broadcasting subject to Article 109, and
- a ship is without nationality.

Both Conventions, reflecting customary international law, provide in identical language clear procedural limitations on how to stop and board a foreign merchant vessel on the high seas. The warship should first “proceed to verify

<sup>217</sup> Examples of permissible acts of interference derived from powers conferred by treaty include the 1995 *United Nations Convention on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks* under which the Contracting parties agree to have fishing vessels under their flag subject to boarding and inspection on the high seas; and the 1969 *International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties*, which allows Parties to the Convention to take the necessary measures on the high seas following a maritime accident to prevent, mitigate or eliminate grave and imminent danger to their coastline or related interests from pollution or threat of pollution of the sea by oil, which may reasonably be expected to result in major harmful consequences. However, unless there is extreme urgency the Convention requires prior notification and consultation with the flag State. Measures that exceed what is allowed under the Convention creates liability in the Party who must provide compensation for any losses and damages.

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the ship's right to fly the flag," and *this should be done by sending a single boat*, (the language in Article 110 (2) of UNCLOS is in the singular), under the command of an officer to make an initial inspection of the ship's flag. Only if, after this initial inspection of the documents, suspicion remains as to the flag of the ship, may the warship engage in further inspection on board the ship "which must be carried out with *all possible consideration*." (Article 110 (2)).

This procedure applies in the cases of suspected slavery transport, piracy or when there are questions as to the flag of the ship. The provision is silent as to the right of the warship to seize the ship, property or persons on board. This procedural limitation is identical in both the 1958 Convention and UNCLOS. Both Conventions stipulate that, if the suspicions are unfounded, the seizing State is obliged to pay compensation for any losses or damages sustained.<sup>218</sup>

The 1988 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA) was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) following the 1985 *Achille Lauro* terrorist attack which took place on the high seas and resulted in the death of a US citizen.

The 2005 Protocol to the SUA Convention adopted a set of well-defined procedures for boarding a ship in international waters suspected of violating its provisions. It is significant that the participating Parties at the diplomatic conference were extremely cautious to maintain the primary jurisdiction of the flag State in line with codified and customary international law. The Protocol subjects the right to board a vessel suspected of committing violation of the acts provided under the Convention to the express consent of the flag State.

It stands to reason that if international consensus existed for expanding the right

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<sup>218</sup> Article 110 (3)

to interdict foreign vessels in international waters, certainly the 2005 Protocol which deals with the prevention of international terrorism would have provided the right legal forum. The strong will of States to maintain flag State jurisdiction over a vessel on the high seas was reaffirmed by the international community under the 2005 Protocol. This provides further evidence of State practice in limiting the exceptions allowed to interfere with the right of freedom of navigation on the high seas.

Immediately following the terror attack against the United States on 11 September 2001, IMO convened and amended Chapter XI of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) 1974, as well as adopting the Special Measures to Enhance Security, and the new International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) which went into effect 1 July 2004.<sup>219</sup> Its objectives include establishing an international framework involving cooperation to detect security threats and take preventive measures.<sup>220</sup> The ISPS Code introduced for the first time measures intended to prevent the occurrence of a terror incident against a ship or a port facility. With some 80 percent of the world's trade carried by sea, the security of shipping is of the utmost concern for international trade and military security. The ISPS Code was the first international regulation designed to detect and prevent terror at sea.

The "clear grounds" standard is found in the provisions of UNCLOS Article 220 for enforcement by the coastal State of any violations of its rules and regulations adopted under the Convention itself or in accordance with applicable international rules and standards for the prevention, reduction and control of vessel-sourced pollution. According to the same Article, if there are clear grounds for the coastal State to believe that the vessel has violated such rules in

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<sup>219</sup> The IMO Doc. MSC 78/7 Annex (Proposed Draft Amendment to SOLAS XI-2 Measures to Enhance Maritime Security) < <http://www.iaphworldports.org/new/MS78-7Add.1.pdf>>

<sup>220</sup> Article 1.2.1, ISPS Code, Part A.

either its territorial waters or exclusive economic zone (and has refused to provide information when requested under subsection 3), the State can detain, inspect and institute proceedings against the ship.

Both Turkey and Israel are Parties to SOLAS and have accepted the ISPS Code. This means that when the ships set sail from Turkish ports, in addition to undergoing Turkish customs inspection, all cargo was shipped from ports that have been recognized internationally, under the ISPS Code, as secure.<sup>221</sup>

Israel should, therefore, have accepted the internationally recognized assurances resulting from both the possession of the ISPS Codes by the ports of departure as well as the regular detailed checks conducted by the Turkish authorities on the ships, that the cargo contained no arms, munitions or other material that would constitute a threat to its security.

## **ii. Right of seizure and arrest on the high seas**

Customary international law does not recognize a general right of visit and seizure of vessels on the high seas.<sup>222</sup> As explained in the previous section, there are only limited situations when a warship may visit or seize a foreign ship in international waters.

The restricted scope of the existing lawful grounds for seizing a vessel on the high seas was demonstrated by the conduct of the United States during the *Soan* incident on 10 December 2002. Following a request from the United States, the Spanish naval forces intercepted and boarded a ship on the high seas some 600 miles from the coast of Yemen. The ship was not flying a flag and its name had been painted over. However, it was discovered that the ship was

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<sup>221</sup>For the Statement of Compliance Documents (ISPS) of the Ports of Istanbul, Antalya, Iskenderun and Zeytinburnu, see Annex 3 (Section 5)

<sup>222</sup>Ian Brownlie, *Principles of Public International Law 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*, (Oxford University Press, 1999)

registered to Cambodia. During the search of the vessel, fifteen Scud missiles, not listed in the ship's manifest, were discovered beneath a cargo of cement. Upon verifying that Yemen had purchased the missiles, the United States Administration decided to release the vessel and its cargo. The US found that, although the lack of a flag gave legal grounds for the initial boarding of the vessel, there was no 'clear authority' for seizing the missiles under international law. No provision under UNCLOS or other sources of international law prohibits the maritime transport of missiles.<sup>223</sup>

### iii. Hot pursuit

One other exception that permits a State to interfere with a foreign ship on the high seas is in the case of hot pursuit. The provisions for hot pursuit, identical in both the 1958 Convention<sup>224</sup> and UNCLOS,<sup>225</sup> stipulate the following:

“The hot pursuit of a foreign ship may be undertaken when the competent authorities of the coastal State have good reason to believe that the ship has violated the laws and regulations of that State. Such pursuit must be commenced when the foreign ship or one of its boats is within the internal waters or the territorial sea or the contiguous zone of the pursuing State, and may only be continued outside the territorial sea or the contiguous zone if the pursuit has not been interrupted.”

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<sup>223</sup> Michael A. Becker, *The Shifting Public Order of the Oceans: Freedom of Navigation and the Interdiction of Ships at Sea*, *Harvard International Law Journal* 131 (2005), p. 153

<sup>224</sup> Article 23

<sup>225</sup> Article 111 is adopted *mutis mutandis* from Article 23 of the 1958 Convention, with the addition of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

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### C. The concept of self-defence under the UN Charter

The right of self-defence is the only exception to the prohibition against the use of force by States under the Charter of the United Nations and customary international law. Article 51 of the UN Charter expressly limits the right of States to exercise self-defence to situations of armed attack. The extension of the right of self-defence to include anticipatory self-defence to justify the interdiction of a foreign ship on the high seas has extremely limited support in international law. Even accepting *in arguendum* the right of anticipatory self-defence, the widely accepted criteria that must be fulfilled are those that were famously stated by Daniel Webster in the *Caroline* incident where “necessity of that self-defence is instant, overwhelming, and leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation” and furthermore, that “the act justified by the necessity of self-defence, must be limited by that necessity, and kept clearly within it.”<sup>226</sup> In short, acts of self-defense must be based on necessity and be proportionate to the threat.

A review of State practice reveals the general rejection by the international community and the judiciary of anticipatory self-defence as an exception to the right of freedom of the high seas and the rule of flag State exclusivity. The proposal to allow a warship the right to visit a vessel on the high seas, based on suspicions that the vessel is hostile to or poses an imminent threat to the security of the State of the warship, was rejected by the UN International Law Commission during the negotiations on the Draft Articles of the 1958 Convention.

There has been a systematic rejection of the invocation of anticipatory self-defence by a State to interdict ships on the high seas.

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<sup>226</sup>Letter from Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, to Lord Ashburton, British Plenipotentiary, 6 August 1842, in John B. Moore, *Digest of International Law* 412 (1906)

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In the case of *Nicaragua v. United States of America (Merits)*, the International Court of Justice rejected the claims of the United States to exercise the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter and customary international law.<sup>227</sup> The Court clearly stated that Article 51 could be invoked only against an armed attack and that “whether the response to an attack is lawful depends on the observance of the criteria of the necessity and the proportionality of the measures taken in self-defence.” In defining the substance of what would constitute an “armed attack” the court rejected the argument that an armed attack would include assistance to rebels in the form of the provision of weapons or logistical or other support. According to the Court, an “armed attack” that would justify the exercise of self-defence “is to be understood as meaning not merely action by regular armed forces across an international border, but also the sending by a State of armed bands on to the territory of another State, if such an operation, because of its scale and effects, would have been classified as an armed attack had it been carried out by regular armed forces.”<sup>228</sup> The Court noted in *dictum* that the “normal purpose of an invocation of self-defence is to justify conduct which would otherwise be wrongful.”<sup>229</sup>

The general international opposition to expanding the limited right to visit and board a foreign vessel on the high seas on grounds of anticipatory self-defence is borne out by several other examples. One is the decision of the United States to adopt the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) based on flag State consent instead of relying on the questionable right of anticipatory self-defence as grounds for boarding ships on the high seas suspected of transporting weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to hostile States or terrorists. As part of the PSI, the

<sup>227</sup> Case Concerning Military and Paramilitary Activities in and Against Nicaragua (*Nicaragua v. United States of America*, (Merits), *ICJ Reports*, (1986))

<sup>228</sup> *Ibid.* Para. 195, p. 93 The Court also noted that Article 3, paragraph (g), of the Definition of Aggression annexed to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), may be taken to reflect customary international law.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.* p 45

United States concluded bilateral treaties with flag States granting the US the right to board and inspect their vessels while on the high seas. A considerable volume of literature was penned following the adoption of the PSI by the United States. Collectively, the common view was that the US recognized the strength of freedom of the high seas and sought to conclude bilateral agreements in order to obtain the consent of flag States. These agreements could be considered as falling within the provision of “[e]xcept where acts of interference derive from powers conferred by treaty” found in both the 1958 Convention and UNCLOS, constituting customary international law.<sup>230</sup>

#### **D. Israel is estopped from reliance on the San Remo Manual provisions on naval blockades**

##### **i. Naval blockade under international law**

Naval blockades have been used as a military tactic throughout history, and have continued to be used in a number of contemporary international armed conflicts. Recent blockades include UN Security Council approved “military intercept” operations against Iraq (1999)<sup>231</sup> and against Yugoslavia (1991-1992)<sup>232</sup>. State practices, including UN authorized blockades, have contributed to establish the current principles governing naval blockade. Past efforts to develop rules governing naval blockades were abandoned during World Wars I and II. Since then there has been no codification by governments of an agreed set of rules on naval blockades in international armed conflicts. The San Remo Manual is the

<sup>230</sup> Article 110

<sup>231</sup> U.N. Security Council Resolution 665 (1990); Lois E. Fielding, *Maritime Interception: Centerpiece of Economic Sanctions in the New World Order*, 53 Louisiana Law Review 1191, 1194 (1993); *supra* note 14, at 1214.

<sup>232</sup> U.N. Security Council Resolutions 713 (1991) and 757 (1992); Richard Zeigler, *Ubi Sumus? Quo Vadimus?: Charting the Course of Maritime Interception Operations*, 43 Naval Law Review 1, 15 (1996), *supra* note 30, at 31-33; William Drozdiak, *NATO Agrees to Impose Blockade of Serbia*, WASHINGTON POST, Nov. 19, 1992, at A31.



only non- governmental developed set of principles on international armed conflicts at sea.

**ii. The inapplicability of San Remo Manual provisions to the Israeli naval blockade**

The San Remo Manual is accepted as the reflection of the existing customary international law applicable to inter-state armed conflicts at sea. It was prepared by a group of independent international law and naval experts to provide guidance for developing national naval manuals. The Manual was intended to present a compilation of existing state practice and progressive law. The *travaux preparatoires* clearly demonstrate that the rules and state practice on naval blockade are applicable to *international* armed conflicts at sea and not those of a non-international character. This fact has been confirmed by the recognized authority and the editor of the San Remo Manual, who was also the head co-ordinator of the drafting work, Prof. Louise Doswald-Beck.

Prof. Doswald-Beck unequivocally states that the San Remo Manual is intended to apply to international armed conflicts.<sup>233</sup> Furthermore, she stresses in particular that those rules allowing activities that affect third party States, such as naval blockade, reflect treaty and other practice that is categorized as customary law only for inter-state conflicts. Consequently, the provisions of the San Remo Manual that authorize the enforcement of a blockade such as capture of neutral vessels on the high seas cannot be seen as customary international law applicable to non-international armed conflicts.

Prof. Doswald Beck underscores the following, which is critical to correctly understand the scope of application of the Manual:

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<sup>233</sup> For the Testimony of Prof. Louise Doswald Beck on the SAN REMO MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICTS AT SEA, see Annex 9

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*"...the commentary to the Manual states (in Section 1.1 of the Explanation to the Manual, p.73 of the CUP publication) that, although the Manual is primarily intended to apply to international conflicts, the lack of mention of scope of application is to avoid an understanding that the Manual cannot apply to non-international ones. However, it is crucial that this statement is read together with the statement in Section 1.3 of the commentary on p.74 of the CUP publication. This states that activities that affect third States (the term "neutral" was used for any State not party to the conflict (para.13 (d)) on the high seas reflect treaty and other practice that had sufficiently solidified to be categorised as customary law only for inter-State conflicts. These relate to special rules on belligerent or neutral vessels or aircraft in their respective territories (paras. 18-22), to the establishment of a blockade (paras.93-104), and to the interception, visit, search, diversion or capture of vessels or aircraft outside national jurisdiction (paras. 118-158). It follows that the parts of the San Remo Manual that authorise interception of neutral vessels on the high seas cannot be seen as customary law applicable to non-international armed conflicts."*<sup>234</sup>

In conclusion, naval blockades apply in international/inter-state armed conflicts, as re-stated as a customary norm in the San Remo Manual.

### **iii. Israel's inconsistent and inequitable position on the nature of the conflict**

The State of Israel has denied recognition of statehood to Palestine and does not accept the characterization of its armed conflict with Hamas and other groups in Gaza as international. On the other hand, Israel asserts international law applicable to international armed conflicts to justify its naval blockade on the Gaza Strip, and its ensuing acts of high seas interception. These two variant positions are legally irreconcilable. Israel cannot deny rights to the Palestinians

<sup>234</sup> For the Statement of Prof. Louise Doswald Beck on the SAN REMO MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICTS AT SEA, see Annex 9

based on the argument that international law does not apply, while at the same time claim belligerent rights under the law of international armed conflict. Not only is this inconsistent but creates an unacceptable inequitable legal result to the detriment of the Palestinians.

It is also essential to highlight at this juncture that the nature of the armed conflict can not be retroactively re-characterized in order to conveniently bestow belligerent rights which did not actually exist at the time of the event. In other words, given that Israel has never recognized Palestine as a State, and its conflict with Hamas as an international one, including the denial of Prisoner of War status to captured Hamas elements, it can not invoke international humanitarian law applicable to international armed conflicts to serve its own purposes in this particular case. Even if Israel now recognized its conflict with Hamas as "international", this would have no retroactive effect on the law applicable to the attack on the international humanitarian convoy.

**E. The naval "blockade" of the Gaza Strip by Israel was unlawful also in practice and implementation**

As stated above, the "blockade" was unlawful *par excellence* due to its lack of legal basis. Even if, for the sake of argument, the "blockade" had lawful grounds, it would still have failed because of the manner in which it was established and implemented.

**i. Israeli "blockade" of the Gaza Strip did not comply with notification requirements**

The law governing naval blockades is based on customary international law, which has been reflected in the San Remo Manual on International Law

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Applicable to Armed Conflict at Sea (San Remo Manual).<sup>235</sup> One of the requirements for a naval blockade to be lawful under customary international law is that explicit notice be given of the nature and limits of each blockade.<sup>236</sup> Article 94 of the Rules in the San Remo Manual requires that blockades be formally declared, providing “the commencement, duration, location, and extent of the blockade” (emphasis added).<sup>237</sup> Between 2005<sup>238</sup> and 2008,<sup>239</sup> Israel notified mariners of its maritime policy, which restricted the movements of vessels surrounding the Gaza coast. The current “blockade” against Gaza was officially declared on 3 January 2009.<sup>240</sup>

The Israeli position that a declaration of duration of the blockade was not possible because of the so-called open-ended nature of the conflict with Hamas lacks credibility as all conflicts are of an open-ended nature. It is the duty on the blockading state to establish a clear time period and to extend it if necessary. This customary rule of international law as restated in Rule 94 of the San Remo Manual employs the conjunctive and not disjunctive where all elements are required for a lawful blockade and not simply those chosen as convenient. The vague formulation of ‘until further notice’ is not acceptable. The purpose for

<sup>235</sup> SAN REMO MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICTS AT SEA, 12 JUNE 1994 (Institute of International Humanitarian Law, 1995), <<http://www.icrc.org/IHL.nsf/webPrint/560-FULL?OpenDocument>>

<sup>236</sup> Notice has always been an essential requirement of blockade law, and is still required. See Michael G. Fraunces, Note, *The International Law of Blockade: New Guiding Principles in Contemporary State Practice*, 101 YALE LAW JOURNAL 893-908 (1992), at 913-17

<sup>237</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 94.

<sup>238</sup> Marian Houk, *Free Gaza* Ships Set Off from Cyprus on Expedition to “Break Siege” of Gaza Strip, *American Chronicle*, 22 August 2008 <<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/printFriendly/72046>> (20 August 2010)

<sup>239</sup> Admiralty Notices to Mariners, 20 October 2008, <[http://nms.ukho.gov.uk/2008/Week40\\_5327-5486/40snii08.pdf](http://nms.ukho.gov.uk/2008/Week40_5327-5486/40snii08.pdf)>; Notice to Mariners (2008) <[nms.ukho.gov.uk/2008/Week40\\_5327-5486/Wk40-magnote.pdf](http://nms.ukho.gov.uk/2008/Week40_5327-5486/Wk40-magnote.pdf)>.

<sup>240</sup> Cargo Boat Attempting Illegal Entry to Gaza Intercepted, *Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, 5 February 2009, <[http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2009/Cargo\\_boat\\_illegal\\_entry\\_Gaza\\_waters\\_intercepted\\_5-Feb-2009.htm?DisplayMode=print](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2009/Cargo_boat_illegal_entry_Gaza_waters_intercepted_5-Feb-2009.htm?DisplayMode=print)> (20 August 2010); Carol Migdalovitz, *Israel’s Blockade of Gaza, the Mavi Marmara Incident, and Its Aftermath*, *Congressional Research Service*, 23 June 2010 <<http://www.fas.org/srg/crs/mideast/R41275.pdf>> (20 August 2010)

requiring an express time limit is to allow for periodic reviews to assess the impact of the blockade. For example, whether the military advantage is being achieved or not, or assess the impact on the civilian population. An open-ended time frame left to the discretion of the blockading authorities risks arbitrariness which is not consistent with international law.

In addition, since 2007, Israel has not made clear the “extent” of the “blockade”, namely, which products were actually being banned.<sup>241</sup> The UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, led by Justice Richard Goldstone, (hereinafter referred to as the “Goldstone Report”, to avoid confusion with the Fact Finding Mission established following the attack against the humanitarian aid convoy) stated that “[n]either the list of items allowed into the Gaza Strip, nor the criteria for their selection are made known to the public.”<sup>242</sup> According to a 3 May 2010 report on BBC:

Israel has never published a list of banned items, saying it approves requests on a case-by-case basis. Items allowed have changed over time, which has left humanitarian organizations and commercial importers constantly attempting to guess what will be approved.<sup>243</sup>

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<sup>241</sup> According to reports of observers, Israel allowed only 81 items into Gaza, and prohibited dual-use items such as steel pipes, concrete, cement, and fertilizer.

<sup>242</sup> Human Rights Council, *Human Rights in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories*, at 97, ¶316, A/HRC/12/48, 15 September 2009.

<sup>243</sup> Details of Gaza Blockade Revealed (citing Israeli Supreme Court documents), BBC NEWS, 3 May 2010 <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8654337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8654337.stm)> (20 August 2010)

In fact, Israel itself decided to adjust the terms of the "blockade" after the attack, and on 6 July 2010 it began to allow many more items into Gaza.<sup>244</sup> This revision is, indeed, a recognition of the wrongfulness of the listing of goods method that was in application at the time of the attack.

Reports from early in the "blockade's" enforcement mention that goods entering into Gaza were subject to ministerial review. No comprehensive list of banned items had been published as of 31 May 2010.<sup>245</sup> Even under the recently relaxed policy,<sup>246</sup> Israel remains far from meeting the established notification norms.<sup>247,</sup>  
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Furthermore, the actual blockade that was enforced on 31 May 2010 went far beyond what was required for the actual security needs of Israel, and Israeli officials have acknowledged that the punitive restrictions sharply limiting the goods allowed into Gaza were designed also to be "economic sanctions" to put pressure on Hamas. Such a blockade, which interferes with trade from neutral nations and shipments of humanitarian aid, is excessive and is inconsistent with international law principles.

The Israeli Government states that the naval blockade is part of Israel's wider effort not to give legitimacy to the Hamas's (*sic*) rule over the Gaza Strip, to

<sup>244</sup> State of Israel Ministry of Defense Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, *The Civilian Policy Towards the Gaza Strip – The Implementation of the Cabinet Decision (June 2010)* (listing items that would continue to be prohibited from importation into Gaza); *Guide: Eased Gaza Blockade, BBC NEWS*, 19 July 2010, <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle+east=10520844>>

<sup>245</sup> See List of commercial goods allowed for import into Gaza, April 2010, *BBC NEWS*, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/05\\_05\\_10\\_gazaimports.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/05_05_10_gazaimports.pdf)>.

<sup>246</sup> On July 6, 2010, Israel adjusted the terms of the blockade and began to allow many more items into Gaza.

<sup>247</sup> CIVILIAN POLICY TOWARDS THE GAZA STRIP, Ministry of Defense, June 2010, at <<http://www.pmo.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/EBDB36CF-2BA0-4719-B532-F723C7CF2456/0/gazaENG.pdf>>

<sup>248</sup> The list of items banned from Iraq during the Second Gulf War, for instance, was extensive and specific compared to the list published by Israel's Ministry of Defense. S. C. Res, S/2002/515 (May 31, 2002) (describing specific chemical compounds, including diagram of molecular structure, prohibited from entering Iraq). See also S.C. Res, 1454, U.N. Doc. S/RES/1454 (Dec. 30, 2002) (describing how list of banned goods is subject to review for humanitarian purposes).

isolate it in the international arena, and to strengthen the Palestinian authority. This is clearly a political objective, which evidently is the overriding goal of the Israeli government. Since Hamas' election in 2006 it has been the policy and goal of Israel to overthrow Hamas. Israel's reliance on military security needs cannot serve as a disguise for what is in truth the ultimate objective of undermining popular support for Hamas by strangulating the livelihood of the Gazans.

This further raises the question of abuse of right under international law by Israel. This is evidenced by the Israeli government's continued insistence to knowingly allow the Palestinian people in Gaza to live under extreme inhumane conditions and depriving them of their human dignity. It is particularly inequitable for Israel to attempt to shroud the humanitarian crisis in Gaza in the artificial confusion of statistical data, when the magnitude of this crisis has been documented by independent international organizations. The historical reality is that the Palestinian Territories have been under the long-term control by "occupation" of Israel creating what has been described as a state of dependency on Israel.<sup>249</sup> Israel cannot claim pre-existing economic problems, and then use these as a pretext to avoid its legal obligations under international law of blockade—particularly when Israel was the very cause of those pre-existing economic problems. More importantly, the facts all support a direct relationship between the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza with the imposition of the "blockade".

What the Israeli Government admits as an 'economic warfare' is actually a "political warfare" where civilians are condemned to suffer in the cross-fire aimed at Hamas.

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<sup>249</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (Goldstone Report), ¶ 74, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/12/48 (Sept. 15, 2009), at <[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/.../UNFFMGC\\_Report.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/.../UNFFMGC_Report.pdf)>, p.96

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**ii. Israeli “blockade” of the Gaza Strip was not reasonable, proportional or necessary**

The San Remo Manual identifies situations where blockades would be legally impermissible, specifically when “(a) it has the sole purpose of starving the civilian population or denying it other objects essential for its survival; or (b) the damage to the civilian population is, or may be expected to be, excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the blockade.”<sup>250</sup>

On the question of “starvation” there is no litmus test and certainly the general lack of access to food and nutrition should be considered to constitute a level of unacceptable starvation. To place 1.5 million civilians on “diet” as justification for a blockade would be tantamount to an intent to “starve” people.<sup>251</sup> In terms of assessing the level of nutrition of 1.5 million people, it is clear that the vast majority of the population of Gaza is suffering from lack of adequate food. Under contemporary standards it is difficult to envision an international legal system that would condone a blockade that punished 1.5 million people with hardships and malnourishment for so-called military advantage.

As “the [San Remo Manual] suggests a balancing test weighing the means and methods of warfare against potential collateral damage,” belligerents must consider “potential damage beyond that expected” and should also “continue to monitor for collateral damage and to cease that activity as soon as it is apparent

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<sup>250</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 102.

<sup>251</sup> Dov Weissglas, an Israeli advisor to former Prime Minister Sharon is reported to have stated in relation to the blockade that “The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger.” <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2006/apr/16/israel>> (2 February 2011)



that the balance has shifted.”<sup>252</sup> In addition to these requirements, the San Remo Manual makes it clear that belligerents employing naval blockades must also adhere to the principle of proportionality, and exercise restraint by taking precautions in enforcement of the blockade.<sup>253</sup>

Dr. Stephen C. Neff, of the University of Edinburgh School of Law, has explained that “[a]ccording to the principle of necessity, blockades would only be permissible under certain restricted circumstances (*i.e.*, when necessity was actually present) - it would not be an automatic right . . .”<sup>254</sup> The principle of proportionality, he has explained, “would imply that only certain types of trade could be stopped (*i.e.*, trade in goods that furthered the aggression). . . . [and] would furthermore imply that the self-defending state would only be entitled to divert neutral ships away from the blockaded area, not to capture and confiscate them.”<sup>255</sup> The principles of proportionality and necessity are also central to the rules found in the San Remo Manual, as discussed below.<sup>256</sup>

The principle of reasonableness, which could replace “traditional principles of establishment, effectiveness, and respect for neutral rights,” might consider factors such as size of blockade, proportionality, probability of severe damage, rights of neutrals, method of enforcement, and accommodation.<sup>257</sup> Under the principle of reasonableness, states can tailor their blockade policy to meet their specific needs because “the law retains flexibility to guide state practice in the

<sup>252</sup> Matthew L. Tucker, *Mitigating Collateral Damage to the Natural Environment in Naval Warfare: An Examination of the Israeli Naval Blockade of 2006*, 57 NAVAL L. REV. 161, 176 (2009). See *supra* note 146, at 177.

<sup>253</sup> See SAN REMO COMMENTARY, p. 179 (stating that Article 102(b) “reflects the impact of the rules of proportionality and precautions in attack on blockade”).

<sup>254</sup> Stephen C. Neff, *Towards a Law of Unarmed Conflict: A Proposal for a New International Law of Hostility*, 28 *Cornell International Law Journal* 1 (1995), p. 19

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>256</sup> See generally Matthew L. Tucker, *Mitigating Collateral Damage to the Natural Environment in Naval Warfare: An Examination of the Israeli Naval Blockade of 2006*, 57 NAVAL L. REV. 161, 176 (2009).

<sup>257</sup> Michael G. Fraunces, Note, *The International Law of Blockade: New Guiding Principles in Contemporary State Practice*, 101 YALE LAW JOURNAL 893-908 (1992), at 913-17

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varied environment of modern conflict.”<sup>258</sup> The present law on naval blockades is thus based on the principles of proportionality, necessity, and reasonableness.

The existing humanitarian crisis in Gaza was severe to the point that on 8 January 2009, just five days following the Israeli declaration of the 2009 blockade in Gaza, it compelled the UN Security Council to adopt Resolution 1860, which brought attention to the “deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza” and further emphasized “the need to ensure sustained and regular flow of goods and people through the Gaza crossings.” This situation did not abate but, in fact, deteriorated during the one and a half year period that lapsed between the adoption of Res. 1860 and the attack on the international humanitarian aid convoy on 31 May 2010.

This is supported by the conclusions of the UN Fact Finding Commission in its detailed analysis of the incident in which it found that Israel’s “blockade” against Gaza as it existed on 31 May 2010 violated the requirements of proportionality and reasonableness. In its report, the Mission stated that “the blockade was inflicting disproportionate damage upon the civilian population in the Gaza Strip and that as such the interception could not be justified and therefore has to be considered illegal.”

The view of the disproportionate impact of the blockade is shared by multiple official sources. Various UN agencies and the international community at large, such as OCHA, the World Food Programme, the ICRC, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, the UNHCR and the UNDP have all described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as a result of the blockade as *dire, unacceptable* and *unsustainable*.

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<sup>258</sup> *Ibid.* p.913.

OCHA and the UNHRC reported that "... the blockade exacerbated the already existing difficulties of the population in Gaza in terms of livelihoods and brought to new peaks the severe human dignity crisis resulting from the deteriorated public services, widespread poverty, food insecurity, over 40 per cent unemployment and 80 per cent aid dependence (i.e. some 80 per cent of the population receives humanitarian assistance, mainly food). People's lives were reduced to a daily struggle in an attempt to secure the most basic needs. Abject poverty among refugees has tripled since the imposition of the blockade from 100.000 to 300.000 and 61 per cent of households are food insecure. There has been a shift in diet (from protein rich to low cost and high carbohydrate foods), triggering concerns over mineral and vitamin deficiencies."<sup>259</sup>

The IMF observed that the blockade has had a direct negative impact on the economy of Gaza. It notes that "output had been highly suppressed in the first half 2009 by the exceptionally tight blockade..." The output per capita is only 60 per cent of what it had been in 1994 and unemployment remains at over 35 per cent, one of the highest in the world. More importantly, the report stated that "for a growth to be sustained, it is essential that the remaining restrictions on economic activity be lifted."<sup>260</sup>

The "blockade's public health impact on the civilian population of Gaza has also been severe. On 14 June 2010 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that as a result of the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip "the quality of Gaza's health care system has reached an all time low."<sup>261</sup>

<sup>259</sup> See paragraph 40-41 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>260</sup> Macroeconomic and fiscal framework for the West Bank and Gaza: Sixth Review of Progress Staff Report for the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee New York Sep 21, 2010, IMF  
<<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/729B065A70854337852577A8006A5CE8>> (3 February 2011)

<sup>261</sup> ICRC Geneva/Jerusalem 14 June 2010, *Gaza closure: not another year!*; News release 10/103.

The principle of proportionality and the duty to protect civilians require that Israel ban only items that can be utilized against Israel,<sup>262</sup> and the principle of reasonableness requires Israel to implement a policy that maintains an “acceptable balance between belligerent and neutral interests.”<sup>263</sup> As of 31 May 2010, Israel’s blockade policy banned consumer items that had no relationship to the ability of Hamas to attack Israel, and Israel’s blockade policy had not struck a reasonable balance between its military objectives and the humanitarian needs of the civilian population of Gaza. None of the ordinary consumer items banned by Israel would constitute military contraband that could be used in armed conflict against Israel. It is difficult to see what possible legitimate military tactical advantage would be achieved by prohibiting one type of food stuff that is clearly not of dual-purpose over another.

For the past three years, goods flowing into Gaza sharply declined,<sup>264</sup> and until the recent relaxation on July 6, 2010,<sup>265</sup> ordinary items were banned,<sup>266</sup> apparently, for punitive purposes.<sup>267</sup> For example, canned meat and tuna were allowed, but not canned fruit; mineral water was allowed, but not fruit juice; sesame paste (tahini) was permitted but not jam; tea and coffee were permitted

<sup>262</sup> Stephen C. Neff, *Towards a Law of Unarmed Conflict: A Proposal for a New International Law of Hostility*, 28 *Cornell International Law Journal* 1, 24 (1995) p. 19

<sup>263</sup> Michael G. Fraunces, Note, *The International Law of Blockade: New Guiding Principles in Contemporary State Practice*, 101 *YALE LAW JOURNAL* 893-908 (1992). at 913-17

<sup>264</sup> The 1.5 million people of Gaza “have relied on less than a quarter of the volume of imported supplies they received in December 2005.” *Guide: Gaza under Blockade*, *BBC*, July 6, 2010, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7545636.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7545636.stm)>

<sup>265</sup> As of July 6, 2010, Israel’s blockade has been relaxed. “Israeli authorities will allow more civilian goods to enter, including all food items, toys, stationery, kitchen utensils, mattresses and towels. Construction materials for civilian projects will be allowed in under international supervision.” *Guide: Gaza under Blockade*, *BBC*, July 6, 2010, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7545636.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7545636.stm)>; Israel eases blockade of cargo to Hamas-ruled Gaza, *Reuters News Service*, June 21, 2007, <[http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKL21817222.CH\\_24202007062](http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKL21817222.CH_24202007062)>

<sup>266</sup> “Among the large range of goods currently forbidden [as of May 3, 2010] are jam, chocolate, wood for furniture, fruit juice, textiles, and plastic toys.” *Details of Gaza Blockade Revealed*, *BBC*, May 3, 2010, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8654337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8654337.stm)>

<sup>267</sup> See *infra* iv of this report.

but not chocolate; cinnamon was permitted, but not coriander.<sup>268</sup> Commentators have criticized Israel's review process, stating that the problem "is not just the shortages themselves, but the unpredictability and changing nature of what is permitted for import."<sup>269</sup> These ever continuing changes were not the result of methodical revisions, but rather of an arbitrary nature. Needless to say, exports from Gaza were banned altogether.

These are all tactics to create political dissatisfaction against Hamas and not enhance military security. Israel has acknowledged that one purpose of its naval "blockade" has been to put pressure on and to isolate Hamas, currently in government in Gaza.<sup>270</sup> The Israeli Supreme Court has confirmed this as one of the reasons for the "blockade": "The limitation on the transfer of goods is a central pillar in the means at the disposal of the State of Israel in the armed conflict between it and Hamas." This fact was confirmed by the Goldstone Report.<sup>271</sup>

Food and fuel shortages have been common in Gaza, requiring people to ration these resources.<sup>272</sup> Israel has banned cement from Gaza because it is viewed a dual-use item; although necessary to rebuild buildings destroyed during Israel's Operation Cast Lead (Dec. 2008- Jan. 2009).<sup>273, 274</sup>

<sup>268</sup> This partial list describes banned goods as of May 2010. Details of Gaza Blockade Revealed, BBC, 3 May 2010 <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8654337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8654337.stm)> (20 August 2010). The partial list was published again in July 2010. Guide: Gaza under Blockade, BBC, 6 July 6 2010 <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7545636.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7545636.stm)> (20 August 2010)

<sup>269</sup> Details of Gaza Blockade Revealed, BBC News, 3 May 2010, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8654337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8654337.stm)>

<sup>270</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>271</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (Goldstone Report), ¶ 74, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/12/48 (Sept. 15, 2009), at <[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/.../UNFFMGC\\_Report.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/.../UNFFMGC_Report.pdf)> , p.369

<sup>272</sup> Details of Gaza Blockade Revealed, BBC, 6 July 2010 <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8654337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8654337.stm)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>273</sup> Cement is also necessary to repair the water and sewage system destroyed during Operation Cast Lead. Access to adequately treated water is below UN standards, and "Gaza's sewage treatment body estimates that at

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Critics have condemned the “blockade”, stating that it “has contributed to a humanitarian crisis, deepened poverty and ruined the economy [of Gaza],”<sup>275</sup> and the United Nations says “the blockade has caused the economy ‘irreversible damage’.”<sup>276</sup> The UN Security Council’s Presidential Statement of 1 June 2010 reiterated the Council’s “grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stress[ed] 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.”<sup>277</sup> The economic-political warfare Israel has been waging against Gaza is illegal not only because it is not proportional or reasonable, but in addition “[t]here is a very strong argument that in most cases punitive measures are ineffective and may even harm chances for a peaceful settlement.”<sup>278</sup>

### **iii. Israeli enforcement of the naval “blockade” was arbitrary, erratic and partial**

Israel’s enforcement of the “blockade” has also been arbitrary, erratic and partial, making it difficult for vessels to understand what was expected of them. In 2008, prior to the 3 January 2009 formal declaration of the “blockade”, at

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least 50m litres of raw or poorly-treated sewage is released into the sea daily.” *Guide: Gaza under Blockade*, BBC NEWS, July 6, 2010, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7545636.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7545636.stm).

<sup>274</sup> Sheera Frenkel, *Pressure Mounts On Israel To Ease Gaza Blockade*, NPR, June 16, 2010, <<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=127886050>>.

<sup>275</sup> Sarah Leah Whitson, *Letter to Olmert: Stop the Blockade of Gaza*, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, Nov. 20, 2008, <<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/11/20/letter-olmert-stop-blockade-gaza>>.

<sup>276</sup> Details of Gaza Blockade Revealed, *BBC*, 6 July 2010 <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/8654337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8654337.stm)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>277</sup> Statement by the President of the U.N. Security Council, 1 June 2010, S/PRST/2010/9, <<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/382/79/PDF/N1038279.pdf?OpenElement>>

<sup>278</sup> Encyclopedia of the Nations, *The Security Council – Maintaining International Peace and Security*, <<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/United-Nations/The-Security-Council-MAINTAINING-INTERNATIONAL-PEACE-AND-SECURITY.html>>

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least six voyages from Cyprus to Gaza occurred without naval interception.<sup>279</sup> After January 2009, enforcement seems to have increased, with one report stating that the Israeli Navy deliberately rammed the *Dignity*, as it was attempting to break the “blockade” in April 2009.<sup>280</sup> At least two other attempts to break the “blockade” occurred in 2009: (1) on 5 February 2009, the *Tali* attempted to enter the “blockaded” zone,<sup>281</sup> and (2) on 30 June 2009, the *Spirit of Humanity* tried to break the Gaza “blockade”.<sup>282</sup>

Israel, arguably, has had a form of a naval “blockade” of Gaza since the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip when the currently enforced 20 nautical-mile (“nm”) zone was established. Under the Agreement, Israel maintained exclusive control over the air space and marine area of Gaza. One example of the “blockade” aspect of this 20-nm zone established in 1995 is the 2002 *Karin-A* incident when Israel interdicted in the Red Sea in international waters a merchant vessel suspected of transporting arms to Gaza.

Conflict between Gaza and Israel escalated following Israeli disengagement from the Occupied Territories of Gaza in 2005 and the election of Hamas in 2006. In response Israel declared Gaza, including the 20 nm maritime zone, a “hostile zone” in 2007, a “combat zone” in 2008 and finally, as part of its Operation Cast Lead, a “military enclosure” in 2009. The “humanitarian flotilla” phenomenon emerged in 2008 as a direct consequence of Israel’s increasingly severe economic “blockade” on Gaza. The ships carrying humanitarian aid

<sup>279</sup> Nathan Morley, *Gloomy Mood as Mercy Mission Leaves Cyprus for Gaza*, CYPRUS MAIL, Dec.30, 2008, available at 2008 WLNR 24903958. <<http://famagusta-gazette.com/israeli-navy-pulls-in-humanitarian-aid-boat-p9114-69.htm>>

<sup>280</sup> Pat McDonnell, *Free Gaza*, MIDDLE E., May 1, 2009, at 78, available at 2009 WLNR 9919095.

<sup>281</sup> Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Cargo Boat Attempting Illegal Entry to Gaza Intercepted*, Feb. 5, 2009, <[http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2009/Cargo\\_boat\\_illegal\\_entry\\_Gaza\\_waters\\_intercepted\\_5-Feb-2009.htm?DisplayMode=print.>](http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2009/Cargo_boat_illegal_entry_Gaza_waters_intercepted_5-Feb-2009.htm?DisplayMode=print.>)

<sup>282</sup> Yaakov Katz, *Navy Stops Ship on Way to Gaza*, JERUSALEM POST, July 1, 2009, at 3, available at 2009 WLNR 12809496.

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created a “public relations” problem for Israel. Defense Minister Ehud Barak explained that, during the latter half of 2008 various convoys of ships began sailing in the direction of Gaza presumably to breach the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. On 11 August 2008 a notice to mariners was issued declaring the defined area as a “combat zone” so that Israeli navy could act against vessels. Even then, however, Israel did not fully enforce the “blockade” and allowed vessels to pass. Defense Minister Barak has acknowledged that the Israeli navy lawyers warned that the naval “blockade” was not on solid grounds as ships had been allowed to pass through the “blockade”.<sup>283</sup> To remedy this situation, the Israeli government imposed another “maritime enclosure”, or in other words, a “blockade”, on 3 January 2009.

Although Israel has frequently characterized the “blockade” as an element of its “economic warfare” it has at other times asserted that the naval “blockade” is for security reasons only, primarily to prevent the delivery of armaments and supplies that could be used as such by Hamas. According to Israel, the land “blockade”, on the other hand, has three purposes:

- 1) limitation of the flow of goods to Gaza,
- 2) security,
- 3) restriction on the movement of people.

Yet, in the actual implementation, one cannot distinguish between the two “blockades”. All shipments must be unloaded in Ashdod and can only then be transported to Gaza by land. Consequently, the naval “blockade” is an integral part of the land blockade and the two must be examined in tandem. This becomes clear by understanding that all shipments brought to the port of Ashdod

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<sup>283</sup> Public Commission for Examining the Naval Incident of 31 May 2010 (The Turkel Commission), Session Three, 10.08.2010, <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/0427E10C-01BB-4330-A60E-54D265AE6496/0/BarakTurkelAug10.pdf>> (15 January 2011)



must go through land crossings and are not given expedited and priority delivery to Gaza. Ships are not permitted to land at Gaza, and also cannot depart. This would entail a restriction on the export of goods and movement of people as well. Thus the purpose of the naval "blockade" is economic and constitutes a restriction on the freedom of movement of civilians in the Gaza area.

And by Israel's own admission, Israel has not systematically and uniformly applied the "blockade", including in 2008. Defense Minister Barak admitted that the naval blockade in force until the 2009 revised military enclosure was legally defective.<sup>284</sup> Although Israel issued in 2009 a new notice to mariners, it has been operating the same defective "blockade", at least since 2007. The Gaza naval "blockade" must be examined and assessed in its entirety, as a single unbroken continuum and not in fragmentation as Israel is attempting to do.

One cause of the erratic enforcement of the "blockade" lies in Israel's concerns with managing its public relations internationally. Ehud Barak has explained that in the discussions in 2008 on how to handle the aid ships seeking to enter Gaza, the question of public relations and media coverage was important. The Chief of the Israeli General Staff, Gabi Ashkenazi, has explained that when the "protest convoy phenomenon" emerged in 2008, a directive was adopted to exclude vessels from Gaza "as long as it would be achieved with the minimum possible international and public relations damage that could be caused by it."<sup>285</sup> Likewise, in the deliberations over how to handle the aid convoy in May 2010, the Government weighed the impact on public relations and media. This is the reason why they chose to interdict the convoy at night, some ten hours away

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<sup>284</sup> Public Commission for Examining the Naval Incident of 31 May 2010 (The Turkel Commission), Session Three, 10.08.2010, <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/0427E10C-01BB-4330-A60E-54D265AE6496/0/BarakTurkelAug10.pdf>> (15 January 2011)

<sup>285</sup> Public Commission for Examining the Naval Incident of 31 May 2010 (The Turkel Commission), Session Three, 10.08.2010, <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/0427E10C-01BB-4330-A60E-54D265AE6496/0/BarakTurkelAug10.pdf>> (15 January 2011)

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from the coast of Israel and also to engage in electronic warfare. The concerns of Israel in stopping the convoy very much included political protection against negative media coverage. As testified to by Ashkenazi, before the attack on the Mavi Marmara, the Israeli forces employed electronic warfare blockages to “prevent the entry of ships at a low-as-possible media profile.”<sup>286</sup>

Political and public relations concerns are not legitimate grounds for enforcement of a blockade in international waters.

#### **iv. Israeli “blockade” of the Gaza Strip is collective punishment**

Collective punishment is prohibited under international law. Persons cannot be punished for acts that they did not commit. The prohibition against collective punishment is one of the fundamental guarantees provided by Geneva Conventions and their protocols, specifically Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. What are actually reprisals against Hamas cannot be cloaked in the language of “security” when the facts show they are punitive in intent and impact upon the entire Gazan population of 1.5 million.

The “economic warfare” waged by Israel against the Gaza population has been described by many observers as a form of collective punishment.<sup>287</sup> For example, Israel had not published a list of which items would be permitted and which would be prohibited, but monitoring organizations reported that Israel permitted only 81 items to enter Gaza, compared to the 6,000 items deemed

<sup>286</sup> Public Commission for Examining the Naval Incident of 31 May 2010 (The Turkel Commission), Session Three, 10.08.2010, <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/0427E10C-01BB-4330-A60E-54D265AE6496/0/BarakTurkelAug10.pdf>> (15 January 2011)

<sup>287</sup> “Israel’s continuing blockade of the Gaza Strip is depriving its population of food, fuel, and basic services, and constitutes a form of collective punishment.” Sarah Leah Whitson, *Letter to Olmert: Stop the Blockade of Gaza*, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, Nov. 20, 2008, <<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/11/20/letter-olmert-stop-blockade-gaza>>; “EU Warns against collective punishment in Gaza,” *Reuters*, 29 October 2007

appropriate for normal human existence.<sup>288</sup> Clearly the intent was to “punish” the civilian population for having elected Hamas. The “vindictive” intent for the blockade was expressed by Deputy Prime Minister Haim Ramon in 2007, after the election of Hamas, where he stated “We will set a price tag for every Qassam, in terms of cutting off infrastructure and water.”<sup>289, 290</sup>

Numerous authoritative commentators have stated that Israel’s “blockade” as of 31 May 2010 was “illegal” and had to be lifted. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said repeatedly that the “blockade” was “illegal,” stating that “[i]nternational humanitarian law prohibits starvation of civilians as a method of warfare,” and has described it as “collective punishment on civilians.”<sup>291</sup> Her predecessor as High Commissioner, Louise Arbour, also

<sup>288</sup> The European Parliament’s Resolution of June 17, 2010 on the Israeli Military Operation Against the Humanitarian Flotilla and the Gaza Blockade, ¶E, P7\_TA-PROV(2010)0235, says that only 81 products are allowed into Gaza, although “the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) estimates that 6,000 products are required to meet basic humanitarian needs.” See *List of Commercial Goods Allowed for Import Into Gaza, April 2010*, BBC NEWS, May 5, 2010, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/05\\_05\\_10gazaimports.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/05_05_10gazaimports.pdf)>.

Israel greatly expanded the items permitted into Gaza on July 6, 2010. “Israeli authorities will allow more civilian goods to enter, including all food items, toys, stationery, kitchen utensils, mattresses and towels. Construction materials for civilian projects will be allowed in under international supervision.” *Guide: Gaza under Blockade*, BBC NEWS, July 6, 2010, <[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7545636.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7545636.stm)>; Israel eases blockade of cargo to Hamas-ruled Gaza, *Reuters*, 21 June 2007,

[http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKL21817222\\_CH\\_242020070621](http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKL21817222_CH_242020070621). See Israel’s List of Banned Goods into Gaza, *MA’AN NEWS AGENCY*, 31 July 2010, <<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Print.aspx?ID=297438>>; Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement, Partial List of Items Prohibited/Permitted into the Gaza Strip – June 2010, *GISHA WEBSITE*, <[www.gisha.org](http://www.gisha.org)>.

<sup>289</sup> “Cabinet likely to back ‘punishing’ Gaza civilians over Qassams” <<http://www.haaretz.com/news/cabinet-likely-to-back-punishing-gaza-civilians-over-qassams-1.228787>> 4 September 2007 (last visited on 3 February 2011),

<sup>290</sup> Dov Weissglas, an Israeli advisor to former Prime Minister Sharon is reported to have stated in relation to the blockade that “The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet, but not to make them die of hunger.”

<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2006/apr/16/israel>> (2 February 2011)

<sup>291</sup> Gaza Blockade Illegal, Must Be Lifted – UN’s Pillay, *Reuters*, 5 June 2010,

<<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE65407X.htm>>. Ms. Pillay (a South African who previously served as a judge on the High Court of South Africa and on the International Criminal Court) had made similar statements frequently in previous years. See, e.g., *UN Human Rights Chief Calls for End to Israeli Blockade of Gaza Strip*, UN News Centre, Nov. 18, 2008,

<<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=28983&Cr=palest>>... (stating that the blockade was “in direct contravention of international human rights and humanitarian law” and that “[i]t must end now”); U.N. Human Rights Chief: Israel’s Blockade of Gaza Strip Is Illegal, *foxnews.com*, 14 August 2009, <[http://www.foxnews.com/printer\\_friendly\\_story/0,3566,539363,00.html](http://www.foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,539363,00.html)> (describing a 34-page report in which

condemned the “blockade” of Gaza, stating that it violated “international human rights and humanitarian law obligations and in particular the prohibition of collective punishment.”<sup>292</sup> The UN Human Rights Council has also repeatedly called upon Israel to reduce the harsh restrictions caused by its “blockade”.<sup>293</sup> The Goldstone Report characterized the “blockade” as a form of collective punishment.<sup>294</sup> Specifically, the report noted that “The conditions of life in Gaza, resulting from deliberate actions of the Israeli forces and the declared policies of the Government of Israel – as they were presented by its authorized and legitimate representatives - with regard to the Gaza Strip before, during and after the military operation, cumulatively indicate the intention to inflict collective punishment on the people of the Gaza Strip in violation of international humanitarian law.”<sup>295</sup>

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Navi Pillay “said the Gaza blockade amounts to collective punishment of civilians, which is prohibited under the Geneva Conventions on the conduct of warfare and occupation). Agreeing that the blockade is “collective punishment” is the U.N Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid. Statement of John Holmes, USG for Humanitarian affairs and Relief Coordinator on the ‘Free Gaza’ Flotilla Crisis, 2 June 2010, <<http://www.ochaopt.org>>.

<sup>292</sup> Human Rights Council, Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories, 14 March 2008, UNGA A/HRC/7/76, at 16 ¶61. This report by High Commissioner Arbour (previously a member of the Canadian Supreme Court) referred to the condemnation of collective punishment in Article 33 of the Fourth 1949 Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (“No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited.” *Id.*, at 9 ¶ 28. *See also* European Parliament Resolution of June 17, 2010 (“whereas according to previous statements by UN organs, the blockade on the Gaza Strip represents collective punishment in contravention of international humanitarian law”); Human Rights Council, *Human Rights in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories*, at 369-70, ¶1325, A/HRC/12/48, Sept. 15, 2009 (because “the conditions resulting from the deliberate actions of the Israeli armed forces and the declared policies of the Israeli Government...cumulatively indicate the intention to inflict collective punishment on the people of the Gaza Strip[.] [t]he Mission.

Israel argues that it no longer “occupies” Gaza, because it withdrew its military forces and settlers from the territory in 2005 and because Hamas now controls the government and access to information in Gaza. Israel still, however, exercises control over Gaza’s airspace, sea space, and land borders, and over its electricity, water, sewage and telecommunications networks, and population registry.

<sup>293</sup> *See, e.g., Sixth Special Session of Human Rights Council Concludes with Call on Israel to End Siege Imposed on Occupied Gaza Strip*, UN Press Release, Jan. 24, 2008 (describing a resolution adopted 30-1 with 15 abstentions that called upon Israel to “lift immediately the siege it had imposed on the occupied Gaza Strip, restore continued supply of fuel, food and medicine and reopen the border crossings”).

<sup>294</sup> Human Rights Council, Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (Goldstone Report), ¶ 74, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/12/48 (Sept. 15, 2009), at <[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/.../UNFFMGC\\_Report.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/.../UNFFMGC_Report.pdf)>

<sup>295</sup> Goldstone Report supra at para. 74

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The Report further drew attention to statements made by Israeli officials who indicated the intention of maintaining the blockade as a response to the Gilad Shalit incident and was of the view this would also constitute collective punishment of the civilian population of the Gaza Strip.<sup>296</sup>

The Fact Finding Mission reconfirmed the view that the blockade constituted collective punishment as prohibited under article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The Mission report concluded that “one of the principal motives behind the imposition of the blockade was a desire to punish the people of the Gaza Strip for having elected Hamas” and that the “combination of this motive and the effect of the restrictions on the Gaza Strip leave no doubt that Israel’s actions and policies amount to collective punishment as defined by international law.”<sup>297</sup>

The ICRC has also concluded that the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip constitutes collective punishment in violation of Israel’s obligations under International Humanitarian Law.<sup>298</sup>

**v. Israeli “blockade” of the Gaza Strip is unlawful because Israel remains the occupying power in Gaza**

The international community considers Israel as the “occupying power” in the Gaza Strip, and this has not changed with the disengagement in 2005.<sup>299</sup> This view has been reflected in virtually every single UN Document relating to the situation in the Middle East. This is valid to the extent that even the pertinent UN meetings have agenda items regularly referring to “Occupied Palestinian Territory”; not to mention the existence of a “Special Rapporteur on the

<sup>296</sup> Id. At para. 78

<sup>297</sup> See paragraph 54 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>298</sup> ICRC Geneva/Jerusalem 14 June 2010, *Gaza closure: not another year!*; News release 10/103.

<sup>299</sup> Security Council, United Nations, Resolution on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. S/RES/1860 (2009)

situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967” under the UN Human Rights Council. The imposition by a State of a blockade over territories under its occupation is a legal nullity. Therefore, the enforcement of such a blockade as well as any other act or practice linked thereto would be unlawful.

The factors of Israel’s continuing occupation of the Gaza Strip are manifold. Israel exercises effective control over the Gaza Strip including its borders, airspace and territorial sea as well as trade activities. Moreover, Israel continues to control the entry of workers from Gaza to Israel, the entry and exit of goods between the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Israel and abroad, the monetary regime, population registry, tax and customs arrangements as well as post and telecommunications.

Furthermore, Israel’s Supreme Court in *Jaber al Bassouini Ahmed et al v. Prime Minister and Minister of Defense* confirmed that Israel is obliged to supply fuel and electricity to the Gaza Strip.<sup>300</sup> Only an occupier bears the responsibility of supplying commodities such as fuel and electricity.

One other important evidence of Israel’s continued effective occupation of the Gaza Strip is that despite the disengagement, Israel still feels free to send back its armed forces back into the area at will.

In conclusion, withdrawal of permanent military installations from the Gaza Strip is a change in degree but not of kind, and the “facts on the ground...leave

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<sup>300</sup> Decision (HCJ 9132/07) of the Supreme Court sitting as High Council on petition by *Jaber al Bassouini Ahmed et al v Prime Minister and Minister of Defense*, 27 January 2008, <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/938CCD2E-89C7-4E77-B071-56772DF79CC/0/HCJGazaelectricity.pdf>>

no room for questioning the status of Israel in the Gaza Strip: it remains the Occupying Power.<sup>301</sup>

**F. The enforcement of the naval "blockade" was in violation of international law**

**i. Vessels transporting humanitarian aid cannot be attacked under international law**

According to the San Remo Manual, when a blockade is in place, the belligerent state is required to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to those in the area being blockaded,<sup>302</sup> and belligerents may not attack ships loaded with medical supplies and humanitarian aid.<sup>303</sup> Given that vessels carrying humanitarian aid are exempt from seizure, the passengers on board the *Mavi Marmara* were within their rights to resist the Israeli attempts to stop, seize and search the ship.

The actions taken by Israel against the *Mavi Marmara* and the killing and wounding of many of its passengers were unreasonable because the vessel carried civilians and humanitarian aid and did not pose any legitimate security threat to Israel.

According to the basic rules of the San Remo Manual, parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between civilians or other protected persons and combatants and between civilian or exempt objects and military objectives.<sup>304</sup> This rule goes beyond simply reflecting customary international law but

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<sup>301</sup> M. Mari, "The Israeli Disengagement from the Gaza Strip: an end of the occupation?", *8 Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law (2005)* p. 356, 366-367

<sup>302</sup> See San Remo Manual, page 103-104

<sup>303</sup> *Id.*, art. 47(ii) lists "vessels engaged in humanitarian missions, including vessels carrying supplies indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and vessels engaged in relief actions and rescue operations" as being exempt from attack.

<sup>304</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 39.

constitutes *jus cogens*. Furthermore, attacks are to be limited strictly to military objects and that merchant vessels are considered as civilian objects unless they are military objectives according to the principles and rules of San Remo Manual.<sup>305</sup> The humanitarian aid convoy was not transporting any contraband of a military nature that could cause any legitimate security concerns for Israel and, for this reason, could not be considered as a military objective.

Moreover, the San Remo Manual recognizes specifically an exemption from attack of vessels engaged in humanitarian missions including vessels carrying supplies indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and vessels engaged in relief actions and rescue operations.<sup>306</sup>

**ii. The legal right to “self-defense” belongs to the passengers, and not to the Israeli soldiers**

As a general principle of law, an unlawful attack gives rise to a right to self-defence. When the Israeli forces unlawfully attacked the Mavi Marmara and other ships in the convoy, the civilians on board had the right to defend themselves.

Yet, the IDF attempts to justify the use of live fire and lethal weapons with so-called self-defense against alleged attack by the passengers. Self-defense is an affirmative defense to what would otherwise be an unlawful act. In this case, the Israeli soldiers attacked a civilian humanitarian convoy, in international waters, ostensibly trying to enforce a blockade which is illegal. The enforcement of the unlawful Gaza blockade is an unlawful attack and cannot serve as legal grounds for the IDF to claim self-defense. On the other hand, it does give rise to self-defense by the passengers on board.

<sup>305</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 41.

<sup>306</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 47(c)(ii).



The aggressor cannot claim self-defense when he was the initial attacker. In assessing the situation on 31 May 2010, at approximately 04.30 one must look at the totality of events as they unfolded, taking into account the different status of the parties involved. On the one side there was the highly trained and fully equipped professional Israeli IDF combat force who determined the time and manner of the attack. On the other side, there was a group of untrained, unarmed civilians who were taken by surprise and in an evident state of fear for their lives. The IDF came very well prepared as they had conducted military exercises conceived especially for this operation they named "Winds of Heaven 7". Therefore, the IDF soldiers must be held to much higher standards of conduct than the ordinary civilian person.

The facts show, more importantly, that the Israeli soldiers were the first to fire at the passengers before boarding the ship. No prior warning had been given to the passengers to alert them about the imminent possible use of force.

The disproportionate use of force by Israel continued and increased once aboard the Mavi Marmara. The incontestable evidence provided by the location of the bullet wounds of the nine casualties as well as the injuries sustained by dozens of other passengers show "execution style killing" as well as indiscriminate shooting including from above, most certainly from helicopters. The 19-year old Furkan Doğan was shot in the back of head as well as in his back, nose, left leg and left ankle all from less than 50 cm range. Cevdet Kılıçlar, who was trying to take a photograph of the helicopter, was shot sniper-style from a distance right in the centre of his forehead, in manner which suggests a trained shooter fired at him. Cengiz Akyüz was shot four times in the back of his head, the right side of his face, the back and his left leg. The mode of killing of these victims can in no way be reconciled with the concept of self-defense.

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The facts show that the IDF raid was designed to maximize fear by attacking without notice, and in the dark. The so-called resistance by the passengers was in fact self-defense to a reasonable perception of an imminent threat of possible death by the IDF. The argument that the IDF with its full military panoply pointed against unarmed and fearful passengers was acting in self-defense is not supported by these facts. Once the IDF saw the passengers' reaction, they should have withdrawn, and should have sought alternative ways to defuse the situation. There was also plenty of time, given that the convoy was still some ten travel hours away from the blockaded area.

In sum, the Israelis initiated the confrontation by attacking and boarding the ships in the first instance and exercised unlawful use of force that cannot be justified by self-defense. In view of this picture, the passengers on board had the right to defend themselves and the ships against an unlawful attack. If there is one party to rely on self-defence on this incident, it should be the people on board.

**iii. Israeli military used excessive force against the Mavi Marmara**

Even if, *in arguendum*, Israel were justified in establishing a limited blockade to restrict rocket-related materials from being brought into Gaza, the military force the Israeli Defense Force applied to intercept the *Mavi Marmara* well exceeded what was appropriate and necessary. "[I]n the arrest of ships, international law...requires that the use of force must be avoided as far as possible and, where force is unavoidable, it must not go beyond what is reasonable and necessary in

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the circumstances."<sup>307</sup> Using force must be viewed as a "measure of last resort."<sup>308</sup>

The location of the attack upon the humanitarian aid convoy 64 nm away from the outer border of the blockaded area is itself in violation of the San Remo Manual, Rule 96, which states that the 'force maintaining the blockade may be stationed at a distance determined by military requirements.' It is evident that this rule is of a limiting nature. The explanation to the provision clarifies the "military requirement" as what would be necessary to prevent foreign vessels from actually entering into the blockaded area. There is scarce military justification to deploy a full-fledged military force almost 100 nm outside the blockaded area, and to do so against vessels that were carrying civilian passengers and humanitarian aid. The distance in terms of travel time to Gaza was approximately 10 hours, which is a significant period of time during which Israel could have engaged in continued peaceful and non-violent alternative measures to stop the vessels. Israel's claim that the enforcement action was necessary after diplomatic efforts had been exhausted is undermined by the distance at which they attacked. There were still many hours available to explore non-violent options. The distance of the vessels from the blockaded area and Israel defeats any claim of imminent threat to the security interests of the Israel. Once again, this is another example of abuse of rights under international law by Israel.

Any military operation against the neutral vessel must be limited by the "basic rules in paragraphs 38-46" of the San Remo Manual,<sup>309</sup> which require the

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<sup>307</sup> *The M/V Saiga Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea)*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, July 1, 1999, Para. 155, <[http://www.itlos.org/case\\_documents/2001/document\\_en\\_68.pdf](http://www.itlos.org/case_documents/2001/document_en_68.pdf)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>308</sup> Douglas Guilfoyle, *Shipping Interdiction and the Law of the Sea* 282 (Cambridge University Press, 2009) p.271.

<sup>309</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 68.

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attacking state to “take all feasible precautions in the choice of methods and means in order to avoid or minimize collateral casualties or damage.”<sup>310</sup>

Furthermore:

(d) an attack shall not be launched if it may be expected to cause collateral casualties or damage which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the attack as a whole; an attack shall be cancelled or suspended as soon as it becomes apparent that the collateral casualties or damage would be excessive.<sup>311</sup>

The final phrase in this provision is particularly important, because the Israeli forces had the capacity to change its tactics when they realized as the operation unfolded that civilian casualties would be inevitable unless they adopted a different approach. When the Israeli forces understood the reaction they faced, before they had managed to place any soldiers on board, they must have recognized that the risk of civilian casualties had increased significantly from the original plan. As a result, the attack should have been suspended until a better strategy could be devised.

In this context, the criticism directed by Retired Israeli Admiral Ze'ev Almog towards the handling of the intervention of the IDF against the convoy deserves attention. Almog, who served as the Head of the Israeli Naval Commandos between 1968-1972 and Commander of Naval Forces from 1979-1985,

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<sup>310</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 46.

<sup>311</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 46(d)

suggested that he would have done things differently and alternative plans should have been ready to prevent fatalities.<sup>312</sup>

In the *M/V Saiga Case*, a Guinean fast-moving patrol boat attacked (with live, large-caliber rounds), boarded, and seized a slow-moving oil tanker, "fully laden and...low in the water at the time," alleged to be violating Guinean customs law.<sup>313</sup> Guinea argued that the "public interest" was at stake, and that a "state of necessity" justified its actions. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea did not agree with Guinea's interpretation of public interest and found that a state of necessity did not exist, explaining the "state of necessity" defense can be asserted only if "the act was the only means of safeguarding an essential interest of the State against *a grave and imminent peril*."<sup>314</sup>

Israel would argue that a state of necessity had been created by the missiles fired by Hamas in Gaza. But they would have a hard time establishing imminency. The Mavi Marmara was travelling at a speed of eight knots (about nine miles per hour).<sup>315</sup> The ships were intercepted 72 miles from the nearest coast, and 64 miles outside of the blockade area. Israel thus had approximately 10 hours until the Mavi Marmara reached the "blockade" area. The Israeli Defense Force had ample time to develop a strategy to engage the vessel without loss of life.

Even in a case where a state of necessity exists, the Tribunal in the *Saiga Case* stated that "the normal practice used to stop a ship at sea is first to give an

<sup>312</sup> Undercover, underwater and underrated, Abraham Rabinovich, *The Jerusalem Post Magazine*, 4 February 2011, p.20-27.

<sup>313</sup> The *Saiga's* maximum speed was 10 knots. *The M/V Saiga Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea)*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, 1 July 1999, Para. 157. <[http://www.itlos.org/case\\_documents/2001/document\\_en\\_68.pdf](http://www.itlos.org/case_documents/2001/document_en_68.pdf)> (15 January 2011)157.

<sup>314</sup> *Ibid.* Para.133 (emphasis added).

<sup>315</sup> Eiland Video Report, Israeli Defense Forces, 13 July 2010 < <http://idfspokesperson.com/2010/07/15/videos-timeline-of-flotilla-incident-as-presented-by-eiland-team-of-experts-english-version-13-july-2010/>> (15 January 2011)

auditory or visual signal to stop... [and] [w]here this does not succeed, a variety of actions may be taken, including the firing of shots across the bows of the ship. It is only after the appropriate actions fail that the pursuing vessel may, as a last resort, use force."<sup>316</sup> The Tribunal criticized the Guineans not only for firing at the *Saiga*, but also for using firearms once on board the vessels, saying "the Guinean officers appeared to have attached little or no importance to the safety of the ship and the persons on board."<sup>317</sup>

**iv. Israel had an obligation to use non-lethal modes of interdiction against the humanitarian aid convoy**

Israel argues that the military operation against the Mavi Marmara was conducted to protect the people of Israel. But attacking a ship carrying humanitarian aid and civilians on the purported grounds that it may contain contraband is not sufficient related to that goal, especially given the fact that non-lethal options were available. As Professor Michael Byers has explained, "[t]o say that this blockade would be jeopardized by the flotilla and that sometime down the road weapons might come into Gaza as a result, and thereby pose a threat to Israel, is to stretch the definition of self-defence way further than anyone ever countenanced."<sup>318</sup>

The Israeli forces had the choice of using methods to engage the vessel without causing loss of life. At various points during the operation, they could and should have reassessed their strategy and adopted a different approach. Their

<sup>316</sup> *The M/V Saiga Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea)*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, July 1, 1999, Para. 156.

<sup>317</sup> *The M/V Saiga Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea)*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, July 1, 1999, Para. 158.

<sup>318</sup> Quoted in Patrick Martin, *Was Seizing the Flotilla Legal?*, *The Globe and Mail*, 1 June 2010, <<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/africa-mideast/who-was-behind-the-seized-flotilla/article1587638/>>

military operation must, therefore, be viewed as disproportionate and in violation of international law.

The San Remo Manual Rules in Part V enumerates measures short of attack that include interception, visit, search, diversion and capture. According to Rule 118 when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a vessel may be subject to capture, the belligerent warships can visit and search merchant vessels outside neutral waters. The Israeli force made no effort to request from either the captain or the flag State to visit and search the vessels. Instead there is presumptive conclusion that such request would have been refused. But this does not justify a failure to make the attempt before proceeding to other alternatives. Rule 119 also provides for diversion of the neutral merchant vessel from its declared destination with its consent. Again, no information is provided that any such request was made by Israel. Capturing the vessel should have been viewed as a final resort, particularly given that there were passengers on board. It is important to make a distinction at this point between merchant vessels carrying no other than trained crew, and passenger vessels with ordinary civilians not prepared in any way for such possibilities.

An incident during the blockade employed during the First Gulf War provides an example of how a vessel seeking to penetrate a blockade can be stopped without bloodshed. In December 1990, the Iraqi merchant vessel *Ibn Khaldun* traveling through the Arabian Sea carrying some 250 passengers as well as medicines and food supplies on a "peace mission" was intercepted by two US destroyers and an Australian vessel. The captain of the *Ibn Khaldun* ignored requests to stop, and so the Navy sent a boarding party by helicopter, which persuaded the captain to stop the ship, and then additional navy personnel arrived by boat. The ship's crew and its passengers made a human chain to obstruct the passage of the boarding party, who numbered about 20, and sought

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to grab the weapons of the Navy personnel, but the boarding party was able to control the crowd and the boat with the use of smoke and noise grenades, and by firing warning shots in the air. No injuries occurred, and this incident was the only incident in the interception operations during the First Gulf War that a boarding team fired weapons during a boarding. After inspectors located cargo which violated sanctions, the vessel was escorted by US and Australian ships to Muscat, Oman.<sup>319</sup>

Military officers have a duty to suspend operations when it becomes clear that the damage to civilians is not justified by the military advantage being sought, or when alternative methods of achieving the goal with less damage to civilians are available.

Israel, however, did not make any effort to resort to measures short of attack. The facts show that the final communication between the IDF and the captain took place at 02.00 on 31 May 2010. However, the Israeli forces appeared out of the dark at 04.00 without any prior effective warning of the intent to stop, divert or capture the vessels that would give sufficient time to react to the warning and explain what they should do to avoid harm. Established practice would require the warships to give effective warning close in time with a deadline for the intended action against the vessel to prevent panic, such as what happened on board the Mavi Marmara.

According to the video timeline created by General Eiland, when the Israeli commandos first attempted to board the Mavi Marmara in rubber boats, they

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<sup>319</sup> Guy Gugliotta, *U.S. Sailors, Crew Scuffle on Iraqi Ship*, WASHINGTON POST, Dec. 27, 1990, at A20 <<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P2-1165871.html>>; *Severing Saddam's Lifeline*, ALL HANDS, at 13 (Special Ed., No. 892).



were met with resistance and were unable to board from the sides of the ship.<sup>320</sup> According to press reports, General Eiland stated that the decision to continue to attempt to board the boat was a mistake.<sup>321</sup> Upon meeting resistance, the Israeli forces should have regrouped and formulated a new plan to stop the boats.<sup>322</sup> Proceeding to land on a boat whose occupants were prepared to resist is what ultimately led to unnecessary bloodshed.

This moment was not the only time when the IDF should have regrouped to formulate a new strategy. The helicopters attempted to clear the roof with live fire, but some passengers remained on the deck and resisted against the attempt to board the ship. Given the fact that the Mavi Marmara and the rest of the convoy were still quite a distance away from the blockade zone (64 miles) and were travelling slowly, the IDF had time to formulate an alternate strategy.

Instead, Israeli soldiers descended into a group of passengers resisting with make-shift weapons. The use of lethal force in this situation was excessive because other options were available. According to Professor Douglas Guilfoyle, “[e]nforcement action must be both necessary and proportionate. Going aboard a civilian vessel with the intention of using lethal force against civilians would clearly be disproportionate and unlawful.”<sup>323</sup>

It is not reasonable to think “that arrival of Israeli soldiers would convince the crew and passengers to submit.” The use of naval commandos, “an elite unit,

<sup>320</sup> Eiland Video Report, Israeli Defense Forces, 13 July 2010 < <http://idfspokesperson.com/2010/07/15/videos-timeline-of-flotilla-incident-as-presented-by-eiland-team-of-experts-english-version-13-july-2010/>> (15 January 2011)

<sup>321</sup> Yaakov Katz, IDF Probe: Army Didn't Have 'Plan B', *Jerusalem Post*, 12 July 2010 <<http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=181182>>

<sup>322</sup> Article 46(d) of the San Remo Rules says explicitly that “an attack shall be cancelled or suspended as soon as it becomes apparent that the collateral casualties or damage would be excessive.”

<sup>323</sup> Douglas Guilfoyle, Gaza Fleet Raid Raises Questions over Legality of Israel's Blockade, *The Times* (London), 1 June 2010, < <http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article7142055.ece>>.

trained for daring operations,” was inappropriate in a situation requiring personnel who had “training in crowd control and self-restraint.”<sup>324</sup>

Israel could have stopped the vessels from reaching Gaza without landing commandoes onto the vessel. Israel did not fire a shot across the bow of the Mavi Marmara, the normal way of making it clear that force would be used to stop a vessel.<sup>325</sup> Other Israel should have considered using included maneuvering a vessel in front of the Mavi Marmara to block its passage and force a change in direction.

Israel’s failure to warn the convoy of an imminent use of force has had another crucial repercussion on the manner in which the tragedy unfolded. As mentioned earlier, an understanding between the Undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Israeli Foreign Ministry’s Director General had been reached whereby the convoy would first try to arrive at Gaza, but if necessary, alter its course to Al-Arish. The actual Israeli attack gave the convoy no chance to change its course as per the above-mentioned understanding: the IDF gave no indication of an imminent use of force, such as a warning shot across the bow.

Under these circumstances, the Mavi Marmara’s captain acted as soon as the Israeli attack began. He went as far as to alter the ship’s course to 270°, heading West, away from Israel, the Gaza Strip and even Al-Arish.<sup>326, 327</sup>

<sup>324</sup> Gershom Gorenberg, *A Brief History of the Gaza Folly*, The American Prospect, 1 June 2010,

<[http://prospect.org/cs/articles?article=a\\_brief\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_gaza\\_folly](http://prospect.org/cs/articles?article=a_brief_history_of_the_gaza_folly)>

<sup>325</sup> Professor Guilfoyle has said that the rule “that warning shots shall be used in cases other than self-defence, is universally accepted.” Douglas Guilfoyle, *Gaza Fleet Raid Raises Questions over Legality of Israel's Blockade*, The Times (London), 1 June 2010, <<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article7142055.ece>>

<sup>326</sup> For the testimony of Captain Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i & Section 3/xv)

<sup>327</sup> For the relevant maps and data obtained from Undersecretariat for Maritime Affairs, see Annex 3 (Section 7)

It is to be assumed that the convoy would have altered its course as per the earlier understanding, had the Israelis given a clear warning about imminent use of force.

#### v. Naval blockades and state practice

State practice provides important standards to be followed by States in enforcing blockades. The San Remo Manual Rules are for the most part considered to be a restatement of customary international law, which is based on widespread State practice and *opinio juris*. It should be underlined that an example of one country based on national naval manuals without the required *opinio juris* does not establish customary international law.

Among those blockades recognized as lawful according to customary international law is the example of the Cuban Missile Crisis, which has been viewed by most commentators as a carefully calibrated and proportionate use of force appropriate for the situation. Interdiction was accomplished by firing shots across the bow of the ships, searching the ships sailing towards Cuba and allowing them to pass after such searches. The Cuban Quarantine was effective in deterring the “offending conduct” and in limiting the “flow of targeted trade into and out of the target state, and controlled escalation of the crisis,” and it demonstrated that blockades can be “effective without the use of actual force.”

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Another example is provided by UN approved “Military Intercept” Operations. Operating within the framework of comprehensive economic sanctions, the Security Council authorized member states to use force,<sup>329</sup> including through the

<sup>328</sup> Richard Zeigler, *Ubi Sumus? Quo Vadimus?: Charting the Course of Maritime Interception Operations*, 43 *Naval Law Review* 1, 15 (1996).

<sup>329</sup> Lois E. Fielding, *Maritime Interception: Centerpiece of Economic Sanctions in the New World Order*, 53 *Louisiana Law Review* 1191, 1194 (1993); at 1217-18.

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establishment of these intercept operations.<sup>330</sup> The resolution enacted prior to the First Gulf War called upon:

“those Member States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait which are deploying maritime forces to the area to use such measures commensurate to the specific circumstances as may be necessary under the authority of the Security Council to halt all inward and outward maritime shipping, in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations and to insure strict implementation of the provisions related to such shipping laid down in resolution 661 (1990)...”<sup>331</sup>

Resolution 661 (1990) banned the transfer of “any commodities or products, including weapons or any other military equipment, whether or not originating in their territories, but not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs, to any person or body in Iraq or Kuwait.”<sup>332</sup> This provision was carefully crafted to conform to the requirements of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Although the prohibition is broadly worded,<sup>333</sup> the naval operations they authorized were “limited and less intrusive” compared to earlier blockades.<sup>334</sup> The military intercept operation inspected all cargo vessels in the Gulf bound for or departing from Iraq through Iraqi ports and in the Red Sea for cargo entering Iraq through the port of Aqaba, Jordan.

<sup>330</sup>Richard Zeigler, *Ubi Sumus? Quo Vadimus?: Charting the Course of Maritime Interception Operations*, 43 *Naval Law Review* 1, 15 (1996). *Supra* note 30, at 31.

<sup>331</sup> U.N. Security Council Resolution 665, Para. 1 (1990).

<sup>332</sup> U.N. Security Council Resolution 661, Para. 3(c) (1990).

<sup>333</sup> Lois E. Fielding, *Maritime Interception: Centerpiece of Economic Sanctions in the New World Order*, 53 *Louisiana Law Review* 1191, 1194 (1993); at 1217-18. See *supra* note 220 at 1217-18.

<sup>334</sup> *Ibid.*

During 1990 and 1991, “multinational forces intercepted over 17,800 vessels, boarding approximately 7,400 and diverting 410 of them.”<sup>335</sup> Similar to US practice in the Cuban Quarantine, shots would be fired, where needed, across the bow before the ship would stop. The interception policy used during the Iraq naval operations was viewed as effective and uncomplicated, as “[c]ontrols were built into the process to allow the minimum possible application of force needed.”<sup>336</sup>

The multinational forces carrying out this military intercept operation “made it very clear from the outset of the interception operations that only the ‘minimum force necessary’ would be used.”<sup>337</sup> If force were required, it began “with warning shots across the bow,” and if necessary escalated “to disabling fire aimed at the rudders or sternpost.”<sup>338</sup> This approach, with “disabling shots” as the *final military option* is designed to ensure that the ship can be intercepted “if at all possible without risk to human lives.”<sup>339</sup>

These recent examples of State practice and United Nations authorizations help to establish the current principles governing naval blockades. Notice is required, as discussed earlier, and all blockades are governed by the requirements of proportionality, necessity,<sup>340</sup> and reasonableness. Dr. Stephen C. Neff, of the University of Edinburgh School of Law, has explained that “[a]ccording to the

<sup>335</sup> J. Astley III & Michael N. Schmitt, *The Law of the Sea and Naval Operations*, 42 *Air Force Law Review* 119, 139 (1997) at 146 n. 110

<sup>336</sup> Lois E. Fielding, *Maritime Interception: Centerpiece of Economic Sanctions in the New World Order*, 53 *Louisiana Law Review* 1191, 1194 (1993); at 1217-18. See *supra* note 231, at 1218.

<sup>337</sup> Jane Gilliland Dalton, *The Influence of Law on Seapower in Desert Shield / Desert Storm*, 41 *Naval Law Review* 27, 33 (1993) p. 58. See *supra* note 220, at 58.

<sup>338</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>339</sup> Rob McLaughlin, *United Nations Mandated Naval Interdiction Operations in the Territorial Sea?*, 51 *International & Comparative Law Quarterly* 249, 261 (2002).

<sup>340</sup> Lois E. Fielding, *Maritime Interception: Centerpiece of Economic Sanctions in the New World Order*, 53 *Louisiana Law Review* 1191, 1194 (1993); at 1217-18. See *supra* note 231, at 1203 (stating that the principles of necessity, humanity, and proportionality are part of the law of armed conflict).

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principle of necessity, blockades would only be permissible under certain restricted circumstances (*i.e.* when necessity was actually present), it would not be an automatic right . . .”<sup>341</sup> The principle of proportionality, he further stated, “would imply that only certain types of trade could be stopped (*i.e.*, trade in goods that furthered the aggression). . . . [and] would furthermore imply that the self-defending state would only be entitled to divert neutral ships away from the blockaded area, not to capture and confiscate them.”<sup>342</sup> The principles of proportionality and necessity are also central to the rules found in the San Remo Manual discussed next.<sup>343</sup>

According to the San Remo Manual, when a blockade is in place, the belligerent state is required to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to those in the area being blockaded,<sup>344</sup> and belligerents may not attack ships loaded with medical supplies and humanitarian aid.<sup>345</sup> Given that vessels carrying humanitarian aid are exempt from attack and presumably capture, the passengers on board the

<sup>341</sup> Stephen C. Neff, *Towards a Law of Unarmed Conflict: A Proposal for a New International Law of Hostility*, 28 *Cornell International Law Journal* 1, 24 (1995). See *supra* note 158, at 19.

<sup>342</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>343</sup> Stephen C. Neff, *Towards a Law of Unarmed Conflict: A Proposal for a New International Law of Hostility*, 28 *Cornell International Law Journal* 1, 24 (1995). See *supra* note 144 and 146.

The SAN REMO MANUAL permits blockades as a “method of warfare,” but Article 94 requires that they be formally declared, providing “the commencement, duration, location, and extent of the blockade.” Article 98 says merchant ships “breaching a blockade may be captured” and those “which, after prior warning, clearly resist capture may be attacked.” Article 102 says blockades are prohibited if their “sole purpose” is to “starv[e] the civilian population or deny[] it other objects essential for its survival” and if “the damage to the civilian population is, or may be expected to be, excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the blockade.” Article 67(a) permits attacks on neutral-flag ships if they “are believed on reasonable grounds to be carrying contraband or breaching a blockade, and after prior warning they intentionally and clearly refuse to stop, or intentionally and clearly resist visit, search or capture.” See also Article 146 (same). San Remo Manual Article 103 requires blockading party to permit “food and other objects essential for its survival” to pass through. San Remo Articles 39, 40, 41, 42, and 46 require protection of civilians and proportionality.

<sup>344</sup> San Remo Manual, Articles. 103-104. But these provisions also provide some support for Israel’s position that the belligerent state can control the way in which the aid is disbursed and can search the shipment for contraband. Israel thus argues that it was within its rights to order the Convoy to travel to Ashdod, and to board the ships after they refused.

<sup>345</sup> San Remo Manual, Article. 47(c)(ii) lists “vessels engaged in humanitarian missions, including vessels carrying supplies indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, and vessels engaged in relief actions and rescue operations” as being exempt from attack.

Mavi Marmara were within their rights to resist the Israeli attempts to stop, divert or seize the ship.

## **G. The legal implications of the Israeli attack**

### **i. The disproportionate nature of the attack**

Israel's claim that it was entitled to interdict the vessels in the humanitarian aid convoy rests on its argument that it was acting in self-defence to enforce a legitimately-established blockade. First and foremost, as explained earlier, the "blockade" itself is unlawful and, therefore, any action taken within the ambit of such a "blockade" is devoid of legitimacy. Consequently, Israel can only legally justify what is otherwise an unlawful blockade on grounds of reasonable suspicion that the humanitarian convoy

- i) was making an effective contribution to the opposing forces' war effort, such as by carrying weaponry or was otherwise closely integrated into the enemy war effort (belligerent right of capture);  
or
- ii) posed an imminent and overwhelming threat to Israel and there was no alternative but to use force to prevent it (self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter).

Based on Prime Minister Netanyahu's statements, the Fact Finding Mission found that the decision to stop the flotilla was not because the vessel presented any immediate security threat to Israel, and concluded that the interception was motivated by concerns about the possible propaganda victory that might be claimed by the organizers of the flotilla.<sup>346</sup>

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<sup>346</sup> See paragraph 56 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

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Moreover, the actions taken by Israel against the Mavi Marmara and the wanton killing and wounding of many of its passengers were unreasonable because the latter did not pose any legitimate security threat to Israel.<sup>347</sup> The Rules in the San Remo Manual allow blockades as a military tactic in certain circumstances, but Article 47(c)(ii) does not permit attacks on civilians or on vessels carrying humanitarian goods.<sup>348</sup> The Israeli forces had the choice of using methods to engage the vessel without causing loss of life. At various points during the operation, it could and should have reassessed its strategy and adopted a different approach. Its military operation must, therefore, be viewed as disproportionate and in violation of international law.

## ii. Excessive use of force and misconduct

Applying the principles of reasonableness, proportionality, and necessity to evaluate the actions of the Israeli forces on 31 May 2010 leads to the conclusion that the Israeli military operation violated governing principles of international law. The decision to send “a handful of Israeli soldiers to seize the ship -- a decision approved by Prime Minister Netanyahu and his inner circle of ministers” not only “shows hubris, poor intelligence work, and determined inability to learn from experience,” but also demonstrates the unreasonableness of the Israeli interception of the Mavi Marmara.<sup>349</sup> It is not reasonable to think that “arrival of Israeli soldiers would convince the crew and passengers to submit.” The use of Shayetet 13, “an elite unit, trained for daring operations,” was inappropriate in a situation requiring personnel who had “training in crowd control and self-restraint.”

<sup>347</sup> The Mavi Marmara was located well outside Israel’s 12-mile territorial sea when Israel’s military operation against it began on May 31, 2010. Israel has not yet declared an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) but is apparently contemplating doing so. Neither Turkey nor Israel has ratified the 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention, but most parts of the Convention are thought to reflect binding customary international law.

<sup>348</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 47(c)(ii)

<sup>349</sup> See *supra* note 302



The Israeli soldiers were armed with a range of lethal force, including machine guns and grenades approached a passenger vessel with over 600 civilians under the cover of darkness and after severing the convoy's links with the outside world clearly with the intent of a covert operation the goal of which was the creation of intimidation and fear, which they succeeded in generating.

As mentioned earlier, Israel could have stopped the vessels from reaching Gaza without landing commandoes onto the vessel. Israel did not fire a shot across the bow of the Mavi Marmara, the normal way of making it clear that force would be used to stop a vessel.<sup>350</sup> Other methods Israel should have considered using included maneuvering a vessel in front of the Mavi Marmara to block its passage and force a change in direction. General Giora Eiland, in his report prepared for the Israeli Defence Forces, has indicated that a ship was available that could have directed powerful streams of water at the activists, but acknowledged that this approach was not used.<sup>351</sup> Another option would have been "disabling fire aimed at the rudders or sternpost" as used in the military intercept operations during the First Gulf War. It is not clear why this option was not acted upon.

The decision to use live ammunition was also clearly irresponsible, since other non-lethal options were available.<sup>352</sup> Upon meeting initial resistance, the IDF forces should have reassessed their strategy to save lives, rather than to persist with their original plan.<sup>353</sup> The question which must be asked is why these

<sup>350</sup> Professor Guilfoyle has said that the rule "that warning shots shall be used in cases other than self-defence, is universally accepted." Douglas Guilfoyle, *Gaza Fleet Raid Raises Questions over Legality of Israel's Blockade*, *The Times (London)*, June 1, 2010, <<http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/law/article7142055.ece>> (15 January 2011)

<sup>351</sup> Eiland Video Report, Israeli Defense Forces, 13 July 2010 <<http://idfspokesperson.com/2010/07/15/videos-timeline-of-flotilla-incident-as-presented-by-eiland-team-of-experts-english-version-13-july-2010/>> (15 January 2011)

<sup>352</sup> The commandos were armed with paintball guns and percussion grenades as well as firearms.

<sup>353</sup> Yaakov Katz, *IDF Probe: Army Didn't Have 'Plan B'*, *JERUSALEM POST*, July 12, 2010 <<http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=181182>>.

highly trained military Israeli soldiers continued to spread fear among civilians by firing at them from the Zodiacs, before boarding the vessel, when the fearful and disoriented resistance of the civilians was obvious.

Defence Minister Barak recounted that the decision to stop the convoy was taken by himself and six other Ministers of the inner cabinet after deliberating the option to allow it to pass or interdict it on the high seas despite the “high probability that violent friction” would occur.<sup>354</sup> The likelihood of violence and the negative media exposure for Israel were discussed at great length. Alternative measures were also discussed. Defence Minister Barak recounts that during high level meetings, questions were asked on how the forces would react to different forms of resistance such as “protest” resistance or “terror” resistance. During the Ministerial meeting, a prescient question anticipating in eerie detail the events that would actually transpire on the deck of the Mavi Marmara, was posed to Minister Barak as “could a situation be created that you will be in the minority and out of weakness, because of crowding on the deck, you will find yourselves in the position that you will have to open fire?” and “What happens if 30 of the rioters will block your way to the bridge, and it will not be possible to get there easily.” Minister Barak has acknowledged that the decision to stop the convoy was taken after “prolonged deliberation”, but has stubbornly insisted that “one had to stop the convoy, with all the attendant risks and developments that were clearly presented by the chief of staff and other.”

More than deliberating, the Israeli forces actually conducted an exercise at sea as part of the preparation for interdicting the aid convoy, similar to a war exercise. There is no question that the Israeli forces had studied carefully every

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<sup>354</sup> Public Commission for Examining the Naval Incident of 31 May 2010 (The Turkel Commission), Session Three, 10.08.2010, <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/NR/rdonlyres/0427E10C-01BB-4330-A60E-54D265AE6496/0/BarakTurkelAug10.pdf>> (15 January 2011)

aspect of the interdiction and knew that they probably would meet resistance. They chose the path of violence and were fully prepared for its consequences.

When the Israeli forces attacked the Mavi Marmara and other ships in the aid convoy, the civilians on board had the right to defend themselves. The Israeli approach to the Mavi Marmara following the severance of the convoy's communications with the rest of the world before daybreak and the presence of Zodiacs, frigates, submarines and helicopters created a reasonable apprehension of danger and terror by the passengers and entitled them to exercise their right of self-defence. Specifically, the Israeli soldiers descended from the first helicopter fully cognizant that the crowd was already agitated by the circumstances and fire from the Zodiacs. The Israeli forces approached with guns, grenades, paintball guns and laser-guided weapons against passengers, who therefore had to employ whatever objects came to hand. Upon meeting resistance, the Israeli forces should have developed a new plan to stop the boats.<sup>355</sup>

Consistent with this view, the UN Fact Finding Mission concluded in its report dated 22 September 2010 that "much of the force used by the Israeli soldiers on board the Mavi Marmara and from the helicopters was unnecessary, disproportionate, excessive and inappropriate and resulted in the wholly avoidable killing and maiming of a large number of civilian passengers."<sup>356</sup>

## **H. Additional violations of international law by Israel**

### **i. Targeting of civilians**

The April 1996 Text of Ceasefire Understanding, which Israel accepted during the Lebanese conflict, includes the provision that "Israel and those cooperating

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<sup>355</sup> San Remo Manual, Article 46(d) explicitly says that "an attack shall be cancelled or suspended as soon as it becomes apparent that the collateral casualties or damage would be excessive."

<sup>356</sup> See also paragraph 162 through to 173 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

with it will not fire any kind of weapon at civilians or civilian targets in Lebanon.<sup>357</sup> This principle is codified in Articles 51(5)(b) and 57(2)(b) of the First Additional Protocol (1977) to the 1949 Geneva Conventions<sup>358</sup>, which prohibit attacks that are expected to cause civilian casualties that “would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.”

The Israeli Supreme Court has recognized “the duty to do everything possible to minimize collateral damage to the civilian population during the attacks on ‘combatants’”<sup>359</sup> and has also ruled that, pursuant to the principle of proportionality, even civilians taking a direct part in hostilities may not be physically attacked if less harmful means could be employed against them, such as arrest, interrogation, and trial.<sup>360</sup> This conclusion was based on the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *McCann v. United Kingdom*, where the court decided that the United Kingdom had deprived three IRA terrorists in Northern Ireland of their right to life under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights by using lethal force without taking steps that “would have avoided the deprivation of life of the suspects without putting the lives of others at risk.”<sup>361</sup>

<sup>357</sup> W. Michael Riesman, *The Lessons of Qanna*, 22 *Yale Journal of International Law* 381, 382 n. 1 (1997).

<sup>358</sup> Protocol Additional (No.1) to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, June 8, 1977, 1125 U.N.T.S. 3.

<sup>359</sup> *Public Committee Against Torture in Israel v. Government of Israel*, Supreme Court of Israel Sitting as the High Court of Justice, HCJ 769/02 (Dec. 13, 2006), p. 19.

<[http://elyon1.court.gov.il/files\\_eng/02/690/007/a34/02007690.a34.pdf](http://elyon1.court.gov.il/files_eng/02/690/007/a34/02007690.a34.pdf)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>360</sup> *Ibid.* p. 29.

<sup>361</sup> *McCann v. United Kingdom*, 21 ECHR 97 GC p. 235 (1995).

<<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?action=html&documentId=695820&portal=hbkm&source=external/bydocnumber&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649>> (15 January 2011)

**ii. Violations of fundamental human rights and mistreatment of passenger victims**

Many violations of the applicable peacetime law were committed by Israeli soldiers during the attack against the Mavi Marmara and the other vessels of the convoy.

The Israeli soldiers shot nine unarmed civilians on board, violating their right to life. The right to life is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and also in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Israel has been a party since 1991. The General Comment (No. 6) by the Human Rights Committee underscores that States Parties to ICCPR should “take measures not only to prevent and punish deprivation of life by criminal acts, but also to prevent arbitrary killing by their own security forces.”

Israel purports to have applied the principle of distinction in the treatment of the passengers. Yet, the facts show that all passengers were deprived of human rights and human dignity while on board the vessels and throughout their detention in Israel.

Israeli soldiers mistreated all passengers through physical violence by kicking and beating them. Passengers were forced to sit or kneel in the same position for hours. When they attempted to stand up, they were beaten down with batons. As detailed earlier, passengers were subjected to extreme physical and psychological abuse by the soldiers. Although many passengers suffered from injuries, Israeli soldiers did not allow the ship doctor to treat the wounded.

Such unlawful conduct constitutes clear violations of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment under Article 7 of the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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(CAT) to which Israel has been a party since 1991, and also a breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The same conclusion was reached by the UN Fact Finding Mission which qualified the Israeli forces' treatment of the passengers as "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and, insofar as the treatment was additionally applied as a form of punishment, torture. This represents a violation of articles 7 and 10, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment."<sup>362</sup>

Human rights violations by the Israeli officials continued during the 10-hour journey to the Port of Ashdod and while the passengers were in captivity in Israel. Israeli doctors treated one victim's injured leg without sedating him.<sup>363</sup> Many of those hospitalized passengers reported maltreatment from the soldiers. Again, such conduct constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and the right to health under CAT, ICCPR and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The UN Fact Finding Commission found cases of abuse of rights and acts of torture committed by Israeli officials against passengers while detained in Ashdod in violation of Article 1 of the Convention against Torture, and articles 7 and 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, the Commission also concluded that humiliation of the passengers by Israeli officials constituted cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under the terms of article 16 of the Convention against Torture.<sup>364</sup> Overall the Commission noted other serious violations of human rights law and

<sup>362</sup> See paragraph 181 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>363</sup> For the testimony of Abdülhamit Ateş, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xi)

<sup>364</sup> See paragraph 220 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

humanitarian law resulting from the physical abuse and treatment of passengers that would constitute a violation of right to security of person and human dignity.

Some passengers were forced to strip naked and searched multiple times. The temperature was kept excessively cold like "a cold storage". One woman journalist was forced to remove all her clothes and the soldiers forcibly inserted a metal detector between her legs. She stated to our Commission that she had never been subjected to such degrading treatment in her life. Another passenger reported that she was touched inappropriately after she was bound and handcuffed by Israeli commandos. Such practices amount to torture, degrading or inhuman treatment under ICCPR, CAT and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The passengers were not allowed to fulfill their most basic needs. They were not permitted to use the restrooms for hours and as a result elderly people and a pregnant woman wetted themselves and soiled their clothes.<sup>365</sup> When, finally, passengers were allowed to use the restrooms in the ship only two were made available for 600 passengers. The passengers were given insufficient water and food. As such, Israeli soldiers acted in breach of the prohibition of torture, degrading and inhuman treatment according to ICCPR, CAT and the European Convention on Human Rights.

One woman passenger of Israeli citizenship was brought to court in a small metal box inside a police car, in which she was held for eight hours with her hands and legs shackled.<sup>366</sup> Again, this treatment would amount to torture and

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<sup>365</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>366</sup> Lubna Masarwa, *Time to break the siege on Gaza: A survivor's account of Mavi Marmara*; International Solidarity Movement, 7 June 2010,

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degrading treatment under ICCPR, CAT and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Passengers' money, credit cards, camera, laptops, mobile phones were confiscated. This is a clear violation of property rights under article 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention of Human Rights and article 17 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Israeli soldiers forced the passengers to fill out forms in Hebrew without translation. Soldiers explained that the forms were admissions that the participants had entered Israel without permission. Passengers were required to sign Hebrew-only statements which most did not understand, saying they regretted attacking the State of Israel. The people who refused were beaten and threatened with prosecution. Such conduct is a violation of the right to liberty and security of persons under Article 9 of ICCPR and Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Again, beatings and physical violence would amount to torture and ill treatment under ICCPR, CAR and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Passengers were interrogated without the presence of their lawyers. They were denied the right to legal aid. Consular access was both limited and restricted. Passengers were allowed to use the telephone on the condition that they spoke in English, which excluded many. They were subject to unlawful deportation instead of repatriation. These are clear examples of violations of the right to liberty and security of persons under Article 9 of ICCPR and Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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<[http://palsolidarity.org/2010/06/12704/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed:+palsolidarity+\(International+Solidarity+Movement\)](http://palsolidarity.org/2010/06/12704/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+palsolidarity+(International+Solidarity+Movement))> (7 June 2010)

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Member of the Knesset, Haneen Zoabi was subjected to racist and sexist remarks. Some Westerners noticed a clear distinction in the treatment of “white” and “brown” passengers. Most western women were not handcuffed. Such discrimination is a breach of the ban on discrimination according to Article 2 of ICCPR and article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The UN Fact Finding Mission also considered the attack on the Mavi Marmara and its aftermath as constituting, in addition to breaching international human rights, violations of international humanitarian law provisions that may not be derogated from under any circumstances.<sup>367</sup>

#### **I. Entitlement to compensation**

It is a central principle of international law that when a State violates its international obligations, it has a duty to make reparations for the wrongs committed. This principle has been codified by the International Law Commission in its Draft Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts<sup>368</sup>.

Article 31 of the Draft Articles reads as follows:

*“Reparation:*

1. The responsible State is under an obligation to make full reparation for the injury caused by the internationally wrongful act.
2. Injury includes any damage, whether material or moral, caused by the internationally wrongful act of a State.”

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<sup>367</sup> See paragraph 182 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>368</sup> UNGA A/CN.4/L.602/Rev. 1 (26 July 2001).

Article 36 *Compensation* further states that:

- “1. The State responsible for an internationally wrongful act is under an obligation to compensate for the damage caused thereby, insofar as such damage is not made good by restitution.
2. The compensation shall cover any financially assessable damage including loss of profits insofar as it is established.”

The Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ) in the *Factory at Chorzów Case* stated that “reparation must, as far as possible, wipe out all the consequences of the illegal act and re-establish the situation which would, in all probability, have existed if that act had not been committed.”<sup>369</sup> When direct restitution or restoration of the prior conditions is impossible (as when individuals are killed or wounded) compensation becomes the appropriate remedy.

The ICJ recognized in the *Gabcikovo Case* that “[i]t is a well-established rule of international law that an injured State is entitled to obtain compensation from the State which has committed an internationally wrongful act for the damage caused by it.”<sup>370</sup> This rule was later reaffirmed by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in its first full opinion, *The M/V Saiga Case*.<sup>371</sup> When addressing the question of damages, the Tribunal quoted from the venerable

<sup>369</sup> *Factory at Chorzów*, (*Germany v. Poland*), 1928 P.C.I.J., Series A, No. 17, at 47-48 (Sept. 13).

<sup>370</sup> *Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary v. Slovakia)*, 1997 I.C.J. 7, 80 ¶ 152 (Sept. 25). See also *Genocide Convention (Bosnia v. Serbia)*, 2007 I.C.J. ¶460; *Construction of a Wall*, Advisory Opinion, 2004 I.C.J. 136, 198; *Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda*, 2005 I.C.J. 168, 257.

<sup>371</sup> *The M/V Saiga Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea)*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, July 1, 1999, Para. 170 <[http://www.itlos.org/case\\_documents/2001/document\\_en\\_68.pdf](http://www.itlos.org/case_documents/2001/document_en_68.pdf)> (15 January 2011)

*Factory at Chorzów Case* for the proposition that every wrong requires a remedy:

“It is a well-established rule of international law that a State which suffers damage as a result of an internationally wrongful act by another State is entitled to obtain reparation for the damage suffered from the State which committed the wrongful act and that “reparation must, as far as possible, wipe out all the consequences of the illegal act and reestablish the situation which would, in all probability, have existed if that act had not been committed”<sup>372</sup>

Pursuant to this framework, the Tribunal awarded 2,123,357 USD to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for damages resulting from the detention of the *Saiga*, the damage to the vessel, and the injury to the crewmembers.<sup>373</sup>

In the *Rainbow Warrior* case, mediated by the U.N. Secretary-General in 1986, France paid New Zealand the sum of 7 million USD “for all the damage it has suffered” which also included the “moral damage” as well as compensation.<sup>374</sup> France paid a further 2.3 million French francs to the widow, children, and parents of Fernando Pereira, who had perished, and 8.1 million USD to Greenpeace.<sup>375</sup>

<sup>372</sup> *Factory at Chorzów, (Germany v. Poland)*, 1928 P.C.I.J., Series A, No. 17. Page. 47

<sup>373</sup> *The M/V Saiga Case (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines v. Guinea)*, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, July 1, 1999, Para. 175 <[http://www.itlos.org/case\\_documents/2001/document\\_en\\_68.pdf](http://www.itlos.org/case_documents/2001/document_en_68.pdf)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>374</sup> *Rainbow Warrior (New Zealand v. France)* France-New Zealand Arbitration Tribunal. 30 April 1990 <[http://untreaty.un.org/cod/riaa/cases/vol\\_XX/215-284.pdf](http://untreaty.un.org/cod/riaa/cases/vol_XX/215-284.pdf)>

<sup>375</sup> Mark W. Janis & John E. Noyes, *International Law* 280 (3d ed. 2006) (citing Philip Shabecoff, *France Must Pay Greenpeace \$8 Million in Sinking of Ship*, N.Y. TIMES, Oct. 3, 1987, at A2).

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These examples of State practice illustrate that it has become an accepted practice by the international community to provide compensation, and this obligation now extends even to civilian victims of military action, because such payments serve the goal of ensuring proportionality by forcing military forces to internalize the real costs of failing to properly assess the impact of a military operation on civilians. Israel should, therefore, be required to pay compensation and issue a formal apology for those killed and wounded during the IDF's military operation against the Mavi Marmara on 31 May 2010.

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### III. CONCLUSIONS

In light of the foregoing, the Commission has reached the following factual and legal conclusions:

1. The international humanitarian aid convoy was a civilian initiative. Its aims were peaceful. It constituted no threat to Israel.
2. All the Turkish ports used by the convoy possessed ISPS Certificates. All participants, ships and cargo departing from Turkish ports were subjected to the entire range of border and boarding checks, in a manner consistent with international standards.
3. There were no firearms on board the ships.
4. Prior to the convoy's departure, an understanding was reached among Turkish, Israeli and American officials that the convoy would eventually steer towards the Egyptian port of Al-Arish, when faced with compelling opposition. Events demonstrated that Israel did not abide by this understanding.
5. No attempt was made by the Israeli forces to visit and search the vessels before taking any other action.
6. Israeli forces severed the ships' communication capabilities. This put the vessels, passengers and crew at risk.
7. The Israeli forces launched an attack against the convoy approximately 2 hours after the last communication with the vessels.
8. The attack took place in international waters, 72 nautical miles from the nearest shore.
9. When the Israeli forces took control of the ship, nine passengers had been killed. Israel seriously breached the fundamental right of a human being, namely the "Right to Life"

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10. Five of the deceased were shot in the head at close range. Furkan Doğan received 5 gunshot wounds, three of them in the head. After he fell down receiving the first bullet in his foot, two Israeli soldiers kicked and shot him in execution style. Cevdet Kılıçlar, a photographer, was killed by a single distant shot to the middle of the forehead. The nine dead passengers suffered a total of 30 bullet wounds.
11. As a result of the attack over 50 had sustained wounds of varying gravity. One wounded passenger remains in coma.
12. The attack was carried out by an overwhelming Israeli force comprising frigates, zodiacs, helicopters, submarines, and fully-equipped elite commando units.
13. Prior to their attack, the Israeli forces did not proceed with standard warning practices, i.e. firing across the bow, to indicate an imminent use of force.
14. Israeli forces initially tried to board the Mavi Marmara from zodiacs. At this stage, the Israeli forces fired the first shots.
15. The nature and magnitude of the Israeli attack caused panic among the passengers who, in fear for their lives, reacted in self-defence.
16. The Israeli military did not at any time pause to re-assess the situation with a view to consider the least violent options in face of the passengers' self-defence.
17. The Israeli forces opened fire with live ammunition from the zodiacs and helicopters onto the passengers on deck, resulting in the first casualties.
18. As soon as the attack started, the Captain changed the course of Mavi Marmara to a bearing of 270° heading West, in opposite direction of the Israeli coast. However, Israeli frigates approached from the starboard bow and closed in, forcing the convoy to turn to the direction of Israel.

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19. Israeli soldiers fast-rope down to the Mavi Marmara from helicopters. Three were subdued by the passengers. They were taken to the lower decks where they were treated for their non-lethal injuries.
20. Israeli soldiers shot indiscriminately, killing and wounding passengers, once on the upper deck.
21. The shooting spree of the Israeli soldiers continued in spite of the white flags waved by the passengers and multilingual surrender announcements made over the ship's PA system.
22. The Israeli forces attacked the other ships as well. Violence by Israeli soldiers occurred on all the ships of the convoy.
23. The total number of wounded on the convoy exceeded 70 from a host of nationalities.
24. On no occasion did the passengers use firearms against their Israeli assailants.
25. Once the Israeli military assumed control of the entire convoy, the vessels were diverted to the Israeli port of Ashdod.
26. Throughout the hours-long journey to Ashdod, the passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara, including the Captain, and some on the other ships were subjected to severe physical, verbal and psychological abuses.
27. These abuses continued at Ashdod, during the transfer to prisons/hospitals, en route to the Ben Gurion Airport until the passengers boarded the airplanes for departure.
28. Throughout the ordeal, passengers from virtually all the nationalities represented in the convoy were indiscriminately and brutally victimized by Israeli forces.
29. Freedom of navigation on the high seas is a long-standing universally accepted rule of international law.
30. The high seas are governed by the laws of peace time.
31. The law of naval blockade applies only in international armed conflicts.

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32. Israel does not recognize Palestine as a State. Israel has, therefore, consistently treated its conflict with Hamas as a non-international armed conflict.
33. The international community and the UN continue to regard Israel as an occupying power of the Palestinian Territory, which includes the Gaza Strip.
34. The "naval blockade" imposed by Israel off the Gaza Strip is unlawful under international law and its enforcement is therefore unlawful.
35. The "blockade" was also unlawful in its implementation and practice.
36. The "blockade"s "open-ended" nature did not comply with mandatory notification requirements under customary international law, particularly those relating to duration and extent.
37. The "blockade" was unlawful as it was not reasonable, proportional or necessary.
38. The "blockade" was excessive in the damage it inflicted on the population of the Gaza Strip in comparison to the expected military advantage.
39. The "blockade" was unlawful as it constituted collective punishment of the entire civilian population of the Gaza Strip.
40. Israel's ultimate objective through its "blockade" has been to punish the people of the Gaza Strip for supporting Hamas. This is why Israel chose in 2007 to impose a "blockade" although there were other options, and to persistently maintain it even though it did not yield its purported military objectives.
41. The international community has condemned the Israeli "blockade" of the Gaza Strip as a form of collective punishment.
42. Under customary international law, vessels carrying humanitarian aid cannot be lawfully attacked.

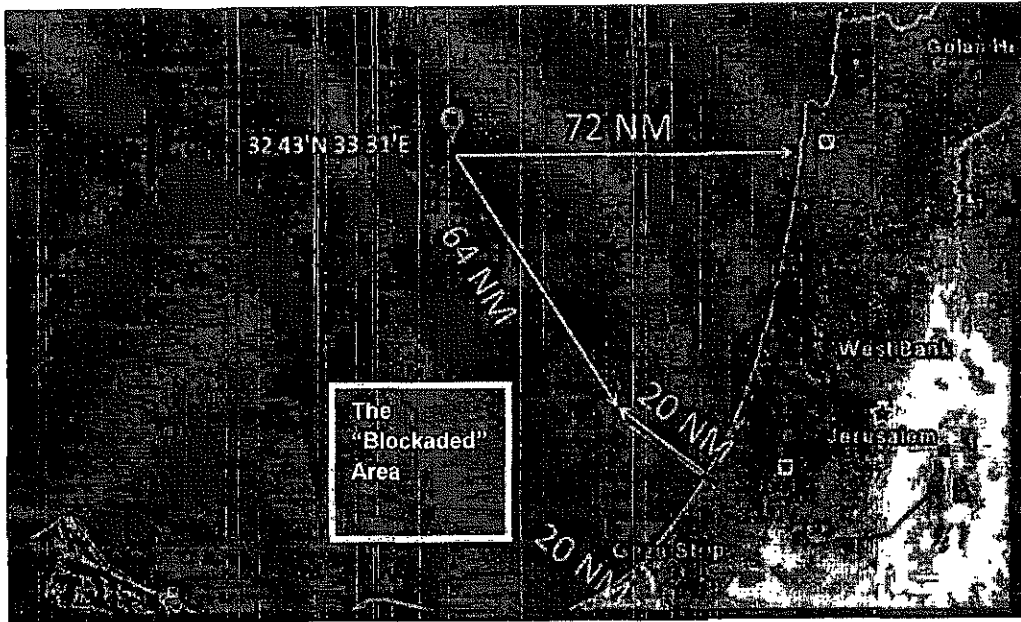
*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 116*



43. As a consequence of its attack on 31 May 2010, Israel has violated *inter alia* the right to life, the right to liberty and security of the person, freedom from arbitrary arrest or detention, prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of the passengers.
44. Israel is liable for compensating the damages and losses it caused.
45. Israel's attack must be condemned as unlawful. Any other disposition would establish a dangerous precedential derogation from the paramount right of freedom of navigation on the high seas.

MAPS

Map 1: The position of the Mavi Marmara in the moment of attack.



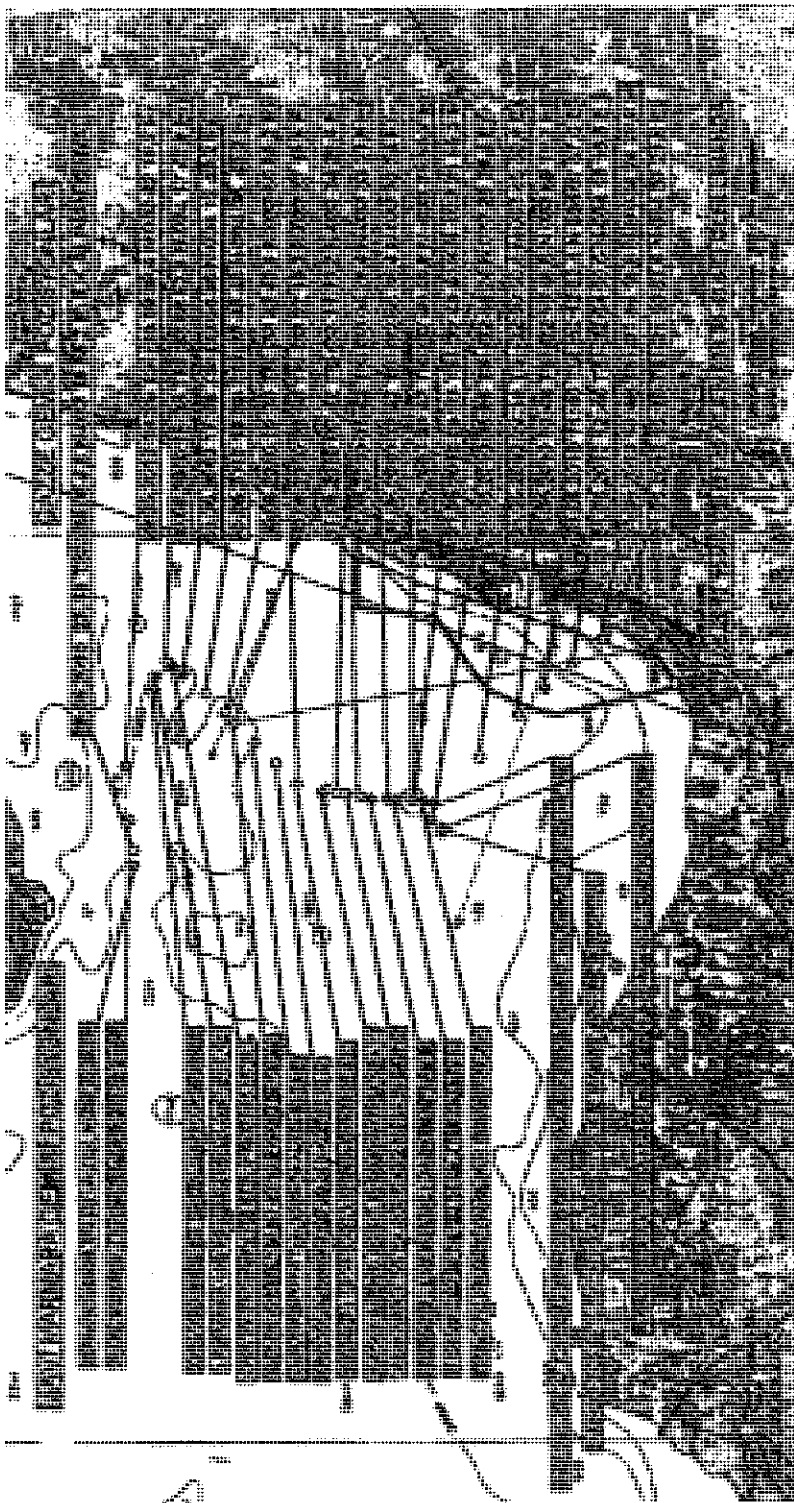
*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 118*

**Map 2: Coordinates of Mavi Marmara during its journey from 28 May 2010, 18.34 TSI until the end of Israeli attack on 31 May 2010, 05.51 TSI.**



*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 119*

**Map 3: Coordinates of Mavi Marmara and Gazze during their journey from 28 May 2010, 18.34 TSI until 31 May 2010, 06.40 TSI.**



*Report of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry 120*

RELEASED IN  
FULL

**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident  
for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.

As we made clear yesterday at the Security Council, the United States government is deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the May 31 incident 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, with Quartet support. We urge all parties to behave responsibly and uphold their international obligations.

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. As we have pointed out when confronted by a similar situations in the past, mechanisms are in place for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. 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, and the Government of Israel has legitimate security concerns.

Ultimately, this incident underscores the needs 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.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**RELEASED IN FULL**

The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy

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

*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,

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

*Emphasizing* the need to ensure 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 possible 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;
3. *Requests* the ICRC to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons
4. *Demands* the Occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.
5. *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;
6. *Welcomes* the statements of the Secretary General UN and the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.
7. *Decides* to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.
8. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 10:08 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

**RELEASED IN FULL**

Hi--I've seen some traffic but am not up to speed on this. What needs to be done today?

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

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 10:05:35 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Including others working on this.

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

**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:57:46 2010  
**Subject:** Humanitarian flotilla

All--Assume you all are working on this. I know Todd and Harold are in Kampala and bbs aren't working. I am rushing back to NYC to try to make the SC meeting, currently scheduled for 1. Anticipate much interest in legal issues focused on Israeli claims they were acting in self-defense and that the flotilla was violating international law.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN FULL

Law, Rosemary C

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS  
REDACTED

From: Sayles, Ambrose G  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:21 PM  
Subject: On the Record, Off-Camera Daily Press Briefing Thursday, June 3, 2010

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

~DEPARTMENT~

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[Redacted]

Turkish American Citizen's Death

[Redacted]

~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

[Redacted]

~TURKEY~

^^

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

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer 2

NR



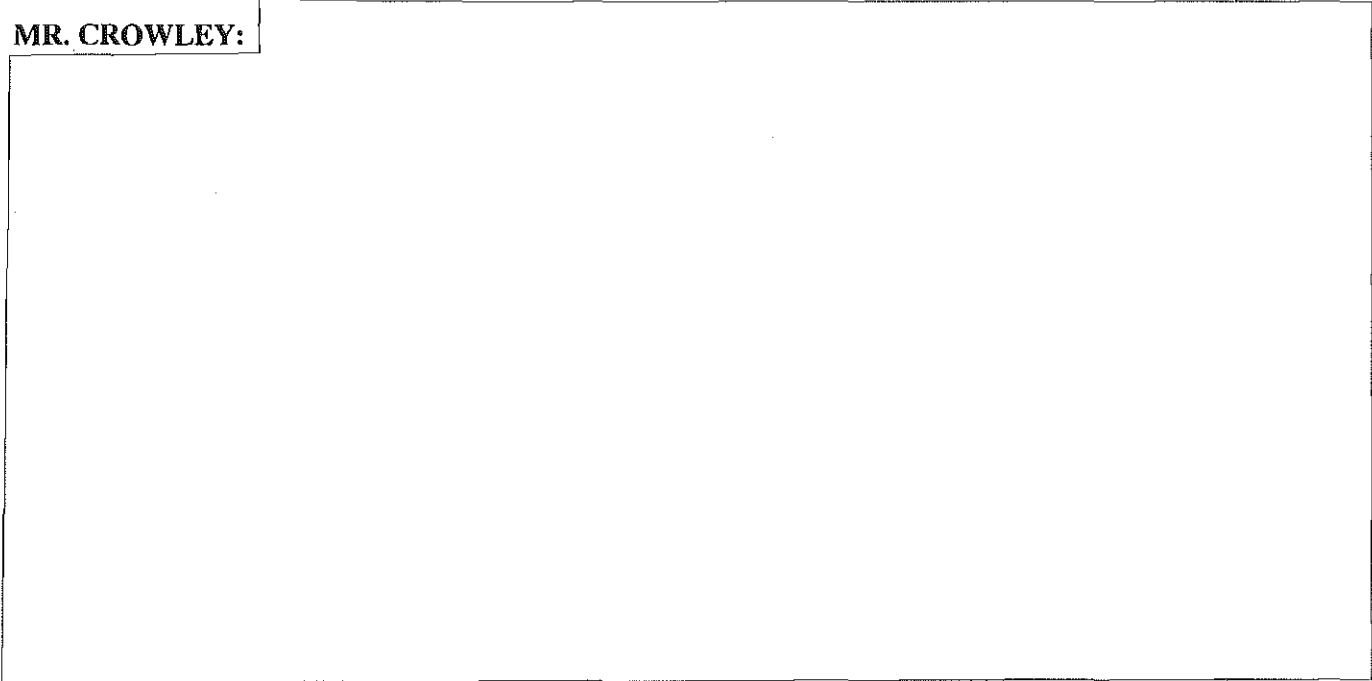
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING

DPB # 86

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

12:35 p.m. EDT

**MR. CROWLEY:**



NR

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

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.

**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.

**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

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.

**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.

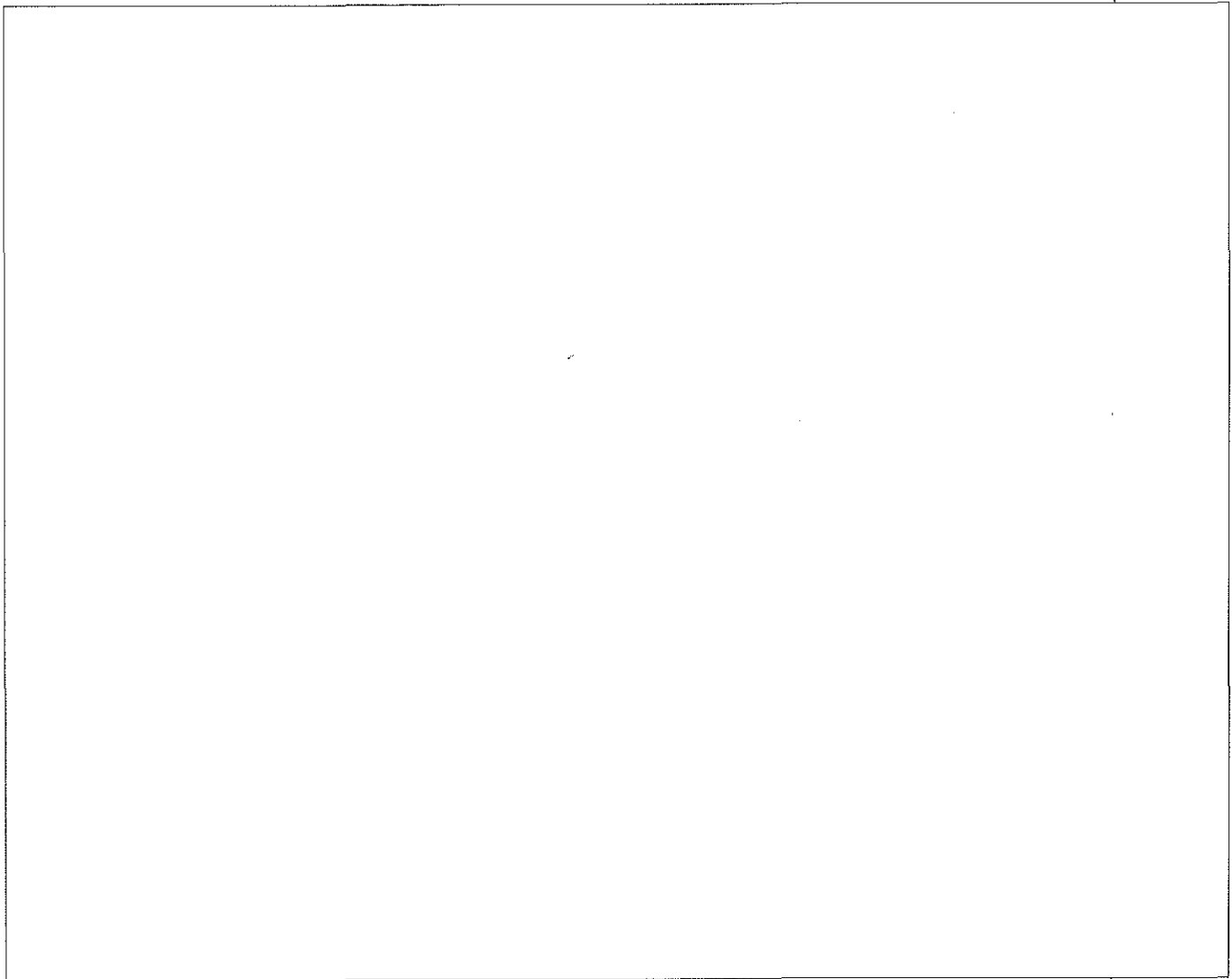
**QUESTION:** Should one interpret your comment that the current situation is not sustainable and that you believe it's not in Israel's interest to maintain the status quo -- should one interpret that to mean that you indeed have concluded that the blockade of Gaza simply isn't a good policy and you 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.

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.



NR.

**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?

**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?



**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?

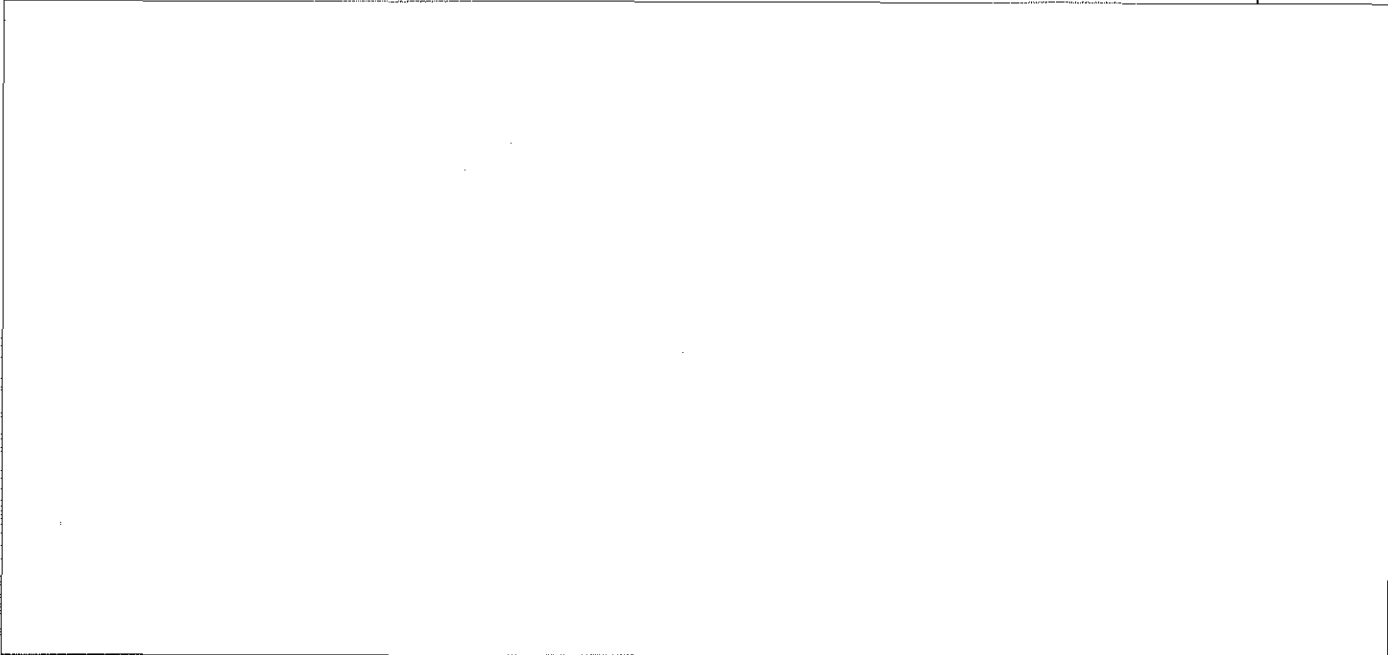
**MR. CROWLEY:** Right now, we're trying to ascertain facts. And then we have officials at a variety of levels here and in Israel are in contact with Israeli officials. We're finding out more information. We've had officials who have talked to the family.

**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.



NR

**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 --

**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.

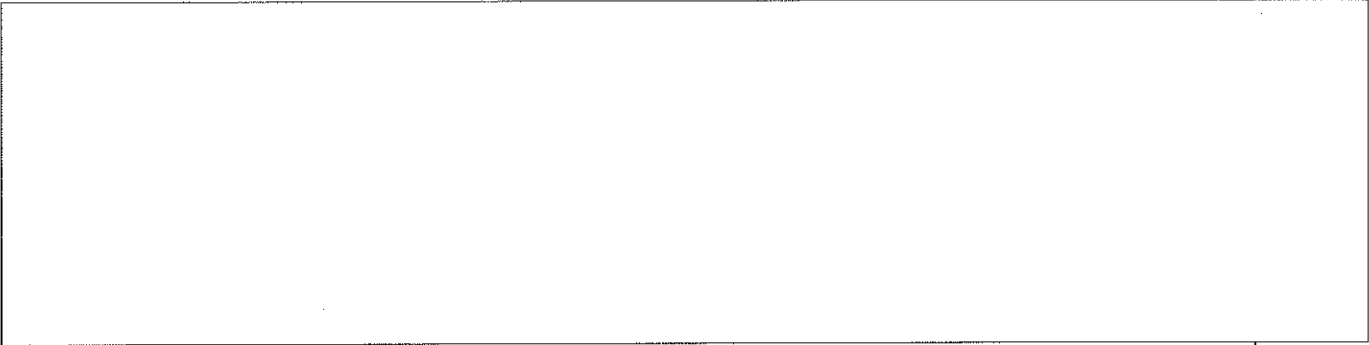
**QUESTION:** Can we change the topic?

NR

NR



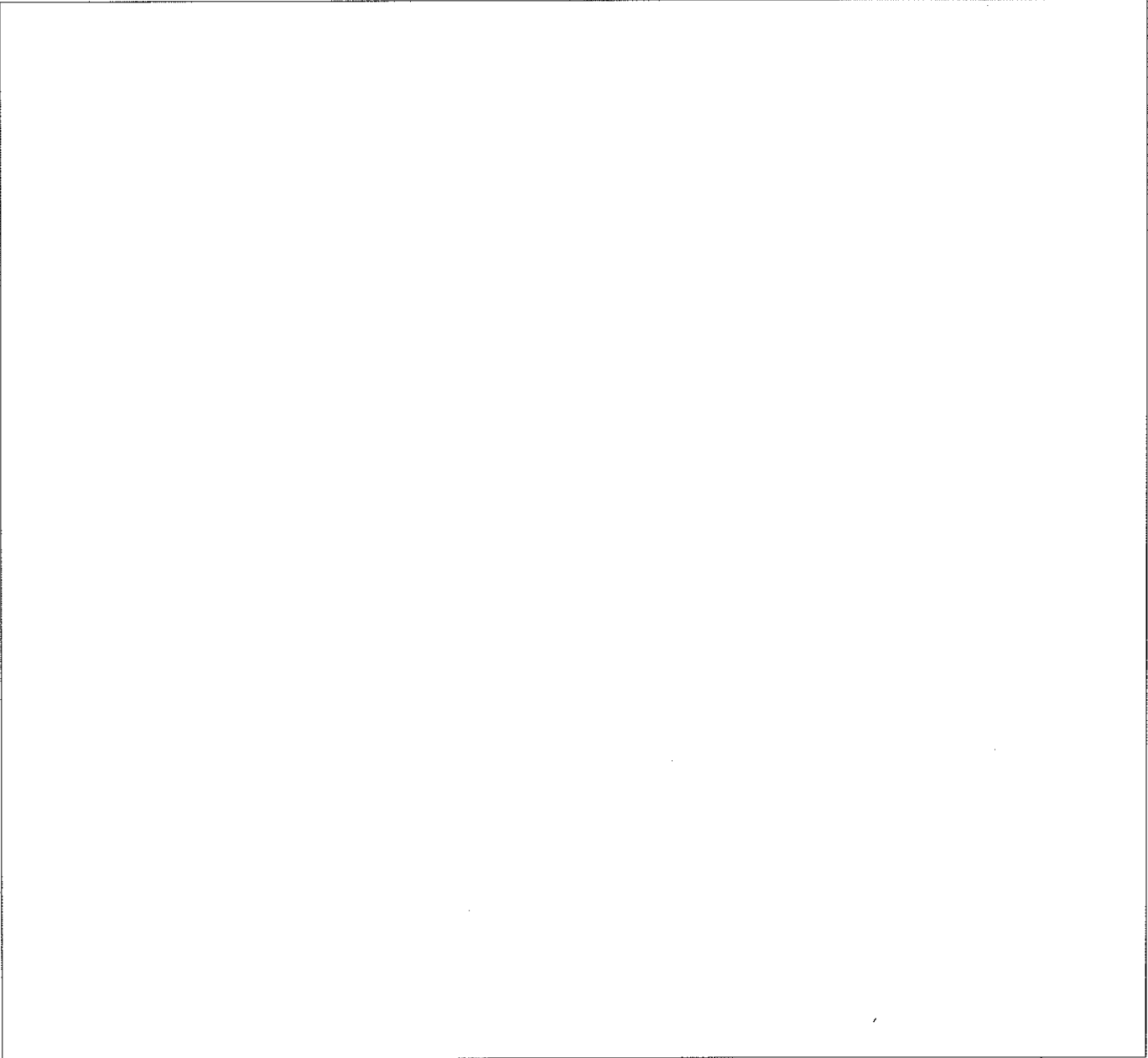
**QUESTION:** I was just thinking it's time we got out of here.



NR

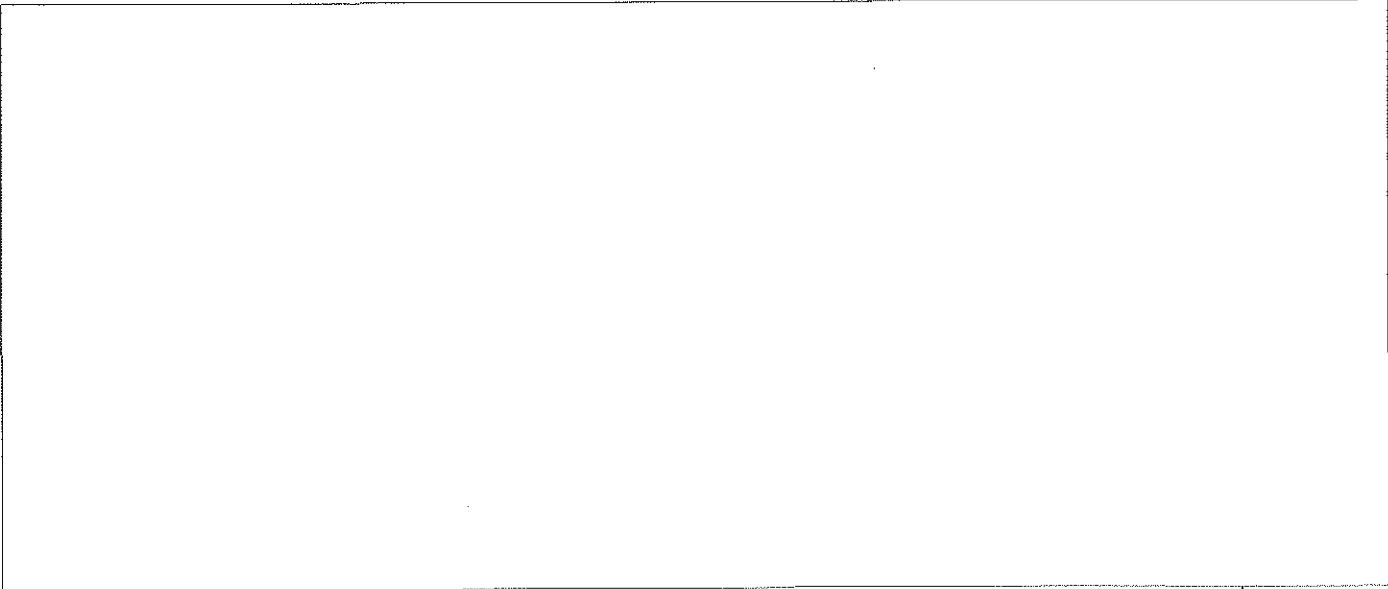
**QUESTION:** Has the Secretary spoken to anybody – back on the Israeli issue – any senior Israeli officials in the last 24 or 36 hours?

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



NR

NR



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

###

RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:41 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Holmstrom, Todd C; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Katsoulos, Athena; Waller, Robert P; Fuchs, Michael H; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Harutunian, Ruben; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:** RE: press guidance?>

This is in conjunction with the press statement. The statement will still be released and this press guidance will be used to field question. It is drawn heavily from the statement with a few additional points that are better suited for press guidance than the statement.

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:40 PM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G; Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Holmstrom, Todd C; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Katsoulos, Athena; Waller, Robert P; Fuchs, Michael H; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Harutunian, Ruben; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:** RE: press guidance?>

Is this to replace draft press statement that was circulated earlier?

---

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Katsoulos, Athena; Waller, Robert P; Fuchs, Michael H; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Harutunian, Ruben; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:**  
**Importance:** High

Hi Everyone –

Please clear the attached press guidance on the raid on the Free Gaza flotilla. Please note that your clearance is appreciated **ASAP**. We will need to move this guidance to PA soonest so that it can be used by all that need it.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**Law, Rosemary C**

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:25 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Vasquez, Edgar J; Ratney, Michael A; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; CAPRESSREQUESTS; EUR-Press; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Wills, Regina M; DRL Public Affairs; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Catalano, Elisa; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Harutunian, Ruben; Sievers, Marc J; Cooper, Kurtis A; 'Vietor, Tommy'; Hensman, Chris D; 'Chang, Benjamin'; Prince, Jonathan M; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Knopf, Payton L; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Free Gaza Flotilla  
**Importance:** High

Hi Everyone –

Please clear the attached press guidance updating the Free Gaza flotilla guidance ASAP. Please note that this picks up from yesterday, and include press guidance to cover situations primarily from yesterday and today into the weekend re: the ships currently headed toward Gaza, etc. Your prompt clearance is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Ambrose



060410-Israel-Pales  
tinians - U...

**Ambrose Sayles | Press Officer | Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs | U.S. Department of State**  
2201 C St, NW Rm 2234, Washington, DC 20520 | ☎: 202.647.4184 | ✉: [saylesag@state.gov](mailto:saylesag@state.gov)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:14 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Wills, Regina M  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Gaza Flotilla STATE DEPARTMENT statement  
**Attachments:** 053110 - Statement - Gaza Flotilla.docx

Hi Colleagues –

Please clear the attached statement on the Gaza Flotilla. Please also refer to the clearance list thus far. This is separate from a Quartet statement that is currently being drafted.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



**Law, Rosemary C**

RELEASED IN PART B6

**From:** Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 11:03 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Gutherie, Peter A; Dolan, JoAnn; Joyce, Arne  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla / Turkish Report  
**Attachments:** Turkish Report Final -.pdf

**AttachmentsClassification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

If you haven't received it through other channels, you may be interested in this final report by the Turkish National Commission on Inquiry on the Gaza flotilla. It was released on Friday. David

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Baily, Jess L  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 9:36 AM  
**To:** EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Subject:** Fw: Flotilla / Turkish Report

---

**From:** Germain, Ellen J (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 08:55 AM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L  
**Subject:** Fw: Flotilla / Turkish Report

Sent from my Blackberry

---

**From:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 11:50 PM  
**To:** Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Cc:** Bass, Warren  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla / Turkish Report

I'll have a read thru tomorrow on the plane and summarize in a memo. Cc to Warren in case Washington has not seen

**Barbara Masilko** REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer  
*Political Adviser*  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
Office 212-415-4190

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:07 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Flotilla / Turkish Report

B6

Dear Friends,

For ease of reference, the report on the Israeli attack on the Humanitarian Aid Convoy to Gaza on 31 May 2010 that was released today by the Turkish National Commission of Inquiry is attached.

Have a great weekend!



RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 11:13 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Morrison, Andrew L; Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[redacted]

B5

v/r Greg

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 10:39 AM  
**To:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Morrison, Andrew L; Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

Adding in L/AN here:

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** O'Brien, Gregory J (OES)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2010 9:22 AM  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; Baumert, Kevin A; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G  
**Cc:** [redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

Tom,

[redacted]

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[Redacted]

B5

v/r Greg

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 09, 2010 8:42 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Thomas A; Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Frelich, Karlene H; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Baumert, Kevin A; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** RE: IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

Thanks, Tom,

[Redacted]

B5

Andy

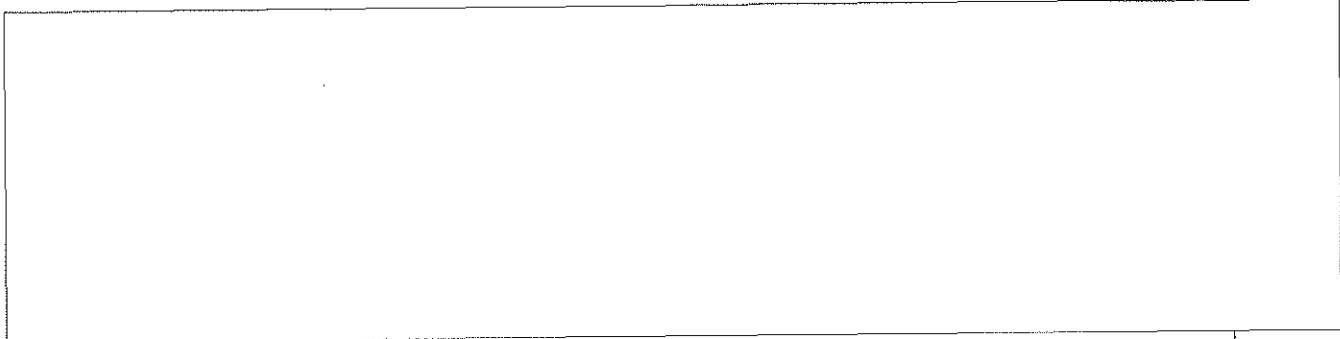
SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Johnson, Thomas A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 09, 2010 8:23 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Gerald C; Cook, Nerissa J; Morrison, Andrew L; Frelich, Karlene H; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Baumert, Kevin A; Huskey, James L; Connor, Julie G  
**Cc:** [Redacted]@uscg.mil  
**Subject:** IMO Council--Draft Press release on Israel-Turkey Incident

B6

[Redacted]

B5



USDEL requests guidance as soon as possible. Thanks.

**Law, Rosemary C**

**RELEASED IN PART B5**

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 6:38 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Daley, John D; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 6:32 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Daley, John D; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:48 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

Thanks,  
Kevin

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:05 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman,

David S (L-CA)

**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A

**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:03 PM

**To:** Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda

**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)

**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

Thanks,

Kevin

*Article 94*

*Duties of the flag State*

\*\*\*

7. Each State shall cause an inquiry to be held by or before a suitably qualified person or persons into every marine casualty or incident of navigation on the high seas involving a ship flying its flag and causing loss of life or serious injury to nationals of another State or serious damage to ships or installations of another State or to the marine environment. The flag State and the other State shall cooperate in the conduct of any inquiry held by that other State into any such marine casualty or incident of navigation.

**From:** Daley, John D

**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:30 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda

**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA); Baumert, Kevin A

**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

Looping Kevin in as well.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:12 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:09 PM  
**To:** Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

Spoke to Baumert -- he had EB check the database and it is indeed a Comoros-flagged vessel.

**From:** Joyce, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:07 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:02 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:51 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]



**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

B5

jon

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:31 PM  
**To:** Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

John/Karen -

The press is reporting today that lawyers for the families of those killed by Israeli forces in connection with the Flotilla incident this spring have sent a letter to the ICC Prosecutor urging him to take action. Evidently their jurisdictional theory is based on an allegation that the ship, although Turkish operated, was flying the Comoros flag and apparently was registered there. While neither Turkey or Israel are Rome Statute parties, Comoros is - [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Linda/Anne: do you know if there is any truth to the allegation that the ship was registered in Comoros? [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Thanks.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B5

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:11 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:51 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

jon

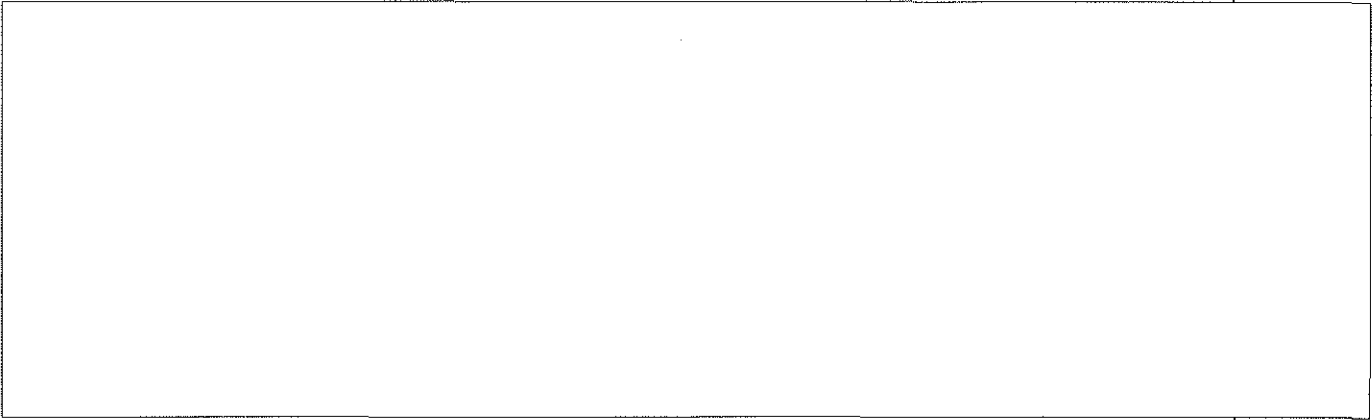
**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:31 PM  
**To:** Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

John/Karen -

The press is reporting today that lawyers for the families of those killed by Israeli forces in connection with the Flotilla incident this spring have sent a letter to the ICC Prosecutor urging him to take action. Evidently their jurisdictional theory is based on an allegation that the ship, although Turkish operated, was flying the Comoros flag and apparently was registered there. While neither Turkey or Israel are Rome Statute parties, Comoros is [Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5



Linda/Anne: do you know if there is any truth to the allegation that the ship was registered in Comoros?



Thanks.

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:09 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Aswad, Evelyn M; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Harris, Robert K  
**Cc:** 'Stephen & Betsy Pomper/Andersen'  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

Thanks -

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:04 PM  
**To:** Aswad, Evelyn M; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

Evelyn -

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:01 PM  
**To:** Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

Thanks, EA

USUN PRESS RELEASE #109  
AS DELIVERED

May 31, 2010

*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.

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.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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.

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:44 PM  
**To:** Legal-HRR-DL; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Joseph Cassidy [mailto:jpcassidy@ ]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 4:37 PM  
**To:** Ashraf, Madeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; jpcassidy@ ; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

B6

I ask that you review and clear this statement, which will be delivered tomorrow morning by Ambassador Donohoe at a special event within this UN Human Rights Council session, as soon as possible. It is drawn directly from Amb. Wolff's statement at the UNSC today --

[Redacted]

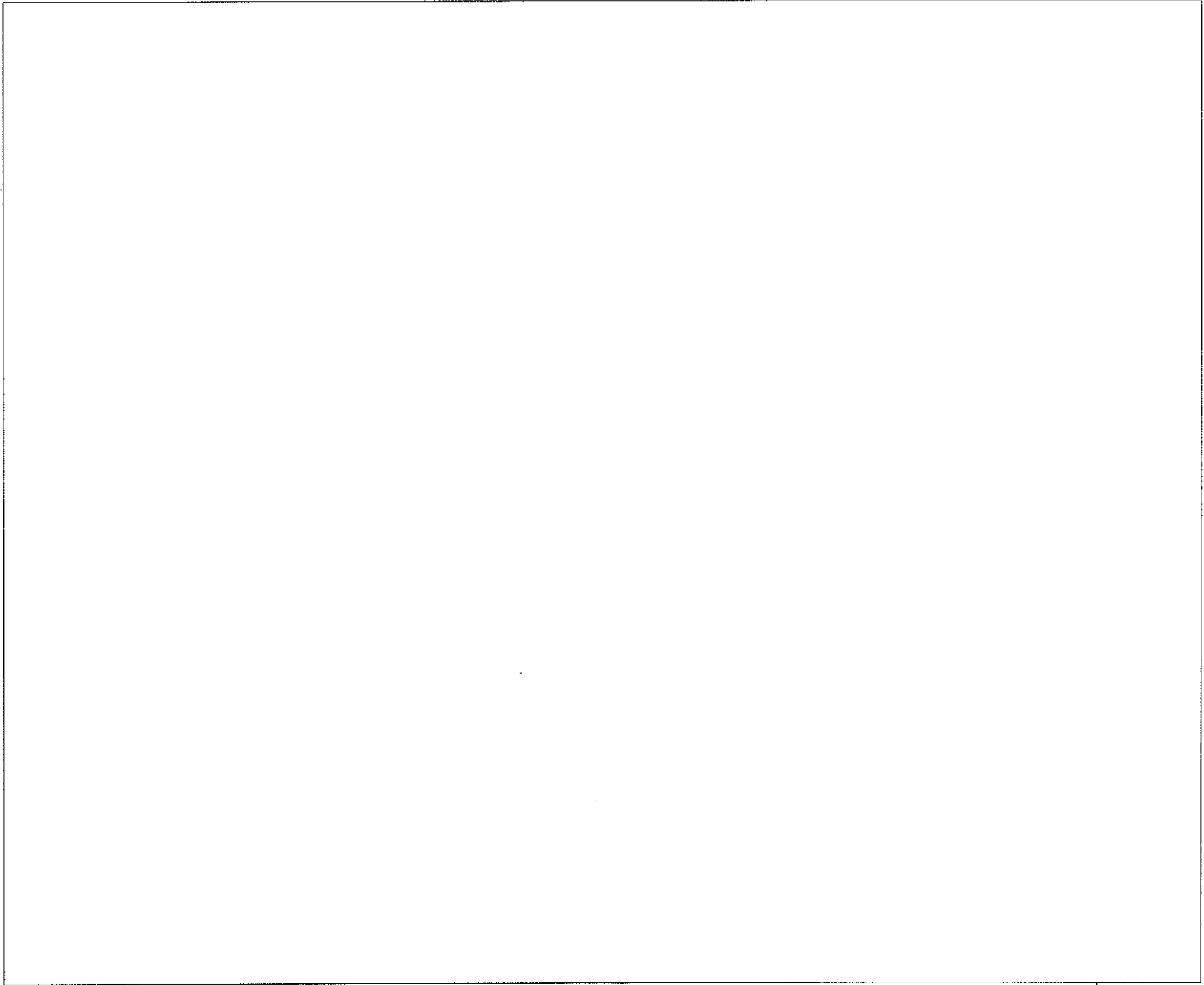
B5

Thanks, Joe

(begin text)

**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident  
for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.



B5

Thank you.

**RELEASED IN PART B5****Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:11 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Heinemann, Thomas B; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: Humanitarian flotilla

I just spoke to Steve. Looping in also Marc G who advised on the blockade/navy angle last week.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:09 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

My phone is 202-341-2074

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:45:13 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Humanitarian flotilla

Thanks, Steve. I have been unable to reach Alexandra or Kevin by phone. I have left phone messages for both but will try them through op center next. I will go through emails and circulate what I have for benefit of addressees. Conference call may be the way to go. Including Evelyn as she is following HRC angle.

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

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:40 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Joann just reached me. I haven't tracked this beyond this mornong's traffic and the front page of the nyt but can help coordinate this afternoon. If someone could send me any analysis done in the run up last week that would be very helpful. Would it be useful to set up a call so that those folks who have been working the issue can pool info re knowledge/work done to date/etc?

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

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**To:** Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:29:10 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Embassy Tel Aviv has been sending in transcripts of Israeli briefings; JoAnn can forward to anyone who doesn't have. Essentially, Israeli boarding party says it was attacked with lethal force so they responded in kind. They claim to have found evidence on board of a plan to resist with force, unlike the prior flotillas.

B5

Jon

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

From: Donoghue, Joan E  
To: Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:21:26 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

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

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:05:35 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Including others working on this.

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

From: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:57:46 2010  
Subject: Humanitarian flotilla

All--Assume you all are working on this. I know Todd and Harold are in Kampala and bbs aren't working. I am rushing back to NYC to try to make the SC meeting, currently scheduled for 1. Anticipate much interest in legal issues focused on Israeli claims they were acting in self-defense and that the flotilla was violating international law.



RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:54 AM  
**To:** Aswad, Evelyn M; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: Use this version. Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST  
**Attachments:** RE: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

Attaching comments from USUN/W and NSC, to make sure we're all on the same page. [redacted]

B5

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:49 AM  
**To:** Aswad, Evelyn M; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: Use this version. Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

We just heard from Mission Geneva that the vote will no longer happen today, but rather tomorrow morning. Any L comments by **NOON** today would be greatly appreciated. EA

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:42 AM  
**To:** Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** FW: Use this version. Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST  
**Importance:** High

Can folks please send to Mariano and me your comments on this [redacted] in the next 30 minutes?

B5

[redacted] Thanks, EA

**From:** Ostermeier, Amy A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:56 AM  
**To:** Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy@[redacted]'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** Use this version. Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST  
**Importance:** High

B6

Apologies. THIS version includes NSC edits.

Thanks,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Amy

**Amy A. Ostermeier, Deputy Director**  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Office of Human Rights (IO/HR)  
(ph) 202-647-3901  
(fx) 202-647-4628  
ostermeieraa@state.gov

**From:** Ostermeier, Amy A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:49 AM  
**To:** Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST  
**Importance:** High

B6

[Redacted]

B5

We'd appreciate clearance/comments from others on the draft/ [Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

We expect to have news from Geneva this morning, should the situation change, we'll be in touch as soon as possible

[Redacted]

B5

Many thanks,

Amy

**Amy A. Ostermeier, Deputy Director**  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Office of Human Rights (IO/HR)  
(ph) 202-647-3901  
(fx) 202-647-4628  
ostermeieraa@state.gov

**From:** Bass, Warren

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:38 AM

**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W

**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL

**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

Adding USUN/NY and NSC/NENA

B6

B5

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F

**To:** 'jpcassidy' <jpcassidy>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M

**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL

**Sent:** Mon May 31 23:32:34 2010

**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

B5

in response to the draft HRC resolution on the flotilla incident pasted further down.

Please provide your comments/clearance copying Amy Ostermeier, no later than 10. This must be ready for delivery by 11 AM EST/5PM Geneva time. We will confer with Geneva first thing tomorrow on late breaking developments that may affect our approach.

Many thanks,  
Suzanne

[Redacted]

B5

The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy

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

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,

Expressing grave concern also at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Occupied Gaza,

Emphasizing the need to ensure 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 possible 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;

3. Requests the ICRC to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons

4. Demands the Occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.

5. 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;

6. Welcomes the statements of the Secretary General UN and the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.

7. Decides to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

8. Decides to remain seized of this matter.

**From:** Joseph Cassidy <jpcassidy[redacted]>  
**To:** Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; jpcassidy[redacted] <jpcassidy[redacted]>; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 16:37:03 2010  
**Subject:** URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

B6

I ask that you review and clear this statement, which will be delivered tomorrow morning by Ambassador Donohoe at a special event within this UN Human Rights Council session, as soon as possible. It is drawn

[redacted]

B5

Thanks, Joe

(begin text)

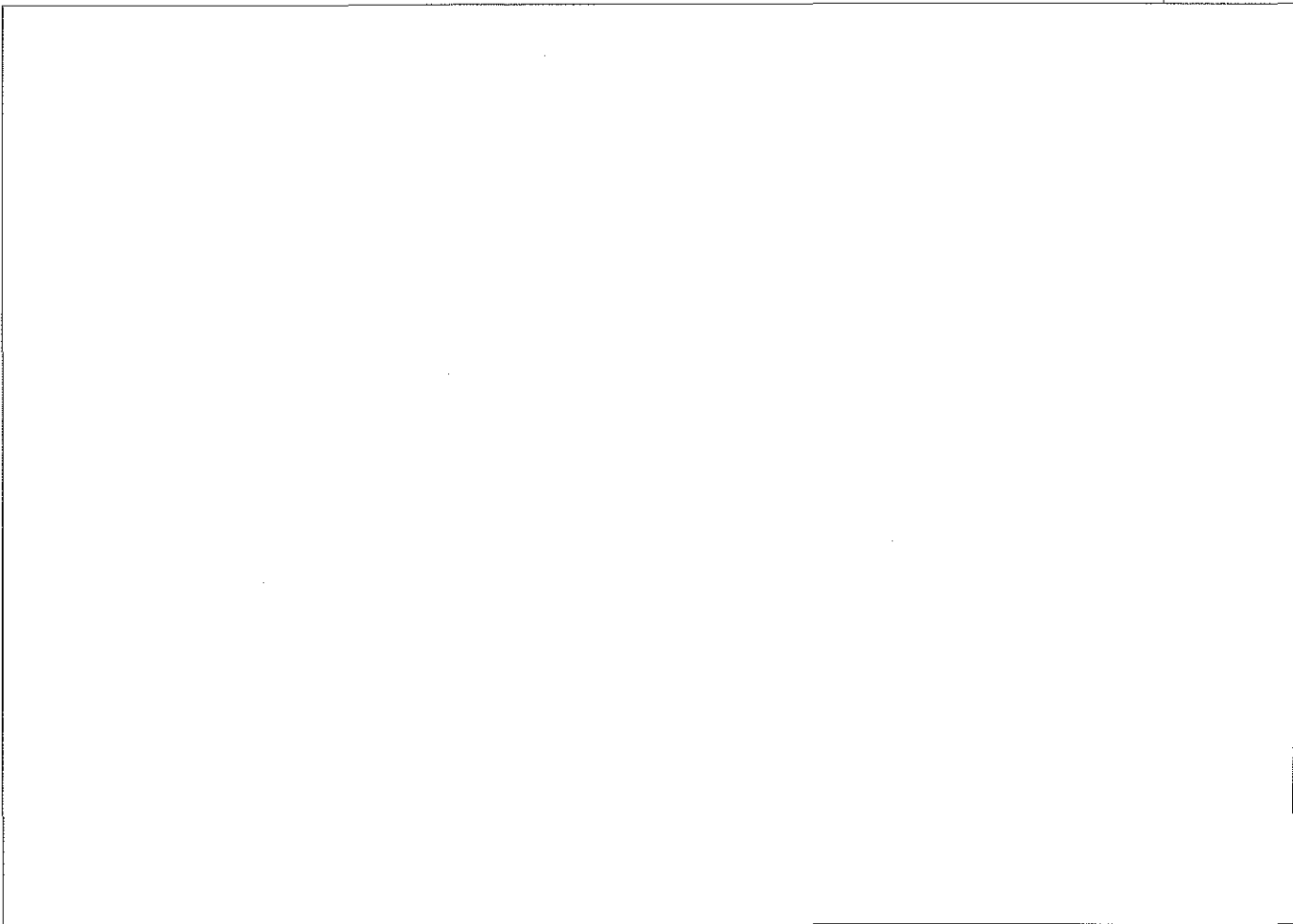
**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.

[redacted]

B5

B5



Thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Shapiro, Daniel B. [Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:14 AM  
**To:** Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; jpcassidy[redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Wells, Alice G  
**Subject:** RE: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[Redacted]

**From:** Bass, Warren [mailto:BassW@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:13 AM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; jpcassidy[redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Wells, Alice G  
**Subject:** RE: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:03 AM  
**To:** 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; jpcassidy[redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'Scott\_W\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Wells, Alice G  
**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [Redacted]; <jpcassidy [Redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W. <Scott\_W\_Busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 08:58:25 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[Redacted]

**From:** Powell, Catherine [mailto:PowellC@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:56 AM  
**To:** Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [Redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

Looping in Bill Burke-White and Dafna Rand for S/P.

**From:** Ostermeier, Amy A  
**To:** Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy [Redacted] <jpcassidy [Redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov>; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 08:49:16 2010  
**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

Thanks to Warren and Scott for their suggestions. [Redacted]

B5

We'd appreciate clearance/comments from others on the draft

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B5

Many thanks,

Amy

*Amy A. Ostermeier, Deputy Director*  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Office of Human Rights (IO/HR)  
(ph) 202-647-3901  
(fx) 202-647-4628  
ostermeieraa@state.gov

**From:** Bass, Warren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:38 AM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy[redacted]'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

Adding USUN/NY and NSC/NENA. [redacted]

B5

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F  
**To:** 'jpcassidy[redacted]'; 'jpcassidy[redacted]'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 23:32:34 2010  
**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[redacted] in response to the draft HRC resolution on the flotilla incident pasted further down. [redacted]

B5

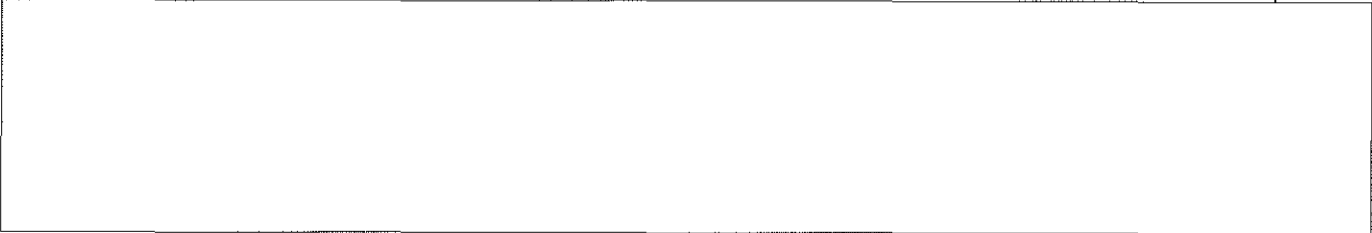
[redacted] Please provide your comments/clearance copying Amy Ostermeier, no later than 10. This must be ready for delivery by 11 AM EST/5PM Geneva time. We will confer with Geneva first thing tomorrow on late breaking developments that may affect our approach.

Many thanks,  
Suzanne

[redacted]

B5





The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy

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

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,

Expressing grave concern also at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Occupied Gaza,

Emphasizing the need to ensure 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 possible 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;

3. Requests the ICRC to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons

4. Demands the Occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.

5. 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;

6. Welcomes the statements of the Secretary General UN and the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.

7. Decides to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.

8. Decides to remain seized of this matter.

---

**From:** Joseph Cassidy <jpcassidy[redacted]>  
**To:** Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; jpcassidy[redacted] <jpcassidy[redacted]>; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 16:37:03 2010  
**Subject:** URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

I ask that you review and clear this statement, which will be delivered tomorrow morning by Ambassador Donohoe at a special event within this UN Human Rights Council session, as soon as possible.

B5

Thanks, Joe

(begin text)

**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident  
for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Thank you.



RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 4:19 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Aswad, Evelyn M; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Khanna, Melanie J  
**Subject:** FW: HRC draft resolution  
**Attachments:** RESO 1.doc

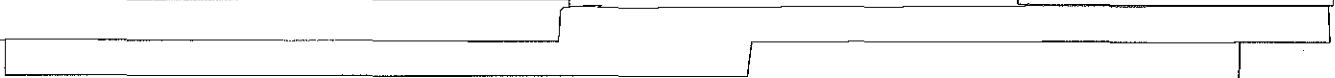
All – The draft Palestinian HRC resolution is below and attached. Problems include:



B5

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 4:03 PM  
**To:** Cassayre, Mark J; Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** HRC draft resolution

Attached is the draft I just received from the Palestinians. I pasted below for those on BBs.



**The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy**

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

*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,

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

*Emphasizing* the need to ensure 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 possible 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;

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3. *Requests* the ICRC to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons
4. *Demands* the Occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.
5. *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;
6. *Welcomes* the statements of the Secretary General UN and the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.
7. *Decides* to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.
8. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

---

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J

**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 6:46 PM

**To:** Cassayre, Mark J; Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H

**Subject:** Israeli Rt of Reply at HRC today re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

Ambassador Yaar delivered this statement this afternoon at the HRC.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J

**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:02 PM

**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H

**Subject:** Re: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

All: I just spoke with Pal DPR who confirmed that he will call for a special sitting for tmrw pm. He will also table a resolution tomorrow morning for ACTION TOMORROW EVENING.

Reso will include:

- condemnation
- call for protection by israel / respect for I'll
- call for internation investigation

He said that "the Israelis have made it hard on us and we will make it hard on them."

During his statement Imad spoke in Arabic (he frequently does interventions in English). He made points:

Premeditated crime

Violations of occupying power

Saluted courage of those on board vessels

Israel has denied occupation of gaza but acts of last night show that gaza is still under occupation and therefore 4GC applies and 4GC applies.  
Lift blockade

Israel will do right of reply at end of day.

---

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F  
**To:** Cassayre, Mark J; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov' <Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov>; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:29:20 2010  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

Adding NEA.

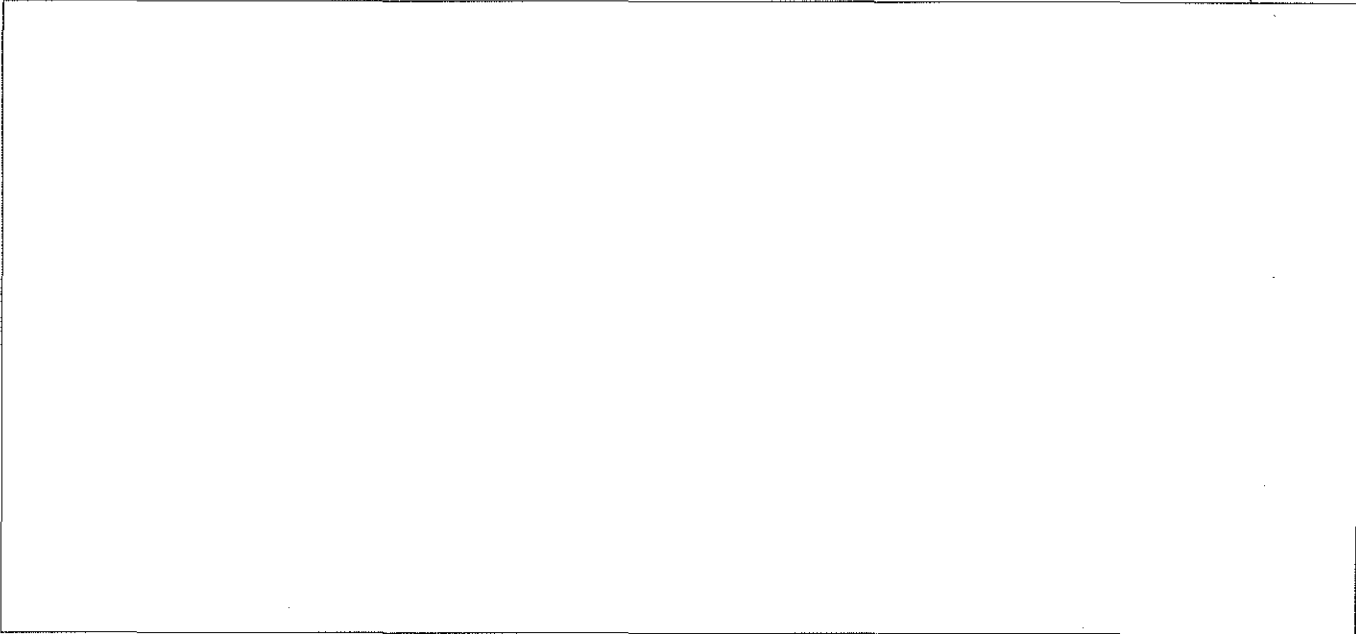
B5

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**From:** Cassayre, Mark J  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Busby, Scott W.' <Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov>; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:21:03 2010  
**Subject:** URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

**NEED GUIDANCE**

**"SPECIAL SITTING" of HRC to occur Tuesday (tomorrow) afternoon on the Israeli boarding of flotilla.**



B5

**WE NEED TALKING POINTS ASAP AND WILL NEED POINTS FOR A STATEMENT, IF WE INTEND TO MAKE ONE DURING THIS "SPECIAL SITTING."**

Mark Cassayre  
Counselor  
Political and Specialized Agencies  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Specialized Agencies  
Geneva, Switzerland

Direct tel: +41 22 749-4214  
Mobile: +41 79 775-3680  
Fax: +41.22.749.4717  
[cassayrenj@state.gov](mailto:cassayrenj@state.gov)

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART B5

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:09 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Dolan, JoAnn; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** Re: LEGAL-#247254-v1-6\_8\_interdiction\_inspection\_paper.docx

Linda-i am at Doj and have meetings when I get back so perhaps Marc can review for L/PM.

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 08 11:30:02 2010  
**Subject:** RE: LEGAL-#247254-v1-6\_8\_interdiction\_inspection\_paper.docx

Will do. And am waiting for L/PM's comments and everyone's comments on the Israeli proposal.

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 11:28 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** RE: LEGAL-#247254-v1-6\_8\_interdiction\_inspection\_paper.docx

That's fine. [redacted] Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 11:28 AM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** RE: LEGAL-#247254-v1-6\_8\_interdiction\_inspection\_paper.docx

[redacted]

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** RE: LEGAL-#247254-v1-6\_8\_interdiction\_inspection\_paper.docx

This looks really good to me. A few small comments/questions. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 10:23 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Townley, Stephen G; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** LEGAL-#247254-v1-6\_8\_interdiction\_inspection\_paper.docx

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5



Pls see a new version of the interdiction/inspection paper; Kevin and Marc, pls see 2 embedded questions for you.  
Thanks.

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:30 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:28 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:24 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Thessin, James H; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:53 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F; Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Thessin, James H; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

All, Attached are some small revisions following our discussion just now. Please send me any further edits/comments by 8:30pm. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 6:31 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F; Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Jacobson, Linda; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Thessin, James H  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

All, I have tried to consolidate existing comments in Joan's version and made a few other suggestions. If everyone could please take another look, we are hoping to get this back to Joan for final approval later tonight. Thanks, Stephen

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:40 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

Tx!

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 08:26:15 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

JoAnn and I will get what we can from Emb TA and desk this morning.

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 07:47:12 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

Hi--any thoughts about how to get this (cd you check with Tom G if he is the right guy)? Tx!

**From:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Townley, Stephen G  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 07:09:49 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

B5



**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 06:12:05 2010  
**Subject:** Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

## ***SITUATION REPORT No. 5***

***Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01***

Wednesday, June 2, 2010  
0600 EDT

### **STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**

(SBU) Eleven AmCit detainees plan to, or have already signed, voluntary deportation forms provided by the Israeli Ministry of Interior. (*MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail*)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

## STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

- (U) Israel's inner security cabinet voted to deport remaining prisoners within 48 hours. A government statement issued late June 1 stated that "the detainees would be expelled immediately according to the procedures set by law," said a government statement issued late June 1. *(AFP)*
- (U) Turkey sent three planes to Israel to repatriate approximately 350 detained activists. *(AFP)*

## ISRAEL MIGHT CONSIDER WOUNDED AS COMBATANTS

(SBU) Approximately 50 wounded detainees of various nationalities are currently being treated by the Government of Israel as suspects, and thus may not be allowed to leave the country. The GOI might want to file court cases against these individuals, but this course of action is subject to the attorney general's discretion. *(MGGZ01/NEA-FO e-mail)*

## RETURN OF ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC FAMILY MEMBERS FROM TURKEY

(U) Approximately 50 people related to Israeli consulate and embassy staff in Turkey are returning to Israel, a senior official told Israeli public radio. *(AFP)*

## INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

- (SBU) Moscow condemned Israel's action against the MAVI MARMARA, asserting that the "Use of weapons against civilians and detaining ships in the open sea without any legal reason constitutes obvious and gross violations of generally accepted international standards." Embassy Moscow notes Russia likely will use this incident to push for Israel to lift the Gaza blockade. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Moscow e-mail)*
- (SBU) NATO SYG Rasmussen released a statement June 1 expressing "deep regret over the loss of lives and the other casualties resulting from the use of force" and urging the UN and the EU to conduct "a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation into the incident." He also called for "the immediate release of the detained civilians and ships held by Israel." *(MGGZ01/USNATO e-mail)*
- (U) India condemned Israel for "indiscriminate use of force" and asserted that "lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue." *(Xinhua)*
- (U) Lebanese President Sleiman discussed the incident with Turkish President Gul and reportedly agreed to coordinate efforts to "counter Israel's actions." *(nowlebanon.com)*
- (U) The Irish government called on Israel to allow an Irish-registered aid ship, the RACHEL CORRIE, to continue its voyage to Gaza. Late June 1, PM Cowen warned of "serious consequences" if any detained Irish citizens were harmed, and called for their immediate and unconditional release. *(bbc.co.uk)*
- (U) The Malaysian Cabinet tabled a parliamentary motion strongly condemning Israel's raid. FM Aman departed for Jordan to seek the release of the 12 Malaysians. *(Xinhua)*
- (SBU) Nicaragua suspended diplomatic ties with Israel June 1 to protest Israel's raid on the MAVI MARMARA, President Ortega's office said. Embassy Managua notes that Nicaragua has no diplomatic presence in Israel but has an embassy in Cairo. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Managua e-mail, elpueblpresidente.com)*
- (U) Iranian FM Mottaki expressed solidarity with the "martyrs" killed during the raid and added that the incident "opened some possibility" to put pressure on Israel to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip and thereby allow the passage of medicine and humanitarian assistance. *(AFP)*
- (U) French FM Kouchner said that the raid was "a very grave mistake" and "extremely damaging to the image of Israel itself." Kouchner advocated for an international investigation and said "there should not be impunity." *(AP)*

For more information on the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops Portal at the following link:  
[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza\\_Flotilla\\_2010](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Drafted: MEHayes

Approved: DLBanks

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

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 10:15 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Ok, thanks! Does Mary M know or shd I forward this? Unless I hear differently I will not do anything further til tmrw.

----- Original Message -----  
From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: Pomper, Stephen E  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:12:52 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Hi, I am in Israel en route to airport so will be dropping off email. Talked to Jon short while ago,



----- Original Message -----  
From: Pomper, Stephen E  
To: Jacobson, Linda  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:07:54 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Hi--I've seen some traffic but am not up to speed on this. What needs to be done today?

----- Original Message -----  
From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:05:35 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Including others working on this.

----- Original Message -----  
From: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:57:46 2010  
Subject: Humanitarian flotilla

All--Assume you all are working on this. I know Todd and Harold are in Kampala and bbs aren't working. I am rushing back to NYC to try to make the SC meeting, currently scheduled for 1. Anticipate much interest in legal issues focused on Israeli claims they were acting in self-defense and that the flotilla was violating international law.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5

RELEASED IN PART B5

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft  
**Attachments:** Gaza.doc rev.docx

Please work from this draft, which implements Stephen T's comments. I will be out until at least 6, so Stephen/Marc will be running the doc. Thanks, Steve

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:01 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade email--draft

Just a quick plug to please send comments as soon as you can, as we'd like to ship this out to HHK too before launching. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:50 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** Blockade email--draft

Folks—Here is a very rough draft email with some blank spots that is intended to help answer 7<sup>th</sup> floor questions on blockade issues. I unfortunately have to duck into something else but maybe Marc or Stephen could consolidate comments before this goes to Jim, Joan, and HK?

[Redacted]

Sorry for the drive by, I will try to reengage at about 2. Steve

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:11 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Aswad, Evelyn M; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** RE: FINAL CLEARANCE needed by 10 pm on [redacted]  
**Attachments:** [redacted]

B5

- 1. Reflected in the attached are a few minor/editorial thoughts.

[redacted]

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:31 PM  
**To:** Aswad, Evelyn M; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** Re: FINAL CLEARANCE needed by 10 pm on [redacted]

B5

Evelyn, I sent my comments to JoAnn earlier so I expect you will also be hearing from her [redacted]

[redacted]

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Banos, Mariano H; Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 19:24:16 2010  
**Subject:** FW: FINAL CLEARANCE needed by 10 pm on [redacted]

B5

Dear L/AN and L/PM: Please send to Mariano and me your comments, if any, on [redacted] by 9:30 pm tonight. Thank you, Evelyn

**From:** Anderson, Gerald C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:09 PM  
**To:** Cue, Lourdes C; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; Bass, Warren; Powell, Catherine; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Goldberger, Thomas H; 'Scott\_W\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Wells, Alice G; Griffiths, Douglas M; Khanna, Melanie J; Donahoe, Eileen C; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Nossel, Suzanne F; Ostermeier, Amy A; [redacted]; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Legal-HRR-DL; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper,

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



Stephen E; Cassayre, Mark J

**Subject:** FINAL CLEARANCE needed by 10 pm on [redacted]

B5

Colleagues: Attached is the OIC's resolution on the Gaza Flotilla incident – which we expect will be voted at the HRC tomorrow morning Geneva time.

[redacted]

We'd appreciate your clearance on the [redacted] no later than 10 PM tonight.

[redacted]

Please copy me, Suzanne Nassel, and Amy Ostermeier on your responses.

With thanks,

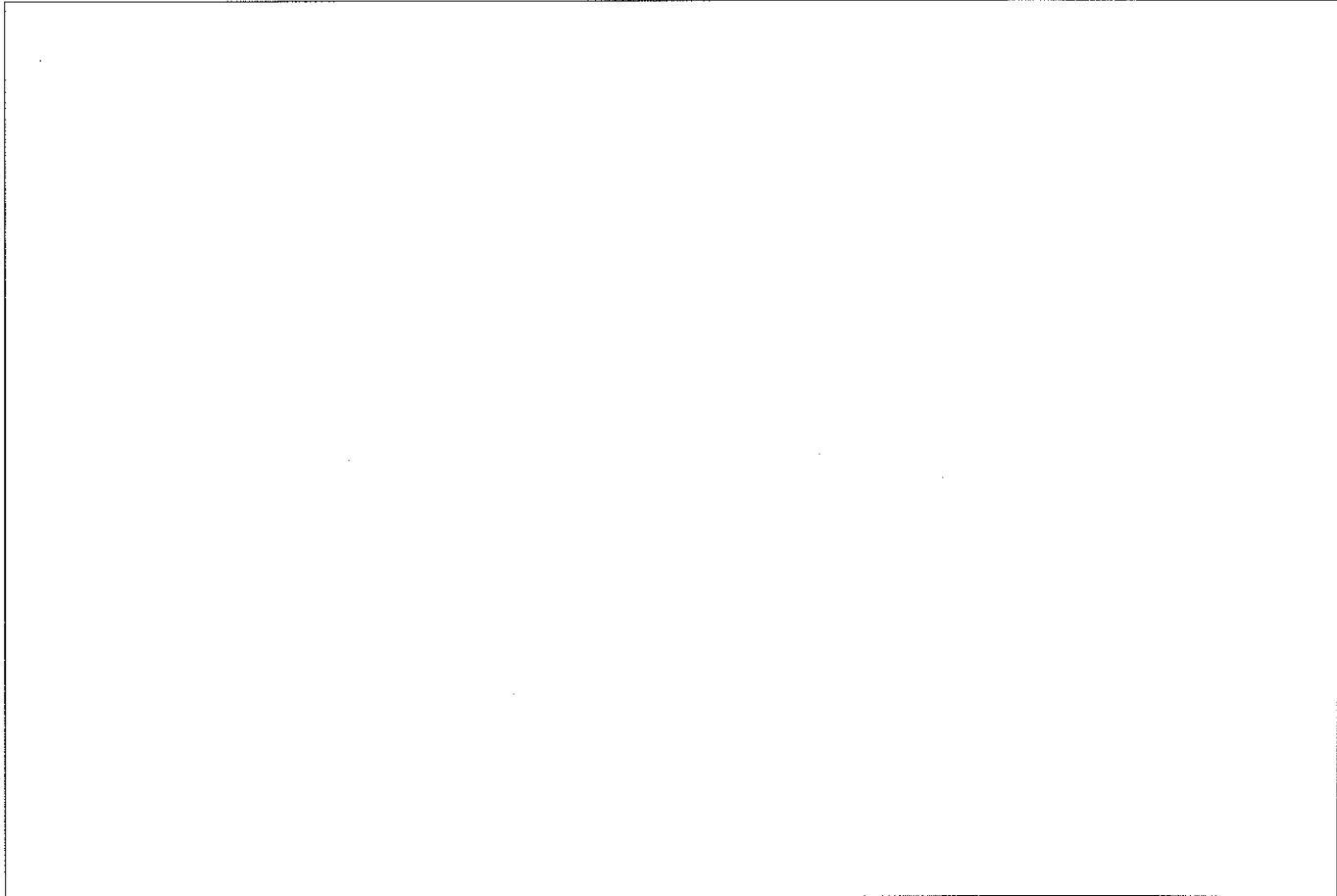
Gerald C. Anderson  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Room 6323  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520  
Office: 202-647-9602



RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Prosser, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:25 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Donoghue, Joan E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade Precedent



B5

Best wishes,  
Sarah

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

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:11 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Donoghue, Joan E; Prosser, Sarah E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** RE: Blockade Precedent

Thanks Jon. Sarah will help on the [redacted]



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

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:04 PM  
To: Pomper, Stephen E  
Cc: Jacobson, Linda; Donoghue, Joan E; Prosser, Sarah E  
Subject: Re: Blockade Precedent

Thanks. I meet with Israelis 8 am tomorrow.

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

From: Pomper, Stephen E  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Cc: Jacobson, Linda; Donoghue, Joan E; Prosser, Sarah E  
Sent: Thu Jun 03 13:06:43 2010  
Subject: Re: Blockade Precedent

Thanks Jon. I'll talk to Sarah re LTTE question and see what we can learn.

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

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
To: Pomper, Stephen E  
Cc: Jacobson, Linda; Donoghue, Joan E  
Sent: Thu Jun 03 12:08:40 2010  
Subject: Blockade Precedent

Steve - Israelis are asking whether Sri Lanka imposed blockade in LTTE controlled port (as a precedent for a blockade of a non-state belligerent.) Do we know? They also say this blockade began during Cast Lead January, 2009, as result of "new armed conflict" with Hamas. And they say all the passengers have been repatriated, mooting the issue of their legal status.

Jon

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Reynolds, Arlissa M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 2:11 PM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Ivna; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Ellis, Benjamin H; Waller, Robert P; Catalano, Elisa; Rana, Gautam A; Rand, Dafna H; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Morrison, Andrew L; Cooper, Kurtis A; Bass, Warren; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); 'Michael\_A.\_Hammer@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; 'Hensman, Chris D.'; Pelton, Erin; Ratney, Michael A; Marchese, Gregory M; Rogan, Thomas G; Finver, Frank J  
**Subject:** RE: FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla

Ambrose,  
 I apologize for the lateness in responding.

[Redacted]

[Large redacted block]

B5

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:50 PM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G; Holmstrom, Todd C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Ivna; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Ellis, Benjamin H; Waller, Robert P; Catalano, Elisa; Rana, Gautam A; Rand, Dafna H; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Morrison, Andrew L; Cooper, Kurtis A; Bass, Warren; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); 'Michael\_A.\_Hammer@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; 'Hensman, Chris D.'; Pelton, Erin; Ratney, Michael A  
**Subject:** RE: FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5  
B6

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Ivna; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacobson,

3  
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Ellis, Benjamin H; Waller, Robert P; Catalano, Elisa; Rana, Gautam A; Rand, Dafna H; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Morrison, Andrew L; Cooper, Kurtis A; Bass, Warren; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); 'Michael\_A.\_Hammer@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; 'Hensman, Chris D.'; Pelton, Erin; Ratney, Michael A  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla  
**Importance:** High

Hi Everyone –

Please clear the attached UPDATED press guidance re: Free Gaza Flotilla. Please note that this updates yesterday's press guidance and all updated sections are highlighted in yellow. Your clearance is appreciated by **12:15pm latest**. This will need to get to PA ASAP for use by the Secretary and senior officials.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

<< File: 060110-Israel-Palestinians - UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla.docx >>

**Ambrose Sayles | Press Officer | Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs | U.S. Department of State**  
2201 C St, NW Rm 2234, Washington, DC 20520 | ☎: 202.647.4184 | ✉: [saylesag@state.gov](mailto:saylesag@state.gov)

**Law, Rosemary C**

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

**From:** Rudman, Mara  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Israeli paper

Who tells them that [redacted] won't exactly cut it as the American observer?

B6

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Connelly, Maura; Rudman, Mara; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 08 14:04:43 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Israeli paper

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 12:16 PM  
**To:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Townley, Stephen G; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** Israeli paper

Joan, for the 2:15-30 meeting, I've boiled the many technical comments of the group down to the following key ones:

Comments on paper:

[Large redacted area]

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer




**Law, Rosemary C**

**RELEASED IN PART B5**

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Townley, Stephen G; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: 060410-Israel-Palestinians - UPDATE on Free Gaza Flotilla with L-PM edits.docx

Thanks Linda –

I updated the first bullet. I saw the copy and paste jumble.

- 

B5

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** 060410-Israel-Palestinians - UPDATE on Free Gaza Flotilla with L-PM edits.docx

Ambrose, some minor suggestions.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



RELEASED IN PART B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:56 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Ivna; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Ellis, Benjamin H; Waller, Robert P; Catalano, Elisa; Rana, Gautam A; Rand, Dafna H; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Morrison, Andrew L; Cooper, Kurtis A; Bass, Warren; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); 'Michael\_A.\_Hammer@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; 'Hensman, Chris D.'; Pelton, Erin; Ratney, Michael A  
**Subject:** RE: FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla

Thanks. I am working on sorting it out the placing right now.

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:50 AM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G; Holmstrom, Todd C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Ivna; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Ellis, Benjamin H; Waller, Robert P; Catalano, Elisa; Rana, Gautam A; Rand, Dafna H; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Morrison, Andrew L; Cooper, Kurtis A; Bass, Warren; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); 'Michael\_A.\_Hammer@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; 'Hensman, Chris D.'; Pelton, Erin; Ratney, Michael A  
**Subject:** RE: FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla

I think we need to delink [redacted] incident from the flotilla situation. I'm not sure that there's a direct connection

B6

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:39 AM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Ivna; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Ellis, Benjamin H; Waller, Robert P; Catalano, Elisa; Rana, Gautam A; Rand, Dafna H; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Morrison, Andrew L; Cooper, Kurtis A; Bass, Warren; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); 'Michael\_A.\_Hammer@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Chang, Benjamin'; 'Hensman, Chris D.'; Pelton, Erin; Ratney, Michael A  
**Subject:** FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE: Israel/Palestinians: UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla  
**Importance:** High

Hi Everyone –

Please clear the attached UPDATED press guidance re: Free Gaza Flotilla. Please note that this updates yesterday's press guidance and all updated sections are highlighted in yellow. Your clearance is appreciated by **12:15pm latest**. This will need to get to PA ASAP for use by the Secretary and senior officials.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

<< File: 060110-Israel-Palestinians - UPDATE Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla.docx >>

Ambrose Sayles | Press Officer | Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs | U.S. Department of State  
2201 C St, NW Rm 2234, Washington, DC 20520 | ☎: 202.647.4184 | ✉: [saylesaq@state.gov](mailto:saylesaq@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**UPDATED NEA Press Guidance  
June 4, 2010**

RELEASED IN PART B6

**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, complicates 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 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.**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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?

- **Any actions that could further complicate the situation and obstruct our ability to move towards a lasting solution should be based on established facts.**

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 engaged with the Israelis, and continue to do so, on a daily basis and in multiple channels about the flotilla.**
- **The Defense Attaché's Office was in daily contact with the Israeli Navy for the past several weeks, and on numerous occasions delivered the message about the need for caution and restraint in dealing with civilians, including American citizens.**
- **Ambassador Cunningham delivered this message directly to the Prime Minister's office only a few days before the flotilla was intercepted. 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 interest.**
- **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 Free Gaza Movement in Washington, DC 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 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 of everything that happened.**
- 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?**

- 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?

- **All 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 information do you have about the U.S.-Turkish dual national who was killed during the raid on the flotilla? About any other injured Americans?

- **We can confirm that Furkan Dogan, a U.S.-Turkish 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. Yesterday, our consular officer met with the father and offered our heartfelt condolences to his family.**
- **Ambassador Jim Jeffrey has also reached out to the family to express our heartfelt condolences.**
- **We will carefully evaluate all the information that we can gather about the circumstances of his death.**
- **We are also mindful that [REDACTED] a U.S. citizen, has sustained a serious injury while participating in a West Bank protest. She is still in the hospital receiving proper treatment.**
- **We are also aware that one additional American citizen sustained some injuries on board one of the ships and we are looking out for him as well.**

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?

B6

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

+++++

**Background:**

*Text of PRST:*

**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.

Drafted by: NEA/PPD: A Sayles, 74184

Approved by: USUN: S Rice ok  
NEA/FO: M Connelly ok  
EUR/FO: T Kaidanow ok  
PA/FO: J Prince ok  
L/FO: J Schwartz ok

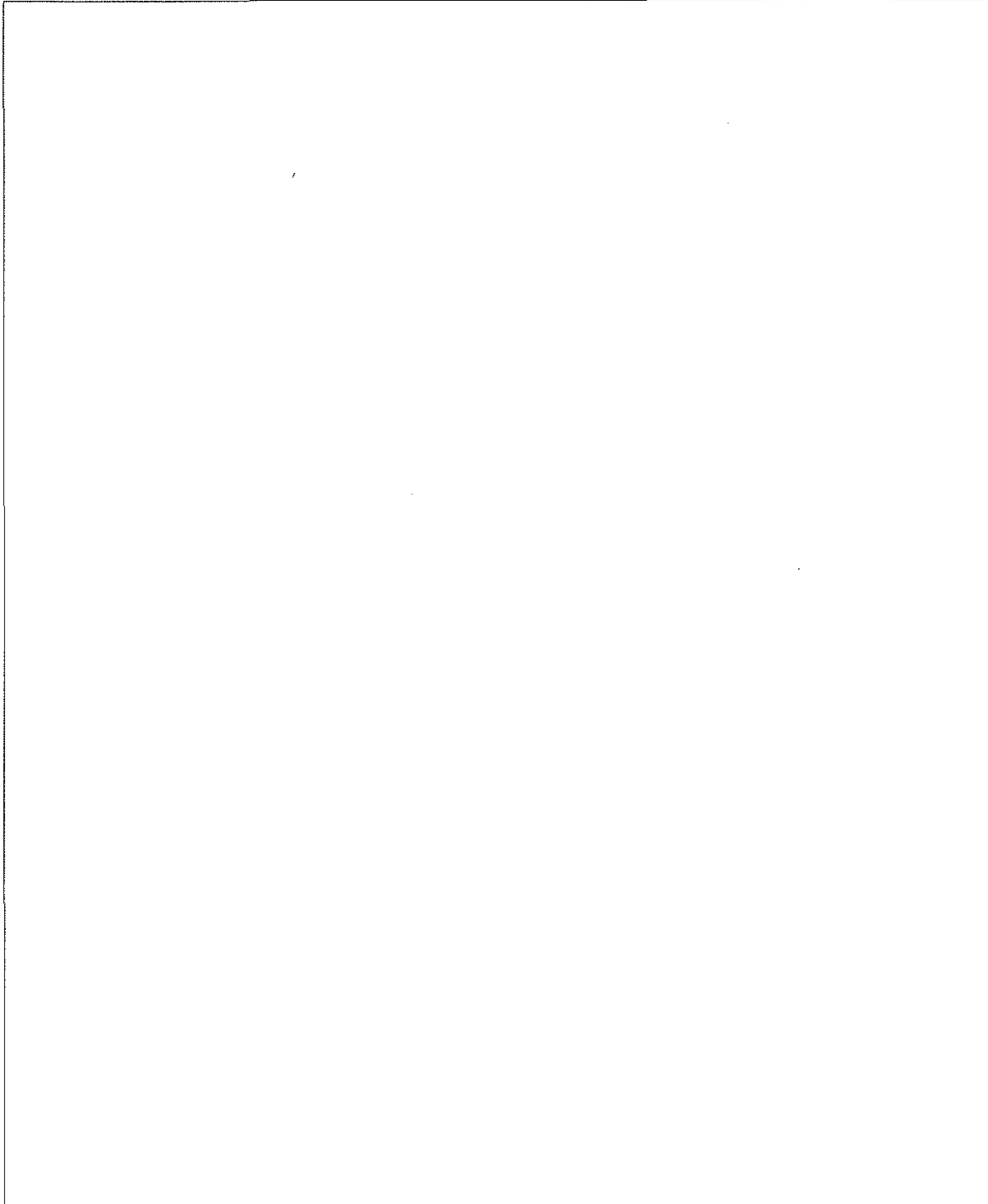
Cleared by: NEA/IPA: T Goldberger ok  
NEA/IPA: T Holmstrom ok  
NEA/PPD: E Pelton ok  
CA/OCS/ACS: M Bernier-Toth ok  
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA: V Lopatkiewicz ok  
CA/P: R McCray ok  
EUR/SE: J Baily ok  
L/AN: L Jacobson ok  
L/AN: J Dolan ok  
PRM: M Ramgoolie ok  
DRL: J Lieberman ok  
EUR: B Ellis info  
P: E Catalano ok  
S/P: D Rand ok  
D(S): G Rana ok  
CG Jerusalem: A Reynolds ok  
Emb Tel Aviv: R Harutunian ok  
Emb Tel Aviv: K Hoyer ok  
IO/UNP: M Garuckis ok  
IO/UNP: A Morrison ok  
IO/PAO: K Cooper ok  
USUN/W: W Bass ok  
USUN/NY: M Kornblau ok  
NSC: M Hammer info



RELEASED IN PART B5

NEA Press Guidance  
June 1, 2010

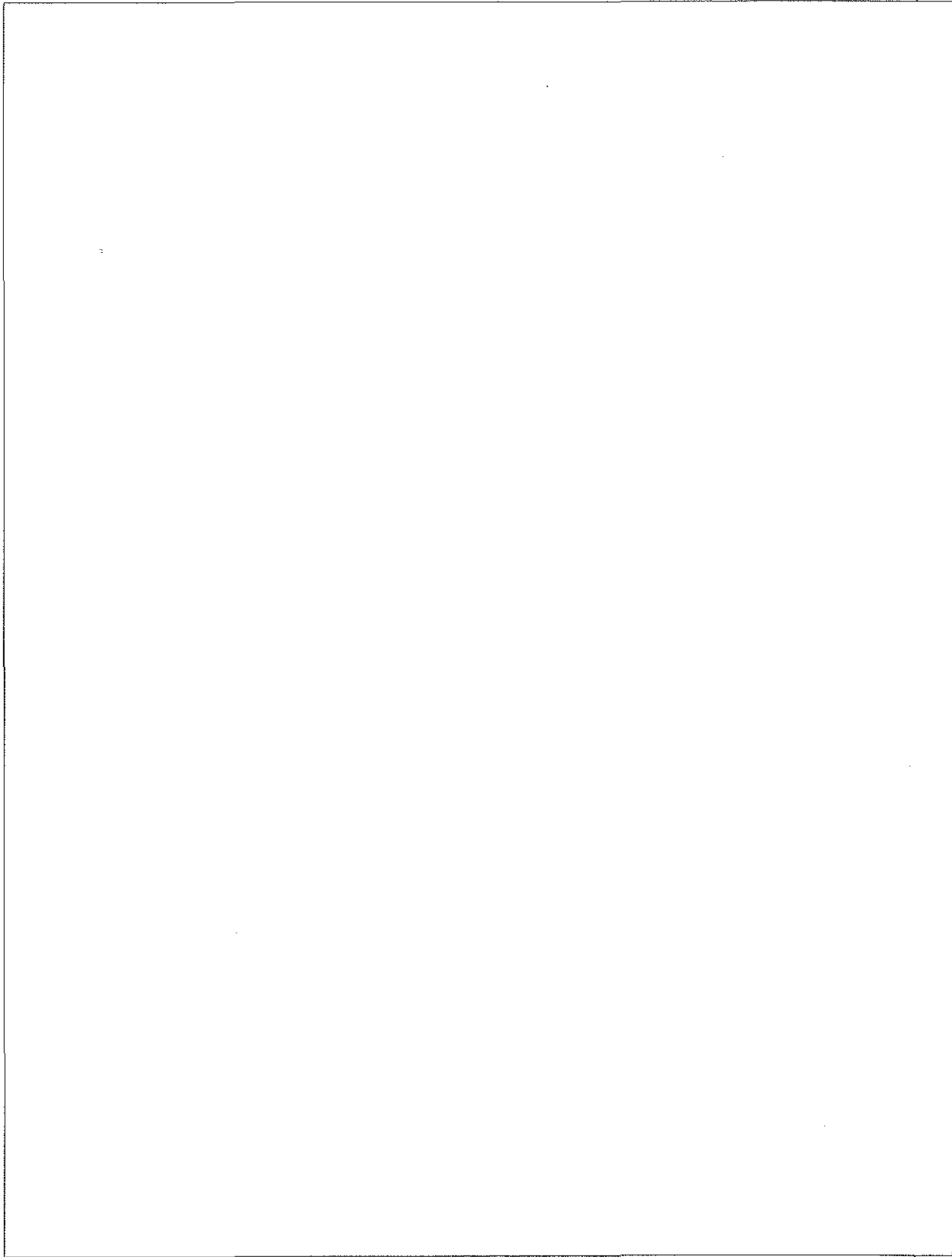
Israel/Palestinians: ~~UPDATE~~ Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla

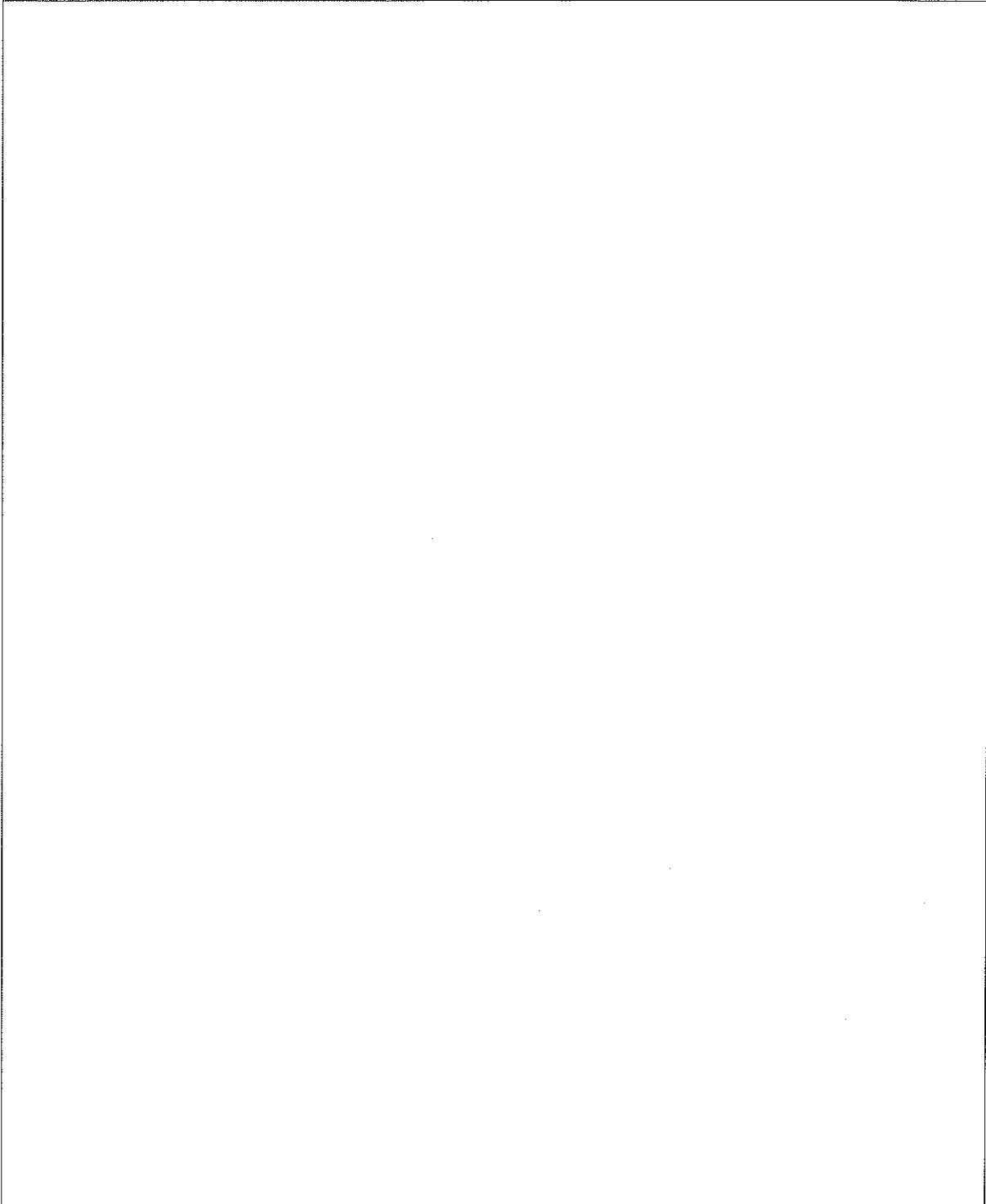


B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5





B5

**Background:***Text of PRST:***SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE RECENT INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN**

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Drafted by: NEA/PPD: A Sayles, 74184

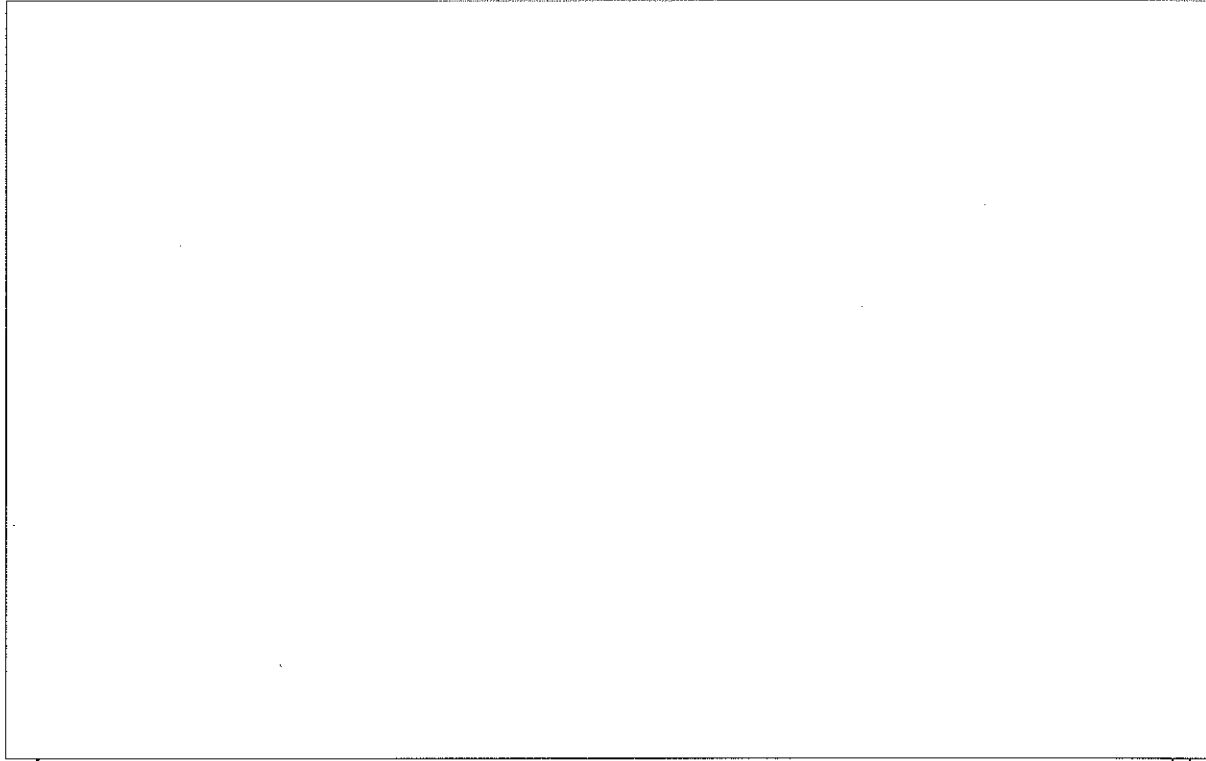
Approved by: D(S): J Steinberg  
NEA/FO: J Feltman  
NEA/FO: M Connelly  
SEMEP: D Hale  
L/FO: J Schwartz

Cleared by: NEA/IPA: T Holmstrom  
NEA/PPD: M Ratney  
CA/OCS/ACS: M Bernier-Toth  
CA: I Giauque  
L/AN: L Jacobson  
PRM: R Wills  
DRL: J Lieberman  
EUR: B Ellis  
P: R Waller  
S/P: D Rand  
D(S): G Rana  
CG Jerusalem: A Reynolds  
Emb Tel Aviv: R Harutunian  
IO/UNP: A Morrison  
IO/PAO: K Cooper  
USUN/W: W Bass  
USUN/NY: M Kornblau  
NSC: M Hammer

RELEASED IN PART B5

NEA Press Guidance  
May 31, 2010

Israel/Palestinians: Raid on Free Gaza Flotilla



B5

Q: [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Q: [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Q: [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Drafted by: NEA/PPD: A Sayles, 74184

Approved by: D(S): J Steinberg  
NEA/FO: J Feltman  
NEA/FO: M Connelly  
SEMEP: D Hale  
SEMEP: M Rudman  
L/FO: J Schwartz

Cleared by: NEA/IPA: T Goldberger  
NEA/IPA: T Holmstrom  
NEA/PPD: M Ratney ok  
CA/OCS/ACS: M Bernier-Toth  
L/AN: L Jacobson  
P: R Waller  
S/P: M Fuchs  
D(S): G Rana  
CG Jerusalem



**RELEASED IN PART B5**

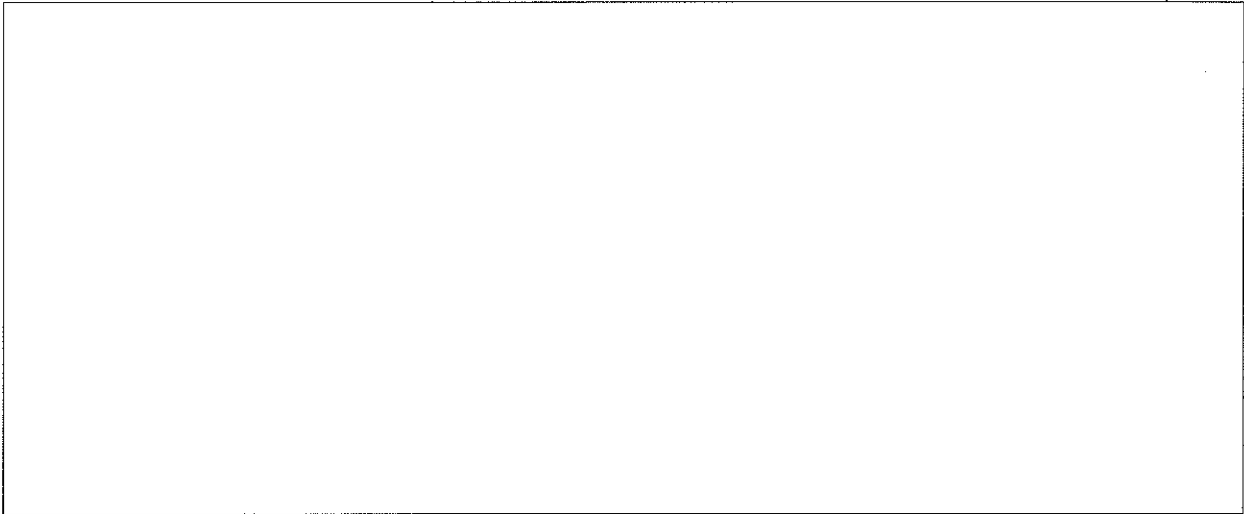
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release  
2010/

May 31, 2010

DRAFT STATEMENT BY PHILIP J. CROWLEY,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Free Gaza Flotilla



B5

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Drafted by: NEA/PPD: M Ratney

Approved by: D(S): J Steinberg  
NEA/FO: J Feltman  
NEA/FO: M Connelly  
SEMEP: D Hale  
SEMEP: M Rudman

ok  
ok

Cleared by: NEA/IPA: T Goldberger  
NEA/IPA: T Holmstrom  
NEA: A Djerassi  
CA/OCS/ACS: M Bernier-Toth  
P: R Waller  
D(S): G Rana  
CG Jerusalem

ok  
ok  
ok  
ok  
ok  
ok  
ok

RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:30 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H  
**Cc:** Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)  
**Subject:** FW: UN SYG's Spokesman on Gaza flotilla investigation

---

**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:26 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G; Gorove, Katherine M; Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** Fw: UN SYG's Spokesman on Gaza flotilla investigation

---

**From:** Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**To:** Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Anderson, Brooke D (USUN); Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN)  
**Cc:** Chang, Min (USUN); Delaurentis, Jeffrey A (USUN); Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Bass, Warren; Clark, Linda R (USUN); McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 14 18:20:31 2010  
**Subject:** FW: UN SYG's Spokesman on Gaza flotilla investigation

The SYG's spokesman did make the following comments today about the Gaza flotilla investigation which I've shared with the Department.

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**From:** Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:19 PM  
**To:** NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; Morrison, Andrew L; Naranjo, Brian R; Bass, Warren; Ostermeier, Amy A; 'Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; Kumar, Prem G.  
**Cc:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Powell, Catherine; Rand, Dafna H; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Baily, Jess L; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C  
**Subject:** UN SYG's Spokesman on Gaza flotilla investigation

From today's noon UN Press briefing:

<http://www.un.org/News/press/docs/2010/20100614.unsyg.spokesman.gaza.flotilla.html>

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PROPOSAL FOR INVESTIGATION INTO 31 MAY INCIDENT REMAINS ON THE TABLE**

- Asked about the Israeli announcement on their inquiry into the 31 May flotilla incident, the Spokesperson said that a thorough Israeli investigation is important and could fit with the Secretary-General's proposal, which would fully meet the international community's expectation for a credible and impartial investigation.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

- The Secretary-General's proposal for an international inquiry remains on the table, Haq said, and he hopes for a positive Israeli response.
- He added, in response to further questions, that the Secretary-General believed that an international investigation would meet the criteria set forth in the Security Council's 1 June Presidential Statement for an investigation that is thorough, prompt, impartial and credible.
- At the same time, the Secretary-General has repeatedly stressed the need for an Israeli accounting of the incident.
- Asked why the Secretary-General believes the door remains open for Israeli acceptance of an international inquiry, the Spokesperson said that the Secretary-General's contacts on the issue have continued. In discussions with Israeli officials, including the Foreign Minister, the Secretary-General's proposals have not been rejected.
- At the same time, Haq said, with discussions on the initiative continuing, no final proposal has been formally conveyed to the parties.

*Amy Schedlbauer*  
*Political Officer*  
*United States Mission to the United Nations*  
*tel: 212-415-4226 fax: 212-415-4415 cell: 646-510-0038*  
*[www.usun.state.gov](http://www.usun.state.gov)*  
*Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)*

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**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 2:17 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** FW: An Ambush at Sea: Understanding the Gaza Flotilla Operation (PolicyWatch #1665 by Jeffrey White)  
**Attachments:** image001.png

**From:** Michael Eisenstadt [mailto:Michael\_Eisenstadt@washingtoninstitute.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 2:14 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** An Ambush at Sea: Understanding the Gaza Flotilla Operation (PolicyWatch #1665 by Jeffrey White)



Follow the Institute on

PolicyWatch #1665

## An Ambush at Sea: Understanding the Gaza Flotilla Operation

By Jeffrey White  
 June 7, 2010

Something has been lost in the heated discussion surrounding the Gaza "freedom flotilla" incident -- namely, an assessment of what actually happened before and during the Israeli operation. Dissecting the incident's serious consequences is important, as is debating alternative Israeli options or questions of international law. But responding intelligently to the event requires a better understanding of the operational details -- that is, how the Israel Defense Forces Navy (IDFN) and its violent opponents conducted themselves.

Two dramatically different narratives of the May 31 operation have already emerged. One is that of an Israeli "assault" on the flotilla and the "massacre" of "peace activists." This narrative has been adopted wholesale by much of the world without critical scrutiny, let alone analysis. The other narrative, put forth by the Israelis, is of a naval operation that went bad when the boarding parties were violently attacked on one of the six ships.

This story is far from over. However, video footage provided by the Arab media and the IDF, as well as accounts by Israeli commando personnel and non-Israeli reporters and activists on the ships, have provided greater clarity on what happened on the *Mavi Marmara*, and why it happened the way it did.

### The Challenge

In the lead-up to the violent incident, six ships carrying a collection of European leftists, humanitarians, radical Palestinians, and Turkish Islamists attempted to run the Israeli blockade. This coalition of "peaceful activists" had definite goals in mind. If they failed to run the blockade, they intended to create an incident that would embarrass the Israelis. Some of the Islamists expressed a desire or willingness to become martyrs. It now seems clear that within the overall group of activists, and concentrated on one ship, was a sub-element that hoped to spark a very public and violent clash with the IDFN.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Israel faced the dilemma of properly responding to this challenge. On one hand, if the IDFN did nothing, the blockade would be breached, massively and publicly. This would have been a substantial victory for Hamas, no doubt to be followed by additional attempts. On the other hand, launching a naval action to stop, board, and divert the flotilla ran the risk of potential violence. This risk would have been real even if the Israelis had waited until the ships were no longer in international waters, as some have suggested they might have done. Reportedly, other options were considered, including disabling the ships, but these, too, posed diplomatic risks and dangers for the ships and passengers. In the end the decision was to stop, board, and divert in international waters.

### **The Assessment**

Judging from the available evidence, both the activists and the IDFN had clear conceptions about how this event would unfold, and they prepared accordingly. First, it is important to distinguish between the activists. The primary concern for the purposes of this discussion is the radical activists -- a sizable minority who were prepared to fight the IDFN. This element was prepared to carry out a quasi military-style ambush of the boarding forces. They were organized, armed, and equipped for fighting. They exhibited purposeful behavior, and they executed their violent actions under direction.

The Israelis seemed to define the situation as one of crowd or riot control, believing that any violence would be similar to that seen in West Bank demonstrations (e.g., stone throwing, spitting, shoving). This does not mean that they thought the mission would be an easy one.

### **The Forces**

The radical activists on the *Mavi Marmara* reportedly numbered between 60 and 100. Prior to the boarding operation, they appeared to organize themselves into cells stationed primarily on the upper deck. The cells were to be employed against Israeli forces boarding from helicopters and speedboats.

These forces had equipment appropriate to their missions. Envisioning a close battle, many had handheld weapons such as knives, metal rods, clubs, firebombs, steel chains, and slingshots. Others had anti-boarding equipment, including hooks, saws, and poles, to fend off Israeli forces. It is unclear whether they initially had any firearms, although during the postincident search of the ship the Israelis found some evidence of this.

Videos from Arab media, taken while the flotilla was preparing to sail, indicate that some passengers were in a combative state of mind, singing jihadist songs, proclaiming readiness for martyrdom, and voicing Islamist slogans. And the ferocity of the attack on the Israeli naval commandos shows that the radical activists were ready to act on this sentiment.

On the Israeli side, the IDFN deployed a small flotilla of missile craft and patrol boats, with naval commandos of Shayetet 13 serving as the primary boarding force. The navy had time to prepare for the action -- intelligence assets had been monitoring the "peace flotilla" for days, and boarding rehearsals were conducted. The IDFN reportedly knew that the *Mavi Marmara* had a radical element on board and concentrated its attention on that ship.

Based on comments by Israeli participants in the action, the rules of engagement (ROE) apparently focused on minimal use of force, not overreacting to provocation and not shooting unless facing an immediate deadly threat. At least some of the boarding forces were equipped with riot-control weapons (paintball guns, stun/tear gas grenades) and carried semiautomatic pistols. Again, the state of mind among IDFN forces apparently was that this was not a combat action. This is clearly evident in how the boarding forces and those watching from other ships reacted with surprise and shock to the radical activists' assault.

### **The Fight**

The IDFN had good military reasons for conducting the operation when and where it did. First, Israeli forces had the advantage of good night-vision capabilities. Boarding at night also increased the probability that most of the passengers would be asleep in their cabins and away from the immediate action. That seems to have been the case on some of the ships.

As for location, the operation was carried out some eighty miles off the coast, far enough away to reduce the chances of observation or interference by other parties. In addition, as the flotilla approached Gaza, tension and alertness among the participants would likely have increased. Moreover, waiting until the flotilla was within the twenty-mile blockade zone might

not have given the navy enough time to complete the process of warning, boarding, and taking control of the ships.

The actual fighting involved only the *Mavi Marmara*, the largest of the group with as many as 700 passengers. The boarding was carried out from both helicopters and speedboats.

There is clear evidence from the available videos that the commandos took a noncombat approach. Although some activists claim the ship was fired on from the sea or from helicopters, there was no visible preparatory fire by lethal weapons to clear the decks. It is very unlikely that those activists seen waiting for the Israelis to board would have been exposed in the open if they had been under fire.

The fighting can be separated into two actions: the main one on the upper deck against the commandos landing from helicopters, and one against forces boarding from speedboats. In both cases, the evidence indicates that the radical activists initiated the fighting.

Some forty or more activists reportedly engaged the heliborne commandos. According to Israeli participants in the fight, these activists were organized into cells. IDF video footage shows commandos fast-roping to the upper deck via helicopter with their weapons stowed. They continued to come down one by one, even in the face of assaults. Further footage and firsthand accounts from commandos depict an organized effort to seize the boarders and beat them with clubs, steel rods, knives, and other weapons. The activists also used at least one Molotov-cocktail-type device and a stun grenade. Throughout the available footage, Israeli commandos are clearly seen simply trying to stay alive. Three or four of the commandos were seized and taken below decks, according to IDF reports and news reporters' accounts, but were reunited with their comrades as the commandos took control of the ship.

IDF video also shows significant violent resistance by activists to the boarding from speedboats, including the use of a stun grenade, employment of fire hoses, and the wielding of clubs and chains. Video from a ship security camera supports this assessment. For example, one can see an organized cell with a leader giving direction; preparation for combat, including the issuing of weapons and donning of gas masks; employment of slingshots and other weapons before any Israeli soldiers can be seen on deck; no evidence of any live fire by Israelis before the activists take action; and no women, children, or elderly individuals present.

The commandos initially seemed to use minimal force. Arab media video footage shows some of them carrying riot-control weapons, and various personnel reported shooting paintballs at activists' legs. In a postincident interview, one of the *Mavi Marmara* passengers stated: "At first they used stun grenades, tear gas grenades, and rubber bullets." What reportedly triggered the use of lethal force was the activists' gunfire, with weapons either taken from seized commandos or already in their possession. Israeli fire killed nine -- by Israeli accounts all of them radical activists involved in the assault -- and wounded thirty or more. Most of the deaths reportedly occurred during one violent assault on the commandos, during which six of the nine were killed by close-range pistol shots. According to the Turkish autopsy report, all of the activists were killed by 9 mm ammunition, indicating that the commandos did not employ assault rifles or machineguns. The close-range nature of the wounds to the nine killed also suggests that there was no fire from Israeli helicopters or ships. Seven Israelis were wounded, two seriously. Israeli commando injuries included gunshot and knife wounds, and blunt force trauma from clubs.

### Conclusions

The IDFN did not set out for a bloody confrontation, but it ended up in one. For their part, a core group of radical activists clearly appear to have planned on a bloody incident and got what they wanted. Yet much of the world has uncritically accepted the narrative of Israeli "assault" and "massacre."

The IDFN did not "assault" the ship -- they attempted to board a noncompliant vessel and to take control of it, if need be, using crowd- and riot-control tactics. They had not planned on engaging in close combat, and they acted accordingly until attacked. No one can look at the video of Israeli forces reacting to the first violent acts without noting their surprise and shock. And no one can look at this footage and reasonably label the resistance passive or peaceful. This was a well-planned ambush, another case of extremists hiding behind civilians to conduct an attack, and completely in keeping with the asymmetric way in which groups like Hamas wage war. Israel's opponents will likely attempt to employ such tactics again in the hope of breaking the Gaza blockade.

*Jeffrey White is a defense fellow at The Washington Institute, specializing in the military and security affairs of the Levant.*

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Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:10 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** FW: Situation Report No. 3 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

Note the name of the straggler ship!

**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:31 AM  
**Subject:** Situation Report No. 3 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

## ***SITUATION REPORT No. 3***

***Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01***

Tuesday, June 1, 2010  
0530 EDT

### **STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**

(SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv expects to visit shortly the nine American citizens detained on June 1. We have no reports of any deaths or serious injuries involving American citizens on the flotilla, although one was injured while taking part in a protest in Jerusalem and has been hospitalized. No additional Americans have been deported. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

### **ADDITIONAL FREE GAZA SHIP EN ROUTE**

(SBU) A final ship in the flotilla, the Cambodian-flagged *MV Rachel Corrie*, is traveling through the Mediterranean from Ireland. It is anticipated the ship will approach Gaza June 3. The Israeli government has not determined how it will respond.  
*(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

### **MAJORITY OF PASSENGERS NOW IN ISRAELI DETENTION**

(U) Approximately 480 passengers are now in Israeli detention and 48 have been deported to their home countries. *(jpost.com)*

### **ISRAELI ARABS CALL GENERAL STRIKE**

(U) Israeli Arab leaders have called for a general strike, which is expected to impact many communities in the north of Israel. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- (U) The UN Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement that expresses deep regret for "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 statement requests a prompt investigation by Israel and the immediate release of the detainees and ships. *(MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)*
- (SBU) The UN Human Rights Council convened a general debate at 0400 EDT to discuss the Israeli response to the flotilla. *(MGGZ01/USUN Geneva e-mail)*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- (SBU) At Turkey's request, the North Atlantic Council will meet at 0830 EDT in Brussels. They may seek a statement along the lines of the UNSC statement. *(MGGZ01/USNATO telcon)*

### **WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH FM DAVUTOGLU**

(SBU) Both Secretary Clinton and NSA Jones will meet with Turkish FM Davotoglu June 1, following his arrival from New York. *(MGGZ01/Turkey Desk e-mail)*

### **INTERNATIONAL REACTION**

- (SBU) Palestinian Territories: Small demonstrations are occurring throughout the West Bank and Gaza. *(Jerusalem 922)*
- (U) Australia: PM Rudd condemned "any use of violence under the sorts of circumstances we have seen" and called for the lifting of the blockade of Gaza. *(abc.net.au)*
- (U) China: The Chinese Foreign Ministry expressed shock at the Israeli attack and urged Israel to seriously implement UN Security Council resolutions and improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. *(chinadaily.com.cn)*
- (U) Pakistan: President Zardari issued a statement describing the incident as "brutal and inhuman." *(dailytimes.com.pk)*

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: WJReisser

Approved: PSlattery

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

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**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:42 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Gorove, Katherine M; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Banos, Mariano H; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Johnson, Clifton M  
**Subject:** FW: Israeli Government decision establishing Independent Public Committee  
**Attachments:** Flotilla - Commission - Gov Decision - ENG.docx

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**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:38 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G; Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** Fw: Israeli Government decision establishing Independent Public Committee

In case you haven't seen this yet.

---

**From:** Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**To:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); McLeod, Mary (USUN); Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Bass, Warren; Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Anderson, Brooke D (USUN); Cousens, Elizabeth (USUN); Delaurentis, Jeffrey A (USUN)  
**Cc:** Clark, Linda R (USUN); Chang, Min (USUN)  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 14 15:33:02 2010  
**Subject:** Israeli Government decision establishing Independent Public Committee

Here's the decision, as received from the Israeli mission.

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Government Establishes Independent Public Committee  
(Communicated by the Prime Minister's Office)

At the start of the 57th Government Meeting, the Prime Minister said:

"In consultation with Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman and Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein, I am, today, submitting to the Cabinet a draft decision on establishing a special, independent public commission to inquire into the events of 31.5.10.

Two main principles guided us in proposing the establishment of the commission. First is maintaining IDF soldiers' freedom of action and the credibility of the IDF investigation. According to the proposal, except for IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazi, IDF soldiers will not testify before the Commission. The IDF, via the team – chaired by Maj.-Gen. (ret.) Giora Eiland – that Chief-of-Staff Lt.-Gen. Ashkenazi has established will transfer to the Commission the summaries of its operational investigations.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

The second principle that guided us is providing a credible and convincing response to the responsible countries in the international community about the events, especially in the context of international law. I am convinced that the Commission's uncovering of the facts will prove that the goals and actions of the State of Israel and the IDF were appropriate defensive actions in accordance with the highest international standards.

I estimate that the Cabinet's decision this morning to establish a special, independent public commission will make it clear to the entire world that the State of Israel acts according to law, transparently, and with full responsibility."

=====

The Minister of Justice and the Attorney-General presented the Government with a resolution regarding appointing an independent public committee, headed by Emeritus Supreme Court Judge, Yaakov Terkel, to examine the events at sea of May 31, 2010. After the Government discussed the resolution, it decided unanimously:

1. To appoint an independent public Commission, headed by former Supreme Court Justice, Jacob Turkel, to examine the aspects set out herein relating to the actions taken by the State of Israel to prevent vessels from reaching the coast of the Gaza Strip on 31 May 2010 (hereinafter: the Commission).

2. The composition of the Commission:

Members:

Justice (Ret.) Jacob Turkel, Chairperson  
Shabtai Rosenne, Member  
Amos Horev, Member

Two observers will be appointed to the Commission as detailed in paragraph 3:

3. In light of the exceptional circumstances of the incident, it was decided to appoint two foreign experts who will serve as observers that will take part in the hearings and deliberations of the Commission, although they will not have the right to vote in relation to the proceedings and conclusions of the Commission.

Lord David Trimble, Observer  
Ken Watkin, Observer

4. The Commission will submit its conclusions on the question of whether the actions set out in paragraph 1 and their objectives, as well as additional matters involved therein, were in conformity with the rules of international law.

For this purpose, the Commission will address the following issues:

- a) Examination of the security circumstances surrounding the imposition of the naval blockade on the Gaza Strip and the conformity of the naval blockade with the rules of international law.
- b) The conformity of the actions taken by Israel to enforce the naval blockade in the incident of 31 May 2010 with the rules of international law.

c) Examination of the actions taken by the organizers of the flotilla and its participants, as well as their identity.

5. In addition, the Commission 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 conflict, as conducted in Israel generally, and as implemented with regard to the present incident, conform with the obligations of the State of Israel under the rules of international law.

6.

a) The Commission may request any individual or entity, whether Israeli or foreign, to testify before it or to provide information to it by other means, on matters which the Commission believes to be relevant to its proceedings.

b) Every relevant governmental body will cooperate fully with the Commission and will make available to the Commission information and documents required by it for the purposes of performing its function, including through testimony before the Commission.

c) Notwithstanding the above in subsections (a) and (b), with regard to its examination of the military actions set out in paragraph 4(b) of this resolution, in respect of personnel of the military and other security forces the Commission will operate exclusively in the following manner: it will receive for its review the documents it requires and will also be able to request from the Head of the Military Investigative Team authorized by the IDF Chief of the General Staff to transfer for its review the summary findings of the operational investigations carried out following the incident.

If after reviewing the said summary findings of the operational investigations the Commission considers that there exists a need for more in-depth or broader investigations, it will be able to request from the Head of the Military Investigative Team authorized by the IDF Chief of General Staff to issue an order to do so, and to transfer for the review of the Commission the summary findings of the operational investigations to be gathered in this context.

d) However, notwithstanding the above in subsection (c), the Commission may request any information from the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, other Ministers and the IDF Chief-of-Staff, including through testimony before the Commission.

7. The Commission will establish its own schedule and method of work. Commission hearings will be public or closed, as will be determined by the Commission. However, the Commission will not hold a public hearing if such a hearing could endanger national security or the State's foreign relations, or if in the view of the Commission another legal reason exists to this effect.

8. The Commission Chairperson may determine that certain documents or certain information will not be made available to the Observers, if he/she believes that revealing such information to them is almost certain to cause substantial harm to national security or to the State's foreign relations.

9. The Commission may authorize qualified persons to gather material needed for the work of the Commission and to assist the Commission in its duties.

10. Upon completion of its work, the Commission will submit to the Government, by way of the Prime Minister, a report.

11. The Commission will publish its report soon after its submission to the Government. However, those sections of the report with regard to which the Commission is convinced, after hearing the

opinion of the authorized bodies, that their publication could cause substantial harm to national security, foreign relations, or the well-being or privacy of an individual, or to confidential operational methods of an authorized entity, will not be published.

12. Upon completion of its work, the Commission will deposit all of the minutes of its proceedings, as well as all of the material brought before it, in the State archive.

13. The Ministry of Finance will provide the Commission with a budget for employing assistance staff, the scope of which will be determined by the Commission, in accordance with its needs, as determined by the Commission. In addition, the Office of the Prime Minister will provide the Commission with all the means required by it to carry out its duties.

14. The Government takes note of the statement of the Attorney General that in light of the vital public interest in allowing the Commission to seek the truth, law enforcement agencies will not make use of testimonies given before the Commission or before those individuals tasked with collecting information for the Commission, as evidence in a legal proceeding.

מח' מידע ואינטרנט – אגף תקשורת  
14 יוני 2010

RELEASED IN FULL

בלמ"ס/מידי

אל: כל הנציגות  
דע: תפוצת הסברה

מאת: מח' מידע ואינטרנט – אגף תקשורת

הנדון: ועדת הבדיקה לאירועי המשט – סיכום ישיבת הממשלה 14.6 – אנגלית

14 June 2010

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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d) However, notwithstanding the above in subsection (c), the Commission may request any information from the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, other Ministers and the IDF Chief-of-Staff, including through testimony before the Commission.

7. The Commission will establish its own schedule and method of work. Commission hearings will be public or closed, as will be determined by the Commission. However, the Commission will not hold a public hearing if such a hearing could endanger national security or the State's foreign relations, or if in the view of the Commission another legal reason exists to this effect.

8. The Commission Chairperson may determine that certain documents or certain information will not be made available to the Observers, if he/she believes that revealing such information to them is almost certain to cause substantial harm to national security or to the State's foreign relations.

9. The Commission may authorize qualified persons to gather material needed for the work of the Commission and to assist the Commission in its duties.
10. Upon completion of its work, the Commission will submit to the Government, by way of the Prime Minister, a report.
11. The Commission will publish its report soon after its submission to the Government. However, those sections of the report with regard to which the Commission is convinced, after hearing the opinion of the authorized bodies, that their publication could cause substantial harm to national security, foreign relations, or the well-being or privacy of an individual, or to confidential operational methods of an authorized entity, will not be published.
12. Upon completion of its work, the Commission will deposit all of the minutes of its proceedings, as well as all of the material brought before it, in the State archive.
13. The Ministry of Finance will provide the Commission with a budget for employing assistance staff, the scope of which will be determined by the Commission, in accordance with its needs, as determined by the Commission. In addition, the Office of the Prime Minister will provide the Commission with all the means required by it to carry out its duties.
14. The Government takes note of the statement of the Attorney General that in light of the vital public interest in allowing the Commission to seek the truth, law enforcement agencies will not make use of testimonies given before the Commission or before those individuals tasked with collecting information for the Commission, as evidence in a legal proceeding.

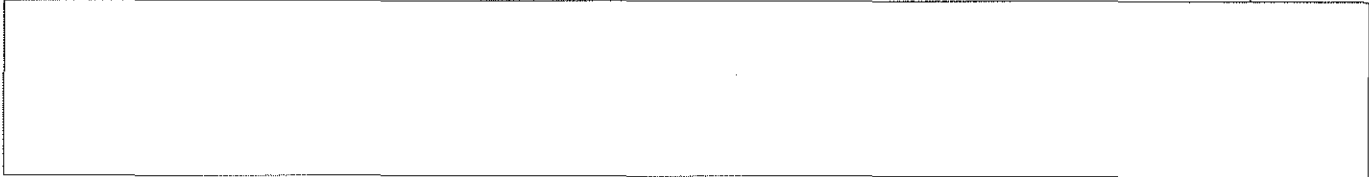
מח' מידע ואינטרנט – אגף תקשורת  
14 יוני 2010

RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:31 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: xlation of the Arab League Resolution  
**Attachments:** EN\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx; AR\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED



NR

**From:** Knopf, Payton L  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 03 10:26:24 2010  
**Subject:** FW: xlation of the Arab League Resolution

**From:** Blome, Donald A  
**To:** Scobey, Margaret; Tueller, Matthew H; Hale, David M; Champaine, Nicole D; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Connelly, Maura  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 03 04:17:40 2010  
**Subject:** FW: xlation of the Arab League Resolution

Final text with Embassy translation

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**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

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sullivan, David B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 11:41 AM  
**To:** Legal-HRR-DL; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** Khanna, Melanie J; Mansfield, Anna M; Martin, Julie B; Thomas, Tina  
**Subject:** FW: UN Special Rapporteur Statement on Flotilla Inquiry  
**Attachments:** Statement on Flotilla Inquiry.pdf; Inquiry study.pdf

Fyi. DBS

**From:** Knuckey, Sarah [<mailto:sarah.knuckey@nyu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 11, 2010 11:17 AM  
**To:** Knuckey, Sarah  
**Subject:** UN Special Rapporteur Statement on Flotilla Inquiry

11 June 2010

**Release of UN Special Rapporteur Statement on Flotilla Inquiry**

Today, Professor Philip Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, released a statement calling for any Israeli inquiry into the flotilla incident to be set up in accordance with international standards. He stated that for the inquiry to be credible, it must be independent of the government, it must be given full legal authority to investigate, and its final report must be made public. He also stated that it must be able to interview all key witnesses, including military personnel, and that it should have access to all video and other records of the incident, including those confiscated from civilians.

His comments were based on conclusions drawn from his previous detailed study on the international standards relevant to inquiries.

The statement and the inquiry study are attached. For further information on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and for access to his reports, please visit [www.extrajudicialexecutions.org](http://www.extrajudicialexecutions.org).

Regards,

Sarah

Sarah Knuckey  
Senior Advisor to the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions  
Director, Project on Extrajudicial Executions  
Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, NYU School of Law  
110 West Third St., Rm. 204, New York, NY 10012  
<http://www.extrajudicialexecutions.org>  
[sarah.knuckey@nyu.edu](mailto:sarah.knuckey@nyu.edu)  
+ 1.917.685.9098 (cell) | + 1.212.992.8873 (work)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

PRESS STATEMENT

**To be credible, Israeli Inquiry must be given the capacity to find the facts, says UN expert**

11 June 2010:

“Any inquiry set up by Israel to investigate the Gaza flotilla incident must be given a genuine capacity to find the facts”, according to Philip Alston, the UN’s independent expert on extrajudicial executions. “Without that capacity, an inquiry will simply not be considered credible,” he said. Alston noted that, “there are several indispensable requirements for any such commission of inquiry to comply with international standards. First, it must be independent of the government. Second it must be given full legal authority to obtain direct access to all relevant evidence, including the key witnesses. And third, its final report must be made public and not left to the discretion of the Government.” Alston said that if these requirements are met, a domestic commission of inquiry can make an important contribution to resolving the human rights issues raised by the raid on the flotilla.

Alston noted that he was basing his comments on conclusions drawn from his previous detailed study on the international standards for inquiries, and on his investigations and reports to the UN on killings and accountability issues in countries around the world. (See A/HRC/8/3).

“Giving the commission the capacity to find the facts means that it must be able to subpoena and interview all key witnesses, including the military personnel concerned and some of the passengers on the ships,” Alston stated. “It must also have access to all video and other records of the incident, including those confiscated from civilians. Without this information, the available evidence would be clearly one-sided and insufficient to ensure a fair and objective inquiry.”

“I will continue to closely monitor the development and progress of any inquiry,” the expert said. “It is crucial for the credibility of the inquiry that its processes be transparent and open, and that its report is released in full.”

\* \* \*

Philip Alston is John Norton Pomeroy Professor of Law and co-Director of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University School of Law. He was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions in 2004.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010  
**To:** Amory, Elizabeth R; Martin, Julie B; Aswad, Evelyn M; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Taken Question for Action by CA / L and PRM

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS  
REDACTED

Please see taken question at the bottom. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Clay, Noel C [mailto:ClayNC@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:55 PM  
**To:** PAO Group  
**Subject:** Taken Question for Action by CA / L and PRM

Taken Question:

[Redacted]

NR

For Guidance:

CA/NEA: What U.S. official viewed the body of the dual-national American citizen who was killed in the Gaza flotilla incident?

[Redacted]

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**RELEASED IN FULL****Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 4:17 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Jacobson, Linda; Aswad, Evelyn M; Martin, Julie B; Banos, Mariano H; Harris, Robert K; Thessin, James H; Bischoff, James L  
**Subject:** FW: Remarks - Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton And Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi After Their Meeting

FYI – what S said at the press avail about Gaza flotilla issues.

Stephen

**QUESTION:** Well, thank you very much even without doing it.

Madam Secretary, I'd like to ask you a couple things about the Israeli situation which, as you know, is getting more and more serious by the day. I know there are many unknowns at this point, but do you accept Israel's argument of self-defense? And do you think that the investigation should be done by Israel or by a third independent party, as other Security Council members have said?

And more broadly, we all know there are so many moving pieces to this. There's Turkey, there's Israel and in the Palestinians, there's Iran, there's Syria. What are the implications in your mind of this situation to the peace process and in the larger issues in the Middle East? Thanks.

**SECRETARY CLINTON:** Well, Nick, on your last day, you've asked a very complicated set of interrelated questions. And let me put it into context as I respond. First, let me say how deeply we regret the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships, and we offer our condolences to the families of the deceased and the wounded.

Turkey and Israel are both good friends of the United States, and we are working with both to deal with the aftermath of this tragic incident.

The United States supports the Security Council's condemnation of the acts leading to this tragedy. And we urge Israel to permit full consular access to the individuals involved and to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately. We urge all concerned countries to work together to resolve the status of those who were part of this incident as soon as possible.

We support in the strongest terms the Security Council's call for a prompt, impartial, credible, and transparent investigation. We support an Israeli investigation that meets those criteria. We are open to different ways of assuring a credible investigation, including international participation, and we will continue to discuss these ideas with the Israelis and our international partners in the days ahead.

The situation 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 continue to work closely with the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority along with international NGOs and the United Nations to ensure adequate access for humanitarian goods, including

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

reconstruction and building supplies. And we welcome efforts to promote the reunification of Gaza and the West Bank under the legitimate and internationally recognized Palestinian Authority.

Ultimately, the solution to this conflict must be found through an agreement based on a two-state solution negotiated between the parties. This incident underscores the urgency of reaching this goal and we remain committed to working with both sides to move forward these negotiations.

I think the situation from our perspective is very difficult and requires careful, thoughtful responses from all concerned. But we fully support the Security Council's action last night in issuing a presidential statement and we will work to implement the intention that this presidential statement represents.



RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:49 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Thessin, James H; Donoghue, Joan E; Cleveland, Sarah H; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Martin, Julie B; Banos, Mariano H; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Press on Flotilla  
**Attachments:** Flotilla PG.docx

Below is the statement we put out and cleared press guidance is attached. Thanks, Stephen

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman

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For Immediate Release

May 31, 2010

2010/702

STATEMENT BY PHILIP J. CROWLEY,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Free Gaza Flotilla

The United States deeply regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident today aboard the Gaza-bound ships. We are working to ascertain the facts, and expect that the Israeli government will conduct a full and credible investigation.

The United States remains deeply concerned by the suffering of civilians in Gaza. 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. 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. However, Hamas' interference with international assistance shipments and work of nongovernmental organizations, and its use and endorsement of violence, complicates 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 used for the benefit of all those in Gaza.

Ultimately, this incident underscores the need to move ahead quickly with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region.

###

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RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:18 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Banos, Mariano H  
**Cc:** Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:05 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G; Gorove, Katherine M; Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

**From:** Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**To:** Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 14 16:18:20 2010  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

[Redacted]

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Wolff, Alex D (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 4:05 PM  
**To:** Delaurentis, Jeffrey A (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** Rice, Susan E (USUN); Wolff, Alex D (USUN)  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

FYI

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**To:** 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>

**Sent:** Mon Jun 14 22:56:58 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

[Redacted] Jim

B5

**From:** Jeffrey, James F  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 14 22:55:22 2010  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

[Redacted]

**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**To:** Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J  
**Cc:** Jeffrey, James F; Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 14 22:42:36 2010  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

See below the MFA reaction we just received to the Israeli announcement today of its "special independent committee," particularly this point: **We expect that the international community, above all, the USA that lost a citizen of her own, support this constructive proposal by the UN Secretary General and take action in that direction without delay.**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

B6

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:27 PM  
**To:** Connelly, Maura; Kumar, Prem G.; Brink, Bridget A.; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hof, Frederic C; Rudman, Mara; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Cc:** Süleyman Gökçe; Koray Ertas  
**Subject:** URGENT / TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT

**TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY  
PRESS RELEASE  
JUNE 14, 2010  
(Unofficial Translation)**

Israel's declaration that it will establish a commission, composed of Israeli citizens and two foreign observers, in order to investigate the Israeli raid against the Freedom Flotilla does not in any way meet Turkey's clear demand or international community's expectations, which were expressed in the Presidential Statement of the United Nations Security Council.

Israel does not have the authority to assign a national commission to investigate a crime perpetrated in international waters. An inquiry to be conducted by such a commission cannot be impartial, fair, transparent and credible.

Turkey has indeed already agreed to the proposal by the UN Secretary General to establish an international commission to be composed of one Turkish, one Israeli and three international experts. We strongly condemn Israel's disregard of this proposal to date.

We expect that the international community, above all the USA that lost a citizen of her own, support this constructive proposal by the UN Secretary General and take action in that direction without delay.

**Law, Rosemary C**

**RELEASED IN PART B5**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 8:58 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** Re: Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

[Redacted]

Jon

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**To:** McLeod, Mary (USUN); Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 03 17:12:28 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

[Redacted]

**From:** McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:09 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Gorove, Katherine M; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

[Redacted]

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior**

B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

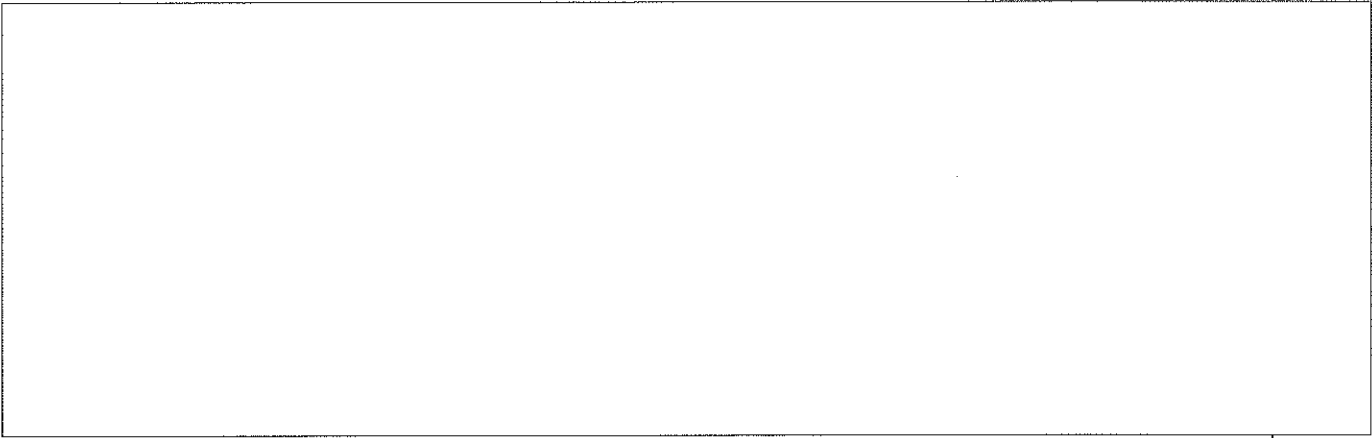
**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:03 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:53 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K; Aswad, Evelyn M; McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** Is Quartet investig'n feasible with HRC investig'n?

[Redacted]



B5



**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:03 PM **RELEASED IN PART B5**  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** Re: Flotilla Inquiry

Thanks. I mentioned to Mara, who may participate by SVTS in the middle of the night.

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

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Cc:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 03 14:59:35 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Inquiry

We just sent back final comments to NEA on the briefing paper but I will flag these issues for IPA and discuss the UN issue with Kate.

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

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:57 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**Subject:** Flotilla Inquiry

Linda - you hopefully are reviewing a briefing paper on options that attaches the L survey paper. One issue that I recommend L look into is

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks.

Jon

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:12 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 03 16:03:18 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

If this is ICC question Jonathan is asking about, it was answered by below message

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:11 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Connelly, Maura; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan  
**Subject:** RE: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

Very helpful, thanks. Adding Maura and TLV.

I gather that this is from an ICC meeting in Uganda that Harold Koh is also participating in.

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:04 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

In response to Tom's earlier inquiry . . .

**From:** Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:44 AM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Harris, Robert K; Dolan, JoAnn; Townley, Stephen G; Daley, John D; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Aswad, Evelyn M; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Legal-UNA-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

[Redacted]

B5

43  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Thanks,  
Kristen

---

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:25 AM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Dolan, JoAnn; Townley, Stephen G; Daley, John D; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Aswad, Evelyn M; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Legal-UNA-DL; Eichensehr, Kristen E  
**Subject:** RE: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

Me or Kristen (who is in touch with folks in Kampala).

---

**From:** Harris, Robert K  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:56 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Townley, Stephen G; Daley, John D; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Aswad, Evelyn M; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Legal-UNA-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

Kate,

With Todd and John out of the office, can you tell me who would be following ICC-related issues in L/UNA?

Thanks.

Bob

---

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:45 AM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Daley, John D; Harris, Robert K; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Aswad, Evelyn M; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

May be early but be alert to this ICC angle. See desk inquiry below. Has anyone seen more?

---

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:27 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** FW: Turkey mulls legal action against Israel: report

Has anyone seen anything concrete about ICC action against Israel on this?  Thanks. Tom

B5

---

**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

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.

**Media Analysis and Watch Center**  
USSTRATCOM Foreign Media Analysis Program  
SOS International Ltd.  
[www.sosiltd.com](http://www.sosiltd.com)

For additional information, please visit the SOSi USSTRATCOM FMA portal at <http://fma.sosiltd.com/secure/?SID=SECF83EFBEF>. Once registered, you may access FMA products and manage your subscriptions. Write to [helpdeskfma@sosiltd.com](mailto:helpdeskfma@sosiltd.com) or call 703-483-4898 for assistance.

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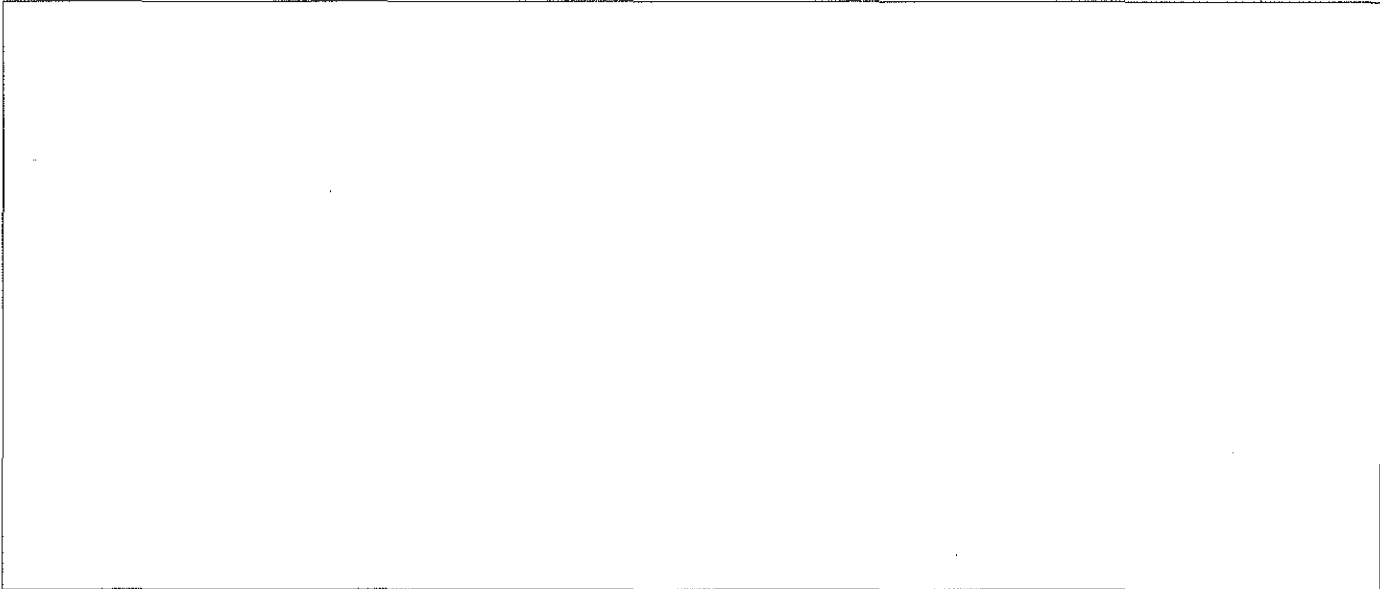
RELEASED IN PART B5

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:22 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Investigation Options Paper

Thanks Linda. Israeli press is reporting that Dennis Ross and Dan Shapiro proposed to Netanyahu that there be an American observer to the IDF investigation, but I cannot confirm.

I can't go through your paper right now, but if relevant here are a couple general observations:



B5

Jon

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 03 05:32:50 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Israel Investigation Options Paper

Jon, apologies, I am just seeing Steve's email that he did not send this to you for review.

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 21:36:19 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Investigation Options Paper

A further question – should we try to send to Jon to see if he has thoughts from afar



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**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:23 PM  
**To:** Cleveland, Sarah H; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Donoghue, Joan E; Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Cc:** Thessin, James H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Investigation Options Paper

Apologies, attached is a small revision reflecting some further input from Jake. Please use this version. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:05 PM  
**To:** Cleveland, Sarah H; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Donoghue, Joan E; Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Subject:** Israel Investigation Options Paper

Joan (and Harold, if you have time and internetability),

Attached for your review is a paper that Linda has worked up (drawing on work done after Goldstone) on ways to

Thanks, Stephen

B5

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: US flagged vessels

L's info, per Coast Guard, is that one of the second wave vessels is US registered/flagged.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 09:34:35 2010  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

Update -- USCG confirms that its database shows that the vessel is validly registered in Delaware. We can now be comfortable in concluding that the vessel is properly characterized as U.S. flagged. [redacted]

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

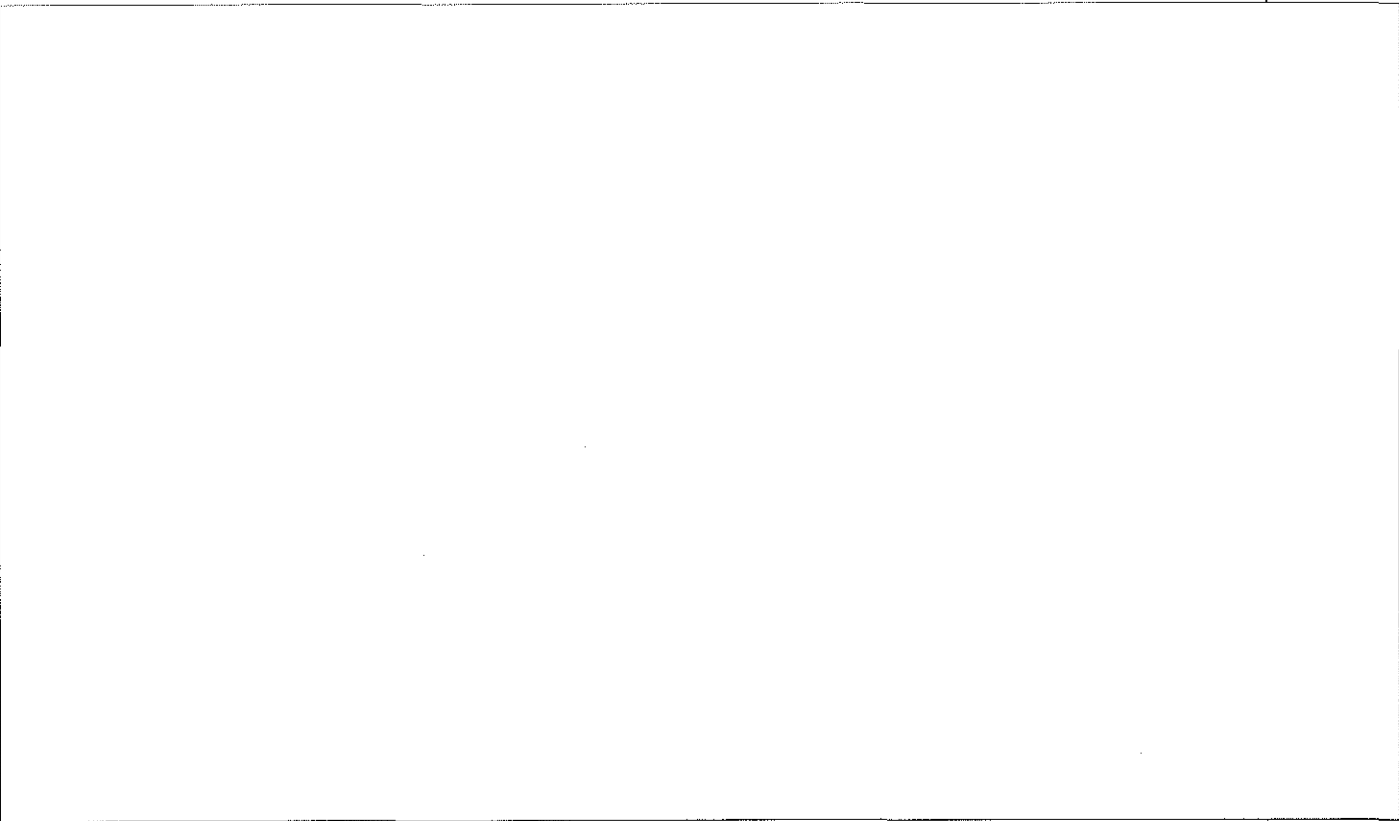
Jim -- in case this comes up tomorrow, here is the situation as I understand it regarding the apparently US flagged vessels.

In terms of the facts --

- There are two vessels -- Challenger I and Challenger II -- that have been involved in this incident and are believed to be U.S. flagged vessels. Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel. Challenger II is believed to have had mechanical difficulties and may be intended to breach the blockade in the coming days (estimates range from Wed to Saturday).
- We are not certain that the vessels are properly registered in the United States. Greek port authority documentation showed both vessels as having Delaware registration numbers. Coast Guard is still checking whether those registrations are still valid; we should know tomorrow. IDF reported at various times that these vessels were actually flying Greek and St. Vincent flags (after earlier suggesting we take action because they were U.S. flagged). This also raises some doubt as to their nationality.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to include any AMCITs (again, based on Greek port docs). Cargo - humanitarian or otherwise -- is not known. The two vessels are pleasure craft (yachts) that apparently do not tend to make international voyages. They are not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes locating them more difficult.
- Efforts were underway on Friday-Saturday to notify the vessel/owners and pass them a warning regarding potential consequences of unlawful activity. Unclear whether the vessels or owners have been reached yet (and efforts to reach Challenger II may have been aborted because it dropped out of the original flotilla). We are seeking an update on the facts.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5



Thanks,  
Kevin



Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART

B5, B6

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:44 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: HRC Gaza resolution - status of negotiations

B6

**From:** Shapiro, Daniel B. [mailto:Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:43 AM  
**To:** Cassayre, Mark J; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Martin, Julie B  
**Subject:** RE: HRC Gaza resolution - status of negotiations

[redacted]

B5

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J [mailto:CassayreMJ@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 9:33 AM  
**To:** Shapiro, Daniel B.; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy [redacted]; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL; Martin, Julie B  
**Subject:** HRC Gaza resolution - status of negotiations

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer 55

**From:** Shapiro, Daniel B. [mailto:Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 2:58 PM

**To:** Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy[redacted] Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** RE: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[redacted]

B5

**From:** Powell, Catherine [mailto:PowellC@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 8:56 AM

**To:** Ostermeier, Amy A; Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; jpcassidy[redacted] Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Busby, Scott W.; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

Looping in Bill Burke-White and Dafna Rand for S/P.

**From:** Ostermeier, Amy A

**To:** Bass, Warren; Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy[redacted] <jpcassidy[redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov>; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL; Anderson, Gerald C; Feltman, Jeffrey D; IO-HR-DL  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 08:49:16 2010  
**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote - clearance by 10 AM EST

B5

[redacted]

[Redacted]

B5

Many thanks,

Amy

*Amy A. Ostermeier, Deputy Director*  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Office of Human Rights (IO/HR)  
(ph) 202-647-3901  
(fx) 202-647-4628  
ostermeieraa@state.gov

**From:** Bass, Warren

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:38 AM

**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; 'jpcassidy[redacted]'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nsc.eop.gov'; Wolff, Alex D (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Schedlbauer, Amy W

**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL

**Subject:** Re: Instruction and EOV for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

Adding USUN/NY and NSC/NENA. We should think about [redacted]

B5

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F

**To:** 'jpcassidy[redacted]' <jpcassidy[redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Donahoe, Eileen C; Cassayre, Mark J; Khanna, Melanie J; Griffiths, Douglas M

**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL

**Sent:** Mon May 31 23:32:34 2010

**Subject:** Instruction and EOV for HRC vote tomorrow - clearance by 10 AM EST

B6

[Redacted]

B5

Many thanks,  
Suzanne

[Redacted]

B5



The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces Against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy

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

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,

Expressing grave concern also at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Occupied Gaza,

Emphasizing the need to ensure 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 possible 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;
3. Requests the ICRC to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons
4. Demands the Occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.
5. 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;
6. Welcomes the statements of the Secretary General UN and the High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.
7. Decides to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.
8. Decides to remain seized of this matter.

---

**From:** Joseph Cassidy <jpcassidy [redacted]>  
**To:** Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; jpcassidy [redacted] <jpcassidy [redacted]>; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 16:37:03 2010  
**Subject:** URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

B6

I ask that you review and clear this statement, which will be delivered tomorrow morning by Ambassador Donohoe at a special event within this UN Human Rights Council session, as soon as possible. [redacted]



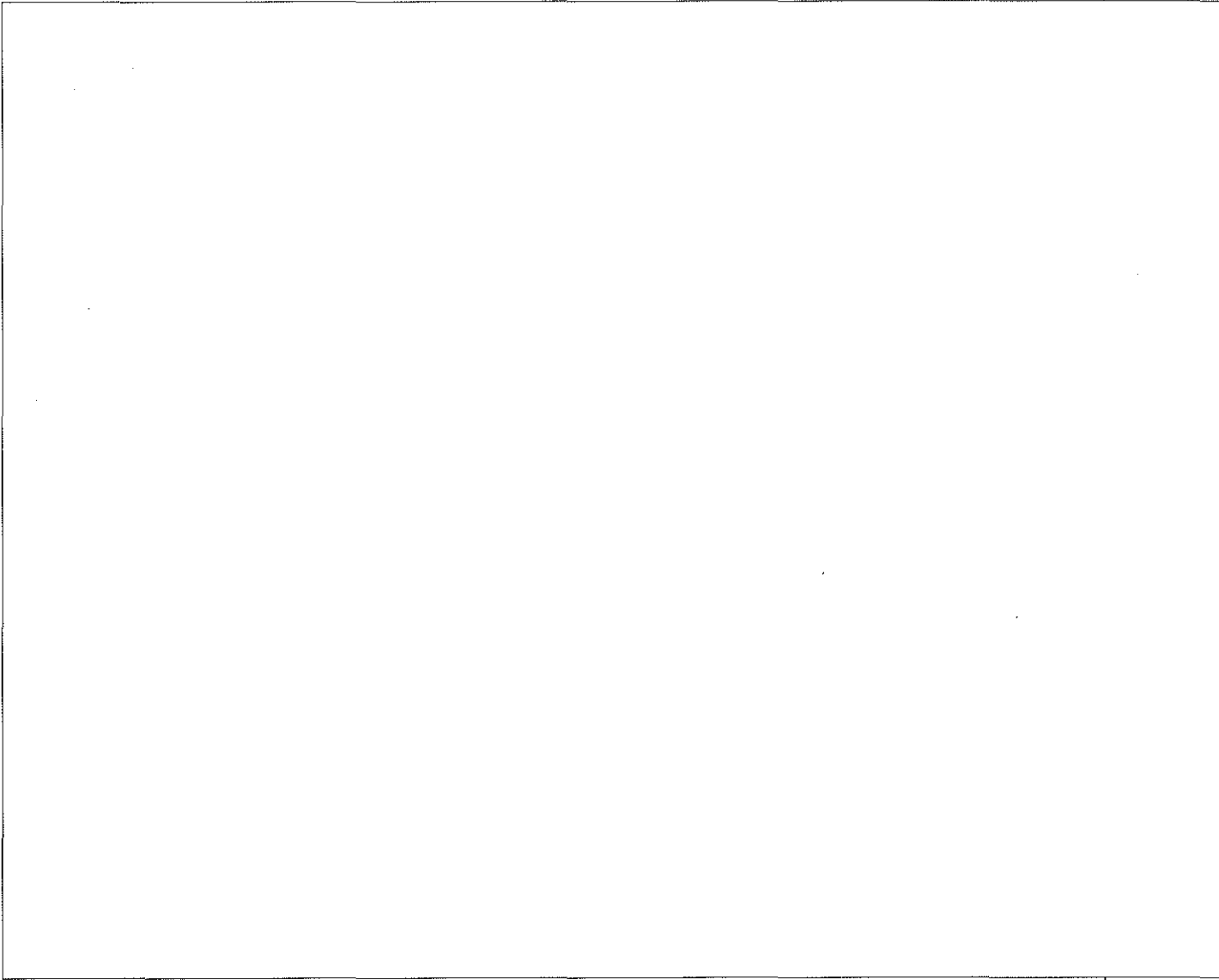
B5  
B5

Thanks, Joe

(begin text)

**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident  
for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.



B5

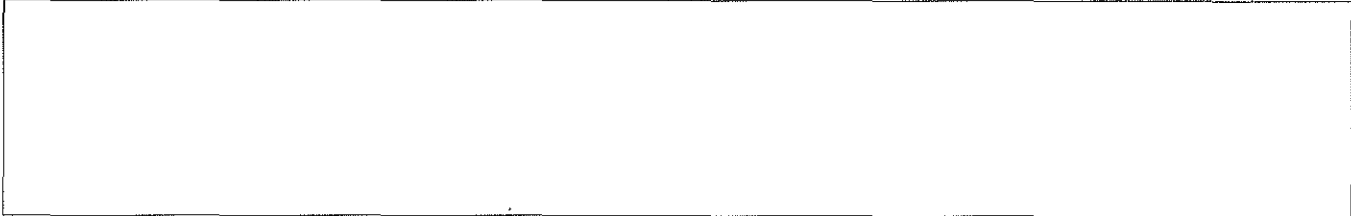
Thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:48 PM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G; Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Katsoulos, Athena; Waller, Robert P; Fuchs, Michael H; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Harutunian, Ruben; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:** RE:



B5

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**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rudman, Mara; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Ratney, Michael A; Vasquez, Edgar J; Pelton, Erin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Wills, Regina M; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Katsoulos, Athena; Waller, Robert P; Fuchs, Michael H; Rand, Dafna H; Rana, Gautam A; Harutunian, Ruben; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Knopf, Payton L; Prince, Jonathan M  
**Subject:**  
**Importance:** High

Hi Everyone –

Please clear the attached press guidance on the raid on the Free Gaza flotilla. Please note that your clearance is appreciated ASAP. We will need to move this guidance to PA soonest so that it can be used by all that need it.

Thank you,  
Ambrose

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2010 10:13 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Walles, Jacob  
**Subject:** Fw: flotilla guidance  
**Attachments:** flotilla guidance.docx

Fyi

---

**From:** Koh, Harold Hongju  
**To:** Steinberg, James B; Cook, Akunna E  
**Cc:** Gorove, Katherine M; Buchwald, Todd F; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 15 19:40:20 2010  
**Subject:** flotilla guidance

B5

Jim:

[REDACTED]  
Have a nice weekend  
Harold

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5

**IF ASKED ONLY:**

Q:

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

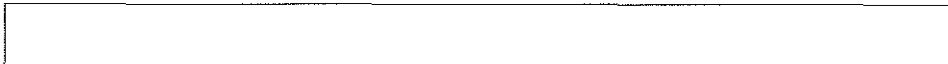


RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** EN\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx  
**Attachments:** EN\_AL\_Res\_Israeli Attack on Flotilla 02 June 2010.docx



B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 7:46 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** Fw: judgment 4196-10.doc  
**Attachments:** judgment 4196-10.doc

B6

Please circulate as appropriate. Thanks.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Koh, Harold Hongju; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 07 07:13:11 2010  
**Subject:** judgment 4196-10.doc

FYI, I attach the decision of our HCJ on a number of petitions filed in relation to the Gaza flotilla.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:28 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** RE: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

It appears that this issue has been resolved and they're sending all of them home today. We should have more details soon, I hope.

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:22 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Sievers, Marc J  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** FW: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

Tom/Marc: Would either of you have any greater detail on sit rep entry this morning to the effect:

**ISRAEL MIGHT CONSIDER WOUNDED AS COMBATANTS**

(SBU) Approximately 50 wounded detainees of various nationalities are currently being treated by the Government of Israel as suspects, and thus may not be allowed to leave the country. The GOI might want to file court cases against these individuals, but this course of action is subject to the attorney general's discretion. (MGGZ01/NEA-FO e-mail)




B5

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:47 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

Hi--any thoughts about how to get this (cd you check with Tom G if he is the right guy)? Tx!

**From:** Donoghue, Joan E  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Townley, Stephen G  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 07:09:49 2010  
**Subject:** Fw: Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

It would be useful to see more detail about the item referring to prosecutions and "combatants." 



**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 06:12:05 2010  
**Subject:** Situation Report No.5 - Gaza Flotilla (SBU)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

## **SITUATION REPORT No. 5**

### **Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group MGGZ01**

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

0600 EDT

#### **STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS**

(SBU) Eleven AmCit detainees plan to, or have already signed, voluntary deportation forms provided by the Israeli Ministry of Interior. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)*

#### **STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS**

- (U) Israel's inner security cabinet voted to deport remaining prisoners within 48 hours. A government statement issued late June 1 stated that "the detainees would be expelled immediately according to the procedures set by law," said a government statement issued late June 1. *(AFP)*
- (U) Turkey sent three planes to Israel to repatriate approximately 350 detained activists. *(AFP)*

#### **ISRAEL MIGHT CONSIDER WOUNDED AS COMBATANTS**

(SBU) Approximately 50 wounded detainees of various nationalities are currently being treated by the Government of Israel as suspects, and thus may not be allowed to leave the country. The GOI might want to file court cases against these individuals, but this course of action is subject to the attorney general's discretion. *(MGGZ01/NEA-FO e-mail)*

#### **RETURN OF ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC FAMILY MEMBERS FROM TURKEY**

(U) Approximately 50 people related to Israeli consulate and embassy staff in Turkey are returning to Israel, a senior official told Israeli public radio. *(AFP)*

#### **INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS**

- (SBU) Moscow condemned Israel's action against the MAVI MARMARA, asserting that the "Use of weapons against civilians and detaining ships in the open sea without any legal reason constitutes obvious and gross violations of generally accepted international standards." Embassy Moscow notes Russia likely will use this incident to push for Israel to lift the Gaza blockade. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Moscow e-mail)*
- (SBU) NATO SYG Rasmussen released a statement June 1 expressing "deep regret over the loss of lives and the other casualties resulting from the use of force" and urging the UN and the EU to conduct "a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation into the incident." He also called for "the immediate release of the detained civilians and ships held by Israel." *(MGGZ01/USNATO e-mail)*
- (U) India condemned Israel for "indiscriminate use of force" and asserted that "lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue." *(Xinhua)*
- (U) Lebanese President Sleiman discussed the incident with Turkish President Gul and reportedly agreed to coordinate efforts to "counter Israel's actions." *(nowlebanon.com)*
- (U) The Irish government called on Israel to allow an Irish-registered aid ship, the RACHEL CORRIE, to continue its voyage to Gaza. Late June 1, PM Cowen warned of "serious consequences" if any detained Irish citizens were harmed, and called for their immediate and unconditional release. *(bbc.co.uk)*
- (U) The Malaysian Cabinet tabled a parliamentary motion strongly condemning Israel's raid. FM Aman departed for Jordan to seek the release of the 12 Malaysians. *(Xinhua)*
- (SBU) Nicaragua suspended diplomatic ties with Israel June 1 to protest Israel's raid on the MAVI MARMARA, President Ortega's office said. Embassy Managua notes that Nicaragua has no diplomatic presence in Israel but has an embassy in Cairo. *(MGGZ01/Embassy Managua e-mail, elpueblopresidente.com)*

- (U) Iranian FM Mottaki expressed solidarity with the “martyrs” killed during the raid and added that the incident “opened some possibility” to put pressure on Israel to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip and thereby allow the passage of medicine and humanitarian assistance. *(AFP)*
- (U) French FM Kouchner said that the raid was “a very grave mistake” and “extremely damaging to the image of Israel itself.” Kouchner advocated for an international investigation and said “there should not be impunity.” *(AP)*

For more information on the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops Portal at the following link:  
[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza Flotilla 2010](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Drafted: MFIHayes

Approved: DLBanks

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

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Silverman, Robert J  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 17, 2010 2:52 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Re: Clearance Request: IO Press Guidance on Turkish Complaint to ICC on Gaza Flotilla

Thanks Linda - see you on your next trip

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Silverman, Robert J  
**Sent:** Sun Oct 17 02:27:23 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Clearance Request: IO Press Guidance on Turkish Complaint to ICC on Gaza Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Silverman, Robert J  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Sat Oct 16 16:51:31 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Clearance Request: IO Press Guidance on Turkish Complaint to ICC on Gaza Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

Bob

**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:18 PM  
**To:** Sayles, Ambrose G; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Rudman, Mara  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Doutrich, Jack T; Baily, Jess L; Silliman, Douglas A; Walles, Jacob  
**Subject:** RE: Clearance Request: IO Press Guidance on Turkish Complaint to ICC on Gaza Flotilla

Clear.

Tom/Jess/Doug et all - heads up.

**Paul Sutphin**  
Director  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
Room 6251, Department of State

(T) 202-647-3672 (F) 202-736-4461

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Sayles, Ambrose G  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Rudman, Mara  
**Subject:** FW: Clearance Request: IO Press Guidance on Turkish Complaint to ICC on Gaza Flotilla  
**Importance:** High

IPA and SEMEP Colleagues –

Please see the attached press guidance. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] Your clearance is greatly appreciated.

B5

Thank you,  
Ambrose

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Cooper, Kurtis A  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 11:41 AM  
**To:** IO-HR-DL; Coughlin, Shaun (S/WCI); Banos, Mariano H; Sayles, Ambrose G; Vasquez, Edgar J; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Bass, Warren; Ventrell, Patrick H (USUN); Kornblau, Mark (USUN); Cook, Akunna E; P-IO Duty; Burke-White, William; 'Scott\_W\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; EUR-Press  
**Subject:** Clearance Request: IO Press Guidance on Turkish Complaint to ICC on Gaza Flotilla  
**Importance:** High

Colleagues:

PJ has requested press guidance on the below story for today's briefing [redacted]  
[redacted] Please clear ASAP. Thanks in advance.

B5

Kurtis

## Turks accuse Israel of war crimes at int'l court

**AP** Associated Press

By ARTHUR MAX, Associated Press Writer Arthur Max, Associated Press Writer

AMSTERDAM – Turkish lawyers representing pro-Palestinian activists filed a complaint Thursday with the International Criminal Court accusing Israel of committing war crimes in May when its troops raided a boat trying to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

It was unclear whether the prosecutor would agree to pursue the case or whether the court has jurisdiction. But the filing reignited an issue that has severely strained Israel's relations with Turkey, previously its strongest ally in the Muslim world, and keeps Israel on the defensive over its much-criticized Gaza blockade.

A delegation representing some 300 activists and a Turkish nongovernment organization submitted the complaint to the prosecutor's office in The Hague seeking an investigation into the May 31 raid.

Nine Turkish citizens, including 19-year-old Furkan Dogan who had dual U.S.-Turkish nationality, were killed during the melee after Israeli troops rappelled from helicopters onto the deck of the ship Mavi Marmara before dawn.

"I have confidence the international court and the prosecutor will take this case," said Ahmet Dogan, Furkan's father.

Israel has said its troops fired live ammunition only after they were attacked by activists with clubs and metal bars and they felt their lives were in danger.

Attorney Ugur Sevgili said the victims want Israel investigated for torture, inhuman treatment, the taking of hostages and other violations of the Geneva war crimes convention.

"We demanded from the prosecutor to initiate an investigation and prosecute the perpetrators of this crime," Sevgili said. "We didn't mention any Israeli soldiers or any Israeli politicians. We just told them that we believe war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed."

The court, which began work in 2002 as the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, receives hundreds of complaints every year, but so far has filed indictments against 17 war crimes suspects — all of them involved in African conflicts.

Dogan, speaking outside the court's headquarters, said he thought politics might get in the way of justice.

"I believe that people who killed my son will be prosecuted. However, this case also has international and political dimensions," he said.

A U.N.-appointed panel of human rights experts, chaired by a former judge of the international court, found last month that Israel violated human rights law during its interception of the flotilla carrying humanitarian supplies to Gaza, which has been under an Israeli blockade for three years.

Israel rejected the panel's findings, which it said were biased and one-sided, and said the U.N. Human Rights Council that appointed the panel is heavily weighted in the Palestinians' favor.

The court normally intercedes only if the country involved is among the 114 nations that have endorsed the court's founding treaty. Israeli is not a signatory, but the ship was flying the flag of the Comoros Island, which is a member of the court.

Sevgili said he expected the Comoros to support the victims' application to the court or file its own complaint.

The prosecutor also may initiate an investigation even if the accused country does not belong to the court — but only if he determines that the country is unable to launch its own credible investigation of human rights abuses.



Among the complaints submitted and presumably pending in the prosecutor's office is an application by the Palestinian Authority 18 months ago asking for a war crimes investigation into Israel's brief yet deadly 2008 war in Gaza.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6, B3

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Simon, Jennifer J  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 9:04 PM  
**To:** Cassidy, Joseph P; Aswad, Evelyn M; 'jpcassidy[redacted]'; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Donoghue, Joan E; Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; DRL-MLGA-DL; Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Delaurentis, Jeffrey A (USUN); 'jsammis@mac.com'  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

B6

[redacted]

B5

Thx.

**From:** Cassidy, Joseph P  
**To:** Aswad, Evelyn M; 'jpcassidy[redacted]' <jpcassidy[redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Donoghue, Joan E; Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 20:56:46 2010  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

B6

Excellent, thanks. I will look them over right now. [redacted]

B5

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**To:** 'Joseph Cassidy' <jpcassidy[redacted]>; Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov' <scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Donoghue, Joan E; Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 20:28:40 2010  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

B6

Please find attached consolidated L suggestions, which are not redlines, for your consideration. EA

**From:** Joseph Cassidy [mailto:jpcassidy[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:37 PM  
**To:** Ashraf, Madeeha S; Cue, Lourdes C; Aguilera, Patricia; Littlejohn, J.R.; Wecker, John A; Powell, Catherine; Ostermeier, Amy A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Legal-HRR-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Simon, Jennifer J; Bass, Warren; 'scott\_w.\_busby@nss.eop.gov'; Perina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Posner, Michael H; Geneva HRC; Cassidy, Joseph P; jpcassidy[redacted]; DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** URGENT -- Clearance needed Monday afternoon

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

I ask that you review and clear this statement, which will be delivered tomorrow morning by Ambassador Donohoe at a special event within this UN Human Rights Council session, as soon as possible.

B5





RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

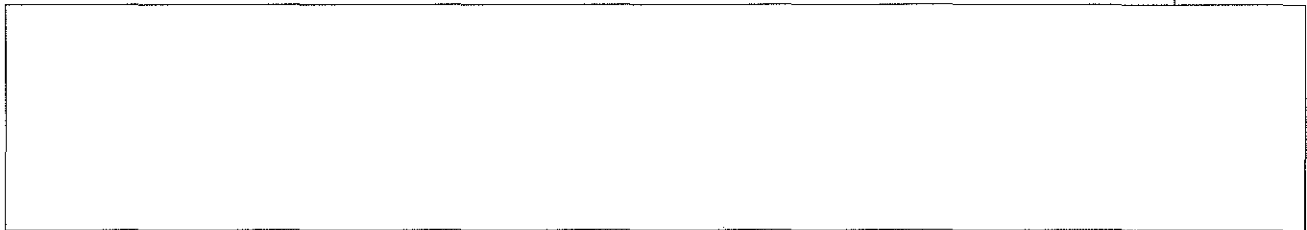
---

**From:** Simonoff, Mark A (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:37 PM  
**To:** Ingber, Rebecca M; Dolan, JoAnn; McLeod, Mary; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Colleagues,

My colleagues in the Political Section responded to Rebecca's suggested revision and the explanation as follows:



B5

Best regards,

Mark

Mark A. Simonoff  
Acting Legal Adviser  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations  
799 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
(212)415-4220

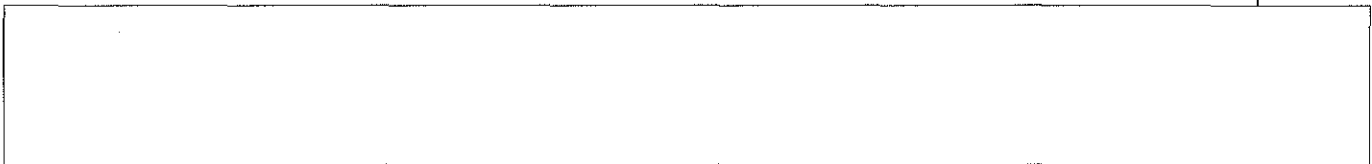
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

SBU

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**From:** Ingber, Rebecca M  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 2:09 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; McLeod, Mary; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

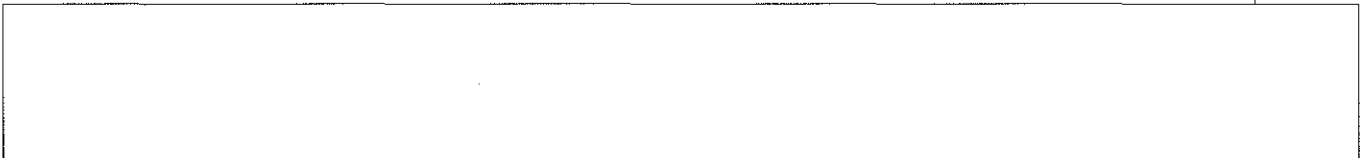


I just spoke with JoAnn and unless there are concerns with this, I will send back to NEA in the next 10 min.

Thanks!

---

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 1:45 PM  
**To:** McLeod, Mary; Ingber, Rebecca M; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Townley, Stephen G  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report



B5

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**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 1:14 PM  
**To:** Ingber, Rebecca M; Banos, Mariano H; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Buchwald, Todd F; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** McLeod, Mary; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Subject:** FW: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

In case others have not seen as yet.

---

**From:** Ventrell, Patrick H (USUN)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 1:03 PM  
**To:** Vasquez, Edgar J; Schrepel, Dawn M; P-NEA Duty; Rand, Dafna H; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); Bass, Warren; Cooper, Kurtis A; Lapenn, Jessica; Owen, Evan; PRM-Press-DL; EUR-Press; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Hale, David M  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** RE: For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report

Attached are the suggested edits from USUN.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2011 12:15 PM  
**To:** Schrepel, Dawn M; P-NEA Duty; Rand, Dafna H; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Kornblau, Mark (USUN); Bass, Warren; Cooper, Kurtis A; Lapenn, Jessica; Ventrell, Patrick H (USUN); Owen, Evan; PRM-Press-DL; EUR-Press; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Hale, David M  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** For Clearance: Israel-Turkel Commission report  
**Importance:** High

Please clear on the attached press guidance.

Thanks,  
Eddie

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

II

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Daniels, Cherrie S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:26 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Selinger, Thomas B; Meltzer, Alan D  
**Subject:** Norway Dep FM comments on Israel/Gaza flotilla +UNSC Pres Stmt

CONFIDENTIAL 1.4 b and d

( U ) I accompanied CODEL OBEY to see Norwegian MFA State Secretary Gry Larsen (Deputy FM equivalent) today, June 1. They had a comprehensive discussion on many global issues and topics; a write-up will come separately when cleared by the codel.

(C) Ms. Larsen briefed the CODEL group and A/DCM on Norway's engagement internationally w/regard to the flotilla incident. Norwegian PM Stoltenberg had on May 31 issued a statement condemning military attacks on civilians, and Norway was originally in favor of an international investigation into what happened. Norway on June 1 issued a new press release from the MFA noting that Norway is pleased with the UNSC Presidential Statement. (see text on unclass system from me.) Norway supports the UNSC Presidential statement's call for an investigation, she said, even though it doesn't specify whether such investigation will be international or other. Norway was pleased especially with elements she characterized as "condemning what happened," calling for a lifting of the blockade on Gaza, and calling for releasing of civilian prisoners.

(C) Ms Larsen noted that three Norwegian citizens were on board the ship that was boarded and on which the violent incidents took place. The three, like many others on the ship, were taken to Ashdod and offered by Israel a choice of whether to be deported or be detained. All chose to be detained, she said. Norway is seeking to assist them and get them out as soon as possible, and is in direct touch with Israeli authorities.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d) US Embassy Oslo , State

**Declassify On:** 2020/06/01

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN FULL

**Bowers, Allyson M**

I2

**From:** Steinfeld, Andrew W  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:37 PM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Knopf, Payton L; Sachar, Alon; Sanderson, Janet A; Connelly, Maura; Hale, David M; Jacoby, Julia I; Rudman, Mara  
**Subject:** FW: GOK/PARLIAMENT REACT STRONGLY TO "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT, PROMINENT KUWAITI MP AMONG THE DETAINED

**From:** Sullivan, Cassie C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:22 PM  
**To:** Steinfeld, Andrew W; Specht, Linda  
**Subject:** GOK/PARLIAMENT REACT STRONGLY TO "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT, PROMINENT KUWAITI MP AMONG THE DETAINED



NotesTele.txt

- 16 Kuwaitis on board the Gaza Flotilla – including an MP (an Islamist activist who has been a critic of the GOK), a dual American-Kuwaiti national, journalists, and human rights activists.

**Kuwaiti MP Response:**

- The **Kuwait Cabinet held a May 31 emergency session** to discuss concerns related to the 16 Kuwaiti "Freedom Flotilla" participants currently reported to be unharmed but in Israeli custody. During the session, MPs passed a motion calling for the GoK to withdraw from the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative (API). In separate statements, various MPs called for the GoK to cease participation in all Middle East peace initiatives and called for Arab and Muslims to sever all ties with Israel (with special pleas for Oman and Qatar to "take the lead") and demanded the expulsion of Israeli diplomats from Arab and Muslim nations.
- The **National Assembly issued a statement** calling for the following:
  - That the UNSC conduct an international investigation to determine Israel's legal culpability and that the UNSC enforce international resolutions calling on Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories.
  - That the International Court of Justice assume jurisdiction for the investigation and legal proceedings against Israel under charges of crimes against humanity.
  - That **Chiefs of Mission in Kuwait call on their governments to exert pressure on the GoI for the immediate release from detention of all flotilla participants.**
  - That Arab and Muslim nations assume their responsibility toward the "Gazans under siege" and work to end the embargo.

**Kuwaiti Leadership Response:**

- After summoning UNSC P-5 member Chiefs of Mission, Al-Roudhan also noted to the press that the Kuwaiti Amir as current GCC president, had discussed this "heinous humanitarian crime" with other GCC states and other Arab nations via the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

**Kuwaiti Public Response:**

- **Several hundred Kuwaitis rallied in front of Parliament May 31** in a demonstration orchestrated by the Kuwait Society for Basic Elements of Human Rights.
- Also circulating in the press and in blogs is the report that "sign-up sheets" for the next flotilla are circulating on university campuses and in the broader community and are quickly being filled.

1  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

T4

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Daschbach, Mary E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:02 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Incident and Uruguayan Media Reporting  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

**UNCLASSIFIED**



RELEASED IN FULL

**Action Office:** PMO, FO\_STAFF, EX, FO\_WHA, CAR\_DIR  
**Info Office:** PPC\_DEMGOV, EPSC, BSC\_PAO, PPC\_CONG, USOAS, PPC\_FORASST, BSC\_URU, EX\_BUD, PPC\_DIR, PPC\_DEPDIR, BSC\_REGION, PPC\_DHS3G, PPC\_TIP, PPC\_NARTER, CEN\_RegionalAffairs

---

**MRN:** 10 MONTEVIDEO 450  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 01, 2010 / 011400Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PGOV, IMO, KPAO, KMDR, IS, UY, TU, UN  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Incident and Uruguayan Media Reporting

WHA/PDA for CPeterson; WHA/BSC for MDaschbach; NEA/I

Uruguay's daily press coverage of the Israeli military's interdiction of the Gaza-bound flotilla was balanced and "matter-of-fact." With no correspondents of their own in the Middle East, today's dailies relied on wire service stories (e.g., AFP and the AP). Center-right Ultimas Noticias and far left/pro-government La Republica published the Gaza activists' version of events alongside Israel's, including a statement by their Ambassador here, Dori Goren, who called the flotilla a provocation. Ultimas Noticias' headlined the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry statement condemning Israel's military action. Predictably, La Republica also published an anti-Israel op-ed by its extreme-left staff editorialist Niko Schwarz.

Nelson##

**Signature:** Nelson

---

**Drafted By:** MONTEVIDEO:Zimmerman, Robert A (Montevideo)  
**Approved By:** MONTEVIDEO:Zimmerman, Robert A (Montevideo)  
**Released By:** MONTEVIDEO:Zimmerman, Robert A (Montevideo)  
**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Post:** DOM WHA  
**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_PPC\_DEMGOV, DIS\_EPSC\_ALL, DIS\_BSC\_PAO, DIS\_PPC\_CONG,  
DIS\_WHA\_UNGA, DIS\_USOAS\_ALL, DIS\_PPC\_FORASST, DIS\_BSC\_URU,  
DIS\_FO\_REG\_STAFF, DIS\_FO\_REGIONAL, DIS\_PPC\_DIR, DIS\_PPC\_DEPDIR,  
DIS\_BSC\_REGIONAL, DIS\_PPC\_DHS3G, DIS\_CAR\_DIR, DIS\_PPC\_TIP\_TAGS,  
DIS\_PPC\_NARTER, DIS\_CEN\_WHA\_PANDS

**UNCLASSIFIED**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

I7

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Chakravorty, Anamika X  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:37 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Subject:** Moscow's Reaction to Gaza Flotilla from Moscow Daily Brief

RELEASED IN  
FULL

**(SBU) Moscow's Reaction to Gaza Flotilla:** Moscow condemned and expressed "deep anxiety" over the confrontation between Israel and the convoy of ships carrying aid to the Gaza strip, terming the action, in which more than 10 people were killed, a "gross" violation of international law, and called for a thorough investigation into the incident. "Use of weapons against civilians and detaining ships in the open sea without any legal reason constitutes obvious and gross violations of generally accepted international legal standards," the GOR said. During the UNSC deliberations May 31, Russia condemned the capture of the ships in the convoy. *Embassy comment: Russian officials have consistently said Hamas needs to be a part of the solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict and will likely use this incident to push for lifting the Gaza blockade.* (POL: A Hood) [Top](#)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN FULL



I12

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2011 4:39 PM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Sindle, James M; Jacobson, Michael N; Blazakis, Jason M  
**Cc:** Helm, Larina M; Newman, David S (L-CA); Beirne, Vincent J; Bilge, Kerem S  
**Subject:** FW: Bipartisan Letter Urging Turkey to Stop Another Flotilla from Departing for the Gaza Strip  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.gif; image003.jpg; image004.jpg; image005.png; image006.png  
**Categories:** Working

Fyi...

[http://israel.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=938:reps-israel-a-cole-lead-bipartisan-letter-urging-turkey-to-stop-another-flotilla-from-departing-for-the-gaza-strip&catid=52:2011-press-releases](http://israel.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=938:reps-israel-a-cole-lead-bipartisan-letter-urging-turkey-to-stop-another-flotilla-from-departing-for-the-gaza-strip&catid=52:2011-press-releases)

**Reps. Israel & Cole Lead Bipartisan Letter Urging Turkey to Stop Another Flotilla  
 from Departing for the Gaza Strip**



Washington, DC – On Wednesday, Reps. Steve Israel (D – NY) and Tom Cole (R – OK) led a bipartisan letter to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan urging the Prime Minister to stop another flotilla from departing Turkey for the Gaza Strip. Thirty-six Members of Congress signed the bipartisan letter, which asked the Turkish government to help find constructive alternatives for those wishing to provide aid to Gaza.

"Another so-called aid flotilla to Gaza is nothing but an attempt to provoke Israel. The Turkish government can help prevent violence by saying 'no.' We are urging Prime Minister Erdoğan to actively work to put a stop to this and join with Israel in providing real humanitarian assistance to Gaza," said Rep. Israel.

"Turkey plays an important role in the Middle East, and its democratic leaders have a unique opportunity to prevent the turmoil that could result from allowing another Gaza flotilla to confront the Israeli security blockade," said Rep. Cole. "During this volatile time in the region, I urge Prime Minister Erdoğan to work with Israel to avoid conflict and ensure legitimate aid is delivered without creating needless instability."

The full text of the letter is below.

May 11, 2011

His Excellency  
 Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
 Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey  
 Ankara, Turkey

Mr. Prime Minister-

We write today to express our serious concern over reports that the so-called Free Gaza Movement and the IHH are planning to send another flotilla to Gaza in the coming weeks to provoke a confrontation with Israel. As members of the United States House of Representatives we ask you to help discourage these efforts and work

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

with the Israeli government in a productive way as it continues to allow legitimate aid, but not weapons, to enter Gaza.

The government of Israel has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the basic needs of those living in the Gaza Strip are being met. Over the last year the capacity of existing land crossings has been increased; for example, capacity of the Kerem Shalom crossing has increased by 210 percent. More than 3600 supply trucks entered Gaza in the month of March alone, delivering tens of thousands of tons of goods, including food, clothing, medicine, and fuel. Over the past year, agricultural exports from the Gaza Strip have gradually increased and economic growth in Gaza reached 15 percent in 2010. These are all clear signs that Israeli policies are making a positive impact on the lives of the Palestinian people.

As you know, the government of Israel has a right and a responsibility to protect the Israeli people, and we all realize that the threat facing innocent Israelis by weapons smuggled into Gaza is real. In March, Israeli naval forces intercepted the Victoria, seizing more than 50 tons of weapons, including mortar shells and bullets, destined for Gaza militants. During a 3-day period in early April, approximately 130 rockets and mortars were fired at the civilian population of southern Israel by Hamas and other terrorist groups. In one case, an advanced precision-guided rocket that had been smuggled into Gaza was fired at and hit an Israeli school bus.

Israel, like any country in the world, must take whatever steps necessary to protect its citizens and that starts with preventing additional weapons from entering Gaza. If flotilla organizers carry out their confrontational plans, the Israelis will have little choice but to board the vessels and search for weapons. We fear violence could erupt just as it did last year.

We are seeking your active participation in finding a resolution that prevents violence. On April 21, Ambassador Susan Rice, the United States' representative to the United Nations, stated, "[t]he recent seizures of advanced weaponry underscore that Israel has clear security interests regarding cargo bound for Gaza", and she urged member states to "use every legal means at their disposal to discourage additional flotillas to Gaza". We echo those remarks and hope that your government can help work out a mechanism with Israel to allow legitimate humanitarian assistance to go to Gaza without provoking a needless confrontation. We are confident that Israel, as it has in the past, will continue to allow such aid to flow subject to appropriate security screening. By finding a constructive solution as an alternative to another flotilla, you have a unique opportunity to potentially save lives and be a force for stability at a particularly volatile time.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL  
Member of Congress

TOM COLE  
Member of Congress

HOWARD L. BERMAN  
Member of Congress

HENRY A. WAXMAN  
Member of Congress

JASON CHAFFETZ  
Member of Congress

DENNY REHBERG  
Member of Congress

GARY L. ACKERMAN  
Member of Congress

HENRY CUELLAR  
Member of Congress

SHELLEY BERKLEY  
Member of Congress

MIKE QUIGLEY  
Member of Congress

JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress

MIKE ROSS  
Member of Congress

THEODORE E. DEUTCH  
Member of Congress

GENE GREEN  
Member of Congress

STEVE SCALISE  
Member of Congress

RENEE L. ELLMERS  
Member of Congress

RICHARD L. HANNA  
Member of Congress

TED POE  
Member of Congress

SUE WILKINS MYRICK  
Member of Congress

HEATH SHULER  
Member of Congress

LYNN JENKINS  
Member of Congress

REID J. RIBBLE  
Member of Congress

ADAM B. SCHIFF  
Member of Congress

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN  
Member of Congress

CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress

BILL PASCRELL, JR.  
Member of Congress

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
Member of Congress

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
Member of Congress

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ  
Member of Congress

CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
Member of Congress

MIKE KELLY  
Member of Congress

BILL JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

DOUG LAMBORN  
Member of Congress

JEAN SCHMIDT  
Member of Congress

JOE BARTON  
Member of Congress

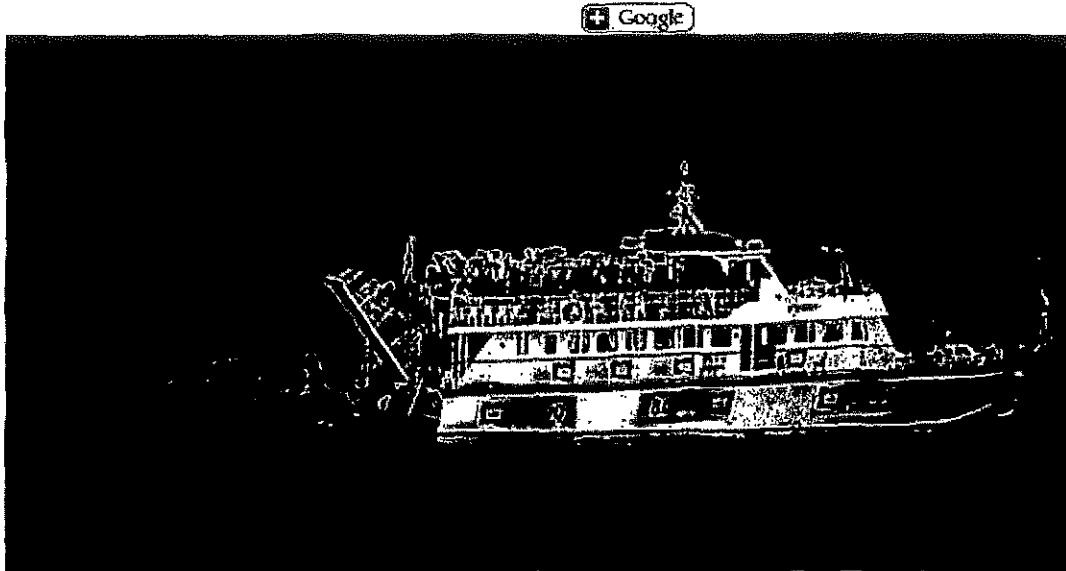
Turkish press also reports:



# Members of Congress ask Erdoğan to help stop Gaza-bound flotilla

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-243748-members-of-congress-ask-erdogan-to-help-stop-gaza-bound-flotilla.html>

12 May 2011, Thursday / TODAYSZAMAN.COM,



In this Monday, May 31, 2010 file photo, image reviewed by the Israeli military and taken aboard an Israeli naval vessel, Israeli navy soldiers intercept one of several boats headed towards the Gaza Strip, in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea.

A group of members of the US Congress has submitted a letter to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan urging him to "help work out a mechanism with Israel to allow legitimate humanitarian assistance to go to Gaza without provoking a needless confrontation," The Weekly Standard reported on Thursday.

In an explicitly pro-Israeli letter, the congressional members expressed serious concern over reports that the "so-called Free Gaza Movement" and the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) are planning to send another flotilla to Gaza in the coming weeks to provoke a confrontation with Israel.

"As members of the United States House of Representatives we ask you to help discourage these efforts and work with the Israeli government in a productive way as it continues to allow legitimate aid, but not weapons, to enter Gaza," the letter said.

The members of Congress alleged that the government of Israel has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the basic needs of those living in the Gaza Strip are being met and that over the last year the capacity of existing land crossings had been increased, citing as an example the capacity of the Kerem Shalom crossing increasing by 210 percent.

The letter recalled that more than 3,600 supply trucks had entered Gaza in the month of March alone, delivering tens of thousands of tons of goods, including food, clothing, medicine and fuel. It said over the past year, agricultural exports from the Gaza Strip have gradually increased and economic growth in Gaza reached 15 percent in 2010.

"These are all clear signs that Israeli policies are making a positive impact on the lives of the Palestinian people," the Congress members underlined.

According to the letter, Israel, like any country in the world, must take whatever steps necessary to protect its citizens and that starts with preventing additional weapons from entering Gaza. It said if flotilla organizers carry out their confrontational plans, the Israelis will have little choice but to board the vessels and search for weapons. "We fear violence could erupt just as it did last year."

The members of Congress called for Erdoğan's active participation in finding a resolution that prevents violence and hoped that his government can help work out a mechanism with Israel to allow "legitimate" humanitarian assistance to go to Gaza without provoking a confrontation.

"We are confident that Israel, as it has in the past, will continue to allow such aid to flow subject to appropriate security screening. By finding a constructive solution as an alternative to another flotilla, you have a unique opportunity to potentially save lives and be a force for stability at a particularly volatile time," the letter concluded.

According to the report, Representatives Steve Israel, Tom Cole, Howard L. Berman, Henry A. Waxman, Jason Chaffetz, Denny Rehberg, Gary L. Ackerman, Henry Cuellar, Shelley Berkley, Mike Quigley, Joseph Crowley, Mike Ross, Theodore E. Deutch, Gene Green, Steve Scalise, Renee L. Elmers, Richard L. Hanna, Ted Poe, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Heath Shuler, Lynn Jenkins, Reid J. Ribble, Adam B. Schiff, Steven R. Rothman, Carolyn B. Maloney, Jerrold Nadler, Bill Pascrell, Jr., Shelley Moore Capito, Janice D. Schakowsky, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Christopher S. Murphy, Mike Kelly, Bill Johnson, Doug Lamborn, Jean Schmidt and Joe Barton signed the letter.

SBU  
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I 14

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Elts, Colin C  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2011 10:36 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** FW: from Ankara - regarding the next flotilla

**Categories:** Working

Interesting speech...

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2011 10:26 AM  
**To:** Elts, Colin C; Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** from Ankara - regarding the next flotilla

**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*, Yldirim 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.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

*Kim Richter*  
Citizens Services Specialist  
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA  
(202) 647-8308  
Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Saudi Arabia

[richterkb@state.gov](mailto:richterkb@state.gov)

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**Bowers, Allyson M**

*I24*

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 10:55 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) UPDATE ON ISRAEL'S VIEWS ON GOLDSTONE AND FLOTILLA INQUIRIES  
**Attachments:** (CO) TEL AVIV 1722

This just out from Tel Aviv. Thanks.

Jan Levin

A/PolCouns

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR

127

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Schwedt, Miriam L  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 4:02 PM  
**To:** NEA-ALL-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Afternoon Brief 06/07/III (C)  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

**From:** Snipes, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 4:00 PM  
**To:** SES-O\_EditorProducts  
**Cc:** Andrew Koss; Andrew Schweikert; CDR Kenneth Canete; Col Glenn2; Col. Glenn; DHS; DHS VA; DNI; DNI Watch; Elizabeth Farr; Fitzgerald, Ray; Gen. Paul Selva; George Glass NORTHCOM; Harold Moulton EUCOM; ICE Joint Intelligence Ops Center; J-2 Pentagon; JOC Battle Captain; Melissa Hanlon OSD; Michael K. Brown PACOM; Mike Rocco; NCMI OPS; NCTC Ops; NMCC/JCS ADP Liaison; NMCC/JCS Emergency Actions; NMCC/JCS OPS; NSA Homeland Security/NSA Watch; NSOC; Osborne, Phillip; OSD Cables; Paul Dececco NORTHCOM; Paul Schafer; Robert Hoff; Timothy Adams; USCIS 2; WHSR; XO Yokoyama  
**Subject:** Afternoon Brief 06/07/III (C)

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
Operations Center

### *Afternoon Brief No. 1*

Monday, June 7, 2010  
1600 EDT/1500 Lima

#### **ISRAELI STATE PANEL TO INVESTIGATE GAZA FLOTILLA**

(C) Defense Minister Barak made the announcement in parliament in response to a no-confidence motion introduced by opposition parties against the incident, according to press. Embassy Tel Aviv reports Israel is not ready to publicly comment on the panel because high-level officials likely are working out details. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon, Reuters)

[Redacted content]

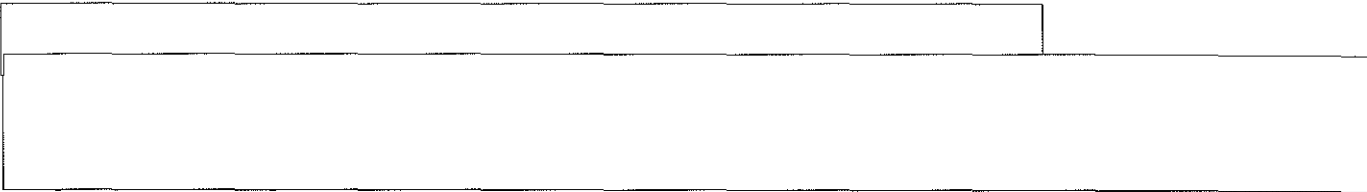
NR

#### **TURKEY AND AZERBAIJAN SIGN NATURAL GAS AGREEMENT**

[Redacted content]

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*(Ops/Office of the Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy e-mail, Reuters)*



NR

*(Ops/Germany desk telcon, Reuters)*

Please see our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>.

Drafted: RRathod

Approved: RPSanders

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

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DERIVED FROM: Multiple sources DECLASSIFY ON: 20300606

I28

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Schwedt, Miriam L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2010 4:14 PM  
**To:** NEA-ALL-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Afternoon Brief 06/30/II (C)  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

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NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 30, 2010 3:00 PM  
**Subject:** Afternoon Brief 06/30/II (C)

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
*Operations Center*

***Afternoon Brief***  
Wednesday, June 30, 2010  
1500 EDT

**ISRAEL TO EXPAND POWERS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INQUIRY**

(SBU) The statement by Prime Minister Netanyahu followed panel head Jacob Tirkel's threats to resign if the government refused to grant it powers to subpoena witnesses and recommend sanctions, media report. The Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs comments the government is likely to strengthen the panel to improve its reputation in the international community and approve the request during a July 5 security cabinet meeting.  
*(Ops/Israel and Palestinian Affairs Office telcon, BBC)*

[Redacted content]

NR

1  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer





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Drafted: SEHolmes

Approved: DLBanks

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

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DERIVED FROM: Kathmandu 564 DECLASSIFY ON: 20200629

RELEASED IN FULL

I30

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Friday, October 08, 2010 12:18 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Bass, Warren; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Andris, Matthew R  
**Subject:** FW: (UN) FLOTILLA FACT-FINDING REPORT: WHAT NEXT?  
**Attachments:** (UN) TEL AVIV 2296

**Categories:** Working

Tel Aviv 2296 reports on conversation with Israeli MFA about potential post-flotilla activity in New York.

Sensitive  
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RELEASED IN FULL

I31

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:18 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (SE) GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 2  
**Attachments:** (SE) TEL AVIV 1225

Please see attached from Embassy Tel Aviv, thanks.

Jan Levin, A/PolCouns

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I32

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:03 PM  
**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: (SE) GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 3  
**Attachments:** (SE) TEL AVIV 1239

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I33

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Honigstein, Michael D  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:22 AM  
**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; 'SES-O@state.gov'  
**Cc:** Levin, Jan X; Sievers, Marc J; Sumka, Howard J; Carlin, Sherry F; Power, Daniel J; Parker, Andrew C; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; TELAVIV POL; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** FW: (SE) GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 4

This just went out as Tel Aviv 1265.



NotesTele.bt

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RELEASED IN FULL

I34

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Patterson, Jessica H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:45 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: FW: (CO) MGGZ01: ALGERIA RESPONDS TO ISRAELI INTERCEPTION OF GAZA FLOTILLA

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**From:** Campbell, Ryan T (Algiers)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:06 PM  
**To:** Patterson, Jessica H  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) MGGZ01: ALGERIA RESPONDS TO ISRAELI INTERCEPTION OF GAZA FLOTILLA

FYI.



NotesTele.txt

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I35

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 11:51 AM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Jacoby, Julia I; Frelich, Karlene H; Lentz, Andrew N; Groeblacher, Julia; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** FW: flotilla

FYI

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**From:** Lawson, Christine M  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2010 11:41 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** flotilla

**(SBU) Flotilla on hold?:** Sunday's *Al-Hayat* reported that the sailing of the *MV Julia/Naji al-Ali* and/or the *Mariam* Lebanese blockade breakers may be delayed. According to the paper, the ships' organizers are considering joining a Freedom Flotilla 2 which may set sail from Turkey in the second half of July. The delay, the paper said, is due to technical and paperwork problems and also points to a desire to integrate the Lebanese ships in a larger effort so they won't be targeted as directly. The organizer of the *Mariam* project denied the reports to *Al-Hayat*, but as far as we know, that project hasn't even located a ship yet. Over the weekend, our security teams observed that no action was taking place on or around the *MV Julia* in Tripoli's port. While we will continue to remain vigilant and follow up the issue on our end, we will discontinue the sitreps unless they should become necessary again.

*Christine Lawson  
Lebanon Desk Officer  
Office of Egypt and Levant Affairs  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
202-647-1030*

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Derived from DSCG 85-1 (A, B and/or D)  
Declassify ten years from date of email or per attachment

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I38

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:25 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (CO) JORDAN RECEIVES GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS FROM ISRAEL  
**Attachments:** (CO) AMMAN 1270

For the group.

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**From:** Hinman, Richard C (Amman)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:31 AM  
**To:** Gregonis, Meghan E; Riley, Richard H; Shampaine, Nicole D; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Cc:** Ward, Jacqueline L (Amman); Long, Leslie Danai  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) JORDAN RECEIVES GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS FROM ISRAEL

Colleagues,

Update on movement of flotilla activists to Jordan from Israeli detention. Have a great weekend

Suggested ELA: Arab and Muslim activists are released into Jordan amid posturing and complaints

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RELEASED IN FULL

I39

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Holmes, Stephanie E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 1:31 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (C) MGGZ01: TUNISIA: UPDATE ON REACTIONS TO GAZA

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 000407

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/2020  
TAGS: ASEC, KPAL, PGOV, PHUM, PREL, GZ, TS, IS  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: TUNISIA: UPDATE ON REACTIONS TO GAZA  
FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: TUNIS 399

Classified by Ambassador Gordon Gray for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

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Summary  
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1. (C) The Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) continued the weeks protests over the Gaza flotilla incident with a demonstration in Tunis on June 3. The event, which drew UGTT supporters from around the area, received minor coverage in Tunisian press, but displayed a marked increase in anti-American themes. The Secretary General of the UGTT is calling on the Ambassador next week, likely to formally condemn Israel's actions and perceived U.S. unqualified support for Israel. The UGTT protest and the disruption of a teacher's union meeting in Gafsa probably reveal how deeply Tunisian anger runs over the Gaza incident. End summary.

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UGTT Leads Demonstration  
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2. (SBU) The Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) on June 3 held a demonstration condemning Israeli actions in the Gaza flotilla incident and affirming solidarity with Palestinians, marking the latest in a series of protests this week (reftel). UGTT Secretary General Abdeselem Jerad headed the protest, and participants included labor union members, workers, students, and independent activists. Demonstrators marched on Mohamed V Avenue in Tunis, and a private Arabic daily, Al-Sharouq, reported that "thousands" attended the event.

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3. (SBU) Regional offices of the UGTT took part in the demonstration in Tunis; one of the banners from the event read "The Regional UGTT Office in Bizerte supports resistance movements in Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq." Unconfirmed reports say that protestors burned Israeli flags, and photos of the event show a plethora of Palestinian flags and scarves. The UGTT executive board met before the demonstration and issued a statement condemning Israeli actions, calling on the UN to implement sanctions, and expressing support to Turkey.

4. (C) After the demonstration, according to civil society contacts, police used force against protestors who were carrying banners calling for freedom of expression and ending Tunisia's policy for normalization with Israel, according to civil society contacts.

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Minor Press Coverage

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5. (SBU) Some of the daily newspapers reported on the UGTT demonstration, but apart from the UGTT's paper, none of them carried the story on the first page. La Presse, an official French daily, had a short article on the demonstration without photos on page eight. A private Arabic daily, Al-Sharouq, published a longer article on the demonstration and included photos. The UGTT's paper, Ash-Shaab, not surprisingly carried the story on the first page, had two pages of articles and photos within the paper, and published photos of the event on its back cover.

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Some Anti-American Sentiment

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6. (SBU) The UGTT demonstration had some anti-American overtones. The UGTT's paper showed photos of demonstrators with banners, and a handwritten one read "U.S. imperialism and world Zionism are the worst enemies of freedom." Unconfirmed reports say that demonstrators burned US flags at the UGTT protest, and Jerad reportedly told French press that "The U.S. might have a good hand in defending mankind and democracy, but its continuous and scandalous 'cover' for Israel's crimes take away all credibility."

7. (SBU) Jerad called the Embassy requesting an urgent appointment with the Ambassador, during which we expect he intends to deliver a message condemning Israeli actions in the flotilla incident and U.S. support for Israel. The Ambassador has agreed to meet with Jerad on June 9 and plans to explain to him the U.S. position on the Gaza incident and

the importance of continued proximity talks.

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Teachers Fight Over Flotilla Stance  
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8. (SBU) An independent Arabic daily, As-Sarih, reported that arguments over the flotilla incident disrupted a meeting of the teacher's union in Gafsa. The former head of the union wanted the union to be more active in condemning the Israeli actions, and an altercation occurred between the former and current head of the union. Members decided to cancel the meeting following the argument.

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Comment  
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9. (C) The UGTT's latest demonstrations appeared harsher in tone than the government-sanctioned protest on June 1, and the protest and disruption in the teacher's union meeting indicate how strongly the flotilla incident has stirred the anger of the Tunisian populace. While the government has been careful to control the demonstrations and public statements, the latest expressions of anger are increasingly directed toward the USG. End comment.

GRAY

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I42

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Holmes, Stephanie E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:44 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (SBU) MGGZ01: OFFICIAL RESPONSE: OMAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST AID FLOTILLA

UNCLAS MUSCAT 000368

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, GZ, IS, MU

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL RESPONSE: OMAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST AID FLOTILLA

1. (U) SUMMARY: The Sultanate yesterday issued a statement expressing its condemnation of the Israeli actions against the 'aid' flotilla convoy intended for Gaza. Comments were released May 31 from both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Majlis Ash'shura and posted by the Government of Oman's "Oman News Agency" website. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT: "The Sultanate of Oman followed with pain and concern the incidents of the aid flotilla convoy which was heading for Gaza and obstructed by the Israeli navy using weapons that resulted in the fall of martyrs and innocent victims. The Sultanate expresses its sincere condolences and sympathy for families of the bereaved, and also condemns the Israeli assault which contravenes with the international law. The Sultanate appeals to the international community to shoulder its responsibility towards the lifting of the blockade on Gaza Strip and provide every possible support to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank."

3. (U) Majlis Ash'shura STATEMENT: The Majlis Ash'shura condemned the Israeli aggression on the aid flotilla in a statement that said, "the assault caused the victimization of scores of innocent people. Majlis Ash'shura calls upon the international community, parliamentary councils in the world and human rights organizations to take practical steps to deter Israel and stop its recurrent aggression on the Palestinian people and humanitarian initiatives." It also echoed a similar plea on the international community and reviewed reports on parliament members kidnapped by the Israeli occupation authorities in Palestine.

3. (SBU) COMMENT: The official Omani reaction was relatively measured in comparison to other responses, in keeping with its low-key approach to foreign affairs. The separate statement from the Majlis Ash'Shura is one of the few times that the Majlis has officially issued a separate statement from the government (Foreign

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Ministry). END COMMENT.

Schmierer

NOTE: SVC FOR POSSIBLE MISSING "AIDAC" CAPTION

UNCLASSIFIED

I43.

**Bowers, Allyson M****RELEASED IN FULL**

**From:** Holmes, Stephanie E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:38 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (SBU) MGGZ01: VIEWS ON THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT IN SE TURKEY

UNCLAS ADANA 000046

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

SENSITIVE  
 SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, TU

SUBJECT: VIEWS ON THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT IN SE TURKEY

1. (SBU) Summary: A number of anti-Israel protests have taken place in southeast Turkey, but contacts and media report no anti-U.S. sentiment during demonstrations outside Adana. Commentary puts the blame for the incident squarely on Israel for its use of disproportionate force. Pro-Kurdish media reject attempts to link the Gaza flotilla incident with an attack that occurred on a Turkish naval base in Iskenderun on May 31. Tension over the Gaza incident appears to be dissipating, and the priority in the SE is again Kurdish issues.

**PROTESTS ARE ANTI-ISRAEL, NOT ANTI-U.S.**

2. (SBU) Local media and contacts report law-abiding and peaceful demonstrations and protests throughout southeast Turkey, including in Diyarbakir, Van and Mardin. The protests target Israel, and anti-U.S. sentiments are not pervasive. Van Times ([www.vantimes.net](http://www.vantimes.net)) owner and editor Aziz Aykac told us that "Because western countries and the United Nations condemned the incident, residents did not place any blame on the U.S. or other western countries."

3. (SBU) Diyarbakir Journalists Association Chairperson Faruk Balikci told us one of the people killed in the incident was from Diyarbakir, and his family has set up a tent to receive people extending condolences. Balikci observed mourners peacefully extending condolences but, like Aykac, did not note any anti-U.S. sentiment.

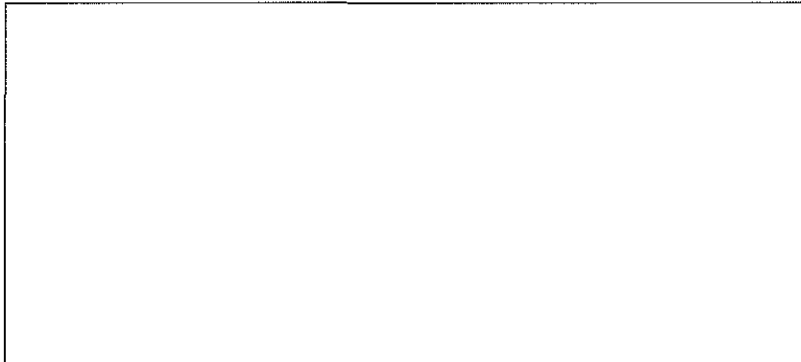
4. (SBU) President of Cizre's Chamber of Commerce Adana Elci said the mood in Cizre in Sirnak province reflected that of other areas of Turkey - sadness at the loss of life and outrage at Israel's "anti-humanitarian" attack. He conceded that Israel had issued several warnings to the flotilla organizers, but said there was no need for such a "disproportionate attack."

5. (SBU) While most local media in SE Turkey agreed with Elci's

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view that Israel had acted disproportionately against the flotilla, pro-PKK Firat News sounded a contrary note. In an article titled "Did IHH Head for Gaza to Help or to Run Jihad?" Firat quoted statements from IHH President Bulent Yildirim to reach the conclusion that the activists on the Mavi Marmara attacked the Israeli soldiers first.

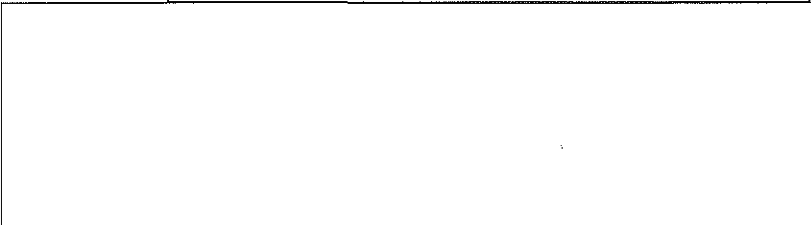
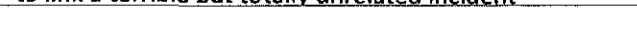
LOCAL CONCERNS TAKE PRIORITY



NR

PRO-KURDISH MEDIA RESIST ATTEMPTS TO LINK ISKENDERUN ATTACK AND GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

7. (U) In contrast with other local media, pro-Kurdish media resisted attempts to link the Gaza flotilla incident with the June 1 PKK attack on a Turkish naval facility in Iskenderun, Hatay province, which resulted in the deaths of six sailors. A columnist from Gunluk newspaper (<http://www.gunlukgazetesi.net>) categorically dismisses any link between the two incidents, saying it is AKP's "routine habit" to link a terrible but totally unrelated incident with the PKK.



NR

FIRAT: TURKEY-ISRAEL WILL MAINTAIN MILITARY TIES

8. (U) Pro-PKK Firat News ([www.firatnews.com](http://www.firatnews.com)) analyzed the long-term military relationship between Turkey and Israel to support its argument that despite the GoT's tough statements on the Gaza flotilla incident, it is unlikely that the strong trade and arms sales connection between the countries will end. Firat said Turkey and Israel have gone through crises in the past because of Palestine and Gaza issues, but it has always been the case that commercial ties, especially military trade, have not stopped. The article touches upon "the continuing intelligence sharing between the two countries against the PKK," saying that Israel's Mossad was involved in Abdullah Ocalan's capture in 1999, and that the Herons

Israel sold to Turkey have enabled Turkey to gather intelligence for its internal and cross-border military operations. According to Firat, Turkey had already asked for ten more Herons to be supplied in the first six months of 2010.

9. (SBU) Comment: The lack of anti-U.S. sentiment in the distant corners of SE Turkey is in marked contrast to protestors in Adana, who burned both an Israeli and a U.S. flag in a demonstration on Tuesday. Pro-PKK and pro-Kurdish media sources tend to be unreliable in their reporting, but their denial of a link between the Gaza and Iskenderun incidents stands out from other local media outlets which have used inflammatory rhetoric to link the events.  
DARNELL

UNCLASSIFIED



I44

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:33 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (SE) JORDAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAID ON FREEDOM FLOTILLA, URGES INTERNATIONAL ACTION  
**Attachments:** (SE) AMMAN 1269

RELEASED IN FULL

More on Gaza from Embassy Amman.

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**From:** Olson, Maria G  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** Olson, Maria G; Mandel, Lawrence C (Amman)  
**Subject:** FW: (SE) JORDAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAID ON FREEDOM FLOTILLA, URGES INTERNATIONAL ACTION

**Summary:** Jordan's condemnation of the Israeli raid is calibrated to public outrage and frustration in an effort to avoid domestic and regional criticism of Jordan's moderate policies and cooperation with the U.S. and Israel.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I45

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Rathod, Rona R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:47 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (U) MGGZ01 MALAYSIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF CHANCERY PROTESTING GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

O 010901Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4389  
INFO ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 000423

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, MY, IS  
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF CHANCERY  
PROTESTING GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

1. (SBU) Summary: Prime Minister Najib Razak and Foreign Minister Anifah Aman denounced Israel's actions toward the Free Gaza Movement flotilla and called for UN action on May 31 and June 1. A group of 50-100 demonstrators drawn from opposition Parliamentarians, a conservative Malay NGO called Perkasa, and other groups of NGOs, held peaceful demonstrations in front of the U.S. Embassy on June 1 and presented petitions and protest letters addressed to President Obama. Further, larger demonstrations are expected on Friday, June 4, after midday prayers. The GOM did not contact the U.S. Embassy officially on this issue. End Summary.
2. (SBU) Several political party groups and NGOs staged peaceful demonstrations in front of the U.S. Embassy on June 1, presenting a total of seven documents (e-mailed to EAP/MTS) -- letters to President Obama and various petitions -- to Policemen outside the Embassy's gates, with local media on hand. One group included nine Members of Parliament from the opposition parties, Islamic Party of Malaysia (PAS), the People's Justice Party (PKR) and the Democratic Action Party (DAP). While most of the letters called on the U.S. to take action against Israel, one NGO group said that their message was targeted only at the government of Israel, using the USG as a conduit. In the only untoward incident, one demonstrator, described in press reports as a Palestinian, slashed his legs with a penknife before being restrained. Police provided protection for the Embassy and Embassy

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

operations were not interrupted.

3. (SBU) Malaysia had a strong interest in the Free Gaza Movement flotilla. The Perdana Global Peace Organization, headed by former Prime Minister Mahathir, reportedly financed three of the flotilla's ships. Prime Minister Najib Razak's wife Rosmah Mansor was reported to be providing financial support. The 17 Malaysian participants in the flotilla included a member of Parliament, several journalists, and NGO representatives; 11 Malaysians were reportedly aboard the Mavi Marmara when it was boarded by the Israeli navy; no Malaysians have been reported as injured or killed. The organization of the flotilla received prominent press coverage, and news of the interception of the flotilla and deaths aboard ship was the leading news story on May 31 and June 1.

4. (SBU) On June 1, Prime Minister Najib was quoted as saying that the "whole world should condemn the action of this cruel regime," adding that Tel Aviv had no respect for international law. On May 31, Foreign Minister Anifah Aman issued a statement demanding that Israel cease its "inhumane" treatment of the activists, calling for their immediate release, and calling for a UN Security Council emergency meeting. Former Prime Minister Mahathir called the interceptions "a ridiculous action on a non-combatant ship that carried no weapons." He added that the Israelis "can do anything they want, break any international law without care and they will be protected by certain people."

RAPSON

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RELEASED IN FULL

I47

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Holmes, Stephanie E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:55 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (U) MGGZ01: Media Reaction: Mideast-Flotilla, Afghanistan-Jirga, U.S.-Oil, Economic-Regulation; BERLN

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

UNCLAS BERLIN 000682

SIPDIS  
STATE FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/PAPD, EUR/PPA, EUR/CE, INR/EUC, INR/P  
SECDEF FOR USDP/ISA/DSAA  
DIA FOR DC-4A  
USEUCOM FOR J5  
VIENNA FOR CSBM, CSCE, PAA  
"PERISHABLE INFORMATION -- DO NOT SERVICE"

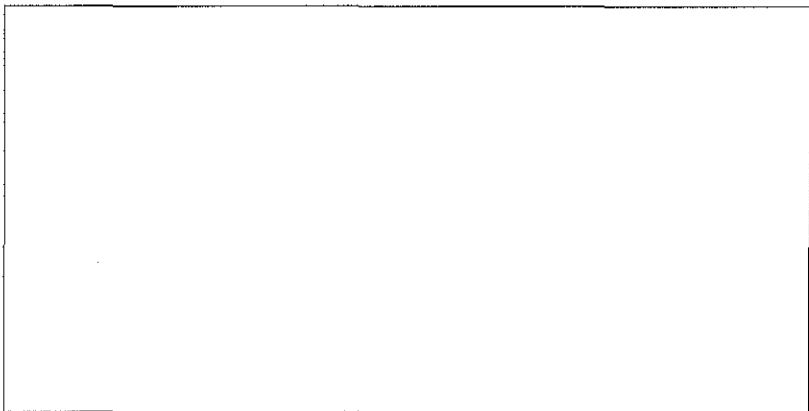
E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, SENV, ECON, GM, XF, GZ, AF  
SUBJECT: Media Reaction: Mideast-Flotilla, Afghanistan-Jirga,  
U.S.-Oil, Economic-Regulation;BERLN

Friday

June 04, 2010

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1. Lead Stories Summary
  2. (Mideast) Gaza Flotilla
  3. (Afghanistan) Peace Jirga
  4. (U.S.) Oil Spill
  5. (Economic) Financial Regulations
1. Lead Stories Summary



NR.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

## 2. (Mideast) Gaza Flotilla

Frankfurter Allgemeine (6/4) carried several reports on the aftermath of the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla. One dealt with the Israeli reaction under the headline: "Wooden Blocks Turned into Iron Rods" and wrote: "It is still unclear what happened during the storming of the 'Solidarity Fleet,' but Israel is resisting an international investigation and is instead trying to prove how violent the activists on the ships were."

In a report on the Turkish reaction to the raid on the flotilla, Frankfurter Allgemeine (6/4) wrote under the headline "Turkey Demands Apology," that "Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan said it is a welcome consequence of the Israeli attack on the Gaza flotilla that the situation of the Palestinians is now again attracting greater attention. In addition, he criticized that Israel always defines criticism of Israel as anti-Semitism. Erdogan said in Ankara on Thursday: 'No one believes this any longer.'... In a resolution that was adopted in the Turkish parliament on Thursday, it called

upon Israel to apologize for the 'inhuman attack' on May 31, punish the ones who are responsible, and pay compensations to the victims."

Tagesspiegel (6/4) carried a report under the headline: "Gaza Activists Announcing New Ships - Grand Reception for Returnees in Istanbul," and reported that the activists "were welcomed in Istanbul like heroes. Thousands of people shouted; 'We are proud of you.' The paper added: "In view of the widespread anger of the Turks at Israel, new activities for Gaza are likely. An IHH spokesman said that many more ships than the previous six ones would soon set off on a voyage [to Gaza]."

"U.S. Calling for Relaxation of Gaza Blockade," headlined Financial Times Deutschland (6/4) and wrote: "The U.S. government is working under high pressure to defuse the diplomatic crisis following the Israeli storming of the Gaza 'solidarity flotilla.' Washington is working on a relaxation of the blockade of the Gaza Strip but also on setting up an independent investigative committee that is to examine the bloody incident. With this approach, President Obama is trying to help Israel get out of the current isolation. Friends and enemies condemned the storming of the six ships because it was out of proportion. All nine victims come from Turkey and one of them had a U.S. passport. The government in Ankara is irritated by the subdued U.S. reaction."

Deutschlandfunk (6/3) commented: "Israel and the United States no longer have the same interests in the Middle East. Since Israel's

behavior is weakening the U.S. allies in the region - be it Jordan's King Abdullah or Egypt's President Mubarak - it will weaken the U.S. influence.... The Arab neighbors will now receive the Turks with open arms.... And what about the Europeans? Irrespective of whether it w Israel's war in the Gaza Strip or Mossad's assassination attack in Dubai, the Europeans only made statements that were as soft as wax and no one took it seriously, neither the Israelis nor the Arabs. Thus, the Europeans are forfeiting their reputation and the ability to influence events. The EU cannot be indifferent to the fact that Israel is stirring up the situation in the Middle East again and again. The citizens in Europe must demand a change of their governments' policies toward the Middle East and insist on a policy that serves their own European interests."

In an editorial Frankfurter Allgemeine (6/4) said: "It was a previous Israeli strategy not to admit any mistakes or to show weakness. In the meantime, it has turned into an obsession that no longer protects the country but is detrimental to Israel. Prime Minister Netanyahu has dismissed demands to lift the Gaza blockade even though Israel has not achieved one of its goals...and now Israel even rejects an independent investigation of the military operation against the Gaza flotilla, even though its justification must really be doubted when applying international law and even though the implementation of the operation was out of proportion....."

In an editorial, under the headline: "Alone Against the Rest of the World," Sueddeutsche Zeitung (6/4) argued: "With its stubborn attitude, Israel is even infuriating its closest allies. With this

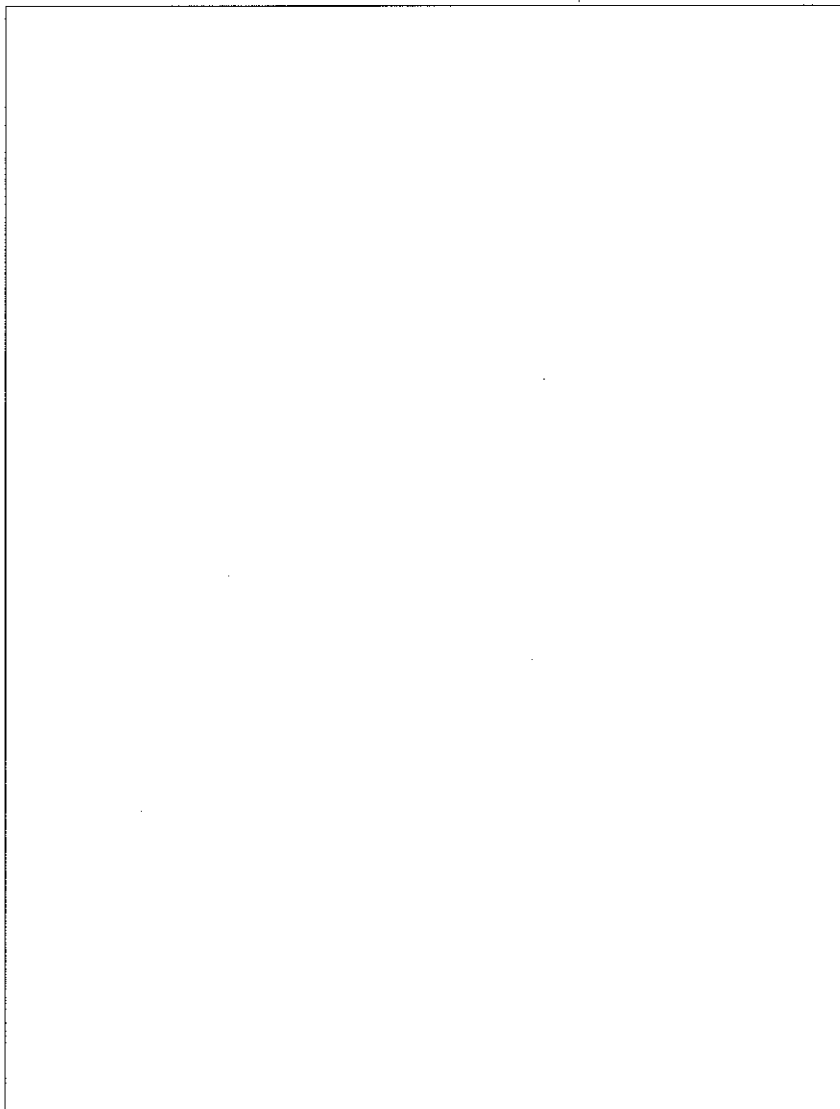
Rambo operation against ships loaded with relief goods, Israel has caused an outrage everywhere in the world. But now the leadership in Jerusalem is about to worsen the situation by stubbornly justifying the operation that went far beyond the original goal. With it, Israel is now risking an international isolation.... If Israel has nothing to hide, as the government and the military have asserted again and again, it should not be opposed to an international investigative commission.... In this case, the stubbornness of the Israeli leadership is not only scandalous but even counterproductive."

Financial Times Deutschland (6/4) judged under the headline: "The Ultra-Right-Wing State" that "the government of Benjamin Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman does not give a damn about human rights. As long as this remains the case, the West should suspend Israel's privileged status. It was easy for the West to find reasons for this privileged status as long as Israel was a state that abided by rule of law, but these privileges should no longer be granted to Netanyahu and Lieberman. Their temporary freeze would be a signal that the current situation cannot go on - also towards the Israelis who do not support the policy of their government. Israel's right

wing is arguing that human rights violations are based on the state of war in which the country is. If Netanyahu and Lieberman are allowed to continue as before, the Middle East will remain in its current state."

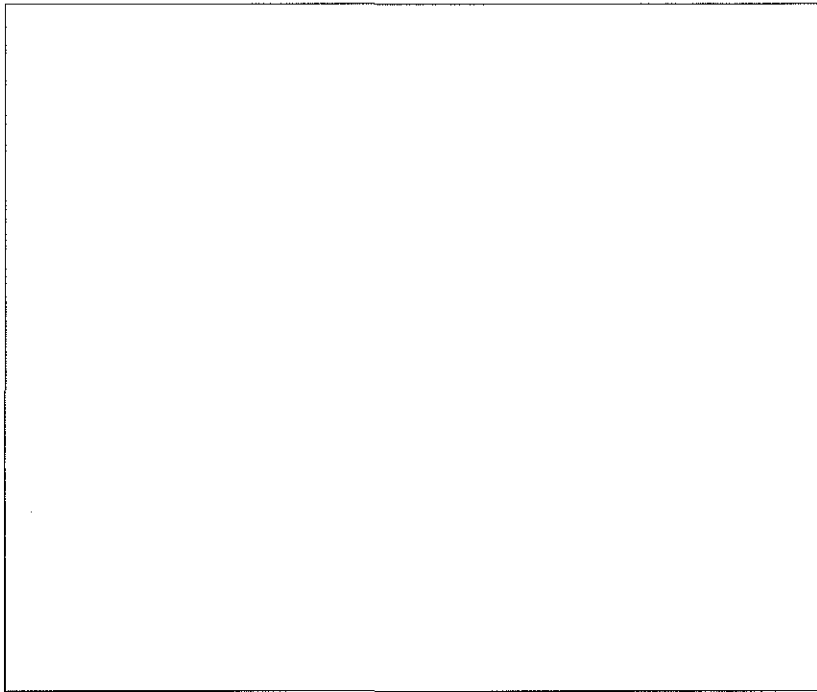
Berliner Zeitung (6/4) observed in an editorial: "It has long been clear that never before has a policy been as counterproductive as Israel's policy towards the Gaza Strip. But it is new that an increasing number of politicians openly say so.... The Gaza policy must be redefined. The problem with the Palestinian house of poverty is that it can no longer be ignored. Even the rapprochement talks between Israel and the moderate Palestinian leadership must now dedicate their attention to the Gaza question. Much will depend on whether the Obama government considers the previous Gaza policy not only to be 'questionable' but also sees a need to revamp it."

### 3. (Afghanistan) Peace Jirga

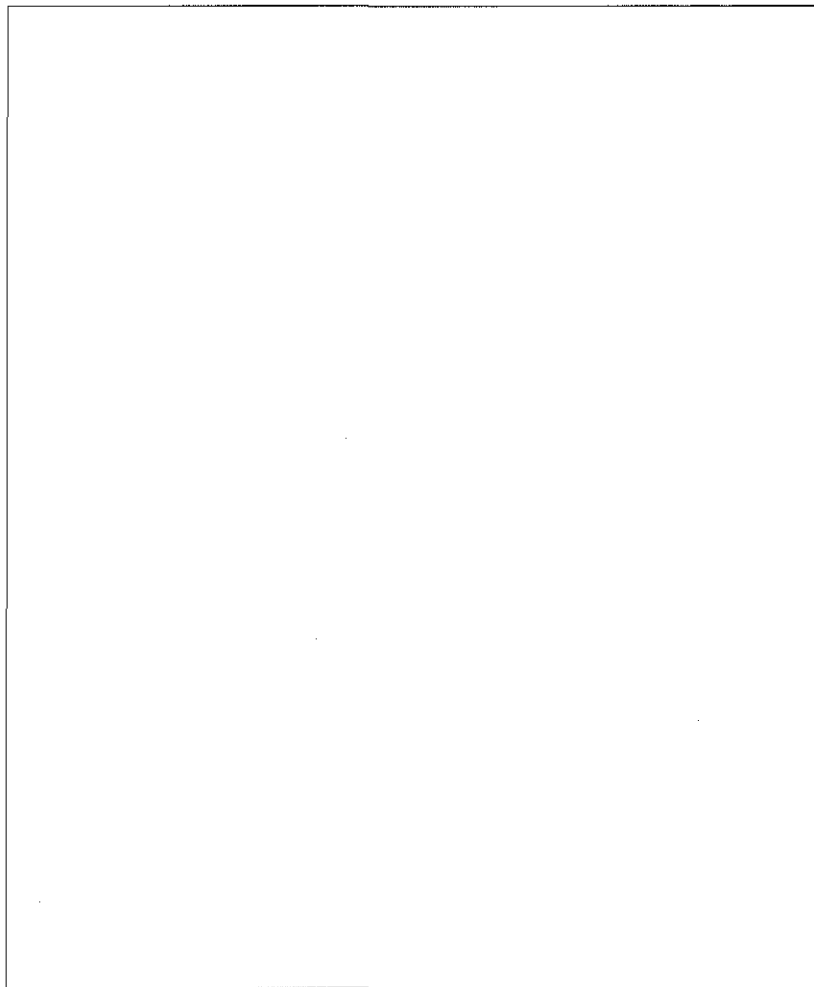


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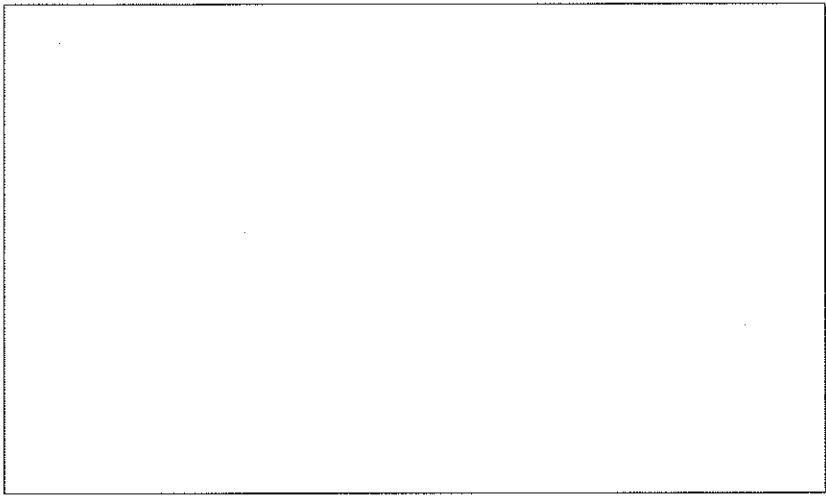


4. (U.S.) Oil Spill

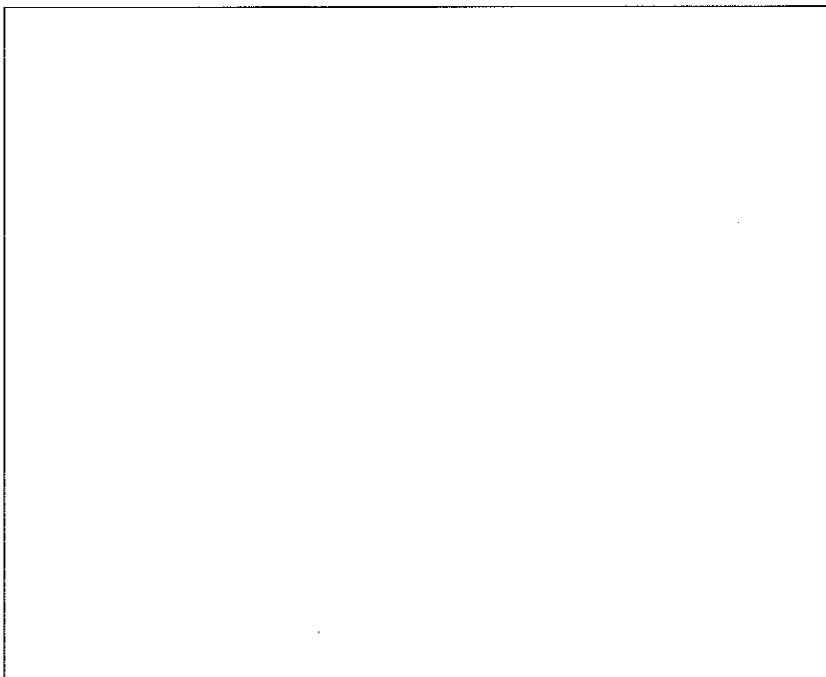




NR



5. (Economic) Financial Regulations



MURPHY

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I48

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 5/31/2010 10:46:48 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA AND CHINA-JAPAN SUMMIT

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 TOKYO 1065  
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 010243Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY; WASHINGTON DC, SECDEF PRIORITY; DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY; DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY; COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY; HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY; COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI/N541/PRIORITY; HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI/CC/PA/ PRIORITY; OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY; USFJ PRIORITY  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Pass Line: STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM; USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI; SECDEF FOR OASD/PA; CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR  
Subject: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA AND CHINA-JAPAN SUMMIT

UNCLAS TOKYO 001065

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM; USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI; SECDEF FOR OASD/PA; CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA  
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA AND CHINA-JAPAN SUMMIT

1. LEAD STORIES:

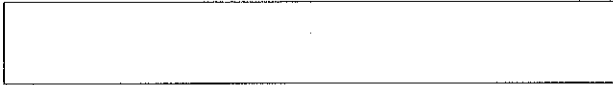
NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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NR



2. "Israeli Attack - Decision to Maintain Coalition?"  
On the Israeli commando raid on a flotilla of aid vessels headed for Gaza, a Cairo correspondent with the liberal Tokyo Shimbun stated (6/1): "The Netanyahu administration is apparently viewed as the most right-wing government since Israel's foundation. It once again demonstrated its hard line stance amid the aggravation of its ties with President Obama. The Israeli government's foremost policy priority is the complete containment of the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas, which controls the Gaza district. The prime minister was apparently prepared to face international condemnation for attacking [the flotilla] in order to maintain control over his coalition government that includes an ultra-right party."

3. "Major Rift in Friendship" The liberal Mainichi wrote from Jerusalem (6/1): "Relations between Israel and Turkey are bound to deteriorate significantly. Turkey has been number one among Islamic countries as a friendly nation to Israel. Hopes are pinned on Turkey as a 'go-between' in Middle East peace talks. A schism between Turkey and Israel could develop into a situation that would further confound the stalemate in the region."



ROOS

Signature: ROOS

Info: FUKUOKA, AMCONSULROUTINE; NAHA, AMCONSULROUTINE; NAGOYA, AMCONSULROUTINE; SAPPORO, AMCONSULROUTINE; OSAKA KOBE, AMCONSULROUTINE; BEIJING, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; MOSCOW, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; SEOUL, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE; NSC WASHDC ROUTINE

Attachments: metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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I50

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**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

**From:** svcsmartmfi  
**Sent:** 6/4/2010 12:30:43 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK

**UNCLASSIFIED**



**MRN:** 10 TOKYO 1093  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 04, 2010 / 040427Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE*PRIORITY*; WASHINGTON DC, SECDEF*PRIORITY*; DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC*PRIORITY*; DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC*PRIORITY*; COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA *PRIORITY*; HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI*PRIORITY*; COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//NS41//*PRIORITY*; HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC//PA//*PRIORITY*; OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA*PRIORITY*; USFJ *PRIORITY*  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM; USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI; SECDEF FOR OASD/PA; CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE; PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR  
**Subject:** TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK

UNCLAS TOKYO 001093

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR, EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA  
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK

1. LEAD STORIES:

NR

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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2. "Use of Force Unacceptable" The liberal Asahi editorialized (6/4): "Israel's forceful military action has caused another tragedy.... Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has been insisting that his nation took the action out of self defense. However, the attack was carried out by a fully armed unit against civilians from Turkey and European nations. The prime minister's statement is not convincing. It made sense for the UN Security Council to hold an emergency meeting and issue a presidential statement expressing 'regret at the loss of life resulting from the use of force by the Israeli military.' Criticism of Israel is spreading in Arab nations and Turkey. The U.S. must move quickly to improve the situation by using its influence over Israel. Otherwise, indirect talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians mediated by the U.S. will collapse."

3. "Blockade on Gaza Must Be Immediately Lifted" The liberal Mainichi wrote in an editorial (6/4): "It's hard to believe that such an incident occurred.... The UN Security Council unanimously adopted on the day after the incident a presidential statement expressing 'deep regret' over the Israeli military's use of force. We approve of the UNSC's swift adoption of the statement. However, the statement failed to include a clear condemnation of Israel because of opposition from the U.S., which 'unconditionally supports' Israel. It is not acceptable to support Israel simply because it is a friend of the U.S.... Israel must immediately lift its blockade on Gaza. We hope that the U.S. will make responsible efforts to persuade Israel to do so."

ROOS

Signature: ROOS

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Info: FUKUOKA, AMCONSULROUTINE; NAHA, AMCONSULROUTINE; NAGOYA, AMCONSULROUTINE; SAPPORO, AMCONSULROUTINE; OSAKA KOBE, AMCONSULROUTINE; BEIJING, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; MOSCOW, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; SEOUL, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DCROUTINE

Attachments: metadata.dat

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From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/6/2010 10:06:39 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - KAN ADMINISTRATION AND GAZA FLOTILLA ATTACK

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 TOKYO 1109  
Date/DTG: Jun 07, 2010 / 070203Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY; WASHINGTON DC, SECDEF PRIORITY;  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY;  
DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY; COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA  
PRIORITY; HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY;  
COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541//PRIORITY; HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC//PA//  
PRIORITY; OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY; USFJ  
PRIORITY  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Pass Line: STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPCW, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR  
Subject: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - KAN ADMINISTRATION AND GAZA FLOTILLA ATTACK

UNCLAS TOKYO 001109

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPCW, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,  
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;  
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;  
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;  
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;  
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA  
SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - KAN ADMINISTRATION AND  
GAZA FLOTILLA ATTACK

1. LEAD STORIES:

[Redacted]

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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NR



4. "Isolation Deepening" On another seizure of a Gaza-bound aid ship by the Israelis, the liberal Asahi stated from Jerusalem (6/6): "A military clash was averted this time around. However, international criticism of Israel has continued. As a greater number of aid vessels are expected to depart for Gaza, Israel is being forced to review how to deal with them. At the same time, its relations with Turkey, which has been one of a few friendly states in the Middle East, have aggravated sharply."

ROOS

**Signature:** ROOS

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**Info:** FUKUOKA, AMCONSULROUTINE ; NAHA, AMCONSULROUTINE ; NAGOYA, AMCONSULROUTINE ; SAPPORO, AMCONSULROUTINE ; OSAKA KOBE, AMCONSULROUTINE ; BEIJING, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; MOSCOW, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; SEOUL, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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Page 2 of 2

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Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN FULL

I52

**From:** svcsmartmfi  
**Sent:** 7/13/2010 12:17:25 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** REPORTING REQUEST FOR GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM WORLDWIDE

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



**MRN:** 10 TOKYO 1411  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 13, 2010 / 130415Z JUL 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATEIMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PHUM, PGOV, OPRC, KIRF, KPAO, JA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Reference:** A. STATE 72296 B. 09 TOKYO 907  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR DRL/IRF - ELIJAH LOGSDON  
**Subject:** REPORTING REQUEST FOR GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM WORLDWIDE

UNCLAS TOKYO 001411

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DRL/IRF - ELIJAH LOGSDON

E.O. 13526: N/A  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, OPRC, KIRF, KPAO, JA  
SUBJECT: REPORTING REQUEST FOR GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED RISE  
IN ANTI-SEMITISM WORLDWIDE

REF: A. STATE 72296  
B. 09 TOKYO 907

1. Japan is a Shinto/Buddhist society with virtually no Jewish minority and no notable history of discrimination against Jews as an ethnic or religious group. Nonetheless, Ref B elaborates on instances in which anti-Semitism has manifested itself in Japanese society. That said, per Ref A request, post has noted no instances of anti-Semitism attributable to the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident. Notable reaction to the May 31 incident was limited to government and editorial expressions of concern and criticism of Israeli Defense Force (IDF) actions and calls for further investigation.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) issued the

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**  
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following statement on May 31:

The Government of Japan is shocked at the report that people aboard boats carrying supplies to the Gaza Strip were victimized as a result of confrontation with Israeli Defense Forces. We deeply deplore the casualties and the injuries of many people. Japan condemns the violent acts which caused this tragic incident.

Japan expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Japan urges that a full investigation be conducted and the situation be fully clarified.

Japan strongly calls upon all parties to refrain from activities that could set off a cycle of violence.

End text MOFA statement.

ROOS

**Signature:** ROOS

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**Info:**

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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Sensitive

**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**  
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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
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RELEASED IN FULL

I53.

From: Waluszewski, Hanna C  
Sent: 6/1/2010 8:41:19 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: SWEDISH REACTIONS TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 STOCKHOLM 298  
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 011239Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE/IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PRÉL, PGOV, IS, SW  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: SWEDISH REACTIONS TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

Summary

1. (U) On May 31, demonstrations were organized all over Sweden in support of the 11 Swedish citizens onboard the Gaza flotilla and against the actions of the Israeli authorities. The demonstration held in Stockholm was reportedly the largest in Europe with around 7,000 protesters. The GoS immediately condemned the violence that occurred and the Israeli Ambassador to Sweden was summoned to the MFA. All 11 Swedes have been accounted for; however, the MFA has no information about their condition. End Summary.

Demonstrations in Sweden

2. (U) Demonstrations against the Gaza flotilla incident were organized all over Sweden on May 31. Protesters proclaimed support for the 11 Swedes onboard the flotilla, and condemned the actions of the Israeli authorities. POL LES staff walked through the demonstration in downtown Stockholm of some 7,000 people [police figures] demanding sanctions against Israel and an end to the Gaza blockade. Protesters burned Israeli flags and chanted anti-Israeli and anti-U.S. slogans. Unlike previous demonstrations against Israel, no Hezbollah or Hamas flags were observed. The demonstrators marched on the Israeli embassy as well. Although the demonstration was reportedly the largest held in Europe, there were no reports of violence. The police announced on June 1, that they have increased protection of synagogues in Stockholm and Malmo, the Israeli Embassy and the Jewish school in Stockholm.

GoS Reactions

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3. (SBU) On May 31, the Israeli Ambassador to Sweden Benny Dagan was summoned to the MFA where State Secretary Frank Belfrage expressed Sweden's deep concern regarding the situation with the Gaza flotilla and inquired about the 11 Swedish citizens who were aboard the ships. FM Bildt immediately stated [in an interview with Swedish Radio] that the Israeli actions were "very serious and unacceptable." He also contacted EU's High Representative Catherine Ashton to urge a joint EU statement condemning the use of force. At the same time, he demanded an immediate, permanent and unconditional opening of the borders to Gaza for humanitarian aid, trade, and persons.

4. (U) Bildt wrote on his blog on May 31, that "it is clear that the Israeli action is incompatible with international law as it took place in international waters. Let me say that I am concerned that the Israeli overuse of violence today plays right in the hands of extremists in different camps. We have all reason to distance ourselves from any use of violence and encourage political dialogue." When Bildt later in the evening was asked if he wished to see sanctions on Israel, Bildt said no, arguing that sanctions would affect the wrong persons. He also said that there are no plans to recall personnel from the Swedish Embassy in Israel as there are too few, rather than too many, diplomats present there at the moment.

Red-Green Opposition Critical  
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5. (U) The opposition three-party Red-Green Coalition made a joint statement on May 31, condemning Israel, saying "Israel's blockade of Gaza makes the entire area a gigantic outdoor prison where Israel controls what gets in and out." Social Democratic Party Leader Mona Sahlin demanded that Sweden recall its military attaché and push to suspend the EU's trade agreement with Israel. Left Party Leader Lars Ohly spoke at the demonstration in Stockholm and demanded a boycott of Israel and an international discussion about sanctions. He referred to Israel as "God damn killers."

All Swedes Accounted For  
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6. (U) At least four of the eleven Swedes that were onboard the Gaza flotilla are flying back to Sweden today, according to the Swedish MFA. Five Swedes aboard the ship "Sofia" were faced with the choice of signing a voluntary deportation agreement or going through legal proceedings in Israel. Those five are: author Henning Mankell, Dr. Viktoria Strand, Green Party Member of Parliament Mehmet Kaplan, artist Dror Feiler, and cashier in the Swedish "Ship to Gaza" organization Saman Ali. Six Swedes are held in the Ela Prison in Beersheba, according to the MFA and the organization "Ship to Gaza": theologian Ulf Carmesund, pediatrician Henry Ascher, researcher in refugee medicine Kimberly Soto Aguayo, and Chair of the Immigrant Groups of Uppsala Amil Sarsour. Professor and spokesperson for "Ship to Gaza" Mattias Gardell and his wife, historian Edda Manga, who were aboard the "Mavi

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Marmara," are also reportedly being held in the Ela Prison. The MFA states it has no information about the conditions of any of the Swedes.

MINIMIZED CONSIDERED

Signature: BARZUN

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Drafted By: STOCKHOLM:Waluszewski, Hanna C  
Cleared By: Stockholm:Koehler, Marc D  
Approved By: Stockholm:Koehler, Marc D  
Released By: STOCKHOLM:Waluszewski, Hanna C  
Info: TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYIMMEDIATE; ISTANBUL, AMCONSULIMMEDIATE;  
ANKARA, AMEMBASSYIMMEDIATE; JERUSALEM, AMCONSULIMMEDIATE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEIMMEDIATE

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I54

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Koch, Ryan J  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 10:18:25 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: SWEDISH MEDIA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

UNCLASSIFIED



**MRN:** 10 STOCKHOLM 302  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 02, 2010 / 021417Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** OPRC, KMDR, SW, PREL, KPAO  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: SWEDISH MEDIA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

1. (U) START SUMMARY

The immediate reaction in Swedish media to the boarding of the Gaza flotilla was emotional and uniformly critical. The reaction was influenced by the fact that eleven Swedes with the flotilla were initially missing. In the last 24 hours, media reporting and commentary has become more muted and focused on balanced discussion of Israel's policy and the situation in Gaza. The traditionally liberal and Israel-friendly print media have tried to strike a balance in editorials between condemning what they see as the excessive force by Israel while not being seen as supportive of Hamas. Sweden's largest circulation paper, Aftonbladet, has featured the harshest criticism of the raid and Israeli policies on settlements and Gaza. (Note: In October 2009, Aftonbladet also caused controversy with Israel over an article connecting the Israeli army with reputed organ theft.) The broadcast media has featured more neutral reporting following initially heated first reactions. The overall trend in the media appears have gone from 'massacre by Israel' to a more 'unfortunate outcome caused by unexpected events.' Among the bloggers the divide is greater, with strong Israel supporters on one side and Palestine supporters on the other, and little or no common ground.

END SUMMARY

2. (U) BROADCAST MEDIA

Swedish broadcast media is two-thirds public service owned and therefore attempts to report rather than comment. Swedish Television's (SVT) senior foreign affairs commentator, Bo-Inge Andersson stated that the Israeli action is threatening President Obama's "grand plan" to achieve peace in the Middle East and continued, "As long as Hamas does not recognize Israel's existence, there can be no agreement," and, "it is pretty clear that Obama will not be able to change Israel's policy." Andersson stated that while the U.S. voters support Israel, Obama cannot overly favor Israel and retain his good reputation in the world. Andersson concludes that support for Hamas is falling in Gaza but the world will need to promise a better life for the Palestinian people for a regime shift to occur which "requires that both Palestinians and Israelis start to think anew." All broadcast media (SVT, TV4 and Swedish Radio) focused much reporting on the fate of the released Swedes, Member of Parliament Mehmet Kaplan and writer Henning Mankell. Mankell called for sanctions against Israel similar to the ones levied against

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South Africa during apartheid while Kaplan spoke about how rubber bullets and stun guns were used in the raid.

3. (U) PRINT MEDIA

Traditionally Israel-friendly major liberal and conservative media were attempting to downplay the Israeli raid in their editorials and instead focused on Israel's role in the world and their reputation internationally. Leading opinion maker Dagens Nyheter (DN) wrote on June 1 in its lead editorial that while "there is a legitimate interest that heavy weapons are not smuggled into Gaza, one cannot defend yesterday's deadly confrontation with the pro-Palestinian activists." Conservative Svenska Dagbladet (SVD) commented that Israel reacts to its reputation and sense of isolation by striking back, instead of trying to mitigate the damage. Noting that they believe Israel has reason to feel alone "it does not mean that Israel is always right." Liberal-center morning daily Sydsvenska Dagbladet wrote that "Israel deserves much of the harsh criticism now being heard, even if it is obvious that many of the country's old enemies are taking the opportunity to increase the tone." Sydsvenskan also notes that "It must be presumed that Jerusalem did not expect the boarding to have the consequences it did. That is why further facts should not worsen the diplomatic situation." Liberal-center Göteborgs Posten (GP) writes that at the root of what has happened is "the failed and, in all regards, inhumane isolation of the Gaza area." Social Democratic leading tabloid Aftonbladet called on the global community "to move from statements to actions," and called for both economic sanctions and a cultural boycott of Israel. The traditionally Israel-friendly second-largest tabloid center-liberal Expressen also focused on the blockade rather than the raid itself "which cannot be compared to the abuse that the blockade entails for 1.5 million people in Gaza." Expressen's Foreign Editor Mats Larsson comments in a separate signed column on the situation on what he calls "hypocrisy" as both Egypt and other neighboring states are continuing to use Palestinians as weapons in the fight against Israel.

4. (U) BLOGS

Magnus Norell, terrorism and Middle East expert, opined in an article on Newsmill (Sweden's largest news blog) that "It seems obvious that some Europeans actually didn't know anything about the main organizer - the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH) - and never intended to forcefully resist the Israelis, should it come to a clash. There is no reason to not believe the many activists who sincerely went on the mission to help alleviate a situation deemed dire from a purely humanitarian perspective. This theory is strengthened by the fact that the only violence that occurred happened on the largest ship in the flotilla. It was the ship where most of the activists had gathered and that contained most of the radical activists from the IHH." Continuing, Norell writes, "For the United States, this couldn't have come at a worse time. With Turkey on the Security Council and the vote on new sanctions coming up, the ruckus with Turkey over the nuclear deal is already causing the Obama Administration a headache. A more nuanced official U.S. response is to be expected in time, but right now, this can only draw attention away for what in Washington is regarded as the main issue in the Middle East; the Iranian nuclear topic."

5. In addition to political commentary by political leaders and ministers, Urban Ahlin, Social Democrat Foreign Affairs spokesman, noted on the Social Democratic blog that "Excessive force and shootings cannot be in any way accepted. It must quickly be made clear what happened when the Israeli military boarded the convoy with humanitarian supplies bound for Gaza. If it occurred in international waters, it is a violation of international law. I am deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Gaza is under a blockade that in practice has led to a situation where people are living in an outdoor prison. The humanitarian situation is alarming and the possibilities for rebuilding and economic development are being hindered. The blockade of Gaza, like the occupation of all of Palestine, must come to an end." Ahlin also issued a press statement that called for an extra meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council: "Israel's boarding of ships in the 'Ship to Gaza' convoy in international waters and the resulting shootings are very serious actions and, therefore, the council should be convened at once. We must have proper information about the sequence of events from the past few days and find out what the government intends to do to pressure Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza." The two major political youth leaders Niklas Wykman, Young Moderates and Jytte Guteland, Young Social Democrats took separate views on the raid. Wykman created a major debate when he wrote "It is good that Hamas will not be getting the visit they had been expecting. Hamas oppresses and persecutes the people of Gaza while at the same time having the destruction of Israel at the top of their to-do list. 'Ship to Gaza'(activists) are pawns, terrorists and ideologically motivated Israel exterminators... It is a relief that Hamas will not get the visit they had been expecting. It is a victory for all of Gaza!" Guteland responded to Wykman's statements by saying that "It is among the worst things he has done. It is totally

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unacceptable. This is about violence towards and the murder of aid workers and it is a crime against international law. The Moderates need to react and remove Wykman from their party leadership; otherwise this is now Moderate Party policy." Liberal Youth leader Adam Cwejman, traditionally the party most closely associated with the "pro-Israeli" community wrote "That everyone can yell themselves hoarse about Israel is nothing new. It's also not always strange or wrong. The Israeli government and military have a habit of placing themselves in tricky situations. The latest is particularly disturbing, and if any good can come from this is, it is if the blockade is lifted. At the same time it is of the utmost importance that Hamas is not allowed to attack Israel. It is very difficult to be a friend of Israel today, likewise it is hard to be hopeful of a lasting peace."

**Signature:** BARZUN

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**Drafted By:** STOCKHOLM:Olofsson, Ann-Charlotte

**Cleared By:** Stockholm:Koch, Ryan J

**Approved By:** Stockholm:Koch, Ryan J

**Released By:** STOCKHOLM:Koch, Ryan J

**Info:**

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RELEASED IN FULL

I56

From: Hilton, Johnathan A  
Sent: 7/15/2010 7:32:59 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: ESTONIA: REVIEW OF GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED REPORTING

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 TALLINN 278  
Date/DTG: Jul 15, 2010 / 151132Z JUL 10  
From: AMEMBASSY TALLINN  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, OPRC, KIRF, KPAO, EN  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Reference: A) STATE 72296  
B) TALLINN 220  
Pass Line: DEPT FOR DRL/IRF ELOGSDON  
Subject: ESTONIA: REVIEW OF GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED REPORTING

Per REF A, Post conducted a review of news articles, op-ed pieces, blogs and other online media and commentaries regarding the Gaza Flotilla incident. Based on this review, Post is not aware of any media items that displayed anti-Semitic commentary. In fact, many op-ed pieces and other media items expressed a pro-Israeli sentiment. While quite a few lamented the loss of life and/or characterized the response as too heavy, many commentators still maintained that Israel has a right to self defense (REF B). Estonian President Ives carried out his previously planned state visit to Israel from June 27-29. This visit included a stop in Ramallah, where Ives participated in a seminar on e-governance carried out as part of Estonia's development cooperation program with the Palestinian Authority. Media reporting from this event remained focused on the political issues surrounding Estonian- and EU-Israeli relations and the broader issues facing the Middle East.

Signature: PÖLT

Drafted By: TALLINN:Hilton, Johnathan A  
Cleared By: PA:Land, James G  
Pol/Econ:Nordberg, Marc  
Approved By: Pol/Econ:Nordberg, Marc  
Released By: TALLINN:Hilton, Johnathan A  
Info:

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RELEASED IN FULL

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/1/2010 10:50:18 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: DEATHS ON GAZA FLOTILLA SPARK RAGE IN YEMEN

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 SANAA 1229  
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 011345Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY SANAA  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, KPAO, YM  
Pass Line: FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: DEATHS ON GAZA FLOTILLA SPARK RAGE IN YEMEN

UNCLAS SANAA 001229

FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, KPAO, YM  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: DEATHS ON GAZA FLOTILLA SPARK RAGE IN YEMEN

1. SUMMARY. The May 31 Israeli offensive against a flotilla of ships bound for Gaza has triggered fervent condemnation and large protests in Yemen. Three Yemeni Members of Parliament were aboard the flotilla and were reportedly arrested by Israeli forces. On May 31 Yemen's Parliament issued a statement condemning Israel's "criminal" actions, and some MPs called for the mustering of an "Islamic army" to confront Israel. Thousands protested in Sana'a on June 1, demanding UN intervention to end the blockade of Gaza. The Israeli-Palestinian issue resonates strongly in Yemen, and this latest incident has intensified Yemeni condemnation of Israel. END SUMMARY.

2. Yemenis awoke on May 31 to nonstop coverage on Al-Jazeera of the melee between Israeli forces and pro-Palestinian activists in the "freedom flotilla." Saudi-affiliated MBC reported that three Yemeni Members of Parliament were aboard the flotilla and were among those arrested in the fray: Mohammad al-Hazmi, Haza'a al-Maswari and Abdulkhaliq Shaihoon, all from the Islah opposition party. Independent website News Yemen reported that Hazmi, one of Yemen's most prominent and conservative imams, was recorded on video scuffling with an Israeli soldier while saying, "God is great, God is great!" Quasi-independent Mareb Press reported that Maswari had been injured. Yemen's Parliament issued a statement on May 31 saying, "The Zionist entity could not commit such crimes against humanity without the support of international powers that claim to

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support human rights."

3. On June 1, tens of thousands of protesters gathered in Sana'a's Sabaiyn Square, paralyzing traffic. (Note: Contacts reported that several ministries instructed their employees to attend the protest, and observers saw busloads of students being ferried to the site. End Note.) The speakers at the protest included Ahmed bin Dagher, Assistant Secretary-General of the ruling General People's Congress, and Sadiq al-Ahmar, nominal leader of the Hashid tribal confederation. Demonstrators demanded UN intervention to end the Gaza blockade, called on all Arab nations to sever diplomatic ties with Israel, and urged the Palestinian Authority to immediately end negotiations with Israel. Al-Jazeera aired footage of the protest. Ministry of Defense mouthpiece 26 September reported that thousands of people also gathered on June 1 to protest in the town of Dhamar.

4. On Facebook, Yemeni contacts posted statuses reflecting their condemnation of the attack and their praise for Turkey's decision to withdraw its ambassador to Israel. A representative posting said, "Many thanks to the Turkish champions, and shame, shame, shame on all who support the blockade in one way or another."

5. COMMENT. The Israeli-Palestinian issue resonates more strongly in Yemen than perhaps any other international issue. Whenever there is a skirmish at Al-Aqsa or a bombing in Gaza, Yemenis take to the streets to denounce the "Zionist entity." With this latest high-profile incident being cast as a ruthless attack on innocent civilians, Yemenis remain unlikely to support any Arab overtures of peace toward Israel. END COMMENT.

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**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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RELEASED IN FULL

I59

**From:** svcsmartmfi  
**Sent:** 6/14/2010 6:45:51 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: GAZA FLOTILLA GENERATES MAURITIAN LETTER TO OBAMA, MORE SYMPATHY FOR GAZANS

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Sensitive



**MRN:** 10 PORT LOUIS 175  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 14, 2010 / 141038Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** KPAO, KDEM, PHUM, MP, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: GAZA FLOTILLA GENERATES MAURITIAN LETTER TO OBAMA, MORE SYMPATHY FOR GAZANS

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000175

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KPAO, KDEM, PHUM, MP, IS  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GAZA FLOTILLA GENERATES MAURITIAN LETTER TO OBAMA, MORE SYMPATHY FOR GAZANS

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Gaza flotilla reaction in Mauritius continued with a letter to President Obama delivered to the Embassy, followed by an editorial by the former Attorney General of Mauritius. The Israeli response to the flotilla has increased anti-Israel sentiment in Mauritius, among Muslims and non-Muslims alike. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) On the afternoon of June 4, after Friday prayers, Cader Hosenally, from the non-governmental organization "Free Palestine Now," delivered a letter of protest to the U.S. Embassy. Hosenally, who is also "Chairman of The Anglo Mauritian Disability Link," was accompanied by a handicapped person with whom his NGO works, as well as by the president of the Jummah Mosque, the main mosque in Port Louis. The letter, from Hosenally in both his capacities listed above, was addressed to President Obama, care of the U.S. Embassy, and was accepted by the Public Affairs Officer, an event covered on Mauritian TV and in several press articles.

3. (U) Begin text of letter:

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I am writing to you on behalf of the Mauritian people, its Non-Governmental Organizations and the Disabled Community as a whole.

We in Mauritius have watched with dismay in recent years as conditions in the Middle East have rapidly deteriorated. As part of your Presidential election pledge, you promised the international community an effective course of action to rescue the people of the Middle East from their plight. Thus far, though, we in Mauritius have been profoundly disappointed with your foreign policy.

When President Bush's era of neo-realism came to an end, two years ago, the developing world was filled with hope. As the incoming President you had actively promoted anti-war discourse as part of your electoral campaign. The feeling around the world was that your administration would carry on the sterling work performed by President Clinton, which was cut short by the expiration of his mandate.

However, it has become painfully apparent that this is not the case. The recent atrocities committed by the Israeli Defence Force, whereby it entered international waters illegally and murdered innocent civilians, have received no condemnation from the American executive. The failure to condemn these appalling actions is tantamount to acknowledging complicit guilt.

This incident is just the latest example of Israeli aggression towards a persecuted nation, since you assumed the role of President in 2008. That was a time when Gaza was under prolonged attack by Israeli forces, between December and January 2009, a war of such injustice that it should have implored you to take action.

We the Mauritian people are a peace-loving community who have become gravely concerned that you and your Israeli allies are purporting [sic] war in our region. We have monitored the situation since your election, from both a humanitarian and a strategic sense, and we feel that American foreign policy is to blame for the deterioration of Middle Eastern relations.

During this time we have continually lobbied the governments of Europe, and we have been pleased with their reactions. Indeed, William Hague, the United Kingdom's Foreign Minister, has reacted admirably to the events of the last few days. Your administration meanwhile, has done nothing, and we in Mauritius find this heartbreaking.

In the two years since you came to power your policies toward the Middle East have achieved very little. Now I urge and implore you to reconsider America's position; consider how history will remember you, as a President who valued the lives of men, or as someone who sat back and did nothing. Please take action, both for the sake of the Palestinian people and the global community as a whole.

END TEXT.

4. (U) An editorial in English by former Attorney General Rama Valayden (a Hindu with a Muslim wife) continued the press coverage on June 11. Entitled "Israel's Murderous Assault: End Gaza blockade now!", the editorial focused on the suffering of 1.5 million Palestinians under the blockade. Valayden pointed out that the blockade is not actually weakening Hamas, and stated that Hamas "has said that they are ready to enter into a long term truce with Israel." Valayden called for a "UN Aid Flotilla to break the

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blockade," and concluded, "Hope by the time we reach such drastic steps God would have revisited the minds of the high officials of Israel who love to joke that the aim of the blockade is 'put the Gazans on the diet.'" The editorial was accompanied by a cartoon of an aid worker face down in a huge pool of blood, with the faint reflection of an Israeli flag on the surface.

**COMMENT**

5. (SBU) The sentiments in the letter to the President appear to be shared by the great majority of the Muslim community here, although the intensity of the feeling varies. In the non-Muslim communities as well, already strong pro-Palestinian sentiment appears to be gaining ground, with the Gaza blockade acting as a catalyst to crystallize resentment against Israeli policy in recent years and decades, a resentment that reflects on the United States as well.

**WILLS**

**Signature:** WILLS

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**Info:** SADC COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

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**From:** Ginkel, John P  
**Sent:** 6/1/2010 11:39:05 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** KOSOVO POLITICAL FIGURE AMONG PARTICIPANTS IN GAZA FLOTILLA

UNCLASSIFIED




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**MRN:** 10 PRISTINA 326  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 01, 2010 / 011533Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY PRISTINA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, PINR, AEMR, ASEC, MARR, AMGT, IS, GZ, TU, KV  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** KOSOVO POLITICAL FIGURE AMONG PARTICIPANTS IN GAZA FLOTILLA

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Turkey's Ambassador to Pristina, Metin Husrev Unler, notified Kosovo's Deputy Foreign Minister on May 31 that a Kosovo citizen, Mr. Fuad Ramiqi, was among the participants in the Turkish NGO Humanitarian Aid Foundation flotilla bound for Gaza that Israeli forces intercepted in the Mediterranean earlier in the day. Unler urged the GOK to issue a statement condemning the raid, but the MFA refused. Ramiqi is currently a member of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) and has been active in Kosovo politics and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosovo (FARK). He previously served in the Yugoslav National Army but deserted in 1991 and subsequently joined the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ramiqi was a founding member of Kosovo's Islamic-oriented Justice Party, and his post-war engagement in Kosovo has focused primarily on the promotion of religious and traditional values in Kosovo society. END SUMMARY.

Fuad Ramiqi Reported Aboard Gaza Aid Flotilla

2. (SBU) On May 31, Turkey's Ambassador to Pristina, Metin Husrev Unler, notified Deputy Foreign Minister Vlora Citaku that Kosovo citizen Fuad Ramiqi was onboard the Turkish NGO Humanitarian Aid Foundation flotilla bound for Gaza that Israeli forces intercepted earlier that day. Kosovo media are reporting that Ramiqi survived the incident unscathed and is expected soon to contact his family. Ambassador Unler urged the GOK to issue a statement condemning the Israeli action in the Mediterranean, but the MFA refused the request and has no plans to issue any statement.

Fuad Ramiqi Bio

3. (U) Ramiqi, born on March 26, 1960, in the village of Pozharan near Viti/Vitina, served as a junior officer

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in the former Yugoslav National Army (JNA) until 1991, when he deserted following the outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia. In 1992, he joined the fledgling Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina where he served as chief of staff in the Fifth Corps' Brigades 521 and 526 until 1994. In 1995, he joined the Defense Ministry of the Kosovo Government-in-exile, where he served, with the rank of Colonel, initially as advisor and later as assistant minister for organizational affairs and mobilization. In that position, he helped the efforts to stand-up and consolidate the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosovo (FARK), a rival to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

4. (U) After the war, Ramiqi helped found the Justice Party (PD), a small religiously-oriented political party, and served as its secretary-general. He left the PD in 2004 over disagreements with party leadership and fielded his candidacy as an independent for the 2004 general elections on a platform that called for promotion of religious and traditional values in Kosovo society. He was the most successful independent candidate in the election and fell a couple of hundred seats short of securing a seat in the Kosovo Assembly. He subsequently disappeared from public life, save for offering intermittent analyses of military and security affairs published in daily newspapers.

5. (U) Ramiqi returned to public life in July 2008 when he joined the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). At the time, there were rumors about his appointment as deputy minister in the newly-established Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force. He was later rumored to be an LDK candidate for the board of Kosovo's Civil Aviation Authority; neither appointment materialized. He has not had any significant political engagements since then.

DELL

<b>Signature:</b>	DELL
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<b>Drafted By:</b>	PRISTINA:Ramaj, Agron
<b>Cleared By:</b>	POL/ECON:Crishock, Louis J POL/ECON:Ginkel, John P
<b>Approved By:</b>	STATE:Murphy, Michael J
<b>Released By:</b>	PRISTINA:Ginkel, John P
<b>Info:</b>	ANKARA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; USNATO, USMISSIONROUTINE; BRUSSELS, USEUROUTINE; SKOPJE, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; TIRANA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; BELGRADE, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UKROUTINE; NAVELEM AFSOUTH NAPLES IT ROUTINE; CDR TF FALCONROUTINE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DCROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DCROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE
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RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Rubin, Joshua N  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 10:50:36 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** ICELAND: PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT AND CONTEMPLATES SUSPENDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

UNCLASSIFIED



**MRN:** 10 REYKJAVIK 140  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 02, 2010 / 021449Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, IC  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** ICELAND: PARLIAMENT CONDEMNS GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT AND CONTEMPLATES SUSPENDING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

1. (SBU) On June 1 the Icelandic Parliament discussed the recent Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla and publicly denounced the action as a breach of international law. Members of Parliament from all of the political parties were unified in their condemnation of the raid and several politicians suggested that Iceland should respond by invoking economic sanctions and/or severing diplomatic relations with Israel. Following this general parliamentary debate, the Foreign Affairs Committee passed a resolution requesting the Foreign Minister to formulate an official Icelandic response to the raid. The resolution, besides asking the Foreign Minister to consider the possibility of diplomatic sanctions against Israel, also urged him to provide aid to Gaza and to organize a trip to the region. (Note: The full text of the Foreign Affairs Committee's resolution is included in paragraph five. End Note.)

2. (SBU) Foreign Minister Ossur Skarphedinsson had already publically condemned the Israeli raid even before parliament met to discuss the subject. The Minister said on May 31 that Israel's disproportionate use of power can no longer be accepted. "Gaza is in fact a giant prison where international law is being violated. This has to stop," he said. Skarphedinsson, according to an MFA press release, also sent a letter of condemnation to the Israeli Foreign Ministry and requested a meeting with Israel's Ambassador to Iceland who is resident in Oslo.

3. (SBU) The government's actions are very much in line with public sentiment on this matter. There was a protest yesterday against Israel

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that, according to the media, attracted approximately 200 people. The protestors carried signs that read "We are responsible for this" with a picture of a burned child, and other signs that read "Stop War Criminals and Imperialism." A group of approximately 20 protestors also demonstrated outside of the U.S. Embassy with similar signs.

4. (SBU) Comment: Post spoke with a well placed contact at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who suggested that it was too early to consider the idea of Iceland implementing economic sanctions against Israel or severing diplomatic ties with the country. This source, however, did not rule out the possible use of these options in the future. At the same time, we note that Iceland has demonstrated a tendency in the past to follow positions laid out by the EU. It would be out of character for Iceland to unilaterally employ economic sanctions or suspend diplomatic relations. End comment.

5. (U) The full text of the Foreign Affairs Committee's resolution reads as follows:

The majority of the Foreign Affairs Committee harshly condemns the Israeli army's raid on a Turkish ship in a convoy on an international maritime route with aid supplies to the Gaza Strip. The raid is a breach of international law. It goes against people's sense of justice, to use violence to prevent aid supplies from reaching people in dire needs. The majority emphasizes that human rights conventions, United Nations resolutions, and international law be fully respected in occupied Palestine, in Gaza, and on the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The majority resolves to ask the Foreign Minister, in consultation with the Foreign Affairs Committee, to organize a trip to the Gaza Strip, and that Iceland send aid supplies to help the people in Gaza and thus oppose the blockade that the Israelis have imposed in Gaza in contradiction to international law. It is unacceptable that for more than half a century UN resolutions on human rights and the Palestine people's right to self-determination have been ignored. It is a serious possibility that Iceland could cut diplomatic relations with Israel, and the Foreign Minister will be asked to assess, in cooperation with other nations, what solutions, which are considered the most effective, shall be employed to compel changes in accordance with international law, such as international solidarity on economic sanctions or severing diplomatic ties with Israel, if other solutions are not fruitful.

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<b>Signature:</b>	PERINA
<b>Drafted By:</b>	REYKJAVIK:Rubin, Joshua N
<b>Cleared By:</b>	AmEmbassy Reykjavik:Rubin, Meredith
<b>Approved By:</b>	AmEmbassy Reykjavik:Perina, Rudolf
<b>Released By:</b>	REYKJAVIK:Rubin, Joshua N
<b>Info:</b>	EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

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RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 11/1/2010 12:37:38 PM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for November 1

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**MRN:** 10 MDA 77212  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 01, 2010 / 011637Z NOV 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisarROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MaurarROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Felman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan ERoutine ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamairROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah ARoutine ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios ERoutine ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MaraROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan ERoutine ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Wallis, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for November 1

(SBU) Around midday on October 30, Embassy investigators confirmed that the *Mariam* remains docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around it. As previously noted, the *Julia* departed for Turkey on October 23.

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

**Action Post:**  
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I64

From: Farao, Eileen M  
Sent: 6/8/2010 3:29:47 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MGGZ01: OMAN: CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSE TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 MUSCAT 402  
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 080729Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, IS, GZ, MU  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Reference: A) 08 MUSCAT 879 AND 09 MUSCAT 6  
B) 10 MUSCAT 275  
C) 10 MUSCAT 380  
Subject: MGGZ01: OMAN: CIVIL SOCIETY RESPONSE TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The leadership role taken by several Omani NGOs in organizing responses to the Gaza flotilla incident demonstrated an increasing interest by civil society in the Sultanate to engage the public on substantive policy issues. A statement issued by the nascent Human Rights Commission showed that this group is also developing its own identity in its portfolio. While Oman has seen protests in the past (ref A) regarding events in Gaza, this is the first time the public voice has been channeled through civil society organizations. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) The nascent National Commission for Human Rights issued a strongly worded public statement about the flotilla incident, condemning the actions of the Israeli military and asserting violations of international law and treaties on human rights. It also called for "solidarity with the Palestinian people" and for continued efforts to alleviate the "sufferings of the people of the Gaza Strip." The government exercises tight control over the content of newspapers; several news outlets reported on the Commission's statement.

3. (U) The Omani Association for Writers and Scholars and the Omani Journalist's Association also released a public statement. It made specific reference to being in "solidarity with Abbas Mustafa" an Omani journalist, working for Gulf News, who was aboard the Mavi Marmara (ref B). Similar to the National Commission for Human Rights, it expressed regret and frustration, and assigned blame to Israel for the incident. The statement used very strong language to both condemn and categorize the incident: "...the Israeli brutal assault by beating and confiscation...denouncing this massacre [by] the Zionist war machine." Circulation included various news outlets.

4. (U) The Omani Association for Writers and Scholars, with sponsorship from the popular Sabla blog/website, also organized a "night of solidarity with the Palestinian people" at a local Borders bookstore. The stated purpose was to mobilize civil society to condemn the Israeli attacks, and included participation by the Palestinian Ambassador to Oman, H.E. Luai Issa, local poets and scholars. The organizers also circulated a petition calling for an end to the Gaza blockade, release of all those captured, criminal charges against the Israeli Government by the International Criminal Court of Justice, compensation to those killed, and a boycott of all Israeli companies and merchandise. The petition will be delivered to the Embassy of Spain in Muscat, for forwarding to the

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European Union and the Human Rights Committee. A march from the Palestinian to the Spanish embassy to deliver the petition was cancelled due to the Omani cyclone (ref C).

5. (SBU) COMMENT: The official government reaction has been measured; the response by civil society expressed unprecedented anger, frustration, and calls for legal and societal action. The Omani government permitted civil society to orchestrate and implement their own strong public reaction. Although public demonstrations concerning Gaza have occurred in the past, these most recent activities were led by NGOs representing the separate voice of civil society. These activities are new for NGOs and may show civil society's growing capacity and desire for a larger role. Such developments will be monitored to determine whether this is a new element within a larger trend of political and democratic awakening. END COMMENT.

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**Signature:** Schmierer

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**Drafted By:** MUSCAT:Brown, Katura  
**Cleared By:** Public Affairs (Muscat):Pattarini, Daniel M  
Craven, Myca R (Muscat)  
Front-Office:Hurtado, L Victor (Muscat)  
Clarkson, John C (Muscat)  
**Approved By:** MUSCAT:Farao, Eileen M  
**Released By:** MUSCAT:Farao, Eileen M  
**Info:**

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RELEASED IN FULL

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 7/21/2010 12:58:19 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: CYPRUS: GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED REPORTING

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 NICOSIA 372  
Date/DTG: Jul 21, 2010 / 211440Z JUL 10  
From: AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: KIRF, KPAO, PHUM, PGOV, OPRC, CY  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Reference: SECSTATE 72296  
Pass Line: DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE AND DRL/IRF (ELIJAH LOGSDON)  
Subject: CYPRUS: GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED REPORTING

UNCLAS NICOSIA 000372

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE AND DRL/IRF (ELIJAH LOGSDON)

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KIRF, KPAO, PHUM, PGOV, OPRC, CY  
SUBJECT: CYPRUS: GAZA FLOTILLA-RELATED REPORTING

REF: SECSTATE 72296

1. (U) Per Reftel, Post reviewed news media and statements by political leaders following the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident. Although the incident, which occurred close to Cyprus' territorial waters, received significant media coverage in both the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities, the coverage consisted mainly of political analyses and commentary and did not appear to "cross the line" into anti-Semitism.

2. (SBU) Post also contacted the leaders of the local Jewish community center in Larnaca, which reported no Gaza flotilla-related commentary or public statements that appeared to be anti-Semitic. The center did, however, report a slight increase after the Gaza flotilla incident in the number of verbal assaults and harassing phone calls, which they report receiving on a regular basis throughout the year. (Note: The Cyprus Jewish Community Center, led by members of the Chabad-Lubavitch Hasidic Orthodox faith, is located in Larnaca, an area with a significant number of Palestinian refugees. End note.) The rabbi of the synagogue located in

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the Turkish Cypriot community reported no increase in anti-Semitism following the Gaza flotilla incident; he reported cordial and mutually respectful relations with local residents and authorities.  
URBANCIC

**Signature:** URBANCIC

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**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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RELEASED IN FULL

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/8/2010 9:08:41 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: FREEDOM FLOTILLA IN THE MAURITIAN MEDIA

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 PORT LOUIS 165  
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081253Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATEROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: KPAO, KDEM, PHUM, PGOV, MP, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Subject: FREEDOM FLOTILLA IN THE MAURITIAN MEDIA

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 000165

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KPAO, KDEM, PHUM, PGOV, MP, IS  
SUBJECT: FREEDOM FLOTILLA IN THE MAURITIAN MEDIA

1. (U) SUMMARY: Israel's May 31 actions to halt the "Freedom Flotilla" headed for Gaza have generated considerable press and media coverage (most sharply critical), a government statement, a demonstration at the U.S. Embassy in Port Louis, and the delivery of a letter to the Embassy addressed to President Obama. The outpouring of criticism here for the Israeli actions was predictable. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) Israel's May 31 actions to halt the "Freedom Flotilla" headed for Gaza quickly generated media coverage. On June 2, the daily "Le Mauricien" reported a statement by the left wing party Lalit condemning the attacks by Israel against the "Liberty Flotilla," calling it "an act of piracy" and calling on the Government of Mauritius to "immediately stop all bilateral relations with Israel." (NOTE: Post is not aware of any substantive, ongoing bilateral relations. END NOTE.) On June 3, the private radio station Radio Plus reported the GOM "condemned the loss of human lives." In its 0800 news broadcast the radio carried an interview with Foreign Minister Arvin Boolell, who confirmed that the government "condemned the attacks." Boolell added that it was unacceptable to use force against civilians, and that it was important that aid and food reach

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Gaza. The radio station then announced a demonstration for that day in front of the U.S. Embassy. Also on June 3 the daily newspaper "Le Matinal" carried a statement by the GOM on its front page. One opinion piece the same day said that the Israeli version of the facts was more credible and indicated legitimate self-defense, ending "Let's not condemn Israel, let's forget Palestine. The World Cup is in nine days!"

3. (U) On June 4, at least four stories in the mainstream press continued the coverage, with opinion pieces and reporting on the demonstration and the GOM statement. This press coverage was almost uniformly negative toward Israel. The Washington correspondent for "L'express" reported that "the White House is taking a more cautious position on the raid, standing by a U.N. Security Council statement condemning 'acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded,' without specifying who was responsible for those acts." A harsh cartoon depicted an Israeli soldier, thinking that a dove conceals Islamic fighters, killing the dove and peering into its bloody remains in search of the imaginary fighters.

4. (U) On the afternoon of June 4, after Friday prayers, Kader Hosenally, from the non-governmental organization "Free Palestine Now," delivered a letter of protest to the U.S. Embassy. Hosenally was accompanied by the president of the Jumma Mosque. The letter, addressed to President Obama, was accepted by the Public Affairs Officer, an event covered on Mauritian TV and in the press.

5. (U) Over the weekend, the weekly newspaper "Le Dimanche" published a letter from former Attorney General Rama Valayden sharply critical of the "killing of at least ten civilians by Israel forces and the injuries inflicted on many more. He urged the Mauritian Government to take the lead through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to condemn Israel for its "barbarous acts" and to ask Israel to stop its "Operational Cast Lead" against Palestinians of the Gaza strip. Also, the leader of Muslim party Front Solidante Mauricien and new MP Cehl Meah condemned the attacks and said he plans to seek the approval of the Israeli government to send medication to the children in Gaza. Leader of the opposition Paul Berenger condemned the Israeli attack, calling it "shocking brutality," and added that Mauritius has been slow in condemning this attack. He deplored the fact that the France-Africa Summit, which was being held when the attack took place, did not condemn it.

Comment

6. (SBU) Mauritius tends to be strongly pro-Palestinian at any time. The reaction here to the botched raid was predictable.

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Signature: WILLS

Info: SADC COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

Attachments: metadata.dat

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RELEASED IN FULL

From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
Sent: 6/22/2010 9:40:49 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: SITREP: Lebanese Flotilla as of COB June 22

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 38640  
Date/DTG: Jun 22, 2010 / 221340Z JUN 10  
From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
Action: Cohen, Jonathan RIMMEDIATE ; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'IMMEDIATE ; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'IMMEDIATE ; Sievers, Marc JIMMEDIATE ; Cunningham, James BIMMEDIATE ; Lawson, Christine M IMMEDIATE ; Catalano, Elisa IMMEDIATE ; Connelly, Mauri IMMEDIATE ; Shampaine, Nicole D IMMEDIATE ; Riley, Richard HIMMEDIATE ; Evans, Jennifer RIMMEDIATE ; Urbancic, Frank C RDUTINE ; Wallis, Jacob ROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald L ROUTINE ; Fellman, Jeffrey DIMMEDIATE ; Holmstrom, Todd CIMMEDIATE ; Jeffrey, James F IMMEDIATE ; Silliman, Douglas A IMMEDIATE ; Godfrey, Anthony F IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, PBTS, EWWT, KPAL, IS, GZ, LE  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Subject: SITREP: Lebanese Flotilla as of COB June 22

(SBU) STATUS OF SHIP(S): As of late afternoon June 22, no ships have left Lebanon bound for either Cyprus or Gaza, but preparations for one launch are underway. The freighter *Julia*, a Bolivian-flagged vessel we have been watching in Tripoli harbor for nearly a week, is now being identified in the media as the ship that will be rechristened *Naji al-Ali* (then in theory to be used to run the Gaza blockade by a group of journalists and activists organized by two Lebanese NGOs). Until yesterday, the *Julia* was believed to be intended for the "all-female" venture and rechristened *Mariam* (in a separate effort organized by the wife of a former national police director). The woman leading the *Mariam* effort, when questioned by the press yesterday, would not give any details about her undertaking other than to say that the group would have a ship and that as many as 70 women might be on it "when it leaves for Gaza."

(SBU) GOL ACTION: The Lebanese cabinet discussed the issue last night, but concluded that it did not need to intervene because the matter was within the jurisdiction of Transportation Minister Ghazi Aridi. Aridi reportedly stated during the cabinet meeting that he would give approval to the *Mariam* and *Naji al-Ali* to depart if they submit requests in accordance with the law; are planning to go to a permitted destination, like Cyprus; and otherwise meet all technical and legal conditions. Cabinet sources were cited in the press as saying "there was not complete satisfaction with the departure of the two ships in these circumstances because of the Israeli threats and unsuitable political timing," but the cabinet did not take any steps to block it.

(SBU) ACTIVITY ON JULIA: This afternoon the *Julia* is alongside the pier in Tripoli and is being loaded with cargo in boxes from trucks. At 1500 local time, there were no signs of imminent departure. Our investigators were not able to identify any other ships in Tripoli harbor that are obviously under preparation for a "flotilla" voyage. We and the UK Embassy also verified that there are currently no ships of any kind in the southern Lebanese ports of Saida, Tyre and Joun that could be used to travel to Gaza. Our Surete Generale contacts in Tripoli believe the other intended ship is also in Tripoli, but they cannot identify it. Late this afternoon, Lebanese Customs contacts in Tripoli said that the *Julia* is the only ship currently being prepared for departure.

(SBU) TECHNICAL ISSUE: The *Julia* is reportedly licensed to carry only 16 passengers and crew, so technically should not be allowed to depart if it submits a manifest with more than 16 individuals listed on it. The two Lebanese NGOs organizing the *Naji al-Ali* effort have said for some days that they intend to send a group of at least 50-60, including 20-30 journalists.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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The Surete Generale confirmed within the last half-hour that it has not received any manifests. The SG did not indicate, however, that it would necessarily take steps to prevent a departure if it does receive a manifest in proper form.

(SBU) AMCITS: The local press has also run a couple of stories today claiming that five Amcits nuns will be among the people on the *Mariam*, and that 12 unidentified Amcits plan to travel on the *Naji al-Alli*. We have repeatedly checked with the Surete (which handles immigration) in recent days, but they have no information about any Amcits with such plans. The Surete has promised to notify us if they receive any manifests listing U.S. citizens.

(SBU) CONCLUSION: We are not currently able to determine how far advanced the preparations for the launch of the *Julia* may be, nor have we been able to obtain additional information concerning reports that the ship is probably not seaworthy. It is being loaded with cargo, however, and we have to assume it could depart with very little notice, assuming all of its documentary requirements have been met.

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**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Info:** Sison, Michele JROUTINE ; Cornforth, Jeremy AROUTINE ; Bauer, Paul (Beirut)ROUTINE ; Lantz, James VROUTINE ; AOC SESORROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESORROUTINE ; SES-O\_CMSROUTINE ; SES-O\_DS\_OnlyROUTINE ; SES-O\_FrontOfficeROUTINE ; SES-O\_OSROUTINE ; SES-O\_SWORROUTINE ; SES-O\_WORROUTINE ; Watch InformationROUTINE ; 'Kumar, Prem G.' ROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Cizek, MichaelROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Johnson, Andrew KimROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; Riley, Robert J ROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE

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RELEASED IN FULL

From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 8/21/2010 6:10:09 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla update for August 21: Organizers seeking a new destination

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 58508  
Date/DTG: Aug 21, 2010 / 211008Z AUG 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan RROUTINE; Connelly, Maura ROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)ROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Grubb, Jason BROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia I ROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; n mccaddiROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scarlatelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sulphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Walles, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, IS, GZ, GR  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Reference: A) 10 BEIRUT 729  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla update for August 21: Organizers seeking a new destination

(SBU) On Saturday, 08/21/2010, at 0933 hours Embassy investigators reported that both the *Mariam* (formerly the *Jounieh Star*) and the *Julia* (aka the *Naji al-Ali*) remain in their same positions in the Lebanese port of Tripoli without any signs of activity. Our team will remain in Tripoli throughout the day, and we will provide further reports, as appropriate.

(U) Transportation Minister Ghazi Aridi told Lebanese papers on August 21 that he could not allow the *Mariam* to sail, as planned, because the Cypriot authorities had announced that they would not allow it to land there en route to Gaza. He added, however, "We will grant the ship the necessary license according to the required legal conditions," explaining that the ship's owners must locate a different port that will receive the ship.

(U) The head of the sponsoring Free Palestine Movement, Yasser Qashlaq, stressed that the *Mariam* will depart as scheduled on August 29. He told the daily *Asharq al-Awsat* on August 21, "There will be no backing down from the launch date and Cyprus has no right to refuse it entry to its port....If the ship does not sail, regardless of the reason, I will reveal secrets and many surprises to the Palestinian people." The Lebanese paper *As-Safir*, which supports the ship's mission, reported that organizers are negotiating with Greek authorities for permission to land in a Greek port.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Page 2 of 2

Jeremy Cornforth  
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Beirut

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**Drafted By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Info:** Cockrell, John *DROUTINE*; Dirker, Patrick *JROUTINE*; Drummond, Maggie *MROUTINE*;  
Hristodoulaki, Cissy *GROUTINE*; Lawton, Daniel *JROUTINE*; Purcell, Alan *SROUTINE*;  
Rosenberg, Alanna *EROUTINE*; Symeonidis, Tasos *TROUTINE*; McCarthy, Deborah *AROUTINE*

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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I74

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
 Sent: 8/21/2010 9:37:21 AM  
 To: SMART Core  
 Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla update #2 for 8/21: No departure on August 21 or 22

## UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 58512  
 Date/DTG: Aug 21, 2010 / 211336Z AUG 10  
 From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
 Action: Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan RROUTINE; Connelly, Maura ROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher R ROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey DROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas H ROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason BROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia I ROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddi ROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICEROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael AROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scarlatelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael WROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald L ROUTINE; Scobey, MargaretROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Walles, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE

E.O.: 13526  
 TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, IS, GZ  
 Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
 Reference: A) 10 MDA 58508  
 B) 10 BEIRUT 729  
 Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla update #2 for 8/21: No departure on August 21 or 22

No Activity in Tripoli Port

(SBU) On Saturday, August 21, at 1620 hours Embassy investigators reported that both the *Mariam* (formerly the *Jounieh Star*) and the *Julia* (aka the *Naji al-Ali*) remain in their same positions in the Lebanese port of Tripoli without any signs of activity. The investigators added that there was no elevated security presence at the port and no press was present. The team will return to Tripoli on Sunday, August 22, and we will provide further reports, as appropriate.

GDL Says Ship Will Not Sail Before Monday

(SBU) Gen. Joumana Tabet, head of General Security's intelligence unit, assured the RSO that the *Mariam* will not depart on either August 21 or 22, although she declined to provide additional information.

Flotilla Organizer Claims Ship Will Not Sail Directly to Gaza

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(U) Coordinator of the Mariam's efforts, Samar al-Hajj, told the LBC television channel on Saturday that contacts are ongoing with countries near Gaza in order to acquire permission for the ship to dock at one of their ports. She complained, "It seems as if there is universal war against us....We will not allow anyone to cancel the ship's trip." She added that the ship will not head to Gaza directly from Tripoli, stressing, "The ship cannot be the reason for the start of a war."

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**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Corforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Corforth, Jeremy A  
**Info:** Cockrell, John *DROUTINE*; Dirker, Patrick *JROUTINE*; Drummond, Maggie *MROUTINE*; Hristodoulaki, Cissy *GROUTINE*; Lawton, Daniel *JROUTINE*; Purcell, Alan *SROUTINE*; Rosenberg, Alanna *EROUTINE*; Symeonidis, Tasos *TROUTINE*

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I 75

From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 8/22/2010 8:18:59 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam flotilla sitrep: Flotilla departure postponed indefinitely

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 58514  
Date/DTG: Aug 22, 2010 / 221217Z AUG 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Catalano, ElisarROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE; Connelly, MauraROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddiROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICAL.ROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scariatelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Wallis, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, IS, GZ  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Reference: A) 10 MDA 58512  
Subject: Mariam flotilla sitrep: Flotilla departure postponed indefinitely

(U) In a press conference held inside the Lebanese port of Tripoli around midday on Sunday, August 22, the organizers of the *Mariam*, a ship intending to break the Gaza blockade, announced that they are "postponing but not cancelling" its departure, previously planned for August 22. This decision, they said, was made necessary by the refusal of Cypriot authorities to allow the ship to dock in Cyprus en route to Gaza. The organizers are now seeking another port that will allow them to land, and they announced that they are in contact with Turkish and Greek authorities. The Government of Lebanon will not allow the ship to sail directly to Gaza because it is occupied by Israel, with which Lebanon is officially in a state of war.

(SBU) An Embassy security team reported at 1445 hours that all those who attended the press conference had departed the port area and no activity was taking place on or around the ship. Embassy Beirut will continue monitoring the situation and sending staff to observe the port, reporting when necessary.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Info:** Cockrell, John *DROUTINE*; Dirker, Patrick *JROUTINE*; Drummond, Maggie *MROUTINE*;  
Hristodoulaki, Cissy *GROUTINE*; Lawton, Daniel *JROUTINE*; Purcell, Alan *SROUTINE*;  
Rosenberg, Alanna *EROUTINE*; Symeonidis, Tasos *TROUTINE*

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IFLO

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**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 8/24/2010 10:53:12 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** Mariam flotilla update: No activity

UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 59250  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 24, 2010 / 241452Z AUG 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MauraROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MaraROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarlatelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Champagne, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Wallis, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, IS, GZ, GR, TU  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 10 MDA 58514  
**Subject:** Mariam flotilla update: No activity

(SBU) On August 24 at 1300 hours, Embassy investigators reported that the Mariam (formerly the Jounieh Star) and the Julia (aka the Nají al-Ali) remained in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no signs of activity taking place on or around them. The Julia is anchored away from the wharf, and the Mariam has been moved to a secondary docking location next to a larger ship. The team will return to observe the ships on August 25.

(SBU) Yasser Qashlaq, head of the Free Palestine Movement that is sponsoring the ships, told An-Nahar newspaper, "From now on, we will start sending ships carrying humanitarian aid with the U.N. flag to all of Palestine, not only to Gaza, and Israel will not be able to forbid it or detain it." Since the Government of Lebanon has refused to allow the ships to sail unless they indicate as their destination a port that will receive them other than Gaza, this claim is not credible. The press reported over the weekend that the flotilla organizers contacted Turkish and Greek authorities to seek permission to dock there.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A

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I77

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From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
 Sent: 8/26/2010 10:31:41 AM  
 To: svcSMARTBTPO4  
 Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for 8/26: No activity  
 Attachments: DSCN1147.jpg; DSCN1153.jpg; Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 59846  
 Date/DTG: Aug 26, 2010 / 261433Z AUG 10  
 From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
 Action: Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE; Connelly, MauraROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjatROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddiROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumariROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scarlattelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Champaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Wallis, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE

E.O.: 13526  
 TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, IS, GZ  
 Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
 Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for 8/26: No activity

(SBU) Around midday on August 26, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the Mariam and the Julia remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

(SBU) Two photos taken today are attached.

Drafted By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
 Released By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
 Attachments: DSCN1147.jpg, DSCN1153.jpg, Metadata.dat

Action Post:  
 Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 8/27/2010 4:14:51 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for August 27

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 59988  
Date/DTG: Aug 27, 2010 / 270813Z AUG 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Catalano, ElisarROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE; Connelly, MaurarROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjatROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddiROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Wallis, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for August 27

(SBU) Around 1000 on August 27, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

(U) We will report again on the ships' status on Monday, unless we receive information over the weekend indicating that they plan to embark.

Drafted By: BEIRUT:Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT:Cornforth, Jeremy A

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I79

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 8/30/2010 11:16:56 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 60630  
Date/DTG: Aug 30, 2010 / 301516Z AUG 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut POEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MauraROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamaIROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MararROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarlatelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Walles, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for

(SBU) Around midday on August 30, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

Drafted By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 8/31/2010 8:28:20 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for August 31

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## UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 60964  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 31, 2010 / 311228Z AUG 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut PoiEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MauraROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Fellman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjerROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MaraROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Wallis, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for August 31

(SBU) Around midday on August 31, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 9/8/2010 8:40:08 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 7

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 63134  
Date/DTG: Sep 08, 2010 / 081217Z SEP 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE; Connelly, MauraROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddiROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scarlattelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Walles, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 7

(SBU) Around midday on September 7, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

Drafted By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 9/13/2010 10:13:41 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 13

UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 63932  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 13, 2010 / 131412Z SEP 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PoIEcon AmericansROUTINE; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R. ROUTINE; Connelly, MauraROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddiROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scardatelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Waller, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 13

(SBU) Around midday on September 13, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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I83

**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 9/20/2010 1:48:47 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTBTPO7  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 20  
**Attachments:** DSCN1206.jpg; DSCN1210.jpg; Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 65920  
**Date/DTG:** Sep 20, 2010 / 200559Z SEP 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Alan SimsROUTINE; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE; Baily, Jess LROUTINE; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE; Connelly, MauraROUTINE; Cunningham, James BROUTINE; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE; Hale, David MROUTINE; Hof, Frederic GROUTINE; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE; Levin, JanROUTINE; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE; n mccaddROUTINE; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE; Prem G KumarROUTINE; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE; Riley, Robert JROUTINE; Rudman, MaraROUTINE; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA)ROUTINE; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE; Scarlatelli, Adam WROUTINE; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE; SES-OROUTINE; Champaine, Nicole DROUTINE; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE; Sindle, James MROUTINE; Smith, Anita RROUTINE; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Wallis, JacobROUTINE; Woods, William HROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 20

(SBU) Around midday on September 19, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain in the Lebanese port of Tripoli. While the *Mariam* is still anchored near the wharf, the *Julia* has been taken out of the water for repair work. Please see attached photos.

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Attachments:** DSCN1206.jpg, DSCN1210.jpg, Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
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From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 9/27/2010 10:58:03 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 27

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 67970  
Date/DTG: Sep 27, 2010 / 271457Z SEP 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MauraROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Fellman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MaraROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Walles, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for September 27

(SBU) Around midday on September 25, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them. The *Julia* remains in dry dock.

Drafted By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Page 1 of 2

I 85

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Sent:** 10/4/2010 11:47:49 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTBTSP03  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for the week of October 4  
**Attachments:** DSCN1216.jpg; DSCN1214.jpg; Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 69336  
**Date/DTG:** Oct 04, 2010 / 041552Z OCT 10  
**From:** McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Action:** Cornforth, Jeremy *AROUTINE*; Alan.sims@js.smil.mil*ROUTINE*; Allison, Alicia *PROUTINE*; Baily, Jess *LROUTINE*; Bell, Jacob *TROUTINE*; Connelly, Maura*ROUTINE*; Cornforth, Jeremy *AROUTINE*; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Fitzsimmons, Richard *SROUTINE*; Gliha, Ryan *MROUTINE*; Howell, David *WROUTINE*; Lantz, James *VROUTINE*; Mack, Eric J *ROUTINE*; Mosby, Deborah (TDY Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Rank, Joseph *WROUTINE*; Rasmussen, Mark *GROUTINE*; Repetski, Michael *JROUTINE*; Silkman, John *WROUTINE*; Solly, Janet *RROUTINE*; Cornforth, Jeremy *AROUTINE*; Cranmer, Amanda *CROUTINE*; Fitzsimmons, Richard *SROUTINE*; Hasan, Laila *MROUTINE*; Howell, David *WROUTINE*; McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Mitchell, Beth *AROUTINE*; Catalano, Elisa*ROUTINE*; Cohen, Jonathan *RROUTINE*; Connelly, Maura*ROUTINE*; Cunningham, James *BROUTINE*; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)*ROUTINE*; Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov*ROUTINE*; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Davis, Christopher *RROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer R *ROUTINE*; Feltman, Jeffrey *DROUTINE*; Goldberger, Thomas *HROUTINE*; Gregonis, Meghan E *ROUTINE*; Grubb, Jason *BROUTINE*; Hagar\_H\_Hajjar@nss.eop.gov*ROUTINE*; Hale, David M *ROUTINE*; Hof, Frederic *CROUTINE*; Jackson, Mollie *JROUTINE*; Jacoby, Julia *IROUTINE*; Jasmine.el-gamal@osd.mil*ROUTINE*; Kimberly.Harrington@js.pentagon.mil*ROUTINE*; Knopf, Payton *LROUTINE*; Levin, Jan*ROUTINE*; Levinson, Jesse *SROUTINE*; McCarthy, Deborah *AROUTINE*; nmccaddi@js.pentagon.mil*ROUTINE*; Brownstein, David P *ROUTINE*; Conlon, Steven *MROUTINE*; Johnson, Sandra *LROUTINE*; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL *ROUTINE*; Netos, Eleftherios *EROUTINE*; Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov*ROUTINE*; Ratney, Michael *AROUTINE*; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)*ROUTINE*; Riggs, Susan *JROUTINE*; Riley, Robert *JROUTINE*; Rudman, Mara*ROUTINE*; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)*ROUTINE*; Sayles, Ambrose *GROUTINE*; Scarlatelli, Adam *WROUTINE*; Schedlbauer, Amy *WROUTINE*; Schellhammer, Michael *WROUTINE*; SchlerethFG@state.gov*ROUTINE*; Schlicher, Ronald L *ROUTINE*; Scobey, Margaret*ROUTINE*; AOC SESO*ROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO*ROUTINE*; SES-O\_CMS*ROUTINE*; SES-O\_DS\_Only*ROUTINE*; SES-O\_FrontOffice*ROUTINE*; SES-O\_OS *ROUTINE*; SES-O\_SWO*ROUTINE*; SES-O\_WO*ROUTINE*; Watch Information*ROUTINE*; Shampaine, Nicole *DROUTINE*; Shapiro, Daniel *SROUTINE*; Silverman, Robert *JROUTINE*; Sindle, James *MROUTINE*; Smith, Anila *RROUTINE*; Stewart, Nan *EROUTINE*; Sutphin, Paul R *ROUTINE*; Blaukopf, Ruth *BROUTINE*; Drake, V. Dianer*ROUTINE*; Eussen, Matthew*ROUTINE*; Failla, Ann *MROUTINE*; Grubb, Jason *BROUTINE*; Levin, Jan*ROUTINE*; Lurie, Mike *DROUTINE*; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)*ROUTINE*; Parsell, Benjamin *CROUTINE*; Silverman, Robert J *ROUTINE*; Tsou, Leslie *MROUTINE*; Urbancic, Frank *CROUTINE*; Wallis, Jacob*ROUTINE*; Woods, William *HROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PTER, EWWT, KPAL, GZ, IS, LE  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS, SIPDIS  
**Subject:** Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for the week of October 4

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(SBU) Around midday on October 2, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain in the Lebanese port of Tripoli. The *Mariam* is still anchored near the wharf, and the *Julia* remains in dry dock for repair work. Please see attached photos.

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**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Attachments:** DSCN1216.jpg, DSCN1214.jpg, Metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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I86

From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 10/13/2010 7:15:54 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for October 13

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MRN: 10 MDA 71540  
Date/DTG: Oct 13, 2010 / 131115Z OCT 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MauraROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamaliROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MaraROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sulphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Walles, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for October 13

(SBU) Around midday on October 12, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them. The *Julia* is currently in dry dock.

Drafted By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Sent: 10/18/2010 1:06:04 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for October 18

RELEASED IN FULL

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MRN: 10 MDA 73154  
Date/DTG: Oct 18, 2010 / 181705Z OCT 10  
From: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Action: Alan SimsROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Beirut MIL Core Group ROUTINE ; Beirut PolEcon AmericansROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisarROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan R ROUTINE ; Connelly, MaurarROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Curtin, Mary T (Brussels)ROUTINE ; Daniel B. ShapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Davis, Christopher RROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Feltman, Jeffrey D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; Gregonis, Meghan EROUTINE ; Grubb, Jason B ROUTINE ; Hagar H. HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Jasmine El-GamalROUTINE ; Kimberly HarringtonROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Levin, JanROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse SROUTINE ; McCarthy, Deborah AROUTINE ; n mccaddiROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; NICOSIA FRONT OFFICE ROUTINE ; NICOSIA POLITICALROUTINE ; Prem G KumarROUTINE ; Ratney, Michael A ROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Rudman, MaraROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)ROUTINE ; Sayles, Ambrose GROUTINE ; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedibauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael W ROUTINE ; Schlereth, Frank GROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Scobey, Margaret ROUTINE ; SES-OROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Shapiro, Daniel SROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita RROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tel Aviv POL SectionROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Waller, JacobROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL, LE, GZ, IS'  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Mariam Gaza flotilla sitrep for October 18

(SBU) Around midday on October 18, Embassy investigators confirmed that both the *Mariam* and the *Julia* remain docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli with no activity taking place on or around them.

Drafted By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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From: svcsmartmf  
Sent: 6/2/2010 1:06:38 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: KUWAIT'S MEDIA CONDEMNS "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 KUWAIT 388  
Date/DTG: Jun 02, 2010 / 020501Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATEPRIORITY  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, PREL, KU  
Pass Line: DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP (CSULLIVAN), NEA/PPD (DBENZE)  
Subject: KUWAIT'S MEDIA CONDEMNS "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000388

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP (CSULLIVAN), NEA/PPD (DBENZE)

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, PREL, KU  
SUBJECT: KUWAIT'S MEDIA CONDEMNS "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" INCIDENT

1.(U) Summary: Kuwait's major newspapers widely condemned the Israeli military's actions regarding the "Freedom Flotilla" manned by international peace activists, including 16 Kuwaitis, as it attempted to deliver aid to the Gaza Strip. They highlighted both domestic and international official and unofficial reactions to Israel's actions, emphasizing that the raid "was conducted in international waters." Papers widely reported the May 31 summoning by the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the envoys representing the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council. End summary.

2.(U) Al-Qabas, one of Kuwait's most well-established newspapers associated with the country's intelligentsia, headlined its front page with the words, "Israel's massacre has angered the world." The English-language Al-Watan Daily, as well as Arabic language Al-Qabas, Al-Watan and Al-Rai newspapers all carried the word "massacre" in their headlines. The papers prominently displayed pictures of protests around the world, including in Kuwait. The Arab Times (English language daily) published a picture of an injured person whom, it reported, was an American peace activist who was hit in the eye with a tear gas canister thrown at her by Israeli forces while participating in a West Bank protest. The Al-Wasat daily published gun-wielding Israeli commandos on its front page. A cartoon depicting a dove crucified by the Star of David appeared in the Al-Jarida newspaper. The front page of the Al-Rouiah newspaper was headlined, "Israeli Piracy...Above International Law."

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3. (U) Kuwait's Arabic and English language dailies covered both official and unofficial Kuwaiti reactions to the incident. However, while the country's Arabic language dailies paid particular attention to the reactions of the Kuwaiti government and normal citizens, English language dailies The Kuwait Times, Arab Times and Al-Watan Daily primarily focused on the international dimension to the incident and its global repercussions.

4. (U) Kuwait's official news agency KUNA, as well as international news agencies, serve as the main source of information on the circumstances surrounding the incident and its implications. Most coverage in the local Arabic language newspapers has been limited to Kuwait's political landscape. All papers extensively covered the fate of the 16 Kuwaiti citizens who participated in the flotilla, including National Assembly member Dr. Waleed Al-Tabtabaie. Al-Jarida dedicated half a page to official statements made by members of Kuwait's National Assembly, with MP Juman Al-Harbes, a member of Kuwait's branch of the Muslim brotherhood, saying that the "Zionist entity only understands the logic of force."

5. (U) Papers widely reported the May 31 summoning by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Roudhan Al-Roudhan of the envoys representing the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council, including Ambassador Jones. KUNA reported that the Kuwaiti minister asked the ambassadors to exert pressure on Israeli to ensure the safety of the 16 Kuwaitis. Ambassador Jones was quoted by KUNA as saying "the United States has expressed its deep regret over this tragic loss of life and has called for a full investigation into the circumstances." She added that it is important, as all sides assess the tragic incident, that "we do not lose sight of the objective; namely, setting up Palestinian and Israeli states living side by side in peace and security."

6. (U) All major Kuwaiti newspapers covered a rally that was held in Kuwait City's Determination Square, condemning Israel and calling for the safe return of the Kuwaitis. The event was attended by a number of Kuwaiti MPs and prominent figures from all sides of Kuwait's political spectrum. Al-Seyassah stated that the rally's attendees "called for the widest possible solidarity campaign with the Kuwaiti nationals and a condemnation of Israel's crimes."

7. (U) Editorials: The front pages of the Alam Al-Yom, Al-Rai and Al-Qabas newspapers featured columns slamming Israel's attack. Titled "The Terrorism of the State between Capitulation and Resistance," the column that appeared on the front page of Alam Al-Yom argues that the United States acts as the "strategic authority of the terrorism of the Zionist state, funds it, supports it logistically, acts as its diplomatic cover and justifies it in the media." Appearing prominently on the front page of the moderate Al-Qabas newspaper, an editorial carrying the title, "That is how we Punish Israel" concluded with the sentiment, "without a response (to Israel's actions)...that will unite the Arab and Islamic worlds, and the Palestinians, Israel will achieve whatever it likes...and after that words will not suffice." Jassim Boodai, editor-in-chief of the liberal Al-Rai newspaper, wrote a somber column that appeared on the newspaper's front page in which he lamented the perceived silence of the Arab governments towards what is happening and wrote "that the story is not related to Israel alone as we are in the heart of it also...our silence has become our voice."

Jones

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**Signature:** Jones

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**Info:** GCC COLLECTIVE*ROUTINE*; ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE*ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**  
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RELEASED IN FULL

I91

From: Gollner-Sweet, Katharina  
Sent: 6/3/2010 9:06:36 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Kuwait's Media Editorials Critical of "Freedom Flotilla" Incident

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 KUWAIT 402  
Date/DTG: Jun 03, 2010 / 031305Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, KU, KPAO, KMDR  
Pass Line: PASX POLX  
Subject: Kuwait's Media Editorials Critical of "Freedom Flotilla" Incident

1. (U) Summary: All Arabic and English newspapers in Kuwait carried a wide range of editorials on the flotilla incident. In general, the editorials condemned the Israeli acts and criticized the U.S. reaction towards Israel, which in the columnists' views was not critical enough of the Israeli action. Harsh words, such as "massacre," "disgrace," and "inhumane" were used to describe the attack. Several newspapers featured front page editorials praising the Kuwaiti participants, who were detained by Israel, for their heroism and support of the Palestinians. Meanwhile, some columnists attempted to analyze the GOK's reaction to the events. End summary.

2. (U) Moderate Arabic daily Al-Qabas published an article by Ms. Amal Arabeed, a frequent critic of U.S. foreign policy in the region. In her article which carried the headline, "Obama's contradicting priorities in his new strategy," Ms. Arbeed said, "We do not see any change in the U.S. strategy, but rather a redistribution of roles and allies. The mix that President Obama is trying to achieve between flexible policies and the U.S. unilateral military dominance in leading the battle is something for the EU to examine and especially Great Britain before their Sterling collapses and their role in the region deteriorates."

3. (U) Under the headline "God Bless Him Who Knows His Limits," Liberal columnist Abdul Latif Al-Duaij opined in the moderate Arabic daily Al-Qabas: "It goes without saying that the government position - on the flotilla incident - resulted from an attempt to appease and to gain the support of Islamist MPs and the nationalists at the National Assembly, more than it was a real humanitarian stance that is sympathetic with the Palestinians, or out of concern for the fate of Kuwaiti citizens who voluntarily participated in

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the Freedom Flotilla."

4. (U) Abdul Mohsen Jamal, a regular columnist in the moderate Arabic daily Al-Qabas, praised the acts of those who supported the Palestinians in Gaza and called upon the Arab countries and the international community to take actions against Israel. In his editorial that was headlined, "The Freedom Convoy," Mr. Jamal concluded, "If the leaderships in the United States and Europe were really honest about their willingness to fight terrorism, then they need to be honest with themselves and to their principles and make Israel accountable for its actions. The credibility of these leaderships has become questionable. That is why the Arab countries and the Muslim world must be vigilant to any Zionist backstabbing at any time."

5. (U) Mr. Mohammed MUSAED Al-Saleh criticized the tone and choice of words in the UN Security Council statement on the flotilla incident. He also expressed his disappointment with the Arab countries reaction to the tragedy, and he downplayed the importance of the Arab League statement, which had not been issued by the time he finished his article. In the editorial that appeared on the back page of the moderate Arabic daily Al-Qabas, Mr. Al-Saleh said: "Unfortunately Israel will remain the one with the upper hand in convincing the world of its point of view, and our people have nothing more than protests to express their feelings about the Israeli massacre."

6. (U) Liberal Arabic daily Al-Rai published an Op-Ed on its back page by Mr. Walid Al-Rujaib, who criticized the U.S. support of Israel. The article that was headline, "The Chronic Disgrace," Mr. Al-Rujaib concluded, "Our disgrace will remain chronic as long as the United States controls the fate of world and exercises a unipolar policy and insists on protecting the Israeli nuclear armament program. Israel on the other hand will keep on laughing at us, and it will fall on its back laughing when it hears the Arab condemnation statement."

7. (U) Conservative Arabic daily Al-Watan published an article by Nabil Al-Fadhil, an Islamist regular columnist, where he said: "We think we know the reason behind Israel's aggression on the ships. Israel was hoping that the people of the Arab world would put pressure on their government to withdraw their commitment from the Arab Peace Initiative that was spearheaded by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. And that has almost been achieved; we saw yesterday at the Kuwaiti National Assembly how the majority of MPs voted in favor of pulling Kuwait out of its commitment to the Arab peace initiative."

<b>Signature:</b>	WILLIAMS
<hr/>	
<b>Drafted By:</b>	KUWAIT:Gollner-Sweet, Katharina
<b>Cleared By:</b>	NEASA:Williams, Thomas E
<b>Approved By:</b>	POL:O'Donohue, Peter A
<b>Released By:</b>	KUWAIT:Gollner-Sweet, Katharina
<b>Info:</b>	Sullivan, Cassie CROUTINE; Benze, David KROUTINE
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<b>Dissemination Rule:</b>	Archive Copy

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I94

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 8/16/2010 12:09:11 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTHTSPOP4  
**Subject:** Lebanese flotilla update: August 16, 2010  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 1767  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 16, 2010 / 161609Z AUG 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) *ROUTINE*; Walles, Jacob *ROUTINE*; Riley, Richard *ROUTINE*; Schedlbauer, Amy *ROUTINE*; Sindle, James *ROUTINE*; Jacoby, Julia *ROUTINE*; Tsou, Leslie *ROUTINE*; Riggs, Susan *ROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer *ROUTINE*; Champagne, Nicole *ROUTINE*; Goldberger, Thomas *ROUTINE*; Levin, Jan *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PINR, EWWT, PTER, UN, LE, IS  
**Subject:** Lebanese flotilla update: August 16, 2010

On 08/16/2010, our investigators reported that the *Mariam* (aka the *Jounieh Star*) had changed its dock tie down to a different part of the Tripoli Port. We were unable to determine the reason for the new position. The *Julia* remains in its same position within the port. Both vessels displayed no signs of activity.

Today around noon, the head of the *Mariam* Flotilla Committee, Ms. Samar El-Hajj, gave a telephone interview to an NBN reporter during a televised newscast. Following are the key points from the interview:

- All paperwork for the trip is done, and it is a question of days for the ship to be ready to sail. The ship was supposed to sail a long time ago but the organizers received a lot of pressure. In the coming days, they will call a press conference onboard the *Mariam*, at which they will declare the timing of the trip. The departure time will be announced, and it will certainly be during the month of Ramadan.
- The number of applications to participate exceeded 500 from different countries (U.S., France, Europe, etc.). While this many volunteers cannot participate in the *Mariam's* voyage, there will be a *Mariam 2* and a *Mariam 3*.
- The total number of travelling passengers will be between 50 and 70, the majority of them Lebanese women. She insisted on having more Lebanese women than foreigners and gave them priority to travel.
- The participants are aware of the danger that they will face, but they are determined even if the Israelis are going to use violence. The *Mariam* will definitely go to Palestine. Let Cyprus bear its responsibility and not decide in advance in this concern. The organizers appeal the United Nations to interfere and bear its responsibilities. UNSYG Ban Ki Moon has to bear his responsibilities, as well, and he shouldn't say that ships must not go to Israel and let them face the consequences.

Jeremy Cornforth  
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Beirut

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**Info:** 'NMCCSD\_ALERT\_HUMINT\_DESK'ROUTINE ; Santos, Alfred XROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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I95

<![endif]-->

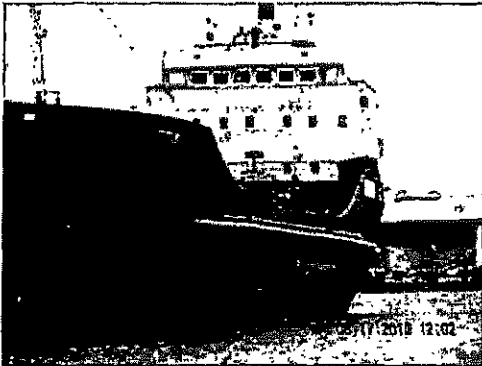
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 8/17/2010 11:29:43 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P1  
**Subject:** Lebanese flotilla update: August 17, 2010  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED

**MRN:** 10 MDA 1781  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 17, 2010 / 171530Z AUG 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** NMCCSD\_ALERT\_HUMINT\_DESK@dia.smil.mil ROUTINE ; Santos, Alfred X ROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Walles, Jacob ROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy W ROUTINE ; Sindle, James M ROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia I ROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie M ROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan J ROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer R ROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole D ROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas H ROUTINE ; Levin, Jan X ROUTINE ; Lantz, LTC James V. ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PINR, EWWT, PTER, UN, LE, IS  
**Reference:** A) 10 MDA 1767  
**Subject:** Lebanese flotilla update: August 17, 2010

On 08/17/2010, 1100 hours, our investigators found the vessels *Julia* and *Mariam* (aka *Jounieh Star*) anchored in the same position in the Tripoli port. There were no signs of activity observed on or around either vessel.

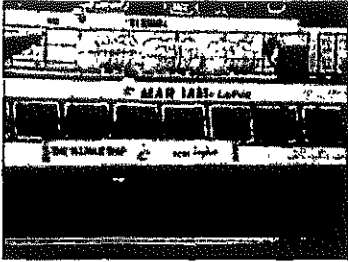
I am attaching more recent photographs for your information.



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Page 2 of 2



Jeremy Cornforth  
Acting Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Beirut

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Drafted By: BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
Released By: BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

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Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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RELEASED IN FULL

I96

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 5/31/2010 4:17:42 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION: WEST BANK/GAZA/JERUSALEM MAY 31 CLOSE-OUT

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 JERUSALEM 922  
Date/DTG: May 31, 2010 / 312005Z MAY 10  
From: AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE/IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS, TU  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Reference: JERUSALEM 921 (NOTAL)  
Pass Line: DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA  
Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION: WEST BANK/GAZA/JERUSALEM MAY 31 CLOSE-OUT

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 000922

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS, TU  
SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION: WEST BANK/GAZA/JERUSALEM MAY 31  
CLOSE-OUT

REF: JERUSALEM 921 (NOTAL)

Summary

1. (SBU) Protest activities rumbled on in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of Israel's interdiction of the "Free Gaza" flotilla, but none took place on a large scale. Gaza-based contacts described an atmosphere of uncertainty, apathy, and depression. One suggested that many Gazans resented what they saw as international gestures in support of Hamas, and that they saw the flotilla in that light. The Gazan delegation to the Palestine Investment Conference (PIC) in Bethlehem has, despite reservations given the current situation, decided to try to attend. A senior Palestinian official described President Abbas's determination not to let Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood capitalize on the current situation. Post has identified and located the Amcit described in refel as having been

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injured while participating in a demonstration in the West Bank.  
End summary.

Gaza Reactions

2. (SBU) A locally-employed staff member based in the Gaza Strip described calls for protests being made through all available forms of media in Gaza during the day on May 31. This included ( Hamas-controlled) radio and television stations as well as the loudspeaker systems of mosques. While some demonstrations were held by Hamas, there were no large rallies. A large demonstration is expected to be called tomorrow (June 1).
3. (SBU) Hamas earlier in the day on May 31 called for a three-day strike in the Palestinian Territories, but has not so far enforced it, even in Gaza. Some stores closed, but others remained open, according to Gaza-based contacts reached by phone. Contacts described merchants as waiting to see what direction prices of goods will take.
4. (SBU) Gaza-based contacts described the atmosphere in Gaza as very tense. One compared it to that at the beginning of Israeli combat operations against Hamas in December 2008. Another commented that there is no longer unity during moments of crisis. In the past, this contact said, Palestinians would come together to protest Israeli actions. Now, he said, many in Gaza are staying home, watching events develop on television, and wondering what will happen next.
5. (SBU) A few Gaza-based contacts suggested that the apparent lack of enthusiasm for protests reflected scant hope for the future in Gaza, especially regarding an international response to the current situation. Some conveyed a sense of letdown after Hamas had built up anticipation for the flotilla's arrival, with lanterns set up to welcome it to the port of Gaza.
6. (SBU) One Gaza-based contact, speaking to Post prior to the flotilla's interdiction, noted that while Gazans widely welcomed any attempts to lift the Israeli "siege" on Gaza, they saw initiatives like the "Free Gaza" flotilla as intended to support only Hamas and its beneficiaries. Many Gazans blamed Hamas for the ongoing immiseration of Gaza and the continued division of the Palestinian Territories, he said, and consequently resented international gestures of support for Hamas, like (as many saw it) the flotilla.

Gazans Will Still Try to Attend PIC

7. (SBU) One Gaza-based leading businessman reported that the Gaza delegation to the June 1-4 PIC was reconsidering its attendance. The contact described uncertainty as to whether the Erez crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip would be open, what actions Hamas would take, and what the perception would be of Gazan business leaders running off to an international investment conference the day after the flotilla incident.
8. (SBU) This Gaza-based business contact notified Post on the evening of May 31 that the 25-member committee formed to coordinate Gazan participation in the PIC finally agreed to participate in the PIC as originally planned.

Further Official Palestinian Reactions

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9. (SBU) A senior Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) official told Post that President Abbas told a joint May 31 meeting of the PLO's Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee that the Palestinian Authority (PA) was reaching out to others – including the USG, UN, and European Union – for support. It was also doing

the utmost to contain the situation so that the Palestinians could "stay the course." Abbas had noted strict instructions to PA security forces not to condone any violence by Palestinians or allow frictions with Israeli security forces in the West Bank, according to the senior PLO official.

10. (SBU) The senior PLO official said that President Abbas told meeting attendees the PA should work to ensure that the strike announced by Hamas for tomorrow (June 1) was not honored in the West Bank. In general, the senior PLO official said, Abbas and the PA were doing everything possible to deny Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood the opportunity to capitalize on the situation. That said, the PA could not block initiatives being pushed by others regarding the flotilla incident at the UN Security Council or the Arab League, the senior PLO official said. He added that Abbas had received a telephone call from Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan and President Gul, and had told them that he would see them in Istanbul as scheduled on his way to Washington next week.

11. (U) At a signing ceremony for the Northern Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment project on the afternoon of May 31, Prime Minister Fayyad spoke briefly of the flotilla incident. Referring to it as a "tragedy," Fayyad said that even during "sad days, we must move forward."

American Citizens

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12. (SBU) Post has identified and located the Amcit described in refTel as having been injured while participating in a demonstration in the West Bank. The Amcit was one of approximately 70 demonstrators at the Qalandiya checkpoint protesting the interdiction of the flotilla on May 31. She was reportedly hit by a tear gas canister fired by Israel Defense Forces personnel, and subsequently taken to a hospital in Jerusalem. Conoffs will attempt to visit her on June 1.

Comment

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13. (SBU) Concerns that the interdiction of the flotilla might spark broad-based violent protests in East Jerusalem appear to have subsided somewhat, with Israeli news media reports during the evening of May 31 regarding the situation of Ra'ed Salah, head of the Islamic Movement in Israel-Northern Branch. According to the latest reports, Salah, a flotilla passenger, was not in fact seriously injured during the Israeli naval operation, as earlier reports alleged.

RUBINSTEIN

Signature: RUBINSTEIN

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I98

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/24/2010 10:23:30 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MGGZ01: Malaysia: Parliamentary Motion on Gaza Flotilla

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Sensitive



RELEASED IN FULL

MRN: 10 KUALA LUMPUR 437  
Date/DTG: Jun 25, 2010 / 072354Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ, MY  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Pass Line: CORRECTED COPY (EDITED TEXT IN ALL PARAGRAPHS)  
Correction Reason: EDITED TEXT IN ALL PARAGRAPHS  
Subject: MGGZ01: Malaysia: Parliamentary Motion on Gaza Flotilla

UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 000437

SENSITIVE

CORRECTED COPY (EDITED TEXT IN ALL PARAGRAPHS)

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,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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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). I 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 condemns 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

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

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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

**Signature:** MATTHEWS

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**Info:** ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**  
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I102

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From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/7/2010 7:01:37 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MGGZ01 Indonesian FM Comments on Gaza Flotilla

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 JAKARTA 791  
Date/DTG: Jun 07, 2010 / 070935Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATEPRIORITY  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, ID, IS, GZ  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Reference: Jakarta 765  
Pass Line: DEPT for EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, NEA, NEA/IPA  
NSC for D.Walton  
Subject: MGGZ01 Indonesian FM Comments on Gaza Flotilla

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000791

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

DEPT for EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, NEA, NEA/IPA  
NSC for D.Walton

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, ID, IS, GZ  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01 Indonesian FM Comments on Gaza  
Flotilla

REF: Jakarta 765

1. (SBU) Indonesian FM Natalegawa published an op-ed regarding the Gaza Flotilla in the June 7 issue of the English-language Jakarta Post, his most extensive public statement on the matter to date. (Note: The piece was adapted from an address that Natalegawa gave to the OIC Executive Committee meeting in Jeddah on June 6.) Natalegawa's op-ed restated the broad principles of Indonesian policy toward Israeli-Palestinian issues. He condemned the Israeli military action, urged a full investigation into the incident, and called on Israel to lift the blockade of Gaza. He also endorsed the two-state solution and proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinians. The full

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text of FM Natalegawa's op-ed follows.

2. (U) BEGIN TEXT:

Insight: The world needs to proceed beyond  
condemnation of Israel  
Marty M. Natalegawa  
The Jakarta Post  
Monday, 06/07/2010

All of us, participating in the present meeting are  
driven by the same motivation: To respond urgently to  
the Israeli attack on the humanitarian vessel, the  
Mavi Marmara.

All of us, without exception share a deep sense of  
grief for the loss of life and injuries caused by the  
Israeli attacks.

The raid by Israeli forces resulting in the killing  
and injuring of scores of innocent civilians  
represents a gross violation of international law.

It represents, once again, Israel's utter disregard  
for international humanitarian principles.

And, unfortunately, it is consistent with Israel's  
practice of creating new obstacles whenever there is  
fresh prospect for the peace process, including the  
recently announced "proximity talks".

As such, Israel fully deserves the universal  
condemnations for its latest heinous and cowardly act.

Enough is enough.

Indonesia, my own country, has been swift and crystal  
clear in expressing its condemnation.

At the global level, the Security Council of the  
United Nations has spoken.

Similarly, the United Nations Human Rights Council has  
added its voice.

At the regional level, scores of organizations have  
expressed their view. Thus, ASEAN and GCC (Gulf  
Cooperation Council) foreign ministers meeting in  
Singapore last week also joined the chorus of  
condemnations.

Foreign ministers of the OIC (Organization of the  
Islamic Conference) member countries will no doubt  
today add to the list of global outrage.

Yet Indonesia deems it important that we proceed  
beyond condemnation.

Expression of condemnation does not, of itself, make  
for a policy.

In this connection, Indonesia considers it important  
that we redouble our efforts on a number of points.

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First, ensure that Israel immediately release all detained persons and facilitate their safe return to their homelands.

Second, ensure that Israel be held fully accountable for its actions. A prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation into the attack is an absolute necessity.

Third, ensure that we speak with one voice in demanding that Israel, immediately and without delay, lift its illegal blockade of the Gaza strip, Occupied Palestine, which has caused a deep humanitarian crisis.

Fourth, ensure that Israel immediately cease all acts in violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, including the building of illegal settlements in Occupied Palestine.

And fifth, ensure progress in the peace process leading to the realization of the two-state solution with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its neighbors. More specifically, support for the Palestinian position on the proximity talks, as well as efforts for the creation of conditions conducive for these talks.

In seeking to promote those objectives, Indonesia deems it important that member states of the OIC not only consolidate a common position, but also that we build bridges to countries, and indeed, civil societies the world over, beyond our organization: those who have been equally outraged by this latest Israeli illegal act.

In other words, to galvanize the international community in the widest sense, driven no doubt by countries such as those belonging in the OIC, the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement, against the Israeli action and demanding its accountability.

Remaining one in speaking in favor of the peace process.

And remaining one in supporting the Palestinian cause.

Indonesia wishes to thank all those, including Palestine, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Turkey, as well as the ICRC for their humanitarian assistance in ensuring the safety and welfare of the 12 Indonesian humanitarian personnel aboard the vessel. Two of our nationals have sustained serious injuries.

Indonesia shall remain steadfast in its support for the Palestinian cause.

END TEXT.

HUME

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Page 4 of 4

**Signature:** HUME

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**Info:** TOKYO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; BEIJING, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ;  
CANBERRA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; SEOUL, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ;  
TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; NSC WASHDCROUTINE ; DOD WASHDCROUTINE ;  
USPACOM HONOLULU HIROUTINE ;  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS COLLROUTINE ;  
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVEROUTINE

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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Sensitive

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Page 4 of 4

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I 107

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Page 1 of 2

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

From: svcsmartmf  
Sent: 6/4/2010 4:05:48 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK; ECONOMIC CRISIS

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 HONG KONG 905  
Date/DTG: Jun 04, 2010 / 040803Z JUN 10  
From: AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO  
Pass Line: DEPT FOR INR/R/MR, INR/IC/CD, I/FW  
DEPT FOR EAP/PD, EAP/CM, EAP/P  
DEPT FOR VOA/BRF, TV-WPA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
PRC POSTS FOR PA  
AIT  
USPACOM FOR FOR CIS PD ADVISER  
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK; ECONOMIC CRISIS

UNCLAS HONG KONG 000905

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR, INR/IC/CD, I/FW  
DEPT FOR EAP/PD, EAP/CM, EAP/P  
DEPT FOR VOA/BRF, TV-WPA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
PRC POSTS FOR PA  
AIT  
USPACOM FOR FOR CIS PD ADVISER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK; ECONOMIC CRISIS

TOPICS:  
1. Israeli flotilla attack  
2. Economic Crisis

HEADLINES AND EXCERPTS:

1. Israeli flotilla attack

"Attack on International aid flotilla isolates Israel"

The pro-PRC Chinese-language Macau Daily News remarked in an editorial (6/4): "...Since Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, Palestine-Israel relations have continued to deteriorate and Israel's iron fist has gotten tougher. Israel blocked off the Gaza

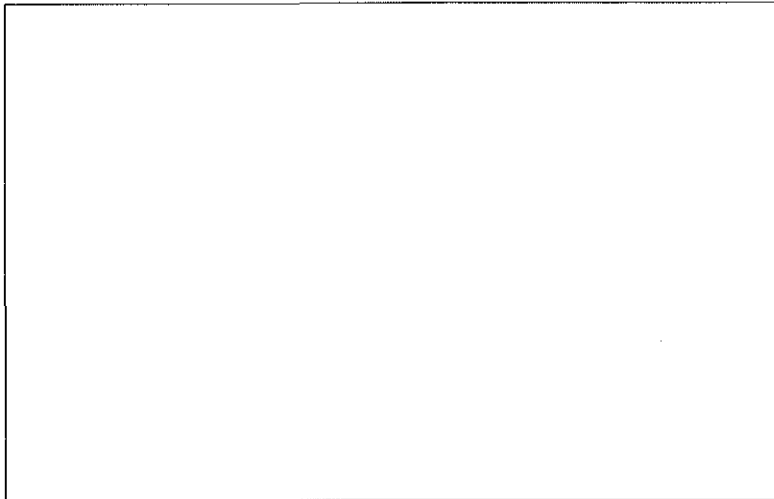
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Strip's 1.5 million residents and attempted to bully Hamas into submission by using 'collective punishment.' The three-year blockade has caused a severe humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip. Life for the Palestinians is miserable. More than 70 percent of the people are living below the poverty threshold. Palestine Authority President Abbas described the Gaza Strip as a huge 'prison.' Although there have been international calls to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip, Israel is still hardhearted and does not plan to change. Prime Minister Netanyahu said, 'Blocking the Gaza Strip can protect Israel from missile attacks.' Thus, this policy will not be changed. Israel's stubbornness has triggered the international community's sympathy for Palestinian people and discontent with Israel. The recent anti-Israel protests in the Middle East, Europe, and the U.S. are the proof. If Israel continues to ignore the misery of people living in the Gaza Strip and turns a deaf ear to the demands of the international community, it will be 'isolated.' This is not good for Israel."

2. Economic Crisis



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MARUT

Signature: MARUT

Info: WHITE HOUSE WASHDCROUTINE ; WASHDC, USDOCROUTINE ; BEIJING, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; SHANGHAI, AMCONSULROUTINE ; GUANGZHOU, AMCONSULROUTINE ; TAIPEI, AITROUTINE ; CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HIRROUTINE

Attachments: metadata.dat

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1108

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Page 1 of 4

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

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**From:** svcsmartmfi  
**Sent:** 6/7/2010 3:30:35 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER; ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK; G20; GULF OIL SPILL

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**MRN:** 10 HONG KONG 913  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 07, 2010 / 070728Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** OPRC, KMDR, KPAO  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR INR/R/MR, INR/IC/CD, I/FW  
DEPT FOR EAP/PD, EAP/CM, EAP/P  
DEPT FOR VOA/BRF, TV-WPA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
PRC POSTS FOR PA  
AIT  
USPACOM FOR FOR CIS PD ADVISER  
**Subject:** MEDIA REACTION: JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER; ISRAELI FLOTILLA ATTACK; G20;  
GULF OIL SPILL

UNCLAS HONG KONG 000913

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR, INR/IC/CD, I/FW  
DEPT FOR EAP/PD, EAP/CM, EAP/P  
DEPT FOR VOA/BRF, TV-WPA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC  
PRC POSTS FOR PA  
AIT  
USPACOM FOR FOR CIS PD ADVISER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, KPAO  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: JAPAN'S NEW PRIME MINISTER; ISRAELI  
FLOTILLA ATTACK; G20; GULF OIL SPILL

- TOPICS:
1. Japan's new Prime Minister
  2. Israeli flotilla attack
  3. G20
  4. Gulf oil spill

HEADLINES AND EXCERPTS:

1. Japan's new Prime Minister

[Redacted box]

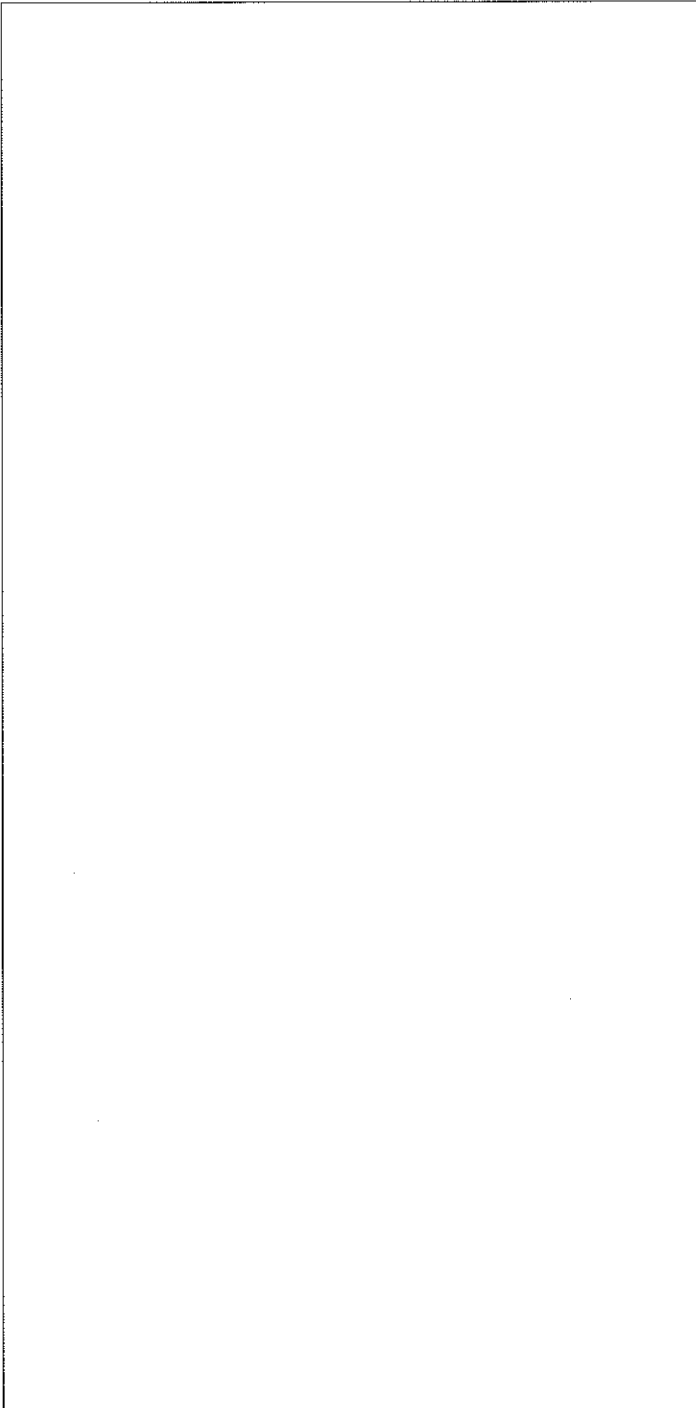
NR

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**2. Israeli flotilla attack**

"Israeli military's killing hurts friendship, Turkey turns to

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support Hamas"

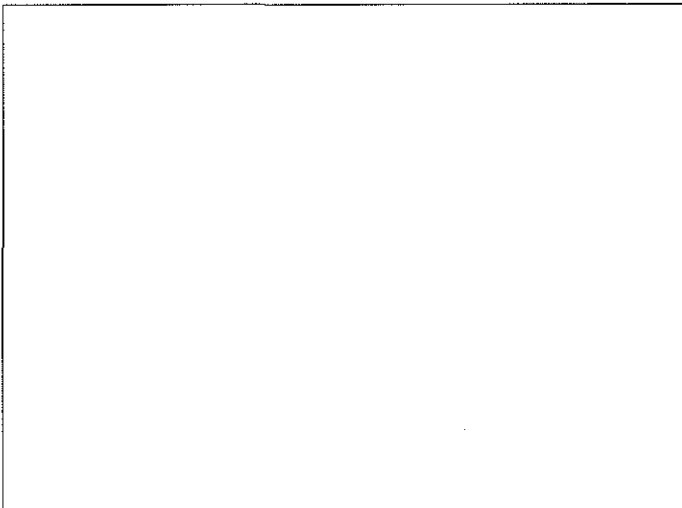
The mass-circulation Chinese-language Oriental Daily News wrote in

the 'World View' column (6/7): "The Israeli military suddenly attacked the international aid flotilla heading toward the Gaza Strip. The people killed included Turkish people. The attack has further undermined Turkey-Israel relations. Turkish PM Erdogan said publicly last Friday that he did not view Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, as a terrorist organization. They are just defending their land. Israel's Ambassador to the U.S. Oren immediately accused Erdogan of aiding and abetting the evil-doers. Erdogan's move to remove the label of terrorist organization from Hamas has made Turkey-Israel relations even gloomier.... Washington, which views Hamas as a terrorist organization, is trapped in the middle, for the U.S. has always excluded Hamas from the Middle East peace process. No matter who is right and who is wrong in Israel's raid against the aid flotilla, Turkey's move toward Hamas has attracted Washington's attention. And it is also a matter of wide concern whether the U.S. will side with Turkey or Israel."

"Dateline Israel"

The English-language China Daily Hong Kong Edition remarked in an editorial (6/5): "Israel's attack on a Gaza-bound aid convoy is evolving into a political storm. But the international community should continue exerting pressure on Israel to change its hard-line stance and release the ships and aid workers it has detained. World leaders are justified in fashing out at Israel because its Monday raid was targeted at a humanitarian fleet of ships in international waters, in which nine people were killed. There is no excuse for such blatant defiance of international rules and attack on humanitarian aid.... Israel's ruthless move has cast a shadow on efforts to restart the Middle East peace talks. The international community, led by the U.S., the European Union, Russia and the UN, had stepped up diplomatic efforts over the past few months to break the impasse in peace talks. With anti-Israel sentiments flying high in the Arab world, the positive momentum these efforts had built faces an uncertain future now."

3. G20

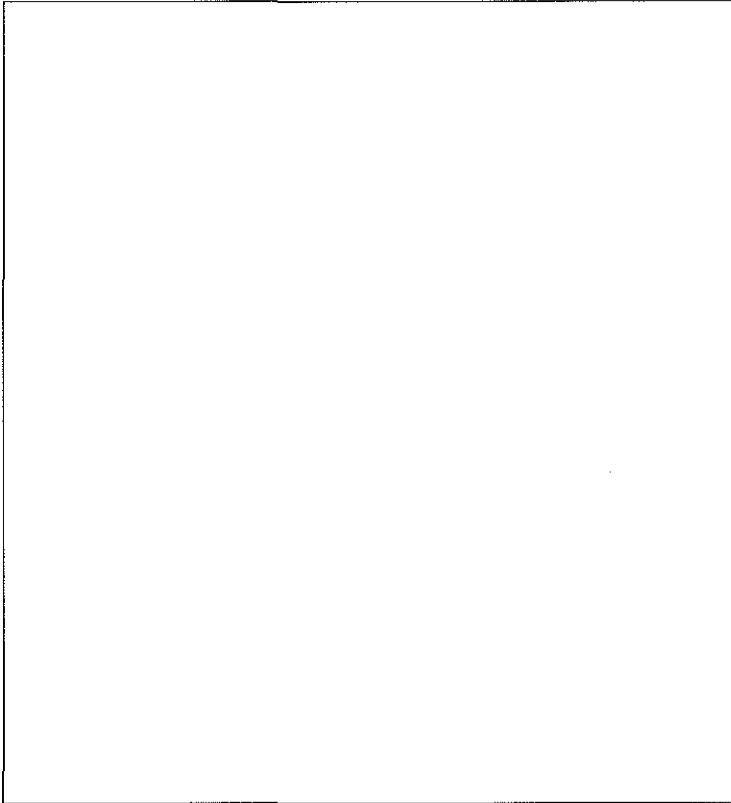


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**Signature:** MARUT

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**Info:** WHITE HOUSE WASHDCROUTINE; WASHDC, USDOCROUTINE; BEIJING, AMEMBASSY  
ROUTINE; SHANGHAI, AMCONSULROUTINE; GUANGZHOU, AMCONSULROUTINE;  
TAIPEI, AITROUTINE; CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HIROUTINE

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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I110

From: Brandon, Scott A  
Sent: 6/3/2010 8:45:27 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Finland: Reaction to Gaza Flotilla

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MRN: 10 HELSINKI 228  
Date/DTG: Jun 03, 2010 / 031244Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, FI, IS, PGOV  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Finland: Reaction to Gaza Flotilla

1. SUMMARY. Finnish government officials acted swiftly to express concern and criticism about the violent incident involving the Gaza flotilla. Perhaps getting ahead of themselves, officials described the use of force by Israel as "disproportionate" at the same time they called for an independent inquiry of the incident. The Foreign Ministry called in the Israeli Ambassador to condemn the violent interception of the aid convoy in international waters. Media outlets were similarly swift in condemning the intervention. On Tuesday approximately 900 demonstrators – a large number for Finland – marched to the Israeli Embassy in a peaceful protest. The government reported that no Finns took part in the convoy. END SUMMARY.

#### Ministers express shock, concern and criticism

2. Foreign Minister Stubb was the first Finnish Government (GoF) official to publicly address the Gaza flotilla incident. On June 1 he expressed his shock and called for an explanation of the incident and the circumstances surrounding it. The media also picked up Stubb's comments in his June 1 blog. In it he confirmed that no Finns were on board the aid ships. He reiterated his disappointment and concern at the lack of a "proper explanation" for the attack. He called the intervention in international waters unacceptable and wrote, "I cannot accept such a disproportionate use of force." Stubb wrote that the matter must be investigated thoroughly by an impartial body. Stressing that "the most important thing of all is to establish sustainable peace" in the region, he wrote that it is essential that Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations continue; all parties involved as well as the international community must keep cool and do their utmost to keep negotiations on track. He also pointed to "flickers of hope": Palestinian PM Fayyad has agreed to continue negotiations with Israel mediated by the USA, and Egypt is prepared to ease the boycott of Gaza.
3. On June 2 Prime Minister Vanhanen publicly expressed his "incredulity" over the incident, and asserted that "Israel all too often used disproportionate military force." That same day Trade and Development Minister Väyrynen proposed that former President Ahtisaari be sent to the region by the EU to act as a peace mediator.

Foreign Ministry Remonstrates Israeli Ambassador

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Reviewer

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4. On June 1 the Foreign Ministry summoned Israel's Ambassador Avi Granot to offer his government's account on the incident. According to the MFA's release, State Secretary Pertti Torstila "made clear that Finland condemns the violent interception of an aid supply convoy to Gaza in international waters and disapproves of using excess force against civilians. The incident must be analyzed reliably and to the full by a neutral party. [Torstila] also made a strong appeal to end the siege of Gaza."
  5. Later on June 1 the Israeli DCM confirmed to Pol-Econ Chief that his Ambassador had a serious, substantive and extended exchange of views along the lines of the MFA's release. He said that Torstila delivered a firm message and gave his full attention to the Ambassador's reply, which included an explanation of the Israeli forces' conduct during the raid as well as the legality of the action in international waters. Torstila took those points on board and tempered his additional comments, though the thrust of his message remained consistent throughout the meeting.

Media harshly critical of Israel

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6. Media coverage of the event has been almost uniformly critical. Opinion pieces described the incident as "barbarous," "criminal," and an "orgy of blood," and referred to Israel as a "pirate state." Helsingin Sanomat, the main daily, offered some of the more measured coverage, noting in a piece on Thursday that both sides were releasing videos to demonstrate that the other used force; it concluded that the "bloody events" should not be used to strengthen "extremist views" and must be thoroughly investigated.

Several hundred demonstrate

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7. An estimated 900 people took part in a demonstration the evening of June 1 in Helsinki. According to press reports, the demonstrators, waving Palestinian and Turkish flags, ended their march at the Israeli embassy. Approximately 250 remained outside the embassy for an hour to voice their displeasure. According to police, the protest march was surprisingly peaceful. At one point during the demonstration, tomato sauce was thrown at the nameplate on the embassy building. Police took one man into custody.

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Signature:	ORECK
Drafted By:	HELSINKI:Brandon, Scott A
Approved By:	Political:Brandon, Scott A
Released By:	HELSINKI:Brandon, Scott A
Info:	Rodrigues, Miguel <i>CROUTINE</i> ; Meltzer, Alan <i>DROUTINE</i> ; Silberstein, Robert <i>ROUTINE</i>

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I111

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**From:** Brandon, Scott A  
**Sent:** 7/20/2010 11:58:14 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTBTSP0P1  
**Subject:** Finnish Reaction to Gaza Flotilla Incident Cuts Both Ways  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED



**MRN:** 10 HELSINKI 360  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 20, 2010 / 201558Z JUL 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATEROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, IS, FI, KIRF, KPAO, PHUM  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 10 STATE 72296  
B) 10 HELSINKI 228  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR DRL/IRF ELIJAH LOGSDON  
**Subject:** Finnish Reaction to Gaza Flotilla Incident Cuts Both Ways

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: In response to ref A request, Post is not aware of any public statements by prominent leaders or in the media following the Gaza flotilla incident that would cross the line from being merely critical of Israel to anti-Semitic. Since our last reporting on Finnish reaction to the incident (ref B), there has been a pro-Israel demonstration (reportedly twice the size of the previously reported anti-Israel demonstration) and a visit by Israeli FM Lieberman. In a less positive vein, public broadcaster YLE decided to rebroadcast a radio program in which its commentator lamented that criticism of Israel is too often reflexively labeled anti-Semitic, a response which she alleged is inculcated into Israeli Jews from the time they are schoolchildren. The Israeli Embassy raised its concerns to YLE about their decision to rebroadcast the program shortly after the flotilla incident. END SUMMARY.

PRO-ISRAEL DEMO TWICE THE SIZE OF ANTI-ISRAEL DEMO

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Photo of June 10 Pro-Israel demonstration in Helsinki from [www.cbn.com](http://www.cbn.com).  
The message on the sign reads in Finnish "Media, are you afraid of the truth?"

2. (U) Following and apparently in response to the June 1 demonstration against Israel's action against the Gaza flotilla, in which about 900 people participated (ref B), around 2000 people took part in a pro-Israel demonstration on June 10. According to media reports, most of the demonstrators were reportedly members of Christian groups or churches, though the event was reportedly coordinated with Finland's small Jewish community of some 1,500 residents.

#### LIEBERMAN VISIT POSITIVE, THOUGH MEDIA FOCUS ON CONTROVERSY

3. (SBU) Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman visited Helsinki on July 7 for meetings with President Halonen, FM Stubb, and Development and Trade Minister Väyrynen. The Israeli DCM provided a generally positive assessment to P-E Chief, noting that he was pleased that Lieberman was able to see the President (a meeting he described as "comfortable" in its atmosphere) as well as his GOF counterparts. While Israel and Finland didn't see eye to eye on all issues, both Stubb and Lieberman emphasized their strong bilateral relations in their meeting, which lasted twice as long as had been scheduled. The Foreign Ministers held a thirty-minute press conference following the meeting. The Israeli DCM lamented that the only portion of the press conference that aired on the Finnish news was a question from a documentary filmmaker about Israel's responsibility for the death of a Finnish UNIFIL peacekeeper in Lebanon in 2006. The question drew a vehement response from Lieberman, who accused the questioner of hypocrisy, and an attempted follow-up question was deftly squelched by FM Stubb.

#### RADIO PROGRAM ALLEGES POLITICAL USE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

4. (SBU) Post's survey of Finnish media and public commentary since the Gaza flotilla incident revealed significant numbers of articles and statements both criticizing and supporting Israel, with others calling for a neutral assessment before any blame could be apportioned. None of the comments appeared to veer towards anti-Semitism.

5. (SBU) YLE, the national public broadcaster, did take the opportunity to rebroadcast a radio program by journalist Kirsi Virtanen in which she directly addressed the issue of anti-Semitism. In the broadcast Virtanen indicates that she does not see any anti-Semitism in Finland whatsoever but then goes on to question why those who criticize Israel are so often labeled as anti-Semitic. She offers her opinion that Israelis are brought up with a siege mentality in which they are taught that the outside world hates them and thus criticism from outside is automatically anti-Semitism. Many listeners posted comments on the program's webpage both supporting Virtanen's view ("at last someone is telling the truth," etc.) and attacking it for being ignorant of the situation Israel faces. The Israeli DCM related to P-E Chief that his embassy expressed their concerns to YLE after the original broadcast. When the embassy again raised the matter with YLE after the re-broadcast, it attributed the re-broadcast to a "technical error." (NOTE: For a limited time, the program can be heard online (in Finnish) at

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<http://arcena.yle.fi/audio/1065128>. END NOTE.)

Signature: ORECK

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Drafted By: HELSINKI:Arnold, Jeffrey A

Cleared By: PAS:Laanti, Anne R

POL:Flink, Jouni U

Approved By: Political:Brandon, Scott A

Released By: HELSINKI:Brandon, Scott A

Info: TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

Attachments: Metadata.dat

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Page 3 of 3

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I119

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 8:09 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan X  
**Cc:** Walles, Jacob  
**Subject:** FW: Updated Flotilla Demarche Tracker  
**Attachments:** 04 15 11 Demarche Responses.xlsx

**Categories:** Working

FYI.

**Paul R. Sutphin**  
Director  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
Bureau Near Eastern Affairs  
(202) 647-3672 Rm. 6251 HST

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2036/04/29

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**From:** MacWilliams, Benjamin WG  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2011 5:06 PM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Cc:** Buzbee, John R; Sindle, James M  
**Subject:** Updated Flotilla Demarche Tracker

Paul and John,

Please see the attached Flotilla demarche response tracker.

Best,

Benjamin MacWilliams  
NEA/IPA  
202-647-9582

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2036/04/29

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

I/28

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** SMART Core [svcSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 20, 2011 9:19 AM  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T; Buzbee, John R; Tsou, Leslie M; Frelich, Karlene H; Sutphin, Paul R; Jacoby, Julia I; Sachar, Alon; Levinson, Jesse S; Riley, Le'Shawnda V; Reed, Julia G; Rudman, Mara; Hof, Frederic C; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Irwin, Matthew T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; Pickett, Margarita; Rubinstein, Arriel J; Jimenez, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/20): French-flagged Gaza Flotilla Ship Intercepted; President Abbas in Spain  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif  
**Categories:** Archival

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

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**Info Office:** POLITICAL, PRINCIPALS, ECONOMIC, POL\_MIL, SE\_MEP, SE\_MEP\_DAM\_BEI, SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV, CONSULAR

**MRN:** 11 JERUSALEM 1870  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 20, 2011 / 200942Z JUL 11  
**From:** AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE; WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CSAF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CMC WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CNO WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KMDR, KPAL, KWBG, KPAO, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Pass Line:** STATE PASS BBG  
 STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD  
 WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM  
 NSC  
 CMC WASHINGTON DC FOR POLAD  
 LONDON FOR HKANONA AND POL - MILLER  
 PARIS ALSO FOR POL  
 ROME FOR MFO  
**Subject:** JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (07/20): French-flagged Gaza Flotilla Ship Intercepted; President Abbas in Spain

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Summary: Palestinian media outlets report that the Israeli navy intercepted a French-flagged Gaza "anniversary" flotilla ship en route to the Gaza Strip. Coverage includes wide Palestinian and regional condemnation of the interception.

NR

End Summary.

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Main Stories:  
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Palestinian media outlets lead with reports that the Israeli navy boarded the "Dignite - Al Karame," a French ship that was part of the Gaza "anniversary" flotilla, off the Gaza coast yesterday (07/19) after it refused to change course. According to coverage, the ship was taken to the Israeli port of Ashdod. Independent daily Al-Quds reports that Fatah spokesperson Ahmad Assaf condemned the action, stating, "The act is a violation of international law that compounds with all other Israeli violations." Hamas spokesperson in Gaza Taher Nunu also criticized the seizure. Reports also note that Arab League Secretary General Al-Arabi condemned the "attack," characterizing it as "piracy."

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Block Quotés:  
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**"About the Quartet and the Israeli Position"**

[Redacted]



NR

[Redacted]

"Fayyad and the Crisis"

[Redacted]

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Hamis Media:  
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"The September Date for the 4<sup>th</sup> Palestinian State"

[Redacted]

-----  
Palestinian Cyberspace:  
-----

[Redacted]

Signature: MARCHESI

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**Drafted By:** JERUSALEM:Martin, Pedro J  
**Cleared By:** PD:FJFINVER  
**Approved By:** EXEC:GMARCHESE  
**Released By:** JERUSALEM:Martin, Pedro J  
**Info:** NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ROME, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ARAB ISRAELI  
COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*  
**XMT:**  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_ARAB\_ISRAELI\_COL, DIS\_ECONOMIC, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_A, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_DAM\_BEI,  
DIS\_SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV

**UNCLASSIFIED**

RELEASED IN FULL

I129

**Bowers, Allyson M**


**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 4:49 PM  
**To:** Adams, Julie D; Agor, Christina J; Baldwin, Virginia E; Baskey, Alistair C; Borodin, Sara E; Burnett, David R; Cunningham, James B; Finver, Frank J; Grubb, Jason B; Hale, David M; Harden, R. David; Higgins, Christina M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Irwin, Matthew T; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Levin, Jan X; Marchese, Gregory M; NEA-IPA-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Rudman, Mara; Stettenbauer, Grace C; Sumka, Howard J; Waters, John R; Goldberger, Thomas H; Beran, Sarah M; Silverman, Robert J; Johnson, Mark C; Pilz, Amanda C; Jazyuka, Catherine B; MacWilliams, Benjamin WG; TelAvivECON  
**Subject:** NEA/IPA OI for July 5  
**Categories:** Working

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

7/5/2011


**(C) Anniversary Flotilla Update**

Freedom Flotilla II has not formed and its vessels largely remain in ports in Greece, which has banned them from leaving if they are headed to Gaza. The US-flagged *Audacity of Hope* attempted to depart Piraeus, Greece on July 1, but was stopped by the Greek Coast Guard which escorted the ship back to port and took its AmCit captain into custody for setting sail in defiance of the Greek ban on the flotilla boats leaving. The captain was released July 5. Greek authorities detained nine AmCits gathered in front of Embassy Athens on July 3, and six additional AmCits who gathered in front of the U.S. Ambassador's residence July 4, to protest Greek actions to stop ships from sailing to Gaza. Both groups were released following questioning. The Greek Coast Guard also intercepted a Canadian ship on July 4 that attempted to sail for Gaza without permission. Unconfirmed media reports that a French pleasure boat associated with the flotilla left Greek territorial waters on July 4 without permission from Greek authorities.

Select:  | Posted at 4:47 PM by Doutrich, Jack T | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

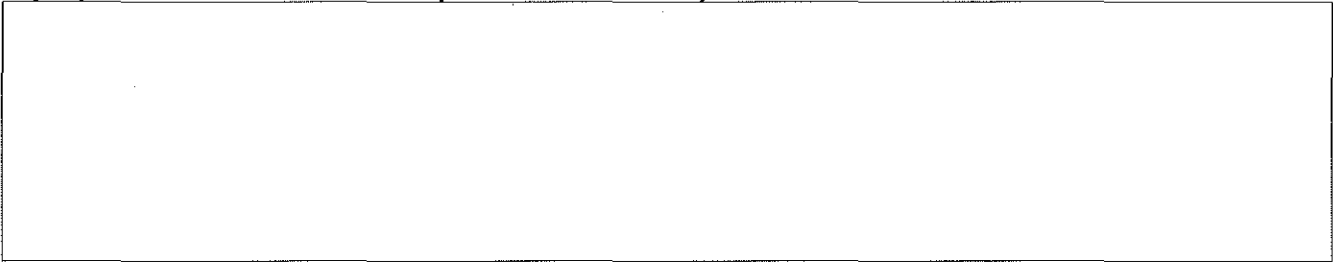
**(C) Polish MidEast Watcher on Quartet Statement and Palestinian Action at UN**

In a meeting with Jack Doutrich on July 1, Polish Mideast Watcher Justyna Bartkiewicz-Godlewska said Warsaw supported U.S. MEP efforts and would back a Quartet statement that endorses the principles outlined in President Obama's May speech. Bartkiewicz-Godlewska asked if there was any chance the U.S. would accept a Quartet statement that also addressed East Jerusalem and Palestinian refugee issues. Looking ahead to possible Palestinian unilateral action at the UN in September, B-G said Poland is eager to maintain EU consensus in its role as President of the EU (Poland began its six-month term on July 1). She underscored that the next EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), slated for July 18, would likely be the last one before UNGA, limiting the opportunity for additional routinely scheduled statements from the EU.

Select:  | Posted at 4:46 PM by Doutrich, Jack T | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**(U) Ambassador Shapiro Swearing-In**



NR

**Jack Doutrich**  
Political Officer  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.  
Declassify On: 2021/07/05

RELEASED IN FULL

I141

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Daschbach, Mary E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:02 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Incident and Uruguayan Media Reporting  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

**UNCLASSIFIED**



**Action Office:** PMO, FO\_STAFF, EX, FO\_WHA, CAR\_DIR  
**Info Office:** PPC\_DEMGOV, EPSC, BSC\_PAO, PPC\_CONG, USOAS, PPC\_FORASST, BSC\_URU, EX\_BUD, PPC\_DIR, PPC\_DEPDIR, BSC\_REGION, PPC\_DHS3G, PPC\_TIP, PPC\_NARTER, CEN\_RegionalAffairs

---

**MRN:** 10 MONTEVIDEO 450  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 01, 2010 / 011400Z JUN 10  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PGOV, IMO, KPAO, KMDR, IS, UY, TU, UN  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Incident and Uruguayan Media Reporting

WHA/PDA for CPeterson; WHA/BSC for MDaschbach; NEA/I

Uruguay's daily press coverage of the Israeli military's interdiction of the Gaza-bound flotilla was balanced and "matter-of-fact." With no correspondents of their own in the Middle East, today's dailies relied on wire service stories (e.g., AFP and the AP). Center-right Ultimas Noticias and far left/pro-government La Republica published the Gaza activists' version of events alongside Israel's, including a statement by their Ambassador here, Dori Goren, who called the flotilla a provocation. Ultimas Noticias' headlined the Uruguayan Foreign Ministry statement condemning Israel's military action. Predictably, La Republica also published an anti-Israel op-ed by its extreme-left staff editorialist Niko Schwarz.

Nelson##

**Signature:** Nelson

---

**Drafted By:** MONTEVIDEO:Zimmerman, Robert A (Montevideo)  
**Approved By:** MONTEVIDEO:Zimmerman, Robert A (Montevideo)  
**Released By:** MONTEVIDEO:Zimmerman, Robert A (Montevideo)  
**Info:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE

---

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Action Post:** DOM WHA  
**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_PPC\_DEMGOV, DIS\_EPSC\_ALL, DIS\_BSC\_PAO, DIS\_PPC\_CONG,  
DIS\_WHA\_UNGA, DIS\_USOAS\_ALL, DIS\_PPC\_FORASST, DIS\_BSC\_URU,  
DIS\_FO\_REG\_STAFF, DIS\_FO\_REGIONAL, DIS\_PPC\_DIR, DIS\_PPC\_DEPDIR,  
DIS\_BSC\_REGIONAL, DIS\_PPC\_DHS3G, DIS\_CAR\_DIR, DIS\_PPC\_TIP\_TAGS,  
DIS\_PPC\_NARTER, DIS\_CEN\_WHA\_PANDS

**UNCLASSIFIED**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

I145

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 7:36 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** Release of flotilla detainees

According to the Israeli NSC, Attorney General Weinstein has agreed to the Cabinet's request to release all but "a very small number, perhaps 4 or 5" of the detainees. The GoI is trying to get all of the rest out today, but are having some difficulties at the airport with uncooperative detainees.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I146

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:47 PM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd; Goldberger, Thomas H; Connelly, Maura  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL; Baumert, Kevin A; Riley, Robert J; EUR-SE-DL; Maggi, Robert W; Astillero, William P; Polizzotto, Susan; Tyson, Paul H  
**Subject:** Status of the Challenger II  
**Importance:** High

Bob,

Thanks a lot for this; very helpful! They may have meant the Challenger II, since that's what everybody in the press and IC is saying. The fact that we have positively identified the vessel in port, however, is a major coup.

Thanks again,

Jim

---

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:03 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-DL  
**Subject:** Ships in Cyprus

Hi Jim – Terry mentioned you left him a voicemail asking about ships in Cyprus. Post has made multiple inquiries about this, and thus far the Cypriot port authorities have said there is one ship in Limassol, US flagged, called the Challenger 3. Per our consular folks in Nicosia, the port officials say there are no Amcits aboard. Port authorities also say the GoC's position re not allowing ships to depart for the flotilla has not changed. That's what we know right now.

**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](mailto:rileyrj@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN FULL

I 168

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 12:52 PM  
**To:** Lentz, Andrew N  
**Cc:** Frelich, Karlene H  
**Subject:** RE: Input Needed for BCL D(L) - Oren!!

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

From the Barak BCL:

[Redacted]

NR

From the Netanyahu BCL:

[Redacted]

From the Netanyahu BCL with update:

**(If Raised) Flotilla Investigation: Emphasize our support for a prompt, impartial, transparent, and credible investigation into the May 31 flotilla incident.** It is still not clear whether or how UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will follow up on his original proposal; he has stated publicly that he is still in contact with the Israelis on how the investigation that he proposed and the one that Israel has announced might complement one another. PM Netanyahu met with Ban Ki-moon on July 7. Israel has taken an important step forward in proposing an independent public commission, with international participation, to investigate the circumstances during the boarding of the Mavi Marmara. We believe that Israel, like any other nation, should be allowed to undertake an investigation into events that involve its national security. We will await the conduct and findings of the investigation before drawing further conclusions.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Lentz, Andrew N

**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 12:14 PM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Cc:** Frelich, Karlene H  
**Subject:** FW: Input Needed for BCL D(L) - Oren!!  
**Importance:** High

Jack- I think the language from the barak or Bibi BCLs would be the best. Isn't that where I provided new language on the boycott as well?

---

**From:** Frelich, Karlene H  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 08, 2010 11:46 AM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Reisser, Wesley J; Lentz, Andrew N  
**Subject:** Input Needed for BCL D(L) - Oren!!  
**Importance:** High

<< File: 10-07-16 BCL D(L) - Oren.docx >>

Any updates on the investigation, Gaza access or PA boycott that you can add to this draft BCL for the D(L)-Oren meeting next week? The meeting could happen as early as Monday so I need input ASAP today so I can get out for clearances. Thanks!

RELEASED IN FULL

I170

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Tsou, Leslie M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 6:34 PM  
**To:** Adams, Julie D; Agor, Christina J; Baldwin, Virginia E; Baskey, Alistair C; Borodin, Sara E; Burnett, David R; Cunningham, James B; Finver, Frank J; Grubb, Jason B; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hale, David M; Harden, R. David; Higgins, Christina M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Irwin, Matthew T; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Levin, Jan X; Marchese, Gregory M; NEA-IPA-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Rudman, Mara; Stettenbauer, Grace C; Sumka, Howard J; Sumka, Howard X; Waters, John R; Goldberger, Thomas H; Beran, Sarah M  
**Subject:** NEA/IPA Daily Report for July 20, 2010

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

7/20/2010

(U) Jake Wallis is Back

[Redacted]

NR

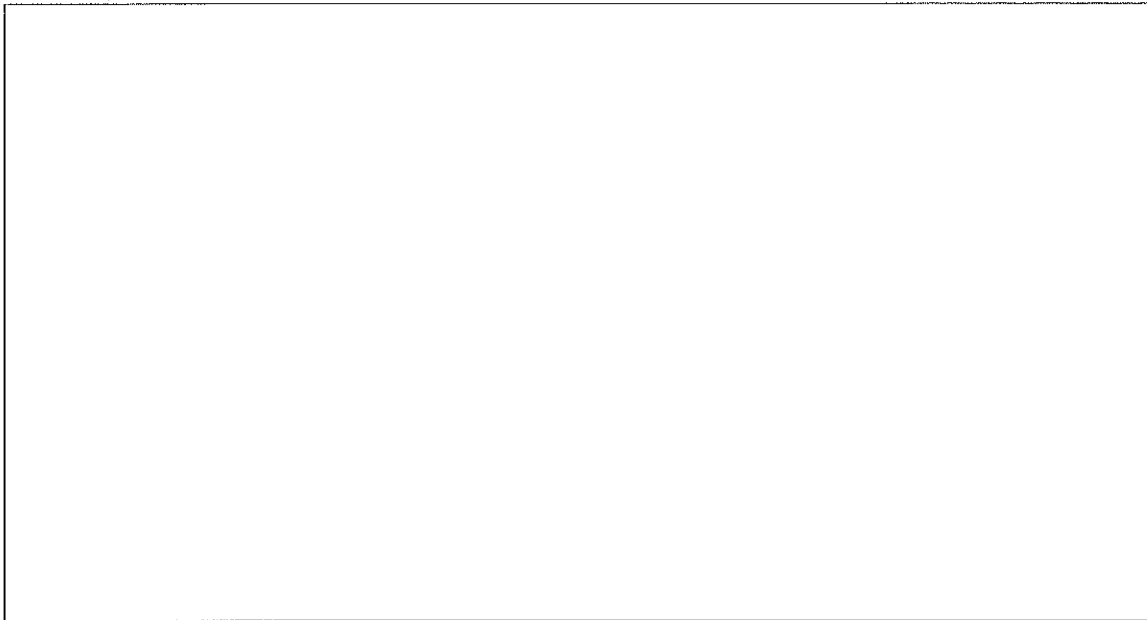
(SBU) S-DefMin Barak Meeting


[Redacted]

(C) US-Israel Military to Military Dialogue

[Large Redacted Area]


REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

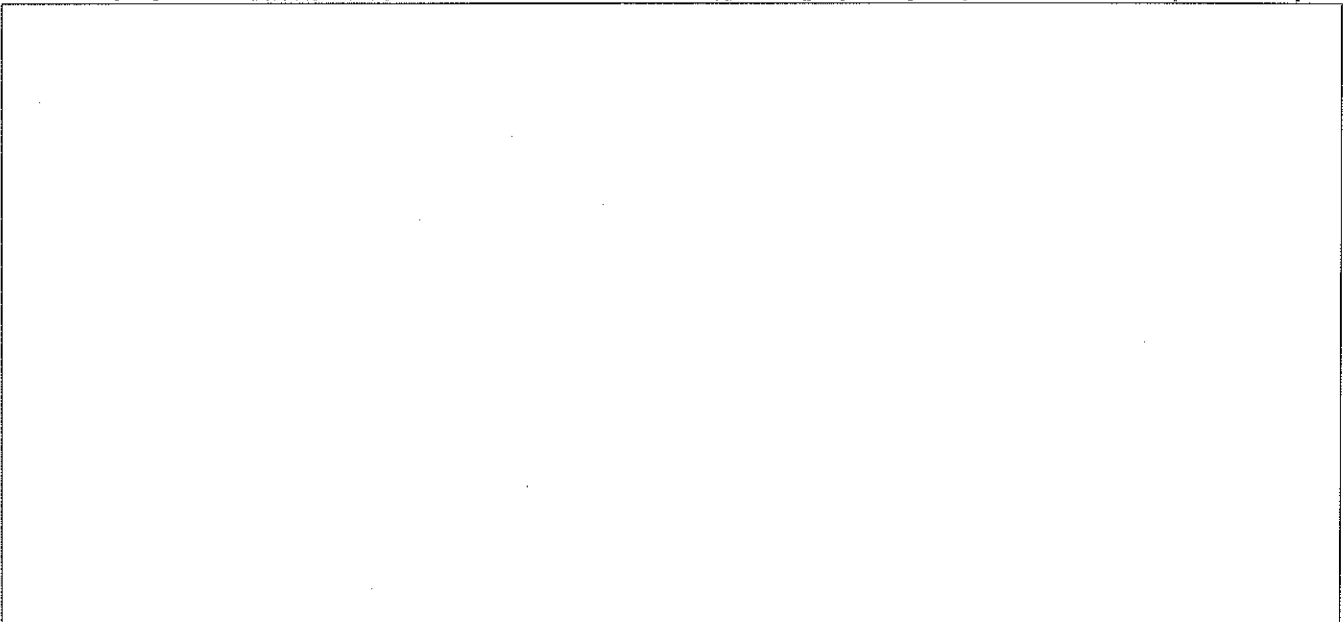


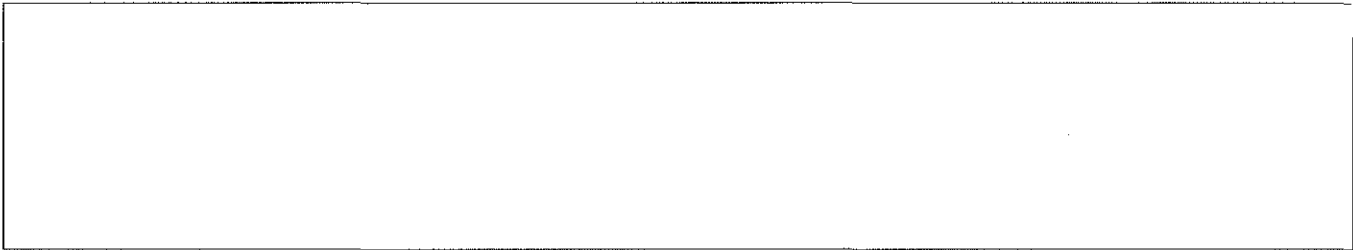
Select:  | Posted at 6:28 PM by Sindle, James M. | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

## (SBU) Gaza Flotilla Lessons Learned

S/ES Crisis Management Support is preparing a lessons learned review following the May 31 Gaza Flotilla incident. They have invited Embassy Tel Aviv to send in a cable on any lessons learned from the incident that would be of use for future crisis response by the Department. IPA has forwarded a copy of a recent lessons learned cable to CONS and POL.

Select:  | Posted at 6:27 PM by Reisser, Wesley J. | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)





NR

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

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I 207

**From:** Fagan, Scott R  
**Sent:** 5/20/2011 9:56:27 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P8  
**Subject:** Spain: Spanish Response to Flotilla Demarche  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU



**MRN:** 11 MADRID 175  
**Date/DTG:** May 20, 2011 / 201356Z MAY 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MADRID  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS, SP  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** PASS TO NEA/IPA JIM SINDLE  
**Subject:** Spain: Spanish Response to Flotilla Demarche

(SBU) The GOS has taken steps to pass on security risks to activists and organizers regarding the dangers of attempting to access Gaza by sea, highlighting the violent Salafi activist group murder of Italian Vittorio Arrigoni. POLOFF delivered reftel demarche to MFA Arab-Israeli Office. MFA has modified their travel recommendations on their web page advising Spaniards not to travel to the Gaza Strip. The MFA is also advising Spaniards not to sail to Gaza and that humanitarian aid should be sent by land through authorized channels.

**Signature:** SOLOMONT

**Drafted By:** POL:Fagan, Scott R  
**Approved By:** POL:Samson, Elaine M  
**Released By:** MADRID:Fagan, Scott R  
**Info:** BARCELONA, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE;  
JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION ROUTINE;  
ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
MAGHREB COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

I 208

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Samson, Elaine M  
Sent: 5/13/2011 10:27:37 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Spain: Gaza Flotilla participation

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 11 MADRID 540  
Date/DTG: May 13, 2011 / 131425Z MAY 11  
From: AMEMBASSY MADRID  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PHUM, PTER, PGOV, KWBG, SP  
Reference: A) STATE 36240  
Subject: Spain: Gaza Flotilla participation

1. (U) A Spanish coalition called, "On the Way to Gaza" plans to participate in the second international Gaza flotilla, now postponed from a mid-May sailing to early June. The Spanish Group raised approximately funds to buy a small boat, but reportedly still needs to raise money for fuel. A group of 80 Spaniards will reportedly join the flotilla, including left-wing Euro MP Willy Meyer and the Initiative for Catalonia Greens Party Euro MP Raul Romeva. Spanish actor Willy Toledo and activists Laura Arau, María del Mar Fernández and Manuel Tapial are supposed to be among them. Former UNESCO Director, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, has expressed his public support for the initiative.
2. (U) Spanish dailies El Mundo and El Pais report that Israeli PM Netanyahu called President Zapatero last on May 9, to ask him to maintain Europe's firmness with Hamas and to prevent the participation of Spaniards in the second Freedom Flotilla. FM Jiménez said in Istanbul on May 11 that diplomacy "is more useful" than the Freedom Flotilla to lift the Israel embargo to the Gaza Strip.
3. (U) The Spanish NGO "Culture, Peace, and Solidarity," a member of the above-mentioned coalition, has asked the GOS to take the necessary diplomatic steps to protect them. Some of the Spanish participants met with MFA officials who "warned them about the dangers of the operation. Many EU countries are giving their advice following that line. There is not enough security to send the flotilla." On May 11 the MFA included in its travel advisory on the Palestinian Territories a note advising against boarding any ships participating in the "On the Way to Gaza" initiative, because of the serious danger that participants could face. The Ministry advised that any humanitarian assistance should be by land, respecting authorized channels. In any event, FM Jiménez said that in the event of a new Israeli attack, the obligation of her Ministry "is to protect Spanish citizens."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2

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**Signature:** SOLOMONT

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**Drafted By:** MADRID:Diaz/Samson, Elaine M  
**Cleared By:** MADRID:STATE\POL:Samson, Elaine M  
**Approved By:** MADRID:STATE\DCM:Chacon, Arnold A  
**Released By:** MADRID:Samson, Elaine M  
**Info:** BARCELONA, AMCONSULROUTINE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVEROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE  
**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2



CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 1

I218

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Olsen, Briana L  
Sent: 5/12/2011 10:09:14 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P9  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla: Update on Swedish Participants  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU



MRN: 11 STOCKHOLM 117  
Date/DTG: May 12, 2011 / 121409Z MAY 11  
From: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, PHUM, PTER, KWBG, SW  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Reference: A) STATE 36240  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla: Update on Swedish Participants

(SBU) On April 18, Post delivered reftel demarche to the Swedish MFA's Department of Middle Eastern Affairs. The Department was unaware of which, if any, Swedish citizens would participate in the second flotilla to Gaza. Our internet search revealed that Dror Feiler, a Swedish-Israeli musician who was arrested in the first flotilla, will participate and Mehmet Kaplan, a parliamentarian arrested with Feiler, might. Kaplan twittered that "there is a lot of interest and the Board of "Ship to Gaza" has many (persons) to chose from."

Signature: Barzun

Drafted By: STOCKHOLM:Olsen, Briana L  
Approved By: Pol:Koehler, Marc D  
Released By: STOCKHOLM:Olsen, Briana L  
Info: EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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SBU

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 1

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

I225

**From:** Crowley, Shawn P  
**Sent:** 4/27/2011 12:10:00 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP08  
**Subject:** AUSTRIA: RESPONSE TO FREE GAZA FLOTILLA DEMARCHE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL**



RELEASED IN FULL

**MRN:** 11 VIENNA 209  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 27, 2011 / 271610Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, AU  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
B) 11 VIENNA 191  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR NEA/IPA AND EUR/CE  
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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** AUSTRIA: RESPONSE TO FREE GAZA FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

(C) Pol/Econ Counselor discussed reftel points April 27 with the MFA's Middle East office. The MFA said they had heard rumors that one Austrian citizen was planning to travel with the flotilla, but had no information on that person's identity. The GoA said they supported the USG's points on the potential safety risks involved in breaching the blockade. If asked, they would support ships travelling first to Ashdod before continuing to Gaza.

**Signature:** HOH

**Classified By:** Name: Shawn Crowley, Title: Econ/Pol Counselor  
Office: Embassy Vienna  
Agency: Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/27  
**Drafted By:** VIENNA:Crowley, Shawn P  
**Cleared By:** Vienna:Froats, Daniel T

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 2

**Approved By:** Vienna:Crowley, Shawn P  
**Released By:** VIENNA:Crowley, Shawn P  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSULROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE;  
CAIRO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE;  
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  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 2

I 243

RELEASED IN FULL

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Galpern, Steven G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 9:45 AM  
**To:** Galpern, Steven G; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** Peterson, Steven L; Jacobson, Linda; Hertzberg, David; Citrin, Ruth; Carnahan, Robert K; 'Harris, Lynn M.'  
**Subject:** Today's Reporting  
**Attachments:** 11-HOTR WASHINGTON DC-NAVCRIMINVSERVFO EUR NAPLES IT--7012108.eml.pdf; 11-HOTR WASHINGTON DC-NAVCRIMINVSERVFO EUR NAPLES IT--7012104.eml.pdf

**Categories:** Working

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS  
REDACTED

Noteworthy items in today's briefing book include:

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

NR

Attached are two USDAO-Tel Aviv reports on Freedom Flotilla II.

Best,  
Steve

**Steven G. Galpern, Ph.D.**  
*Analyst for Palestinian Affairs and Jordan*  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
U.S. Department of State  
(202) 647-8840  
**ClassNet:** [GalpernSG@state.sgov.gov](mailto:GalpernSG@state.sgov.gov)  
**OpenNet:** [GalpernSG@state.gov](mailto:GalpernSG@state.gov)

This document is CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 c  
**Declassify On:** 25X1- human

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I 257

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:52 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (Reuters) Turkish flotilla organizers to send more Gaza ships

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**From:** Withers, Anne M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 16, 2010 9:51 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Turkish flotilla organizers to send more Gaza ships

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - A Turkish pro-Palestinian group said it will send another aid flotilla to Gaza next month, again trying to break an Israeli blockade after its last convoy was the target of a deadly Israeli raid in May. The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Aid (IHH) told members of the European Parliament it had assembled six ships for the next flotilla and put out an appeal for others to join. The next flotilla is due to sail in the second half of July, IHH said. The group invited the international media to inspect all goods on board before the convoy sails to "demonstrate their commitment to total transparency."

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I 258

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:57 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (Reuters) Russia, EU demand flotilla inquiry, Gaza opening

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**From:** Withers, Anne M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 5:44 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Russia, EU demand flotilla inquiry, Gaza opening

ROSTOV-ON-DON (Reuters) - Russia and the European Union jointly called for an impartial probe into the deadly Israeli operation against an aid flotilla and urged the opening of crossings into Gaza. In a joint declaration during a Russia-EU summit, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and EU foreign policy chief Ashton demanded a "full and impartial inquiry" into the incident. "The EU and Russia call for immediate opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and people to and from Gaza," said the declaration, which also regretted the loss of life in the incident.

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I 259

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Ullner, Jason H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 6:04 AM  
**To:** NEA-ALL-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (Reuters) Libyan aid ship tacks from Gaza to Egypt

Jason H. Ullner  
NEA Staff Assistant  
[ullnerj@state.gov](mailto:ullnerj@state.gov)  
(202) 647-7216 (office)  
(202) 615-2325 (mobile)

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**From:** Simmons, Krista M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 5:13 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA; SES-O; SES\_4  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Libyan aid ship tacks from Gaza to Egypt

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - A Libyan-chartered ship carrying aid for Palestinians set a new course for Egypt July 14 after Israel's navy warned it away from the blockaded Gaza Strip, an Israeli official said.

The real-time shipping map on MarineTraffic.com showed the Amalthea on a southeasterly approach to El Arish, 40 miles away, with an estimated time of arrival of 1300 GMT. The ship had earlier been absent from the map, suggesting that its GPS tracker was temporarily obstructed or turned off.

Egypt said the Amalthea had requested and been granted permission to dock in El Arish, and authorities planned to transfer its declared haul of 2,000 tons of food and medicine overland to neighboring Gaza.

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I 261

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Chatterji, Rina  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:06 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (Reuters) Israeli cabinet approves Gaza flotilla inquiry

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**From:** Shelstad, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 5:26 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Israeli cabinet approves Gaza flotilla inquiry

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Israel's cabinet approved June 14 an Israeli inquiry commission into a deadly raid on a Gaza aid flotilla, a panel set to include two foreign observers after international calls for an impartial investigation. The cabinet's unanimous approval, announced by Prime Minister Netanyahu's office, followed an official statement on June 13 that Israel intended to form the panel and that its findings would be made public.

Jeff Shelstad  
Watch Officer  
Department of State Operations Center (S/ES-O)  
[ShelstadJ@state.gov](mailto:ShelstadJ@state.gov) (202) 647-1512

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I 262

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Chatterji, Rina  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 6:06 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (Reuters) Iranian aid ships head for Gaza

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**From:** Shelstad, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 5:37 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Iran; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Subject:** (Reuters) Iranian aid ships head for Gaza

TEHRAN (Reuters) - Iran is sending aid ships to blockaded Gaza, state radio said June 14. One ship left port on June 13 and another will depart by June 18, loaded with food, construction material and toys, the report said. An official of the Iranian Red Crescent Society's youth organization said some 100,000 Iranians had volunteered as potential crew for aid ships, Iran daily reported.

Jeff Shelstad  
Watch Officer  
Department of State Operations Center (S/ES-O)  
[ShelstadJ@state.gov](mailto:ShelstadJ@state.gov) (202) 647-1512

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I 264

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Ullner, Jason H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 8:06 AM  
**To:** NEA-ALL-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (AP) Libyans say Israel orders Gaza aid ship to Egypt

Jason H. Ullner  
NEA Staff Assistant  
[ullnerj@state.gov](mailto:ullnerj@state.gov)  
(202) 647-7216 (office)  
(202) 615-2325 (mobile)

---

**From:** Morgan, Jack A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 8:06 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Subject:** (AP) Libyans say Israel orders Gaza aid ship to Egypt

CAIRO (AP) - The Libyan organizers of an aid ship trying to breach Israel's three-year blockade of Gaza say an Israeli military vessel has confronted the ship and ordered it to change course for the Egyptian port of el-Arish. The Gadhafi International Charity and Development Foundation says its boat refused to alter its destination and will steam on for Gaza.

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I 265

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:56 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (AP) Israeli PM backs army in Gaza-bound flotilla raid

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**From:** Valdez, Pablo M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:53 AM  
**To:** NEWS-EUR; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; Lash, Fred C .  
**Subject:** (AP) Israeli PM backs army in Gaza-bound flotilla raid

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's prime minister has expressed his support for the military's actions in a deadly raid against an aid flotilla sailing to the blockaded Gaza Strip. Netanyahu's office says he spoke to top Israeli diplomatic and security officials by telephone from Canada and voiced his "full backing" for the military.

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

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I 266

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 1:57 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (AP) Israeli FM: Gaza ships to be stopped 'at any cost'

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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**From:** Withers, Anne M  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 1:50 PM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Subject:** (AP) Israeli FM: Gaza ships to be stopped 'at any cost'

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli foreign minister Lieberman says the country is prepared to stop a flotilla of pro-Palestinian activists from reaching the Gaza Strip "at any cost."

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RELEASED IN FULL

I 267

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 8:45 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** Fw: (AP) Flotilla bound for Gaza delayed, loses key members

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**From:** Casteel, Ezra A  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 06:52:53 2010  
**Subject:** (AP) Flotilla bound for Gaza delayed, loses key members

JERUSALEM (AP) - Ships carrying 10,000 tons of aid supplies for blockaded Gaza are being held up near Cyprus as organizers try to get more than two dozen high-profile activists on board. The would-be passengers, including 17 European legislators and a Holocaust survivor, were expected to join the ships from Cyprus. Organizer Greta Berlin said Saturday the Cypriot government is not allowing smaller boats to carry the group to the flotilla waiting in international waters. The number of ships has dwindled from eight to five. Berlin says the flotilla is to sail toward Gaza by the afternoon of May 28 in any event and approach the territory May 29.

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Ezra Casteel  
S/ES-O Operations Specialist  
202.647.1512

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RELEASED IN FULL

I 269

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:40 AM  
**To:** Groeblacher, Julia; Greene, Elisa; Harutunian, Ruben; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** FREE GAZA SPOKESPERSON: THE "RACHEL CORRIE" NOW EXPECTED MONDAY -- IL RADIO

IL RADIO QUOTES A SPOKESPERSON FOR FREE GAZA MOVEMENT AS SAYING THAT THE "RACHEL CORRIE" IS NOW EXPECTED TO REACH THE GAZA SHORE EARLY NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY ON MONDAY.

GRETA BERLIN TOLD IL RADIO REPORTER ERAN SIKUREL THAT THE VESSEL'S ETA HAD BEEN CHANGED TO FACILITATE BETTER INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ARRIVAL.

THE FREE GAZA SPOKESPERSON REFUSED TO GIVE THE CURRENT LOCATION OF THE VESSEL SAYING THIS WOULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR IL TO SABOTAGE IT....

*Ruth*

*in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in executive order 12958 this email is UNCLASSIFIED*

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RELEASED IN FULL

1271

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 8:37 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens)

**Subject:** Flotilla Updates

**Categories:** Working

**ITIC Update:** The Canadians and Americans about to set sail with the flotilla from Greece participated in a short training workshop covering various topics and centering on "passive resistance" to IDF soldiers. Several flotilla organizers said the training was meant to present a "nonviolent" response to an Israeli attempt to take control of the ship. However, the flotilla's hard core, including Arab participants, may use violent methods. In addition, documentation of passenger resistance was apparently practiced and the participants were taught how to hide electronic storage devices from the IDF soldiers.

**JERUSALEM - (AP)** An organizer of a Gaza-bound flotilla is dismissing Israeli allegations that extremists aboard the ships plan to harm Israeli soldiers who would be dispatched to stop them.

Dror Feiler says the hundreds of people planning to sail soon in a bid to break Israel's naval blockade of the Palestinian territory have signed a declaration of nonviolence.

Feiler told Army Radio on Tuesday that if Israel has information about specific suspects, it should pass it along to flotilla's organizers.

Israeli military spokeswoman Maj. Avital Leibovich on Monday cited intelligence reports saying extremists in the flotilla have "dangerous incendiary chemicals" for use against Israeli forces.

Israel says it will block any attempt to breach the naval blockade of the Palestinian territory.

**STOCKHOLM - (AP)** Scandinavian activists in the Gaza-bound flotilla say someone sabotaged their ship's propeller while the vessel was docked in a Greek port.

The Swedish activists say the propeller shaft of the "Juliano" was cut off in Piraeus and that it would take a couple of days to repair the damage.

The ship is shared by Swedish, Norwegian and Greek activists and is part of a 10-ship flotilla due to set sail shortly in a bid to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza.

Israel says it will block any attempt to breach the naval blockade of the Palestinian territory.

Swedish activists said the propeller damage was discovered late Monday. Norwegian delegation leader Torstein Dahle said Tuesday that "someone is willing to go to great lengths to stop the flotilla from sailing."

**Embassy Tel Aviv -** Dror Feiler one of the organizers of the Flotilla told IL RADIO a few minutes ago that the Flotilla vessels will not leave for Israel before Thursday this week

**ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report**

\* **Flotilla:** Activists of the IHH organization are planning to link up with the flotilla participants on their way to Gaza, despite the IHH announcement that it would not take part in the flotilla. This emerges from information that Israel has obtained. A number of these activists have links to Hamas and to organizations connected to obtaining funding for

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Hamas. A high-ranking military source said last night that there were activists on at least one of the ships from a radical Islamist organization and activists whose intentions are violent. Furthermore, he said, the ship is carrying chemical substances that are liable to endanger soldiers. This refers to sulfuric fertilizer that Israel bans from entering Gaza, including overland.

Political and military officials said that Israel has continued to take diplomatic action but that, at the same time, the IDF is preparing to stop the flotilla by various means.

The flotilla's organizers said that they would try to assemble the ships of the coast of Crete either tomorrow or Friday, before sailing for Gaza. They said that one of the ships had been sabotaged. They said that its propeller and gear box had been disconnected and it had been badly damaged.

The US again said that the flotilla was a dangerous and provocative act and that Israel has the right to defend itself against arms smuggling. However, the State Department called on all sides to display restraint so that there would be no recurrence of the flotilla incidents from last year.

### Coming to Kill

*Ma'ariv* (p. 2) by Ahikam Moshe David, Eli Bardenstein and Amit Cohen -- The flotilla scheduled to leave soon for Gaza has thus far been perceived as friendly, at least in comparison to the *Mavi Marmara*. But information that recently reached the IDF has changed the picture. Intelligence officials say that the ships will be loaded with chemical substances, including sulfuric acid, with the goal of badly injuring the IDF soldiers. On deck will also be at least two top Hamas members and activists from the IHH organization, which was responsible for the fatal outcome of the previous flotilla.

Four of the ships planning to take part in the flotilla docked last night in Greece: an American, a Spanish, an Italian and a Canadian ship. Another ship, a French one, has already set sail from Corsica and it will join them soon. But while the Israel Navy is training strenuously for the flotilla and has promised "surprises" for the 350 activists expected to arrive, it turns out that the passengers have not been idle either. Under cover of bringing in fertilizer and pesticides, these ships will be loaded with dangerous chemical substances.

Military officials painted a troubling picture last night, and said that the activists were planning to kill as many soldiers as possible. The officials said that in meetings that they held, the activists threatened "a lot of IDF soldiers will be killed in this flotilla." Other violent remarks were made saying that anyone trying to stop them would encounter violence and that "the blood of IDF soldiers will be spilled." The information about the chemicals came as a surprise and it will force the combatants to drill means of dealing with such a scenario.

The IDF has also discerned that there are activists on board the ships who are directly linked to Hamas, and that they are being funded with money that comes directly from terror organizations. Among them is Amin Abu Rashad, one of the Dutch organizers of the flotilla, who in the past headed the Hamas charity in Holland, which was closed after an investigation by the authorities because of its involvement in funding terror. Another is Mohammed Ahmed Hannoun, known to be a Hamas activist, who heads the ABSPP fund, which is involved in transferring money to terrorist elements.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday convened the security cabinet again to discuss the flotilla, and after two meetings the ministers approved the Israel Navy's plan of action for stopping it. Attending were the chief of staff, the IDF Intelligence director, the director of the Operations Directorate in the IDF General Staff and senior officers from the Israel Navy. Foreign Ministry Director General Rafi Barak reviewed the diplomatic efforts being made to prevent the flotilla. This time, the system for distributing pictures from the takeover was coordinated between the IDF Spokesperson's Office and the Foreign Ministry. Journalists, mainly foreign, will be put on special Israel Navy boats to cover events from up close. From a military standpoint, the order is clear: not to let vessels break the blockade on Gaza and to use military force if necessary. A statement that was issued by the Prime Minister's Bureau read: the State of Israel is determined to prevent the flotilla from reaching Gaza, with minimal friction as far as possible with the passengers.

The second Freedom Flotilla is the initiative of a coalition of organizations to "break the illegal blockade on Gaza." Ten ships from different countries were supposed to join, among them Ireland, the US, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Spain and Scotland. Sweden, Norway and Greece removed their joint ship, but it still isn't clear how many will actually take part. At first the *Mavi Marmara* was to lead the flotilla, but in the end it was reported that because of technical problems, it would not sail. [...]

There are already 30 journalists on board from various countries. The famous novelist Alice Walker, the author *The Color Purple* and Pulitzer Prize winner, has also joined, because she says she is concerned about the children.



At this stage some of the ships are still detained in Greece, but at a press conference it was said that the ships are ready to leave and will do so the moment the inspection of the boats are completed. This will be in two days at most, said Greta Berlin, one of the organizers from the US.

\* *Feiler comments:* Israeli anarchist Dror Feiler, one of the organizers of the flotilla to Gaza, denied this morning that there are chemical substances on board meant to hurt IDF soldiers. He told Army Radio: "there are no activists who plan to attack IDF soldiers on the flotilla. If there is someone they suspect of this, let them give us the information and we will talk to him. If we see that this is true, we won't take him on the flotilla. There are no chemical substances and no plan to attack IDF soldiers."

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### Interview with Moshe Yaalon

*Ma'ariv* (p. 4) by Maya Bengal --

**Q: Minister Yaalon, during the previous government's term in office, Israel allowed ships to enter Gaza. Not only did nothing terrible happen, but the activists became stuck in Gaza and begged to leave. Why has a decision been made for a second time to stop the flotilla by military means? Have we not learned the lesson of the *Mavi Marmara*?**

Yaalon: "We mustn't allow ships to reach Gaza. The blockade, even if it wasn't officially declared, has existed since 1967. The negative experiences we've accrued with the Palestinians over the years have led us to the conclusion that we must not permit ships and goods to reach Gaza without supervision and inspection. We learned that when Arafat passed through the Rafah border crossing for the first time in 1994, and smuggled in his car an RPG and even a terrorist. If we had allowed ships to enter, then a ship like the *Karine A* would have docked in the Gaza port and would have presented its array of weapons directly to the Palestinians. On board the *Francomp* was ammunition the scale of which was 80% of what was fired on us during the Second Lebanon War.

"People who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of the residents of Gaza we allow to pass, only after an inspection at safe crossings. This is also an opportunity to clarify that there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza. This month two new hotels are supposed to be opened in the Gaza Strip, and next month a new mall will be opened. There is no crisis, and this flotilla is a provocation, not an answer to the humanitarian needs of the residents."

**Q: The impending report by the state comptroller about the takeover of the *Mavi Marmara* will include severe criticism of the political echelon, and particularly of the prime minister and defense minister for having failed to consult and hold meetings. Today, when the assessment is that there will not be a *Mavi Marmara II* in the next flotilla, a great many meetings are being held. That looks like CYA.**

"I can't talk about the state comptroller's report, but I was critical in the past about the manner in which we prepared for the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla. I am glad that the political and military lessons were learned, and we are better prepared to deal with this flotilla. The political-diplomatic activity that has been taken thus far has reduced the number of vessels and participants. That too is part of the lesson-learning process from the *Mavi Marmara*.

**Q: Once again Israel has failed in its public relations effort. Last time the foreign journalists waited for hours in the sun to see the weapons that were on the *Mavi Marmara*, and left angrily. This time the Government Press Office threatened to deport any foreign journalist who took part in the flotilla, but in the end retracted that threat. Aren't we shooting ourselves in the foot?**

"I was surprised to hear about that in the news, and the prime minister was also surprised. He demanded that this issue be taken care of."

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**RELEASED IN FULL**

1272

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2010 2:58 AM  
**To:** Groeblacher, Julia; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: IRAN CANCELS ONE SAILING BUT ANOTHER PLANNED -- JPOST & HTZ VERSIONS

JPOST 06/25/2010 03:08

**Iranian aid ship cancels Gaza voyage**

By JPOST.COM STAFF

An Iranian aid ship which had been due to set sail for the Gaza Strip in the coming days in an attempt to break the Israeli blockade has canceled its trip due to Israeli warnings, Iranian officials said Thursday night.

HTZ Latest update 23:37 24.06.10

**Iran activists cancel Gaza aid flotilla 'due to Israeli threats'**

**Separate Iranian ship heads to Gaza via Caspian Sea after Egypt denies Israel request to prevent vessels in Suez Canal.**

By Haaretz Service

**One of the organizers of an Iranian aid flotilla that was to sail to Gaza in efforts to break Israel's naval blockade on the territory, announced Thursday that the event has been cancelled due to "Israeli threats."**

A separate Iranian ship carrying 60 Iranian activists was being prepared to sail to Gaza via the Caspian Sea, according to Army Radio. This after the Lebanese media reported several days ago that Egypt has denied Israel's request to prevent Iranian ships from passing through the Suez Canal toward Egypt.

Meanwhile Thursday, the U.S. State Department issued a statement calling the aid flotillas to Gaza irresponsible.

"Mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by member states and groups that want to do so," the U.S. State Department said regarding Lebanese plans to ship aid to Gaza. "Direct delivery by sea is neither appropriate nor responsible, and certainly not effective, under the circumstances."

The Lebanese and Iranian efforts come after a tragic incident aboard a Turkish aid ship, part of an 8-ship Turkish flotilla, which was headed for Gaza on May 31. Israeli navy commandos, intent on preventing the ship from reaching Gaza's shore, boarded the ship, and were met by a violent mob wielding sticks and knives. The clash that ensued resulted in the deaths of nine Turkish activists.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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1273

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 25, 2010 10:19 AM  
**To:** Groeblacher, Julia; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: INTRODUCING THE "SHAHID MOHAMMAD AL-DURA" -- THE TIMES, AL SHOROUK & YNET

YNET 17:04 , 06.25.10

**Women prepare for Gaza sail: We won't fight Israel**

One of hundreds of female volunteers planning to sail to Hamas-ruled territory with diapers, milk, medical supplies and clothes says, 'Our only weapons are faith in the Virgin Mary and in humanity'

Ynet

'Be sure we will never give Israel such a gift as to fight them or to have Hezbollah with us or to have any political party with us,' the spokeswoman for the organizers of an aid flotilla from Lebanon to Gaza told The Times in an interview published Friday.

'We have diapers, a lot of diapers, we have milk, we have treatments for cancer in children and medical supplies and clothes. If they fight we will not defend ourselves,' Semir El-Hajj said.

The hundreds of female volunteers planning to set sail to the Hamas-ruled territory aboard the ship "Mariam" deny allegations that the flotilla organizers are connected to Hezbollah, the Lebanese terror group linked to Iran.

"Our only weapons are faith in the Virgin Mary and in humanity," said Rima Farah, one of the activists.

The organizers told The Times that the women "all represent themselves", are without political affiliations and include adherents to all the world's big religions, including Judaism.

It remains unclear when the convoy will depart. Egyptian newspaper Al-Shorouk quoted a member of the International Movement Against Globalization and the American-Zionist Hegemony as saying that the "Freedom Flotilla 2" will consist of five ships from France, six from Germany and one from Lebanon.

According to movement, which is based in Egypt, the vessels are expected to begin the journey to Gaza on July 15 under the banner "The Shahid Mohammad al-Dura," referring to the 12-year-old Palestinian boy who was killed during a furious exchange of fire between Israeli forces and Palestinian terrorists in Gaza in 2000.

The movement's representative added that activists from several countries, including Egypt, Ireland, Algeria and some Gulf states will take part in the sail.

He said Israeli Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi (National Democratic Assembly), and Raed Salah, the leader of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel, have already confirmed their participation.

The two Arab Israelis took part in the first sail to Gaza, during which Israeli commandos raided a Turkish ship, leaving nine people dead.

The movement's representative said former South African President Nelson Mandela (92) will announce whether he will be taking part in the flotilla in the coming days.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I274

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2010 9:34 AM  
**To:** Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Doutrich, Jack T; Frelich, Karlene H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Groeblacher, Julia; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: IL NAVY DENIES THEATENING LIBYAN VESSEL -- YNET

IL RADIO QUOTES AN AL JEZEERA REPORTER ON BOARD THE VESSEL AS SAYING THE IL NAVY THREATENED TO ARREST THE PASSENGERS IF THE CREW PERSISTS IN STEERING FOR GAZA RATHER THAN EL ARISH.

*Ruth*

*in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in executive order 12958 this email is UNCLASSIFIED*

YNET 15:46 , 07.13.10

### Navy contacts Libyan ship

Confrontation looming? Libyan Gaza-bound ship says Israeli Navy threatened to intercept vessel; army says it did not issue such message, will continue to monitor ship's route as it approaches area.

AFP and Hanan Greenberg

Israel threatened on Tuesday to send its Navy to intercept the Gaza-bound freighter chartered by Libya to aid the Gaddafi Foundation for Gaza, a representative of the group said Tuesday afternoon.

However, Israeli officials denied the report, saying they have not conveyed any such messages during an initial attempt to contact the vessel.

"The Israelis have contacted us and threatened to send their navy to intercept and escort the vessel to the port of Ashdod, if we do not change direction," Machallah Zwei told AFP by satellite phone.

At midday, the ship was 130 nautical miles (about 240 km) from the Gaza Strip and would dock Wednesday morning, said Zwei.

"We explained to the Israeli authorities that our original destination was Gaza and that we were not there to make provocation," he said. "We also explained that we were carrying food and medicine and asked them to let us unload our cargo to Gaza."

However, Navy officials said they have heard nothing from the Libyan vessel. The IDF said it attempted to make initial contact with the ship in order to check the quality of the line, without including any kind of messages for the captain.

The army said the vessel did not respond to the attempt to make contact. Navy officials will continue to monitor the course of the boat throughout the day to ensure it will not be heading to Gaza.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

1275

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2010 5:33 AM  
**To:** Baron, Desiree A; Garcia, Dennis J; Kaplan, Crystal T; Burnett, David R; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Mayo, Iris J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Sachar, Alon (NEA/JPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SIMULATIONS IN THE EAST MED. --- YNET

YNET 00:53 , 05.24.10

**Activists en route to Gaza: We won't resist IDF if boats seized**

Pro-Palestinian activists aboard one of vessels headed for Strip to 'break Israeli blockade' say if seized they will not put up a fight, explain to soldiers that they are violating international law. 'Jewish state was not established to impose blockades,' one activist says

Aviel Magnezi

Pro-Palestinian activists aboard one of the ships that will head for Gaza's shore as part of the efforts to "break the Israeli blockade," practiced a possible takeover by IDF naval forces at the port in Piraeus, Greece.

"We will not resist the Israeli forces. We'll explain to the soldiers that they are committing an offence," one of the organizers said.

Another organizer, a former Israeli who has been living in Sweden for the past few decades said, "We are preparing for the journey. We've loaded the equipment onto the vessels, which are manned by Greeks and Swedes. They are being briefed on how to conduct themselves should the IDF decide to seize the boat."

Amid reports that the Israeli navy will prevent any attempt to break the blockade, Dror Feiler told Ynet Sunday that the crew will not resist, but rather "try to explain to the soldiers that our intentions are humane and that by boarding the vessel they are violating international law."

Feiler, who served in the Israeli army in the 1970s, said he was aware that the journey will end once the soldiers board the vessel. "I know how this works. I was a soldier for three years and refused to serve in the territories, but I hope the Israeli government will come to its senses and refrain from attacking a convoy of 500 citizens. It won't look good," he said.

Henry Asher, a Jewish-Swedish physician, said the sail to Gaza, which is backed by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "is important to the residents of the Strip and to the State of Israel. The Jewish state was not established to impose blockades. It is against Jewish tradition," he told Ynet.

"How are Gaza's children at fault for what is happening? This sort of collective punishment is forbidden by law," he added.

**On Saturday some 30 Israeli ships set sail "to counter the Turkish flotilla." Posters comparing Erdogan to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad were displayed aboard the vessels.**

Guy Bechor, who organized the Israeli sail, said it was an "appropriate response to a few rickety boats that are being presented as a threat to Israel."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I 276

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 3:15 AM  
**To:** Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Doutrich, Jack T; Frelich, Karlene H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Groeblacher, Julia; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Tsou, Leslie M; Waters, John R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv); Silverman, Robert J  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: IL-LIBYA CONTACTS TO AVERT FLOTILLA CRISIS REPORTED -- IL RADIO & AL SHARQ AL AWSAT

QUOTING ARAB DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, IL RADIO REPORTS THAT AUSTRIAN JEWISH BUSINESSMAN MARTIN SCHLAFF IS THE MEDIATOR IN THE CONTACTS BETWEEN IL AND THE QADAFI FOUNDATION IN REGARD TO EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE LIBYAN VESSEL REACHING GAZA PORT. IL RADIO SAYS FM LIEBERMAN'S BUREAU IS NOT COMMENTING ON THE REPORTS OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS REGARDING THE LIBYAN VESSEL AND NEITHER CONFIRMS NOR DENIES THEM. IL RADIO'S ARAB AFFAIRS REPORTER NOTES THAT MARTIN SCHLAFF HAS CLOSE TIES WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT AND HE IS KNOWN TO HAVE TIES TO FM LIEBERMAN.

Ruth

*in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in executive order 12958 this email is UNCLASSIFIED*

YNET 09:19 , 07.14.10

## Report: Israel holding talks with Gaddafi's son

**Al-Sharq al-Awsat reports Israel holding indirect talks with Gaddafi foundation in hopes of bringing Gaza-bound aid ship affair to peaceful end**

Roe Nahmias

Israel is holding indirect talks with the Gaddafi foundation behind the Libyan aid ship en route to Gaza, London-based al-Sharq al-Awsat reported on Wednesday. Meanwhile, AFP reported the ship's captain said its main engine was out of order and that the crew was working to repair it.

According to the report, Israel is in contact with the organization, headed by Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, via Arab and western sources, in an attempt to bring the incident to a peaceful end.

It was also reported that Israel has expressed its willingness to deliver the aid to the Gaza Strip without having to take over the ship. A Libyan official said talks were being held through third party elements.

The Navy said on Tuesday that it made contact with the ship's captain, who announced he would divert to El-Arish Port in Egypt. But members of Gaddafi's organization on board the al-Amal ship denied the Navy's report and said it would not change course, and would proceed to Gaza.

Youssef Sawani, one of the organization's members on board the ship, also noted problems with the ship's communication devices.

**US State Department Spokesman Philip Crowley addressed the issue on Tuesday and urged all parties involved to act responsibly and avoid confrontation. "We have urged the Libyan government to avoid unnecessary confrontations. We call on all parties to act responsibly in meeting the needs of the people of Gaza," he said.**

He reiterated the American stance on the delivery of aid to Gaza, saying, "We, along with our partners in the in the Quartet, urge all those wishing to deliver goods to do so through established channels so that cargo can be inspected by the government of Israel, and transferred via land crossings into Gaza."

Earlier, the Egyptians confirmed the Israeli report that the ship's captain announced he would proceed to El-Arish, and said the al-Amal received permission to dock in the Sinai port. The Israel Defense Forces continue to shadow the ship.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN FULL

1277

Law, Rosemary C

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 10:54 AM  
 To: Groeblicher, Julia; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
 Subject: FLOTILLA SITREP: IRANIAN SHIP OF DOLLS DUE NEXT WEEK -- YNET

YNET 14:44 , 06.16.10

Second Iranian ship to set sail this weekend

Iranian Red Crescent says ship carrying humanitarian aid, toys for Gaza Strip to set sail 'at start of next week'

Dudi Cohen

Tehran's preparations for sending an aid convoy to Gaza are at their peak, and two organizations plan to send ships to the Strip. One of the ships seems to have already set sail, and the other is slated to leave this Saturday. They are expected to arrive at Gaza's shores via the Red Sea.

"The ship will depart for Gaza in a special ceremony that will be attended by thousands of people at the start of next week," a statement on the Iranian Red Crescent's website said on Wednesday.  
Foreign Aid

The Iranian work week begins on Saturday, but the statement did not specify which day the ship will leave. The organization said earlier this week that it is still waiting for a green light from the Iranian Foreign Ministry before setting sail.

According to the statement, the ship is to leave from the Bandar-Abbas Port in southern Iran and travel directly to the Gaza Strip. The first ship will be carrying humanitarian aid for the residents of the Strip, as well as a small team of doctors and aid workers. Alongside the humanitarian aid, gifts will be sent to the children in Gaza, including baby clothes, toys and dolls.

In addition, the Iranian Red Crescent's youth organization said that "in light of the possibility that the Zionist regime may do something evil," they plan to send no more than 10 volunteers who have already undergone training. Their ages were not specified.

The Iranian Red Crescent said that so far, over 155,000 volunteers have signed up for the Gaza flotilla. Registration will continue for a few more days, and is meant mainly as a way for Iranian citizens to identify with the residents of the Gaza Strip.

The organization plans to send another ship to Gaza, most likely a week later, carrying more aid workers such as doctors and volunteers.

Iran is eager to show that it cares more for the Palestinians than Turkey does, and is working fervently to have the blockade on the Strip lifted.

Earlier this week another Iranian ship reportedly set sail for Gaza. The ship set sail on behalf of another organization that is not affiliated with the government, by the name of "The Iranian Company for the Protection of the Palestinian Nation."

The organization's head said this week that it plans to send aid to Gaza through land to Turkey, and from there set sail to Gaza, but did not specify when this would take place.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I278

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2010 3:28 AM  
**To:** Groeblacher, Julia; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: LEBANON SAYS VESSELS MAY SET SAIL – YNET

YNET 09:30 , 06.21.10

**Report: Lebanon gives ships green light to set sail**

**Lebanese transportation minister allows Gaza-bound aid flotilla to sail to Cyprus before heading to Strip, an-Nahar newspaper reports**

Roe Nahmias

Lebanese Transportation Minister Ghazi Aridi confirmed that the ministry allowed organizers of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla to sail from the northern port city of Tripoli to Cyprus before heading to the Strip, Lebanese newspaper an-Nahar reported Monday morning.

The vessels will pass through Cyprus so as not to violate UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

The minister added that one of the vessels would undergo a technical checkup before it sails from Tripoli and that the Lebanese government was responsible for the decision.

Diplomatic sources in the United Nations said over the weekend that the UNIFIL headquarters in New York had warned Lebanon that UN naval forces would not allow any violation of Resolution 1701 and would prevent any such violation.

UN Resolution 1701, which ended the Second Lebanon War, stipulates that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon's role is to ensure that the region will not be used for any aggressive actions.

On Friday, Israel warned the UN that the security situation in the Middle East may be undermined as result of the Lebanese flotilla planning to head to the Gaza Strip.

In a letter relayed to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN Gabriela Shalev said the "provocative" sail may affect security in the entire region.

Two ships are expected to leave from Lebanon to Gaza: Naji al-Ali – which will be carrying 25 European activists, including parliament members, and some 50 journalists – and Maryam – which is said to carry female activists with chemotherapeutic medications for women and children and humanitarian aid. It is unclear when the vessels will set sail.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



RELEASED IN FULL

I279

**Law, Rosemary C**

**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

**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).

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Thank You

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

RELEASED IN FULL

I280

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 11:33 AM  
**To:** Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Doutrich, Jack T; Frellich, Karlene H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Groebbacher, Julia; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** EILAND CTTEE: MISTAKES WERE MADE -- YNET

YNET 17:30 , 07.12.10

**Eiland report finds 'mistakes, but no failures'**

**Committee that probed IDF raid on Gaza-bound flotilla ship says high-ranking officers erred in assessment of situation, gathering of intelligence. Army should have considered changing relations with Turkey, report says**

Hanan Greenberg

The committee elected to investigate the deadly Israel Defense Forces raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla ship in late May handed in its report Monday, in which it says that there had been "no failures, but mistakes were made".

**The committee, headed by Major-General (Res.) Giora Eiland, concluded that high-level officials had made errors in judgment, but accused no one of negligence.**

The report was handed Monday afternoon to the army's chief of staff as well as a number of high-rank officers. Since the Eiland committee was appointed by the IDF, its report deals neither with the state's conduct nor the army's pre-emptive gathering of intelligence, but rather focuses on preparations for the flotilla's arrival.

Analysis of the incident that occurred on board the Turkish Marmara, the report says, led the committee to conclude that the activists on deck had been the first instigators of violence.

At least four instances of live fire on soldiers were noted, though the committee believes there were six in all. In addition, a bullet removed from a soldier's knee shows the Turkish activists had prepared non-military arms to use against the forces.

The report adds that the IDF had begun preparing for the flotilla in February. In mid-May Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Ehud Barak requesting their cooperation in order to prevent a violent incident.

**The first issue probed by the committee was whether the Navy had the chance to stop the ships before they arrived in Israel's territorial waters. It concluded that this was not an option because the Navy has not yet developed such abilities, which take around two years to acquire. The army is discussing the option of doing so now.**

Another issue probed was that of intelligence gathered by the Navy and the Military Intelligence Directorate before the flotilla set sail. The committee concluded that the IDF had chosen not to collect intelligence on Turkey and the IHH because the former is considered friendly and the latter unthreatening.

**Eiland said this decision seemed correct, but that army officials should have taken into consideration the changing tides of Israel's relations with Turkey in the first months of 2010, which was also the time the IHH began openly discussing the flotilla.**

**He added that the developing relationship between the IHH and the Turkish government necessitated more extensive research than provided by intelligence sources.**

However, Eiland said, even with more research intelligence still would have failed because so much of the violence had been brewing on board the Marmara itself.

Regarding the actual raid, the report found that the Navy had prepared only for "likely" resistance by a handful of activists, and not for a violent attack. Even when the ships neared, and the Navy began to understand it had erred, no new set of plans was formulated.

**Eiland said the Navy should have understood that the situation did not match its assessments and stop to reconsider the actions it would take.**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Aside from the criticism, the Eiland committee also made use of its report to praise the forces that conducted the raid. "I am glad to say we found a long list of praise-worthy things, and these do not only have to do with the conduct of the commando soldiers on the ship but also with other factors, including the evacuation of victims after the operation," the major-general said.

And in any case, he concluded, there was probably nothing the army could have done that would have led to a vastly different outcome. "We must learn from the conclusions deduced by the investigation and the way I see it, the IDF is trying to do so," Eiland said.

RELEASED IN FULL

I 282

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Tsou, Leslie M  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 1:34 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Wallis, Jacob; Waters, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Finver, Frank J  
**Subject:** Email 1 of 2 on Eiland Report: MG Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team  
**Attachments:** IDF Spokesperson Announcement- Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team.doc

This is the first of two emails about the Eiland Report. What we don't yet have is a copy of the report itself, but Embassy TA is working on it.

Leslie

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**From:** IDF News Desk <idfnewsdesk@idf.gov.il>  
**To:** idfnewsdesk@idf.gov.il <idfnewsdesk@idf.gov.il>; idfnewmedia@gmail.com <idfnewmedia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jul 12 17:20:17 2010  
**Subject:** IDF Spokesperson Announcement- Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team



דובר צה"ל  
IDF Spokesperson

For Immediate Release  
July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
17:00

**Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team**

The IDF Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, received the conclusions reached by a team of experts, headed by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Giora Eiland, tasked with examining the incidents that took place at sea on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Maj. Gen. Eiland presented the team's findings and conclusions to the Chief of the General Staff as well as to officers from the General Staff and from other IDF branches and directorates who were involved in the preparations and in the actual boarding of the flotilla. The core of the report was presented the Minister of Defense of Israel as well.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

The team was appointed by the Chief of the General Staff to examine the deployment towards the flotilla, the chosen course of action and other possible alternatives, advance preparations, and the operation's implementation.

The team included eight officers and their examination focused on intelligence, Naval command, the naval commando unit responsible for carrying out the operation, the Israel Air Force, media relations, technological alternatives, medical aspects and legal counsel and international law.

The examination presented various lessons on a broad, systemic level, not only as regards this specific operation (stopping the flotilla).

In terms of the intelligence effort, the team concluded that not all possible intelligence gathering methods were fully implemented and that the coordination between Navy Intelligence and the Israel Defense Intelligence was insufficient. At the same time, the team emphasized that it is not certain that an optimal intelligence effort would create a complete intelligence picture. The team also pointed out that the anticipated level of violence used against the forces was underestimated.

In terms of situation assessments towards the flotilla, the team clarified that the operation relied excessively on a single course of action, albeit a probable one, while no alternative courses of action were prepared for the event of more dangerous scenarios.

Regarding technological alternatives, the team determined that on the day of the incident, decision makers were not presented with alternative operational courses of action other than a full boarding of the flotilla. The team emphasized the fact that as far as is currently known, no country in the world holds the ability to stop a vessel at sea in a non hostile manner. Therefore statements made on this matter following the incident are unfounded and irresponsible. At the same time, the team determined that alternative courses of action could have existed had the process of preparation begun enough time in advance, and recommended to accelerate the process of examining alternative methods.

The expert team determined that regarding media relations, the preparations made in advance were good. However, the release of press statements and visual materials was delayed due to the need to maintain reliability, the obligation to notify the families of the critically injured soldiers and the long authorization process at the levels above the IDF Spokesperson Unit. The team noted with favor the work of the IDF spokesperson following the incident and emphasized the need for better coordination between the IDF, the foreign ministry and other foreign affairs institutions.

In terms of commanding over the operation, the team determines that the location of the commanders during the incident and the presence of the Commander of the Israel Navy at sea during the operation, was proper and fit

with the Chief of the General Staff's view regarding the role of commanders at the front lines of IDF activity. His presence proved effective in terms of the decision making process, saving lives and more. The team praised the Israel Navy combat protocols, the preparations of the Naval Commando Unit, the Navy Command, the Electronic Warfare Formation and the medical evacuation.

The team determined that the Navy Commando soldiers operated properly, with professionalism, bravery and resourcefulness and that the commanders exhibited correct decision making. The report further determines that the use of live fire was justified and that the entire operation is estimable.

The team noted with favor the various stages of medical evacuation of the injured by air and by sea, including the injured passengers of the Mavi Marmara. In addition the team pointed out the serious attitude with which the General Staff and the Israel Navy approached the matter, as expressed in the preparations.

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland noted with favor the degree of cooperation and transparency exhibited by those involved in the examination at all levels. In the summary of the examination Maj. Gen. Eiland determined that the issue should be viewed with perspective, being that the damage caused to Israel is not as severe as it seemed following the incident. In addition, he said that there's a tendency to draw general conclusions based on a single incident and that the fact that the IDF examines itself and others does not result in that only the

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I308

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:44 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Subject:** FW: Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:39 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

ATHENS (AP) - An activist says a U.S.-flagged vessel that is part of a pro-Palestinian flotilla planning to break Israel's sea blockade of Gaza may set sail from a Greek port without receiving official permission.

American Ann Wright repeated allegations Thursday that Israel is pressuring Greek authorities not to allow the 42 passengers and crew of the U.S. flagged Audacity of Hope to leave from a port near Athens.

But she wouldn't say how long activists would wait for the all-clear before the 33-meter (108-foot) ferry begins its journey.

Between 300 and 400 international activists aboard 10 ships had been due to sail this week to Gaza to try and break the naval blockade Israel imposed after Hamas militants overran the Palestinian territory in 2007.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



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I309

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Conlon, Steven M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 6:49 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Activists say French boat escaped Greece for Gaza (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 6:43 AM  
**To:** NEWS-EUR; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_Shift-I; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Activists say French boat escaped Greece for Gaza (AP)

PARIS (AP) - French pro-Palestinian activists say a pleasure craft linked to a flotilla banned from sailing from Greek ports to the Gaza Strip has left Greek waters and is on its way.

Jean-Claude Lefort, a spokesman for the group, told The Associated Press Tuesday that the "Dignite-Al Karama" left port near Athens early Monday and has reached international waters. On board are eight activists and two crew members.

It is the first and so far only boat linked to the flotilla. Other boats, including one other French boat, have been blocked by Greek authorities.

Greek authorities say they are looking into the report.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I310

Law, Rosemary C

From: Sullivan, John L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:34 AM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Subject: FW: France says Israeli raid was a serious mistake

France says Israeli raid was a serious mistake

PARIS (AP) — France's Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner says Israel's raid on an aid flotilla heading for Gaza was a serious mistake that damaged Israel's global reputation.

Kouchner is urging Israel and the Palestinians to continue indirect peace talks so that the tensions that led to the raid can be diminished.

Kouchner said on RTL radio Wednesday that the deadly raid was "a very grave mistake" and "extremely damaging to the image of Israel itself." Nine people were killed in the assault at sea.

The French foreign minister called for an international investigation, and said "there should not be impunity."

He says French activists seized during the raid are being held by Israel in "very acceptable conditions" and will be released quickly.

Media Analysis and Watch Center  
USSTRATCOM Foreign Media Analysis Program  
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[www.sosiltd.com](http://www.sosiltd.com)

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Law, Rosemary C

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

From: Staples, David A (NEA/PPD)  
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 8:04 PM  
To: NEA-RA-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-PD-DL; NEA-PI-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
Subject: FW: Flotilla Fallout: Reports & Commentary

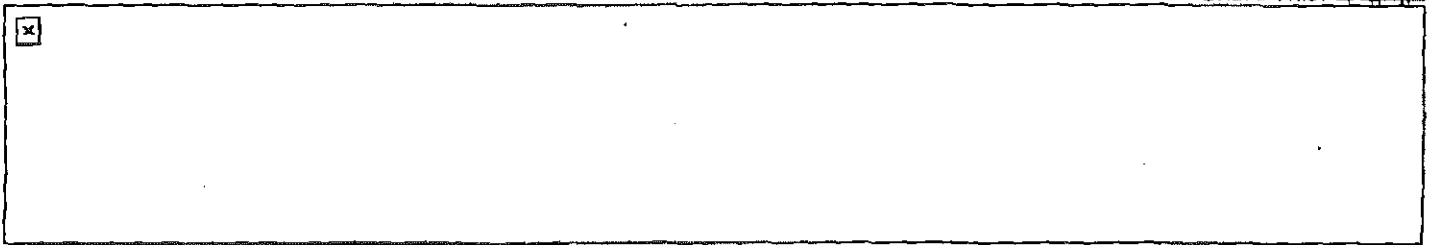
FYI

David A. Staples  
Public Affairs Officer  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
202-776-8405

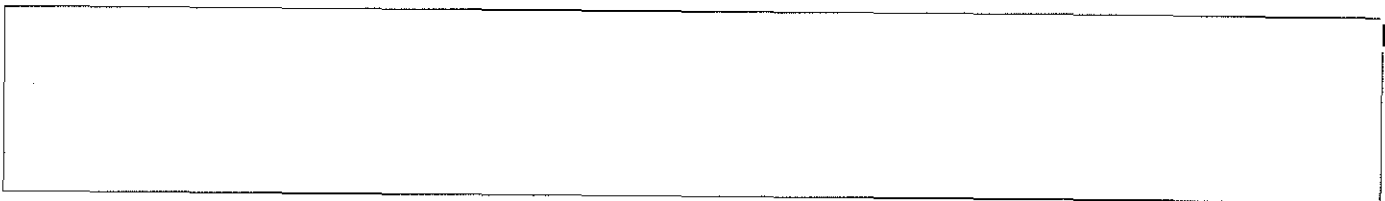
From: The Palestine Center [mailto:info@palestinecenter.org]  
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 6:38 PM  
To: Staples, David A (NEA/PPD)  
Subject: Flotilla Fallout: Reports & Commentary

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

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*From time to time, the Palestine Center distributes articles it believes will enhance understanding of the Palestinian political reality. The following recently published articles are worth reading.*



**"Israel deportee calls on US and Ireland for support"** (BBC)

Nobel peace prize winner Mairead Corrigan Maguire was one of five Irish activists who arrived in Dublin after being deported from Tel Aviv on Monday.

**"Crisis may hurt Turkish-Israeli trade" by Ari Rabinovitch and Joseph Nasr** (Reuters)

The Gaza flotilla crisis between Israel and Turkey could disrupt a \$3 billion trade channel that has been central to their once-strong alliance, Israeli and Turkish officials said on Monday.

**"Turkish charity behind flotilla gains new prestige" by Jeffrey Fleishman** (The Sydney

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Morning Herald)

The Islamic charity that helped organise last Monday's flotilla sits below a mosque in a busy neighbourhood of Istanbul, its doors open to accept donations from women in headscarves and men in suits. Renowned Jewish-American scholar and activist Noam Chomsky, who was barred from the occupied West Bank by Israel earlier this week, on Tuesday delivered a lecture to Palestinian students by video link from Jordan.

**"AFTER THE MASSACRE: The Global Impact of the Gaza Flotilla Crisis" by Phyllis Bennis** (The Huffington Post)

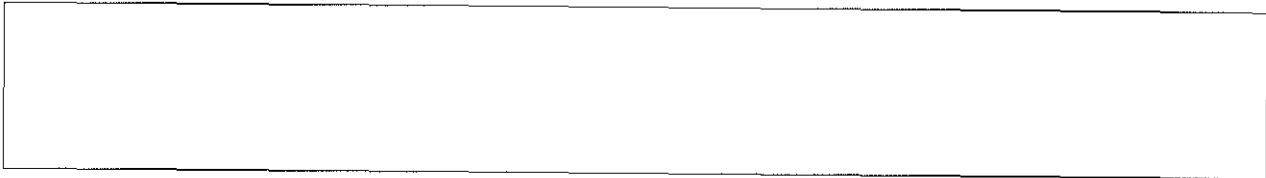
Israeli commandoes murdered nine humanitarian aid workers in international waters. Nine were Turkish citizens; one a U.S. citizen. They wounded scores more. They imprisoned hundreds, and impounded the ships they hijacked on the high seas. Someone asked me the question: will they get away with it? So far, I answered, they HAVE gotten away with it.

**"Israel defends aid ship raid"** (Al Jazeera)

Israel has attempted to justify its deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid ship last week by accusing five of its passengers of being "active terror operatives linked to al-Qaeda, Hamas and other armed groups.

**"Israel apologises for spoof video mocking Gaza flotilla"** (BBC)

The Israeli government has apologised after its press office emailed to journalists a spoof video about the flotilla which tried to dock in Gaza.



NR

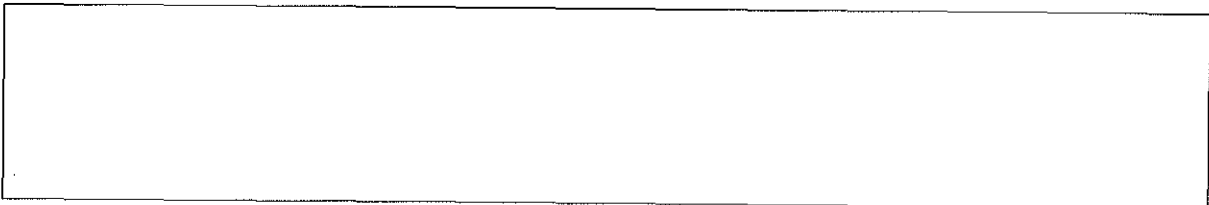
**"Shot Australian says Israelis left him to bleed" by Norman Hermant** (ABC News Australia)

The Australian shot during last week's raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla says Israeli soldiers left him to bleed on the deck after a bullet hit an artery in his leg.

**"Israeli raid 'illegal,' its acts 'unconscionable'" by George Bisharat** (USA Today)

Israel must believe that it can get away with murder. That conclusion is hard to escape following the Israeli military's forceful boarding of a civilian fleet bearing 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies to Gaza's besieged Palestinian population.

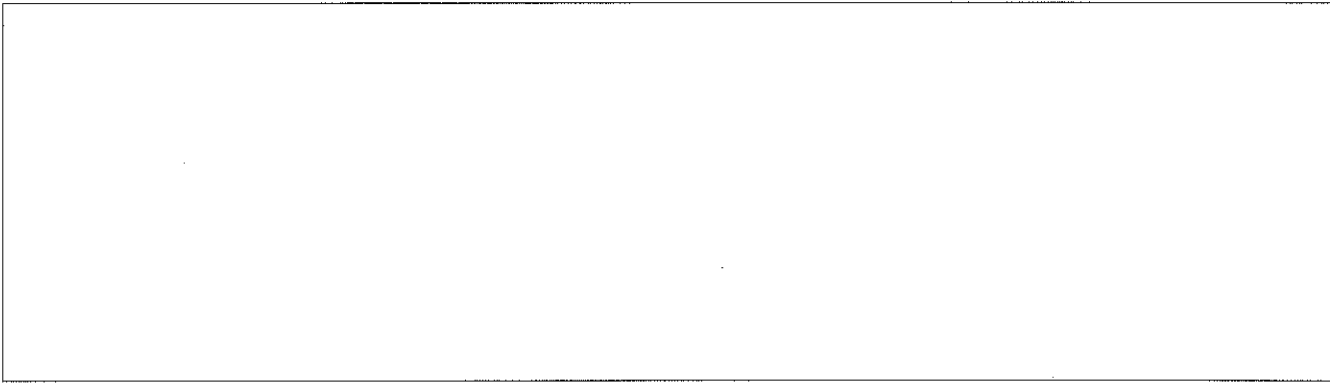
*The views expressed in these articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of The Jerusalem Fund.*



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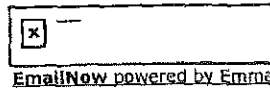
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I321

**Law, Rosemary C**

**NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED**

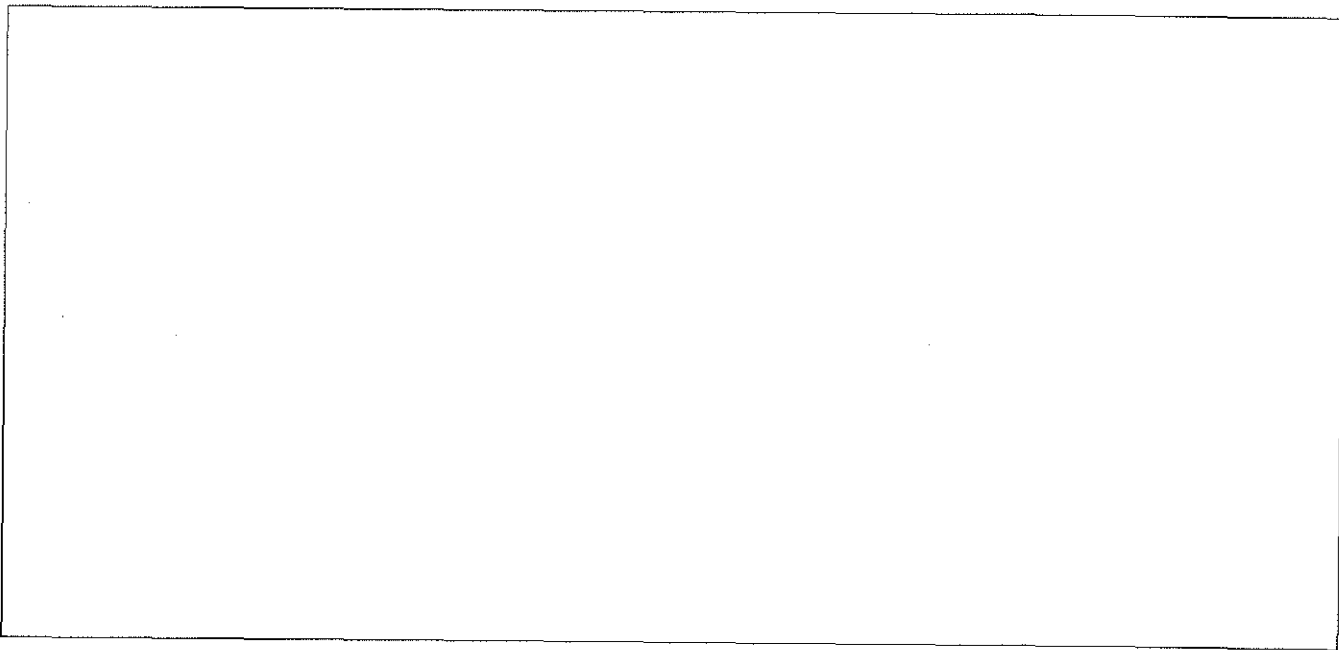
**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 9:49 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zuckerman, Eve; George, Leah; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Elisha Saltoun, Tamara T; Burnett, David R; Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov; Goldberger, Thomas H; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Tel Aviv ECON; Cunningham, James B; Berns, David B; DeJuana, Carlos A; Eussen, Matthew; Lurie, Mike D; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv); Parsell, Benjamin C; Silverman, Robert J; Surowicz, Mireille M; Tel Aviv PD Press Section DL  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: HOISTING THE FLAG BUT NOT THE SAIL -- IL RADIO & YNET

**IL RADIO** REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH YACHT WHICH SET SAIL THIS MORNING FROM A GREEK PORT BOUND FOR THE GAZA STRIP HAS RETURNED TO PORT. FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THOSE ON BOARD THE YACHT DO NOT WANT TO SAIL TO GAZA ALONE AND THEIR DEPARTURE FROM GREECE WAS INTENDED AS A SYMBOLIC PROTEST ONLY. **IL RADIO** ALSO REPORTS THAT 30 FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS BROKE INTO THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN ATHENS AND MADE THEIR DEMANDS KNOWN TO THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR [see below for more details -- rbb].

*Ruth*

YNET 15:45 , 07.05.11

**Pro-Palestinian activists occupy embassy in Athens**



NR

Meanwhile, Greek authorities detained three activists attempting to breach Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, after a boat set sail in defiance of a Greek ban, officials and pro-Palestinian activists said Tuesday.

David Heap, a spokesman for the Tahrir, identified those detained as Canadians Sandra Ruch and Soha Kneen, and Australian Michael Coleman. The boat tried to leave the southern Greek island of Crete on Monday, but was forced to turn back by Coast Guard vessels.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

The Greek Merchant Marine Ministry said one of the Canadians, who was responsible for the boat, was arrested on charges of illegally sailing without permission. The other Canadian national and the Australian were arrested for using kayaks to block a coast guard vessel from setting sail to stop the flotilla boat.

Greece last week banned all boats participating in the Gaza flotilla from leaving port, citing security concerns after a similar flotilla last year was raided by Israeli forces, leaving nine activists on a Turkish boat dead. The Greek foreign ministry has offered to deliver the humanitarian aid the activists want to take to Gaza.

**French pro-Palestinian activists said in Paris Tuesday one small boat was in international waters and on its way.**

Jean-Claude Lefort, a spokesman for the group, told The Associated Press Tuesday that the Dignite-Al Karama left a port near Athens early Monday with eight activists and two crew members on board. If true, it would be the first flotilla boat to leave Greece.

However, the claim could not be confirmed. Greek authorities said they were looking into the report. Greek activist Dimitris Plionis said during a news conference in Athens that the boat had been in a "safe" area "in this part of the Mediterranean." He said it was not sailing to Gaza at the moment, but was waiting for other boats from the flotilla to join it.

The captain of another boat in the flotilla, the Audacity of Hope, appeared in court in Piraeus Tuesday to give a deposition after being arrested over the weekend for setting sail in defiance of the Greek ban.

John Klusmire was led into the building in handcuffs, holding a bottle of water and escorted by police.

"It's a terrible, terrible thing that the government of Greece has done. We are here in support of the captain, an honorable man and a professional sea captain," said one campaigner, retired U.S. Army Col. Ann Wright, at the courthouse. "It is terrible that they feel they had to keep him in jail."

*AFP and AP contributed to this report*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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I322

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 4:25 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Elisha Saltoun, Tamara T; Burnett, David R; Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov; Goldberger, Thomas H; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Tel Aviv ECON; Cunningham, James B; Berns, David B; DeJuana, Carlos A; Eussen, Matthew; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Lurie, Mike D; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv); Parsell, Benjamin C; Silverman, Robert J; Surowicz, Mireille M; Tel Aviv PD Press Section DL  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA SITREP: GRETA BERLIN ON PROJECTED DEPARTURES -- IL RADIO

GRETA BERLIN, FOUNDER OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT AND ONE OF THE PROMINENT ORGANISORS OF THE FLOTILLA TOLD IL RADIO OVERNIGHT THAT SHE IS ON BOARD THE VESSEL "AUDACITY OF HOPE" ANCHORED IN PIRAEUS, "WAITING FOR THE FINAL PAPERWORK TO RELEASE OUR BOAT."

**BERLIN TOLD IL RADIO:**

"PEOPLE KEEP ASSURING US WE HAVE ONE MORE THING TO FILL OUT -- ONE MORE THING TO DO. THE GREEK BUREAUCRACY IS DOING ITS BEST TO PREVENT US FROM GOING BUT WE'RE PRETTY DETERMINED. WE'VE SAID WE'RE GOING TO GO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I THINK THAT OUR DROP-DEAD DEADLINE IS GOING TO BE JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>. I REALISE THAT THAT IS 2 WEEKS LATER THAN WE SAID WE WERE GOING TO GO, BUT I'VE DONE A LOT OF THESE AND WE ARE NEVER ON TIME."

"SOMETIMES WE FEEL THAT WE ARE THE BESIEGED PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE PALESTINIANS OF GAZA. ISRAEL IS DOING ITS VERY VERY BEST TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T GET OUT OF PORT BECAUSE ONCE WE GET OUT OF PORT -- AND WE WILL -- THEY ARE NOW FACED WITH WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO WITH US. SO THEY WOULD RATHER SABOTAGE OUR BOATS, TIE US UP IN PAPERWORK AND PREVENT US FROM GOING. IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THAT IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE OUR DETERMINATION."

*End of soundbite translated verbatim -- rbb*

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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1324

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:23 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Subject:** Flotilla Update

Embassy Athens – Per two Gaza flotilla websites, passengers on the U.S. Boat to Gaza, *The Audacity of Hope*, invited Greek and international media to inspect the boat on June 30 at 3:00 pm in Perama, Greece. The passengers note that they were inspected by Greek officials on Monday, June 27, but have not yet received notification of their findings. Gale Courey Toensing, a passenger on the American boat said to the media today, "Our voyage is totally transparent and we have nothing to hide. All we want to do is sail to Gaza with our cargo of letters from Americans to the people of Gaza. We are sulfur-free and ready to sail." Due to vandalism discovered Monday on the propeller of the Swedish-Greek vessel *Juliano*, flotilla participants have organized guard duty rosters for each ship that is due to sail for Gaza. The *Juliano* was towed for repairs to a shipyard at another port and should be ready to sail on July 1 pending another assessment by Greek officials. The Canadian ship, which an anonymous complaint also labeled unfit to sail, has been reinspected and received clearance as seaworthy.

**JERUSALEM (AP)** - Organizers of a Gaza-bound flotilla say Israel has sabotaged a second ship.

An activist told Israel's Army Radio that the engine of an Irish ship was damaged.

Earlier this week, activists said Israel damaged the propeller of a Swedish ship in the Greek port of Piraeus.

Israel has not commented on the allegations.

About 10 ships are due to set sail this week from Greece. It's unclear if the damaged boats will delay things.

Israel imposed a naval blockade after Hamas militants overran the Palestinian territory in 2007.

It says it will not allow the flotilla to reach Gaza.

Last year, an Israeli raid on a similar flotilla killed nine activists on a Turkish vessel. Each side blamed the other for the violence.

**ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 8:00 AM Hebrew Report**

\* **Flotilla ships:** Organizers of the Gaza flotilla have accused Israel of sabotaging the ships and said that they would guard the ships currently anchored in Greece and Turkey. One organizer said the group erred by not making plans to secure the boats. Members of Ireland's For Gaza organization will hold a press conference in Dublin. Earlier, organizers accused Israel of sabotage against the Swedish ship *Juliano*.

**Sabotage and Delay**

*Yedioth Ahronoth* (p. 6) by Menahem Gantz (Athens) -- Did Israel sabotage one of the flotilla ships currently docked in a Turkish port? Last night there were reports that the Irish ship *Saoirse* is not seaworthy and will not be able to set sail in the coming days. A variety of sources told *Yedioth Ahronoth* that "without question this was sabotage, serious sabotage that was committed in Turkey's territorial waters."

Members of the group that was supposed to set sail from the Turkish port checked the ship carefully, eventually confirming their suspicion that the incident was deliberate sabotage. It is not clear what the exact nature of the mishap was, but sources said yesterday that it was serious enough to prevent the Irish ship from taking part in the flotilla. Twenty-two people were scheduled to sail on the *Saoirse*.

1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Flotilla spokespeople refused to confirm or deny the reports, but at the beginning of the week they pointed an accusing finger at Israel, claiming that "highly trained professionals" had attacked the boats in order to prevent the flotilla from getting under way. This followed a report on Monday that the propellers on the Swedish-owned vessel *Juliano* had been mysteriously sabotaged while anchored in Athens.

"The longer we are held up Israel believes it will be able to dampen our motivation and our spirit, but they are mistaken," said Thomas Sommer-Houdeville, the French spokesman for the flotilla and one of the senior members of the international flotilla to Gaza. "There are several parliamentarians here, from several European capitals, journalists and activists, and not one of them will back down. I hope that we'll set sail soon." But as much as Thomas and his colleagues may hope, it is unlikely the flotilla will set sail this week. It will likely be pushed off to next week.

Apart from the mysterious mishaps on the ships, the flotilla has encountered other difficulties as well. The general strike and riots in the streets of Athens, as well as other legal and administrative problems, have pushed the flotilla off. In the meanwhile activists continue to hold meetings and other gatherings, mainly in order to interest the media and to keep activists primed for a clash with IDF soldiers before they lose interest and abandon the ships.

Thomas invites me to tour the *Louise Michel*, named for the French revolutionary, a legendary figure for the French left wing. "The IDF says there are chemical agents here. You're welcome to look for them," he said before introducing me to the captain and crew members. Although the Israeli claim referred to the French ship *Dignity*, there is no question that the presence of an Israeli journalist could serve the propaganda agenda for flotilla organizers. [Several French journalists] were invited to record and report on the Israeli visiting the peace-lovers' ship and seeing for himself that there were no weapons on board.

The flotilla to Gaza was thought up by more than one person, but it is questionable whether it would have come to pass in its current format, or the format it used last year, without the involvement of Swedish-Israeli Dror Feiler (60). After the last flotilla Feiler was banned from entering Israel for 10 years. "I'm not a religious man so I can't identify with the concept of *shahid*, but I am certainly prepared to sacrifice myself for the values I believe in," Feiler said yesterday. He was with his 88-year-old mother, Prina, who travelled from Israel to accompany her son on the flotilla.

The elder Feiler did not flinch when she heard her son say was prepared to give his life for the Palestinian people. "[In Hebrew] we call this 'sanctifying God's name.' This is exactly the same thing," said Feiler, who was born in Poland and immigrated to Palestine in 1938. "We came to Israel despite the fact that we weren't Zionists," she clarified. Asked whether she is a Zionist now, she answered with a sharp "no."

And what if the Palestinians you're fighting for betray you and kill you, the way they did to your friend *Juliano Mer*? "It could happen," said Dror Feiler. "But at least I'll know I acted in accordance with my principles."

Is there anything positive you could say about Israel, without reservations?

"Nope. It's in my nature to have reservations about everything," he said.

### **Netanyahu to Greek Prime Minister: Stop the Flotilla**

*Yedioth Ahronoth* (p. 7) by Itamar Eichner -- Israel has asked the Greek authorities to prevent the departure of the flotilla from the Greek ports to the Gaza Strip. "We made it clear to the Greeks that it is inconceivable that while Turkey realizes the damage that the flotilla could cause it, and stopped its departure from Turkish territory, Greece, which is Israel's close friend, will enable the flotilla ships to set sail from its ports," said a high-ranking political official last night.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke on the matter to his counterpart, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, who is very troubled these days by the acute crisis and the severe riots that are taking place in his country—but understands well the volatile potential of the flotilla waiting in his ports. Netanyahu asked Papandreou to take action similarly to the president of Cyprus, who issued a presidential order that barred the departure of the flotilla from Cypriot ports.

The Greeks announced that after checking the legal aspects of the matter, it became clear that they were legally unable to stop the flotilla. At most, they said, they could delay its departure on various technical pretexts—but they could not prevent the ships from setting sail.

Meanwhile, the port officials in Greece have been given instructions to harass the organizers of the flotilla: Every mishap or error in registration—causes delays in granting the permits necessary for departure. The Greeks are also searching closely for every malfunction in the flotilla ships that are in their territory, including shortages of safety equipment, fire extinguishers, first aid kits and the like.

The bureaucratic delays that the Greeks are causing to the flotilla ships are not satisfactory to Israel, as is the courteous reply regarding the "legal inability" to stop the flotilla. Officials in Jerusalem made it clear to Athens that this

means that the current flotilla to Gaza would be the "Greek flotilla," and this is incompatible with the mutual interests of the two countries. "This is a flotilla of provocative terrorist elements," political officials told their Greek colleagues, "and its departure at this time could gravely damage the chances of renewing the peace process."

**Nicholas Jakobson**  
Political-Military Affairs Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-4386

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I328

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Friday, January 07, 2011 5:08 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Mavi Marmara will sail again to Gaza  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg  
  
**Categories:** Working

Possible Mavi Marmara redux

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**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Friday, January 07, 2011 3:52 PM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara will sail again to Gaza

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=mavi-marmara-arriving-to-istanbul-will-repeat-its-journey-say-the-chief-activist-2010-12-26>

## Mavi Marmara will sail again to Gaza, head Turkish activist says

Font Size: [Larger](#) | [Smaller](#)

Sunday, December 26, 2010

IPEK EMEKSİZ

ISTANBUL - Hürriyet Daily News



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

The vessel Mavi Marmara will make another attempt to break the blockade on the Gaza Strip a year following its ill-fated first journey, one of the main activists who organized the trip said Sunday.

The area set aside for the welcome in Sarayburnu was full of people carrying Palestinian and Turkish flags, chanting slogans as the aid flotilla approached and commemorating the dead. DAILY NEWS photo, Emrah GÜREL

Seven months after nine people were killed onboard a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, the ship returned to Istanbul on Sunday, where it was welcomed in the Sarayburnu neighborhood with commemorations for those who died in Israeli commandos' May 31 attack as well as past victims of the Gaza blockade.

"The fate of the Mavi Marmara will be determined by its owners' conscience. We will organize another trip to Gaza on May 31, the same date the raid happened this year, with a larger crew to draw interest to the embargo one more time," Ümit Sönmez, the production branch coordinator of the Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or İHH, which organized the flotilla, told the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review.

An additional 50 ships will accompany the Mavi Marmara on its next journey, Sönmez said, adding that the İHH has been receiving a lot of international support for its campaign. Asked whether the activists are afraid of experiencing another deadly incident, Sönmez said they only had to undergo that fear once, while the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank experience it every day and should be liberated from their hardships.

"Children should be able to go their schools without the fear of bombs. Of course, we have fear, but we think Israel will not demonstrate the same cruelty toward unarmed human-rights activists," he said. "If they attack, there is nothing to do. It's their choice."

The welcome for the Mavi Marmara came on the two-year anniversary of the start of Israel's "Operation Cast Lead" against Gaza, something Sönmez said the İHH wanted the crowd gathered to see the ship to remember. "Many civilians lost their lives and suffered financial losses. This was an opportunity to remember them along with the Mavi Marmara," he said.

The area set aside for the welcome in Sarayburnu was full of people carrying Palestinian and Turkish flags, chanting slogans as the aid flotilla approached and commemorating the dead.

Noting that the İHH's aim is not only to liberate people in Gaza, but also to support victims in the rest of the world regardless of their religion, race or ethnicity, Sönmez said the Mavi Marmara could travel to Africa, the Philippines and Thailand in the future.

The İHH has initiated a project called "Nine Martyrs, Nine Monuments," under which it will construct schools, cultural centers or sport complexes in the hometowns of those who died to remind people of the risks they took, Chairman Bülent Yıldırım said.

Noting that Israel-born Swedish human-rights activist Dror Feiler and Greek human activist Dimitris Plionis appeared onstage during the Mavi Marmara welcome, Yıldırım said the Israel government would draw reactions from Jews, Christians and Muslims if it engaged in another attack on Gaza.

The Mavi Marmara will anchor for a week in Istanbul, where it will be open to group tours led by guides who experienced the May 31 incident. Following this, the vessel will be taken to a shipyard to undergo maintenance before next year's journey. "The bullet and blood traces are still left on the walls and seats," Sönmez said.

Relatives of the victims and accredited press members wanted to board the ship in the northwestern province of Çanakkale on Saturday and sail with it to Istanbul, but were prohibited from doing so at the last minute, according to Cihat Gökdemir, chairman of the Association for Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed Peoples, or Mazlum-Der. "The undersecretariat of maritime affairs didn't allow it due to technical problems," he said.

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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I330

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Page 1 of 3

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/2/2010 2:54:37 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MGGZ01: ALGERIA MEDIA REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

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Sensitive



MRN: 10 ALGIERS 526  
Date/DTG: Jun-02, 2010 / 020653Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PINR, AG, IS, GZ, PA  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Pass Line: STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/MAG, NEA/PPD, AND NEA/IPA.  
Subject: MGGZ01: ALGERIA MEDIA REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

UNCLAS ALGIERS 000526

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/MAG, NEA/PPD, AND NEA/IPA.

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PINR, AG, IS, GZ, PA  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: ALGERIA MEDIA REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

SUMMARY

1. (U) The May 31 Israeli attack on the Free Gaza Flotilla was on the front page of every newspaper in Algeria the following day. The coverage was widespread and universally condemned the attacks. Algerians are outraged about the incident and have expressed particular concern over the 32 Algerians that reportedly participated in the convoy. Editorials were numerous, and many placed blame not only on the Israeli government but their "American and Western financiers." Another key theme in the editorial line was a sense of frustration with the Obama administration. One editorial asked when President Obama would reveal his new roadmap to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as called for in his Cairo speech; another opined that maybe the Noble Prize was awarded to President Obama prematurely. This is a markedly different line as journalists are often critical of

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Page 2 of 3

U.S. policies but have previously been positive about President Obama and his administration.

#### COVERAGE

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2. (U) It was a rare day in Algeria when the state-owned, private, French language, and Arabic language press all ran exactly the same cover story. All of the stories were similar in their outrage and condemnation of the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla on May 31. More than one newspaper has called Israel a "hoodlum" state, and concern has been expressed for the 32 Algerians who reportedly were in the convoy and are now believed being held in Israel. One French daily, the online "Tout Sur L'Algerie," has reported that the Algerian government has requested Jordan's assistance in repatriating the Algerians who were on the flotilla. Many papers expressed their anger and said that, once again, the Arabs are angry, but "En-Nahar" used a well-known Arab proverb that says "talking is free." Many newspapers said that the time for talking was over and the time for action was now. In the largest newspaper in the country "Echourouk", a cartoonist ran a drawing of an Arab ostrich with its head in the water while the vessel was being attacked. This cartoon expressed the general sentiment of frustration toward Arab leadership and the overall state of play that was very common in all of the reporting.

#### EDITORIAL

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3. (U) The editorials in all of the largest French and Arabic language newspapers expressed the same themes of outrage towards Israel and the West's tepid condemnation of the attacks. "Sawt al-Anrar" the official paper of the ruling party, ran an editorial saying that western governments were complicit in the attacks due to their unwavering support for Israel. One of the largest French language dailies in the country, "Liberte," wrote a similar piece but also questioned the "real value" of all of President Obama's promises. "Liberte's" piece added that the U.S. role as Israel's complacent ally does not serve the long-term interest of the U.S. in the Middle East. "Liberte" and another French language daily, "Le Quotidien d'Oran," called Obama's reaction to the incident "embarrassed." A common theme in the editorials in the French, Arabic, government-run, and private newspapers was the expectation of a stronger reaction from the West, especially the United States.

#### COMMENT

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4. (SBU) Only time, Israeli actions, and our public reaction will tell where the editorial lines of Algerian papers will be in the coming week. How the USG responds to this crisis will dramatically affect public opinion in Algeria if not the region. Currently, we are being portrayed here as not taking a tough enough stance towards Israel. There are conflicting media reports about two Algerian casualties on the flotilla. If these reports turn out to be true, we can expect to see even harsher anti-Israel commentary that will

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inevitably have a sharper anti-American complement. End  
Comment.  
PEARCE

**Signature:** PEARCE

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**Info:** ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVEPRIORITY  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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Sensitive

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Page 3 of 3

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I340

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Call, Christopher D  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:10 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Daniels, Cherrie S  
**Subject:** FW: Norway press on Israel/Gaza flotilla incident

Please see below for Norwegian reactions to the Gaza flotilla incident.

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**From:** Daniels, Cherrie S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 1:10 PM  
**To:** Call, Christopher D  
**Cc:** Selinger, Thomas B; Slakey, Monica M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Peterson, Julie Anne; Krarup, Juliet Gole; Darnell, Stephanie R; Naess, Petter  
**Subject:** Norway press on Israel/Gaza flotilla incident

Chris – could you share these excerpts of US embassy oslo's press brief today with the monitoring group on gaza? (info should be in the cable establishing the monitoring group.)

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**From:** Naess, Petter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:05 AM  
**Subject:** Oslo press brief, Tuesday, June 1

Oslo press briefing Tuesday, June 1, 2010

News/commentary

Israel Prime Minister Stoltenberg's office released the following yesterday under the headline **Military attacks on civilian activists are completely unacceptable**

*"We are shocked by the news that Israeli naval forces have attacked ships with humanitarian aid to Gaza" Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said commenting on the boarding of an aid convoy to Gaza .- An independent international investigation of what actually happened must take place as soon as possible. Foreign Minister Støre will take this up today with the UN Secretary General, "said Stoltenberg. Norway has repeatedly called for end to the blockade. There are Norwegian citizens on board the convoy. Norwegian authorities are monitoring the situation and are there to endeavor to assist the Norwegian citizens.*

When asked whether the government has considered recalling the Norwegian ambassador to Israel Stoltenberg responded: "No, it's a question of needing, especially in times like these, channels to convey Norwegian views." Norwegian media, political parties and opinion generally condemn the Israeli commandeering of the Gaza bound relief

1

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convoy (see editorials), though with varying degrees of forcefulness. Even Frp, probably Norway's most pro-Israel party, condemns the boarding of the ship in international waters and endorses an investigation into the circumstances. VG's editorial merely notes that Israel has repeatedly demonstrated that it cares little about international response to its actions, and that contradictory testimony makes it unclear what actually happened during the boarding of the ship. VG endorses the UN and EU demand for a full investigation. DN's editorial notes that Israeli recalcitrance in the face of international opinion is well-known. Although Israel's version of the events that led to loss of life is probably more accurate than reports coming from the other side, the operation was yet another public relations catastrophe for Israel. NUPI director Jan Egeland says Israel's actions are "spectacularly unwise" (DN38), and that only North Korea behaves in a comparable way in international waters. SV's Kristin Halvorsen says "Everyone should follow Norway's example and refuse to buy arms from Israel. It doesn't have a great impact when we alone do it, but the situation we have now is intolerable." Halvorsen demurs when asked what other measures should be implemented (that should be the subject of an international debate) but says an international weapons boycott would be effective. AP secretary Raymond Johansen warns against a boycott: "This is not a time for foolishness, or sanctions. Israel's ambassador has been called in on the carpet, but we need diplomatic ties. Priority number one is to have the blockade lifted and ensure that agricultural products from Gaza can get out." Media unanimously condemn Israel's jamming of cell phones and black-out on reporting from the scene.

AFT=Aftenposten  
VG=VG  
DB=Dagbladet  
DA=Dagsavisen  
DN=Dagens Næringsliv  
KK= Klassekampen  
c=cover

Petter Næss  
Information Resource Director  
American Embassy  
Office of Public Affairs  
Henrik Ibsens gate 48  
0244 Oslo, Norway  
47 21308802  
fax 47 22440436  
[naessp@state.gov](mailto:naessp@state.gov) <<mailto:naessp@state.gov>>  
<http://norway.usembassy.gov>  
Don't forget, ESTA went into effect January 12, 2009

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Page 1 of 1

I332

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From: Tarar, Humza I  
Sent: 7/21/2010 7:28:59 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: No Rise in Anti-Semitism in UAE After Gaza Flotilla Incident

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MRN: 10 ABU DHABI 968  
Date/DTG: Jul 21, 2010 / 211127Z JUL 10  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, OPRC, KPAO, AE  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Reference: A) 10 STATE 72296  
B) 10 ABU DHABI 708  
C) 10 ABU DHABI 734  
Pass Line: FOR ELIJAH LOGSDON DRL/IRF, AND FOR MARIA'SISK NEA/ARP  
Subject: No Rise in Anti-Semitism in UAE After Gaza Flotilla Incident

1. (U) Post is not aware of any incidents of anti-Semitism in the media as defined in refTel A. COMMENT: While the media has harshly criticized Israel, and even the USG (see refTels B and C), news coverage and op-eds do not meet the Department's definition of anti-Semitism. END COMMENT.

Signature: OLSON

Drafted By: ABU DHABI:Tarar, Humza I  
Cleared By: EXEC:Greene, Douglas C  
PD:Arbuckle, Robert H  
PD:Abdullah, Fareed A  
Approved By: EXEC:Olson, Richard G  
Released By: ABU DHABI:Tarar, Humza I  
Info:

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I 342

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:59 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Irish FM Statement from today on Rachel Corrie

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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 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.

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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**

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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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I347

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:47 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: What about the last ship?

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**From:** Levin, Jan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 3:46 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Subject:** RE: What about the last ship?

We've heard that a Thursday arrival is anticipated; last word we heard through DATT is that Israelis have not yet decided how to respond.

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:45 AM  
**To:** Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B  
**Subject:** What about the last ship?

Israel's navy, meanwhile, says it is ready to stop another aid ship headed to Gaza, playing down the prospect of its forces shying from another confrontation.

Israel's Army Radio reported the MV Rachel Corrie, a converted merchant ship, would reach Gazan waters by Wednesday.

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I350

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:20 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** Fw: Israeli forces reportedly board aid flotilla ship (SBU)

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**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 00:02:03 2010  
**Subject:** Israeli forces reportedly board aid flotilla ship (SBU)

(SBU) Israeli warships have intercepted and reportedly boarded one of the six ships carrying aid for Palestinians, possibly killing at least two and wounding an unknown number of people on board, al-Jazeera and Turkish television report.

*Automatic electronic distribution to: S, D(S), D(L), P, E, C, M, DG, T, R, PA, G, AF, EAP, EUR, NEA, SCA, WHA, IO, S/CRS, S/CT, H, DS, CA, PMAT, INR, IIP, ISN, CMS, S/ES, S/ES-O, NSOC, and WHSR.*

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I 351

Law, Rosemary C

From: Feltman, Jeffrey D  
 Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 1:08 PM  
 To: NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMPEP-DL  
 Cc: Connelly, Maura  
 Subject: FW: Jeff--results from our June 7 Israeli snap poll--please c below and attached--Thanks, Adam  
 Attachments: PMEPP June 7 2010 Snap Poll of Israel Top Line.pdf

FYI.

Jeffrey Feltman  
 Assistant Secretary  
 Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
 Department of State  
 202-647-7209

From: ampechter@hotmail.com [mailto:ampechter@hotmail.com] On Behalf Of Adam Pechter  
 Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 1:07 PM  
 To: Feltman, Jeffrey D  
 Subject: Jeff--results from our June 7 Israeli snap poll--please c below and attached--Thanks, Adam

**Strong Israeli support for Netanyahu, ship boarding and Gaza blockade; strong Israeli dissatisfaction with American reaction and President Obama**

Princeton, NJ (June 8, 2010)—Pechter Middle East Polls (PMEP) releases data from a telephone nationally representative survey in Hebrew of 500 Israeli Jews conducted June 7, 2010. The margin of error is +/- 4%.

The poll was undertaken in the aftermath of the May 31, 2010 Israeli ship boarding in international waters off Gaza that left nine activists dead and several Israeli commandos injured.

Eighty five percent (85%) of the respondents indicated that Israel either did not use enough force (39%) or the right amount of force (46%) regarding the recent ship boarding incident. Only eight percent (8%) of respondents felt that Israel used too much force. Sixty one percent (61%) felt that Israel should not adjust its tactics to elicit a more favorable international reaction.

Seventy three percent (73%) of those polled indicated that Israel should not open up Gaza to international humanitarian shipments. A majority, fifty nine percent (59%) responded that they definitely should not open Gaza to international humanitarian shipments. A majority of those polled, fifty six percent (56%) indicated that Israel should not agree to an international inquiry committee to investigate the incident?

Responding to rumors that Turkish PM Erdogan, is planning to come in person on a ship accompanied by Turkish Navy in order to break through the closure, seventy five percent (75%) of those polled indicated that Israel should stop him whatever it takes. Regarding news reports that Iran is planning to send Red Crescent ships to Gaza, eighty four percent (84%) of those polled said stop them whatever it takes.

Political leaders fared differently in the poll. Fifty three percent (53%) were satisfied with the job Prime Minister Netanyahu did while only forty one percent (41%) were satisfied with Defense Minister Ehud Barak's performance. Seventy one percent (71%) disliked U.S. President Barak Obama with forty seven percent (47%) saying that they strongly dislike him. In all, sixty three percent (63%) of those polled were dissatisfied with the American government's reaction to the incident.

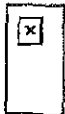
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More complete results of the survey will be posted on [pechterpolls.com](http://pechterpolls.com).

About Pechter Middle East Polls

Pechter Middle East Polls (PMEP) was founded with the purpose of creating a more accurate, meaningful portrait of public opinion in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and select other countries. Over the last year, PMEP has conducted snap polls of Saudi Arabia, Egypt (2), Iraq, Jordan (2) and Lebanon.

Contact: Adam Pechter, President PMEP  
+1 609.759.0550  
[ampechter@pechterpolls.com](mailto:ampechter@pechterpolls.com)



**Adam M. Pechter**  
*President*

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[www.pechterpolls.com](http://www.pechterpolls.com)

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I354

Law, Rosemary C

**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

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.

**Media Analysis and Watch Center**  
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SOS International Ltd.  
[www.sosiltd.com](http://www.sosiltd.com)

For additional information, please visit the SOSi USSTRATCOM FMA portal at <http://fma.sosiltd.com/secure/?SID=SECF83EFBFEF>. Once registered, you may access FMA products and manage your subscriptions. Write to [helpdeskfma@sosiltd.com](mailto:helpdeskfma@sosiltd.com) or call 703-483-4898 for assistance.

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I 356

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:56 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: UAE Reactions to Israeli Actions against Relief Flotilla

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**From:** Greene, Douglas C  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:14 AM  
**To:** McGovern, Bridget (Helen-Mary)  
**Cc:** Specht, Linda; Steinfeld, Andrew W; Nuutinen, Aaron A; Pike, Steven L; Cooper, Susannah E; Abu Dhabi Front Office; Siberell, Justin H; Gavito, Jennifer D; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** UAE Reactions to Israeli Actions against Relief Flotilla

Bridget,

The Amb is on his way out to pick up Secretary Napolitano at the airport, but wanted me to pass on initial UAE reactions to this morning's clash between Israeli commandos and passengers/crew on ships belonging to the Gaza Relief Flotilla.

A very well connected contact told the Ambassador that the UAEG expects an Arab League call for immediate cessation of Palestinian peace talks with the Israelis. The UAE will not object. Beyond AL or GCC statements, the UAE is likely to issue its own statement on the incident. We'll forward that when we receive it.

Please copy us (in blackberry readable form) on all statements out of Washington – White House or Department – on today's events. We fully expect that the regional Aviation Security Conference Sec. Napolitano is here to attend (mostly Arab League members, and Iran invited – though not clear if all will attend) will be dominated by discussion of this incident.

Thanks,  
Doug

SBU  
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I357

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 2:42 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Republic of Cyprus President's Remarks on the Gaza Flotilla

**PRESIDENT CHRISTOFIAS DENOUNCES ISRAELI ASSAULT AGAINST FLOTILLA**

CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY has reported that President Christofias said that the Government of Cyprus has denounced the Israeli assault against the flotilla of activists carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, expressing the belief that Israel would be condemned by the international community for the death of so many people.

"No one is happy, first of all with the continuing blockade that followed the attack against Gaza in December 2008, which had catastrophic results for the Palestinians," he said, adding that "the ongoing blockade violates international law and challenges everyone's human rights."

Therefore, he underlined, "the position of principle of the Government of Cyprus is known: the killing of people is condemnable for any one of us; the loss of life of civilians constitutes a criminal act."

"The Government of Israel must retreat because it will be condemned by the whole world. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus cannot afford not to denounce these acts."

Invited to say whether he had any contacts with any of his counterparts or other officials of EU member states, President Christofias said that "the EU has already reacted," but that he hadn't held any telephone communication on this issue. "However," he added, "I am sure that other international organizations and the UN will react."

Christofias denied press reports that the decision of the Government not to allow the flotilla to use the ports of Cyprus en route to Gaza was because of hydrocarbon reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean and the setting of the Cyprus-Israel boundaries of their Exclusive Economic Zones. "No one can stop people's imagination," he said.

Invited to comment on the vital interests the Government of Cyprus has evoked regarding the ban of the use of the Cyprus ports, Christofias said, "we have not evoked them, but there are vital interests: the occupation of Cyprus, the problems we constantly face regarding Turkey's acts towards a number of countries, including Israel, regardless of the fact that Turkey is in confrontation with Israel now."

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"When the Israeli attack on Gaza took place in December, we took a position that was clearer and tougher than the positions of many Arab countries, and we did so consciously. From there on," he said, "when the Republic of Cyprus runs the risks it was running, and calls and asks those who were undertaking the initiative to break the blockade to avoid using the Cypriot ports, I believe, having in mind the history of the position of the Republic of Cyprus and mine personally, that they should have respected us. Unfortunately, they did not respect us and I am sorry about that. They could have sailed from ports of other countries that would have given them permission."

Replying to repeated questions whether the Government of Cyprus or he personally were aware of the determination of the Israelis to attack the flotilla, and therefore the policy of the Government changed in order to protect the activists, he said that he could not have known this and that "the Government has not changed any policy."

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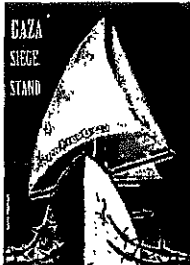
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I364

Law, Rosemary C

From: Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA)  
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 7:47 PM  
To: NEA-IPA-DL  
Subject: Fw: Press Release: FREE GAZA SAILS TODAY - BOAT BY BOAT  
Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

From: Angela Godfrey-Goldstein <angela@icahd.org>  
To: angela@icahd.org <angela@icahd.org>  
Sent: Wed Jun 24 18:10:43 2009  
Subject: Press Release: FREE GAZA SAILS TODAY - BOAT BY BOAT



For Immediate Release

### Boat by Boat

Contact: Greta Berlin, Cyprus: +357 99 081 767 [Iristulip@gmail.com](mailto:Iristulip@gmail.com)  
Angela Godfrey Goldstein, Jerusalem: 0547 366 393 [angela@icahd.org](mailto:angela@icahd.org)

(25 June 2009) The Free Gaza Movement will depart from Larnaca Port for the Gaza Strip at 10am today, Thursday 25 June. We are sending two ships, the **Free Gaza** and the **Spirit of Humanity**, with 3 tons of medical supplies, 15 tons of cement, suitcases full of toys, crayons and coloring books for children, as well as human rights workers and journalists from 14 countries, including Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. Congresswoman and presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney. This will be our first attempt to challenge Israel's naval blockade on Gaza by sea since the Israeli Navy brutally rammed our boat, DIGNITY, in December, and nearly sank the SPIRIT OF HUMANITY with all on board in January.

We shall hold a press conference at Larnaca Port between 9-10 am, prior to departure.

For more information, please contact Greta Berlin or Ramzi Kysia at +357 99 081 767, [friends@freegaza.org](mailto:friends@freegaza.org)

The Free Gaza Movement will sail 240 miles from Cyprus to Gaza, its eighth mission to break Israel's draconian siege on 1.5 million Palestinians. Two of the organizers, Huwaida Arraf and Greta Berlin, as well as the Honorable Cynthia McKinney, former U.S. Congresswoman from Georgia, held a press conference this week in Doha, Qatar, calling on the world to recognize the Palestinians' human and civil rights, rights that have been denied for 61 years. (See link below for YouTube/Al Jazeera press conference coverage.)

"People in Gaza are being made to live in subhuman conditions. Children are dying, and governments are silent. It is important to continue sending boats to Gaza to challenge the criminal blockade enforced by the Israeli military," said Ms. Arraf. The group emphasized that what they are taking is only a token of what the people of Gaza need. They are hoping to buy a cargo boat, to bring in larger amounts of building supplies via the sea route they aim to open. They ask for the financial support of people around the world to purchase this ship.

Speaking to Al Jazeera and eight other news organizations, Ms Arraf emphasized, "International donors pledged over \$4bn to rebuild Gaza, yet none of them are doing a thing about the fact that Israel allows no building supplies into the territory. So 36 of us from 16 countries are leaving on Thursday to tell the world to do something."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



When asked what guarantees the group has received from the Israeli government, both Berlin and Arraf frowned. "We do not seek permission from or coordinate with the Israeli authorities. Israel has grossly abused its authority as an occupying power, daily violating the human rights of Palestinians, and imposing collective punishment on them. It is past time for the international community to stop abetting Israel's illegal closure policy," stated Ms. Arraf. The group intends to go at least three times over the summer, June 25th, July 14th and August 16th, near the anniversary of the first successful voyage.

#####

The Free Gaza Movement, a human rights group, sent two boats to Gaza in August 2008. These were the first international boats to land in the port in 41 years. Since August, four more voyages have been successful, taking Parliamentarians, human rights workers, and other dignitaries to witness the effects of Israel's draconian policies on the civilians of Gaza. On December 30, their boat, the DIGNITY, was rammed three times while 90 nautical miles out, in international waters, on its way to deliver emergency medical supplies to the people of Gaza, while under the infamous attack by Israel.

Contact the Free Gaza Movement at [www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)

PASSENGER LIST (individual details available at the website)

Kathy Sheetz (US)  
Alex Hamilton (UK)  
John Klusmire (US)  
Ishmahil Blagrove (Jamaica, UK)  
Peter Eyre (UK)  
Ahmed Masood (Palestine)  
Iason Athanasiadis (Greece)  
Davide Pecorelli (Italy)  
Adam Shapiro (US)  
Cynthia McKinney (US)  
Derek and Jenny Graham (Ireland)  
Lubna Marsawa (Palestine, Israel)  
Mairead Maguire (Ireland)  
Denis Healey (UK, Cyprus)  
Fathi Jaouadi (Tunisia, UK)  
Theresa McDermott (Scotland)  
Huwaida Arraf (Palestine, Israel, US)  
Adam Qvist (Denmark)  
Mary Hughes Thompson (Canada)  
David Schermerhorn (US)  
Waltraud Schauer (Austria)

Doha Press Conference on June 22<sup>nd</sup>: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWI-5K0Bo3o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWI-5K0Bo3o)

RELEASED IN FULL

I377A

**From:** Miller, James N  
**Sent:** 7/18/2011 11:51:30 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTCrossLow  
**Subject:** French yacht from grounded flotilla sails for Gaza

## French yacht from grounded flotilla sails for Gaza

10:58am EDT

By [Nidal al-Mughrabi](#)

GAZA (Reuters) - A French yacht carrying pro-Palestinian activists sailed for the Gaza Strip Monday after other ships in a flotilla that had planned to challenge Israel's blockade were grounded in Greece, organizers said.

They said the 17-passenger "Dignite-AlKarama," having declared an Egyptian port as its official destination, left Greek waters Sunday and was on course to reach the Palestinian enclave by Tuesday.

"It is now the voice of the whole Freedom Flotilla, as all its ships were forbidden to sail by the Greek government thereby fulfilling a clear demand by the Israeli government," said a statement issued by French campaigners aligned with the umbrella Free Gaza Movement.

Passenger Dror Feiler said the yacht planned to dock in Gaza at around noon Tuesday. "We don't want to sail at night," he told Reuters via satellite telephone.

Israel, whose marines killed nine Turkish activists while storming a Gaza-bound flotilla on the Mediterranean high seas last year, has vowed to stop any new attempt to breach a naval blockade it deems necessary to prevent arms from reaching the ruling Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

"If this boat is on its way to Gaza, which is a breach of international maritime law, and it is trying a provocative act, yes, we will intercept it," Deputy Israeli Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon told foreign journalists in Jerusalem.

"But I assure you that we will try our best to make all those on board very comfortable."

Activist vessels that had berthed in Greece last month were refused permission by local authorities to sail on to Gaza. Two were turned back by the coast guard after leaving port without authorization. Organizers said two boats were also sabotaged.

Greta Berlin of the Free Gaza Movement said the Dignite-AlKarama had declared Alexandria, Egypt, as its destination "in order to get out of Greece."

"But you can change destinations in the middle of the Mediterranean, any time you want to," she said. "It's legal to do that."

Palestinians and their supporters consider the Gaza blockade illegal and say it stunts the economic development of the territory, most of whose 1.5 million residents rely on aid to survive.

(Writing by [Dan Williams](#); Editing by Tim Pearce)

James N. Miller  
Political Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Paris  
[millerjn@state.gov](mailto:millerjn@state.gov)  
+33 (0)1.43.12.25.75

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

I 302

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10:39 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pitz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Subject:** FW: FLOTILLA ADVANCE: SPECIAL FORCES APPROVED -- IL RADIO

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10:30 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Elisha Saltoun, Tamara T; Burnett, David R; Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov; Goldberger, Thomas H; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Tel Aviv ECON; Cunningham, James B; Berns, David B; DeJuana, Carlos A; Eussen, Matthew; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Lurie, Mike D; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv); Parsell, Benjamin C; Silverman, Robert J; Surowicz, Mireille M; Tel Aviv PD Press Section DL  
**Subject:** FLOTILLA ADVANCE: SPECIAL FORCES APPROVED -- IL RADIO

**IL RADIO REPORTS THAT THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AFFAIRS [SECURITY CABINET] HAS APPROVED THE INTEGRATION OF MEMBERS OF THE MASSADA UNIT WITHIN THE PRISON SERVICE IN THE FORCE TO BE USED TO BLOCK THE FLOTILLA.**

**IL RADIO SAYS THE UNIT IS AN ELITE FORCE WHICH SPECIALISES IN TAKING SWIFT CONTROL OF PRISON RIOTS. ITS MEMBERS ARE TRAINED IN THE USE OF NON-LETHAL WEAPONRY.**

**IL RADIO ADDS THAT THE SECURITY CABINET ALSO EMPOWERED INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTER AHARONOVITCH TO AUTHORISE THE USE OF FEMALE BORDER POLICE OFFICERS TO DEAL WITH WOMEN ON BOARD THE FLOTILLA VESSELS.**

*Ruth*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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RELEASED IN FULL

I365

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Conlon, Steven M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 8:44 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Spanish Embassy in Greece Occupied by Gaza Flotilla Protesters (Bloomberg)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 8:43 AM  
**To:** NEWS-EUR; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Spanish Embassy in Greece Occupied by Gaza Flotilla Protesters (Bloomberg)

ATHENS (Bloomberg) - Protesters occupied Spain's embassy in Athens in support of a demand that ships be allowed to sail to the Gaza Strip from Greek ports, an embassy spokeswoman said.

About seven protesters entered the embassy at 12:30 p.m., the spokeswoman, who declined to be identified, said by telephone. The group, who would have been with a flotilla that was prevented from setting sail at the weekend, want Spain to support the lifting of a Greek government ban on ships leaving the country's ports bound for Gaza, the spokeswoman said.

Greece banned ships from sailing to the Gaza Strip to break Israel's blockade on July 1. The government ordered the coastguard to take "all appropriate measures" to enforce the decision.

Israel said it won't allow the flotilla to reach the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip. A similar attempt by a previous flotilla ended in violence in which nine Turks were killed on May 31 last year.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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1329

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Levin, Jan  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2011 6:10 AM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Sindle, James M; Hale, David M; Jacoby, Julia I; Harrington, Kimberly D CIV JCS J5 ME; Kumar, Prem G.; Steven\_N\_Simon@nss.eop.gov; Baumert, Kevin A; Tyson, Paul H; Holliday, Gregory X  
**Cc:** Grubb, Jason B; Silverman, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hood, Jeffrey L; Palm, Robert H; Cyril, Todd A; Edgington, Jason K  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla Photos Vindicate Israel - Defense/Middle East - Israel News - Israel National News  
**Categories:** Working

Folks: Attached please find links to two websites which display photos allegedly showing participants on last year's Mavi Marmara flotilla brandishing lethal weapons. These photos have just become public. Embassy Tel Aviv cannot vouch for their veracity.

Would appreciate your assistance adding people to this distro as appropriate, especially among our DOD colleagues.

Thanks,  
Jan

<http://news.nana10.co.il/Article/?ArticleID=806423>

"The pictures show activists armed with guns on board of the Marmara. The first one holds a short arm, probably a submachine gun. The second activist waves with a pistol or a short gun. In one of the pictures MK Hanin Zoavi (Balad) is to be seen. She does not appear on the pictures with armed activists, but she was in the same area, her picture was taken a minute after one of the above mentioned pictures. IDF Spokesperson said these pictures did not uncover new facts that had been unknown. The fact that two soldiers of the naval commando got injured by open fire shootings is known to everyone who has dealt investigating this event.

<http://www.mako.co.il/news-military/security/Article-1b37f4b4a276031004.htm&sCh=31750a2610f26110&pId=2082585621>

Yediot Aharonot published pictures showing two Turkish IHH activists, holding a rifle and a pistol, a few moments before IDF soldiers got on board. The incriminating pictures and video footage, which were taken by participants on the flotilla, reached the IDF's intelligence. However it appears that even the members of the Turkel Commission, charged with investigating the flotilla events, had not seen them.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/144816>

**Flotilla Photos Vindicate Israel**

by Hillel Fendel

Only now, more than a year after the violent flotilla incident in which terrorists tried to run Israel's blockade of Gaza, has it been conclusively shown that some of the "humanitarian" flotilla participants were armed with guns.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Photos of passengers on the Marmara ship sporting the guns were published on Tuesday in the Yedioth Acharonot daily. It is not clear why the photos were not published until now.

The flotilla, ostensibly organized to bring humanitarian aid into Gaza, was organized by the Turkish organization IHH, of radical Islamic anti-Western orientation and with a history of ties with and fund-raising for Hamas.

When the ships neared Gaza some 13 months ago, Israel warned them not to attempt to breach its legal blockade of Gaza. However, the Mavi Marmara ship did not adhere to the orders, and IDF commandos were forced to board the ship and stop it by force. They did not expect to be attacked by the humanitarian aboard the ship, but when they were – including being set upon with metal pipes, chains and knives, having a soldier nearly thrown overboard, and others briefly taken prisoner – they were able to fight back, killing nine of their attackers, including five known terrorists.

The incident led to international headlines for weeks afterwards. The flotilla backers consistently claimed that they had only peaceful intentions – now belied by the new photos.

A United Nations committee is expected to publish its findings on the IHH flotilla incident within a month. Israel's well-documented position that it was within its rights in using force to stop the ships did not receive much play in the international debate, though the UN committee is expected to justify Israel in this regard.

Another anti-Israel flotilla is being planned for the coming weeks.

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SBU

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RELEASED IN FULL

I352

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2010 9:51 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Video of the Irene being boarded without incident: <http://ht.ly/2KZl3>  
**Attachments:** 0.jpg

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**Subject:** Video of the Irene being boarded without incident: <http://ht.ly/2KZl3>



**IDF Spokesman**

Video of the Irene being boarded without incident: <http://ht.ly/2KZl3>

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I368

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2011 8:51 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla  
**Attachments:** IIR 6 120 0021 11 - IDENTIFICATION OF SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THE.doc

**Categories:** Working

FYI – and please see attached. Post believes “Audacity of Hope” is U.S.-flagged. Chris

This document is CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** MS  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/27

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**From:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2011 8:07 AM  
**To:** Snipes, Christopher K; Goodman, Ilan A  
**Cc:** Cockrell, John D (Athens); Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Subject:** FW: FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla

Chris/Ilan – Some more data on vessels and ownership. We understand from the MFA that the “Audacity of Hope” is U.S.-flagged. Also, unrelated to the flotilla, President Papoulias is expected to travel to Israel July 10-12.

Regards,  
Dan

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** MS  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/27

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN FULL

**Statement by Ambassador Eileen Donohoe on the Flotilla Incident  
for the Human Rights Council special session, June 1, 2010**

Thank you, Mr. President.

As we made clear yesterday at the Security Council, the United States government is deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the May 31 incident 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, with Quartet support. We urge all parties to behave responsibly and uphold their international obligations.

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. As we have pointed out when confronted by a similar situations in the past, mechanisms are in place for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. 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, and the Government of Israel has legitimate security concerns.

Ultimately, this incident underscores the needs 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.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I287

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 6:53 AM  
**To:** Baron, Desiree A; Garcia, Dennis J; Kaplan, Crystal T; Burnett, David R; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Mayo, Iris J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** DEF..MINISTER BARAK NEWS CONF. -- YNET .... Jason pls note

YNET 13:23 , 05.31.10

Barak: Sail's organizers responsible for deadly raid

Defense minister, IDF chief of staff and Navy commander explain Israeli considerations following takeover of aid ships sailing to Gaza, which left at least 15 pro-Palestinian activists dead. 'We regret the casualties, but the sail's organizers are fully responsible'

Attila Somfalvi

Defense Minister Ehud Barak said Monday that the organizers of the flotilla to Gaza were responsible for the deadly Israel Defense Forces raid of the ships, which left at least 15 pro-Palestinian activists dead and dozens injured.

Speaking at a joint press briefing with IDF Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi and Navy Commander Eliezer Marom, Barak said, "We express our regret over the injuries, but the sail's organizers and its participants are fully responsible."

He added that a violent incident took place on only one of the six ships involved in the sail.

"The State of Israel appealed to the organizers before the ships set sail and during the sail and invited them to arrive at the Ashdod Port and transfer the aid to Gaza after security checks," he said. "All of our appeals were turned down. The soldiers were attacked after arriving at one of the ships. Some were injured by serious physical violence on the part of the protesters.

"I am familiar with these types of operations and their possible developments, and I am familiar with the units which operated and with their commanders. They are the best of our people," the defense minister explained.

"In light of the life-threatening situation, the soldiers were forced to use crowd dispersal means and firearms," he said, adding that some of the casualties were killed by firearms. According to Barak, 10 soldiers were injured in the incident, some from firearms and some from cold arms.

"The IHH organization, which was behind these unruly ship, is a violent and radical organization acting under the cover of humanitarian activity," Barak argued.

"This is the time for responsibility and I call on everyone to act with restraint and common sense and not let an anarchistic organization and radical elements seeking to undermine the public order to take advantage of this unfortunate incident for violence."

'Crowd dispersal equipment wasn't enough'

IDF Chief of Staff Ashkenazi said that during the clash with the passengers of the Marmara ship, the activists used iron bars and knives.

"They even fired shots from a weapon snatched from one of the soldiers," he said. "It's clear beyond any doubt that the soldiers acted as required."

Ashkenazi added that the soldiers were prepared for the mission, but that "the crowd dispersal equipment was not enough."

As for the organizers' intentions, the army chief insisted that "it had nothing to do with humanitarian aid. The activity was radical from the very first moment."

According to Ashkenazi, the Navy operation was aimed at preventing an unsupervised infiltration of people and cargo to Gaza.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I317

Law, Rosemary C

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 8:29 AM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

FYI – Tel Aviv is in touch with Beirut to determine if four Amcits may be trying to board the women’s flotilla boat.

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 8:17 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

It’s in Arabic.

---

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 8:09 AM  
**To:** Greene, Alden S; Abouzeid, Wahib G; Jackson, Mollie J; Richter, Kim B; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut); Shampaine, Nicole D; Lawson, Christine M; Sison, Michele J; Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Cc:** Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Tanus, George; Wetherbee, Amos A; Nobel, Natanya D; Plott, Susan M  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Dear Colleagues:

We have received unconfirmed reports that four Amcit nuns may be on an upcoming ship of women only sailing from Lebanon in an attempt to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza. Are you aware of this? If so, can you provide further information: names, biodata, where they will sail from, when, etc?

Media reports (thus far, Arabic-only, for example <http://daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/153074>) state that the women-only ship, the Mariam, will be comprised of 50 women, of whom 30 are Lebanese and 20 are foreigners. They will be taking medical supplies and plan to sail “as soon as possible.”

We look forward to your response,

---

**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: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

---

**From:** Otto, Jeffrey L  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Fri Jun 18 12:52:31 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Andy,  
I’m forwarding this email from The Israel Project because of the reference to four AmCits (highlighted) that may be on the Miriam women’s flotilla from Lebanon.  
Regards,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

-Jeff-

Jeffrey L. Otto  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv

---

**From:** Shai Oseran [mailto:shaio@theisraelproject.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:21 PM  
**To:** Eli Ovits  
**Subject:** Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Please find below some background information (and links to sources) on some of the upcoming flotillas from Lebanon and Iran – prepared by TIP’s research team for your reference.

We will be happy to help facilitate interviews with experts on these subjects.

**Eli Ovits**  
Director of Communications  
The Israel Project - Israel Office  
T: +972 (0)2 623 6427  
C: +972 (0)54 807 9093  
F: +972 (0)2 623 6439  
[www.theisraelproject.org](http://www.theisraelproject.org)

## Journalists’ flotilla

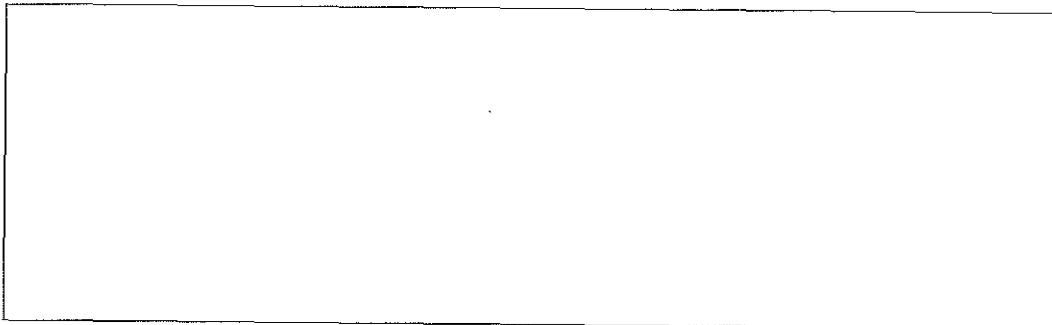
The ship is organized by Free Palestine, an organization headed by Yasser Qoshlok, who is also behind the *Miriam*, and by a Beirut-based group calling themselves “Journalists Without Bounds” and “Reporters Without Bounds” and “Journalists Without Limits” - not to be confused with Reporters Without Borders/Reporters Sans Frontières, the respected international NGO based in Paris. The Beirut-based group has a Facebook page and a blog:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=133472209999269&v=info#!/group.php?gid=133472209999269&v=info>

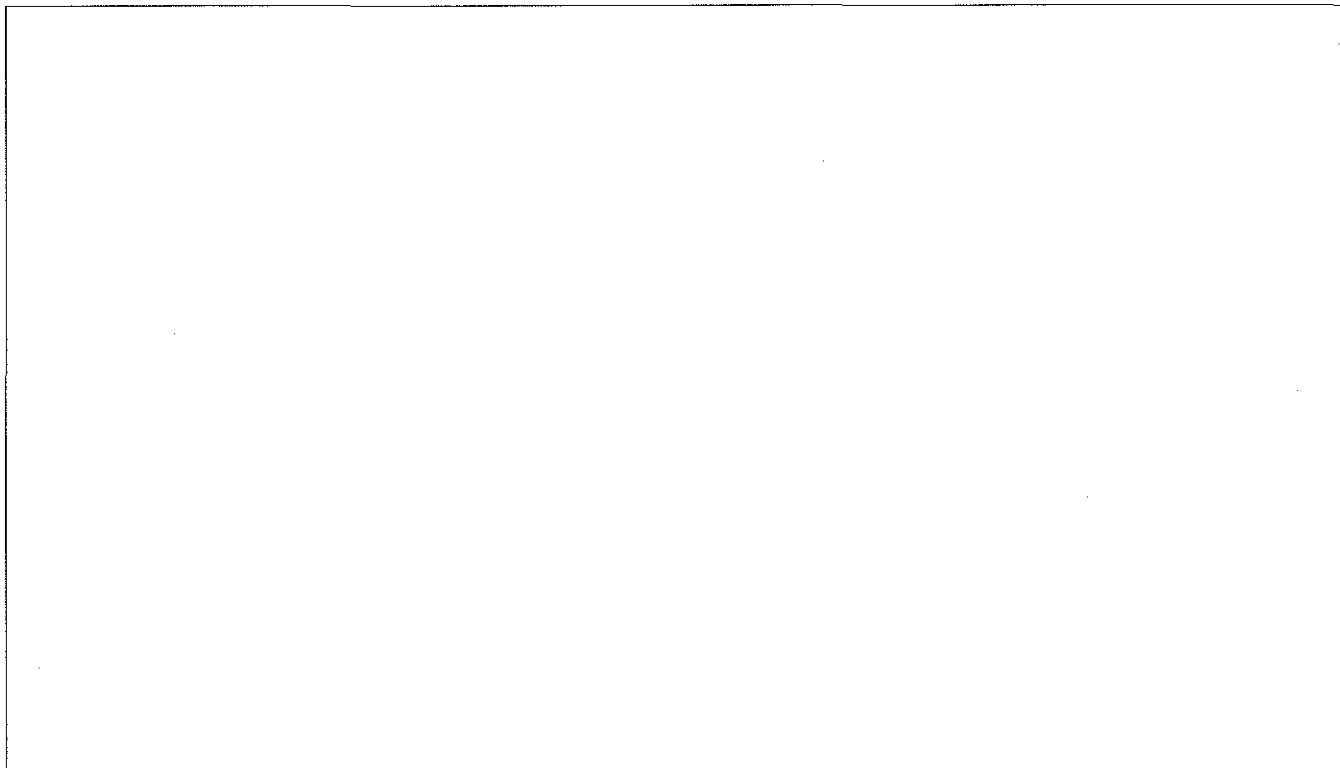
<http://journaliststogaza.wordpress.com/>

The organizers claim they will have 50 reporters on the ship, out of 225 reporters who applied to come along. The date of departure and the names of the people who will be on the ship remain unclear - apparently this is a policy decision.

With the exception of one reporter who wrote he applied to join, we have not seen any information about the participants.



NR

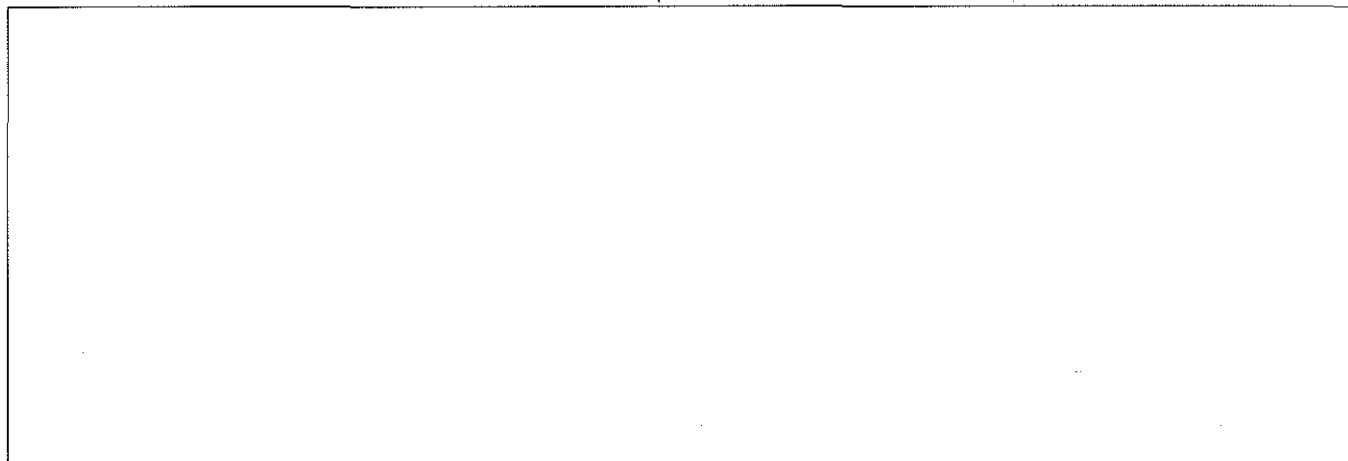


## Women flotilla

### Relations to Hezbollah and Syria:

Samer al-Hajj will lead the *Miriam*. She is a former journalist and best known for being the wife of Ali al-Hajj, a former general in the Lebanese security forces implicated in the assassination of Rafik al-Hariri. Samer al-Hajj has been the public face of the *Miriam*. She has given many interviews in the past few days, including one that appeared on the Hezbollah website.

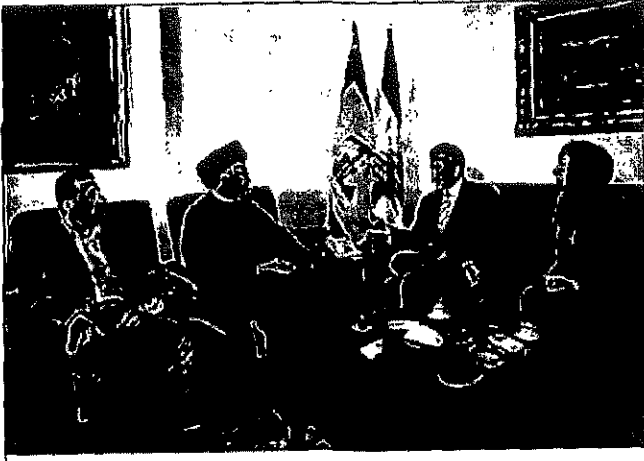
<http://www.alintiqad.com/essaydetails.php?eid=33463&cid=76>



Even though Samer al-Hajj and Yasser Kahlak say the ship has no connection to Hezbollah or Hamas, she said in her last interview that Nasrallah's campaign to lift the siege is "something that is motivating everyone"

<http://daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/153074>

The organizers say the ship will also be carrying four American nuns.



*From right to left: Samer al-Hajj; Ali al-Hajj (her husband); Hassan Nasrallah (the Secretary General of Hezbollah);*

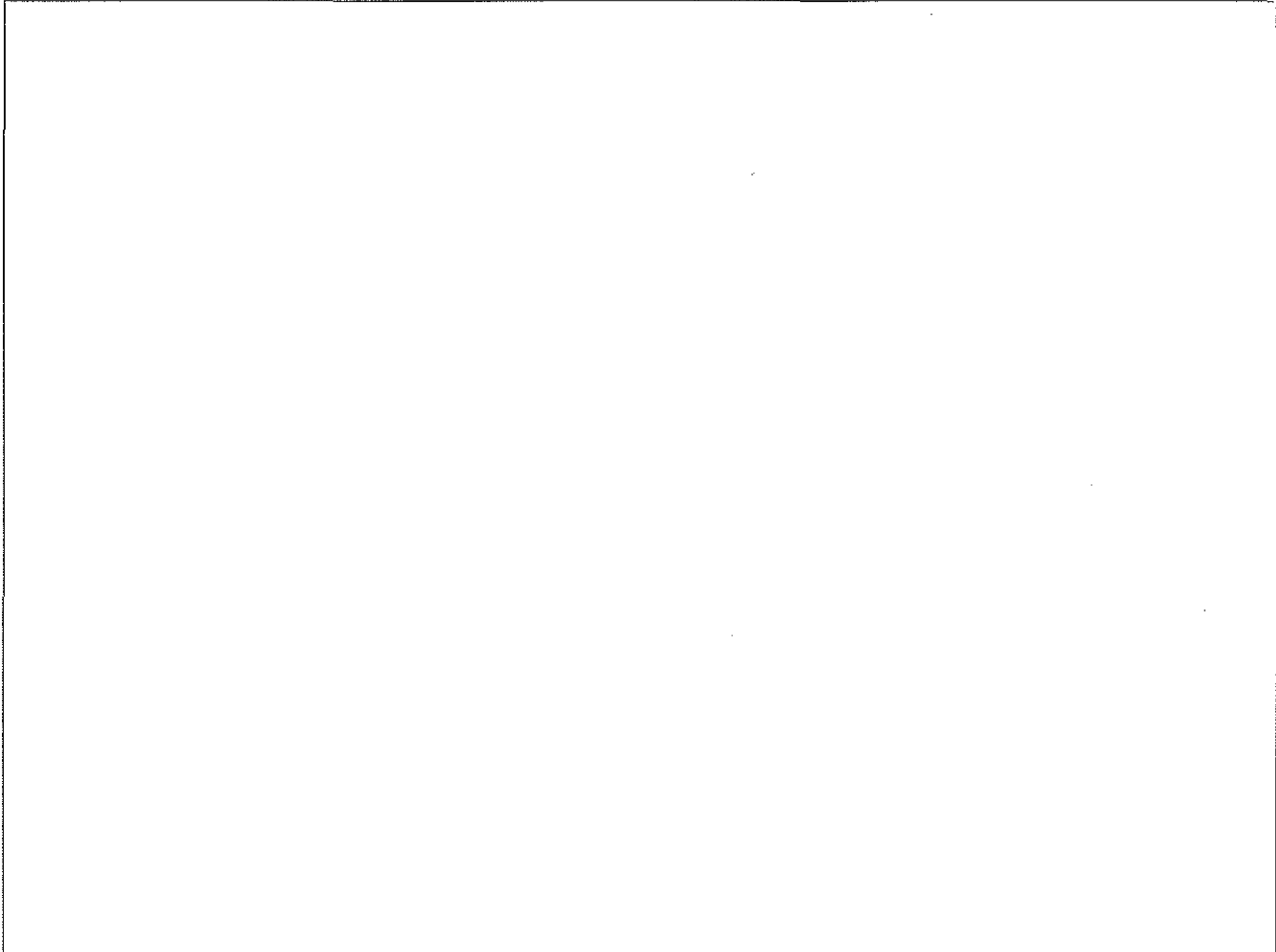
*Wafik Safa (head of the Hezbollah coordination and liaison committee, responsible for the negotiations to release murdered Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev*



NR

<http://blog.amin.org/yafa1948/2010/02/23/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81-%D8%B6%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A6%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%88%D9%84/>

**In English:**



NR

### **The Iranian flotilla:**

One of the Ayatollahs saying it is a privilege to die on the way to Gaza

<http://www.irna.ir/AR/View/FullStory/?NewsId=1173464&IdLanguage=2>

The former head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard saying he is willing to go to Gaza the minute they will need him

<http://arabic.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=8903260150>

\_\_\_\_\_ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5204 (20100617)  
\_\_\_\_\_

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>



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Austin Mathews Shipping Services Ltd  
 Dundalk  
 Ireland

Phone: +353 (0)42 93 38169  
 Fax: +353 (0)42 93 32400  
 amssld@eircom.net

**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

**Austin Mathews Shipping Services Ltd**  
 17 MOURNE VALE  
 AVENUE ROAD, DUNDALK  
 042 9338169

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PECHTER  
MIDDLE EAST  
POLLS

I351A

**Top Line Results: Snap Poll of Israeli Jews June 7, 2010**

Please tell me how you feel about the job performance of Prime Minister Netanyahu?

Very Satisfied	12.10%		
Somewhat Satisfied	41.30%		
Somewhat Dissatisfied	18.00%		
Very Dissatisfied	22.40%		
Dont know	4.90%		
Refuse	1.30%		
Total	100.00%	N	N=500

How about Defense Minister Ehud Barak?

Very Satisfied	10.30%		
Somewhat Satisfied	30.90%		
Somewhat Dissatisfied	24.10%		
Very Dissatisfied	28.00%		
Dont know	6.10%		
Refuse	0.40%		
Total	100.00%	N	N=500

66 Witherspoon Street, #405  
Princeton, NJ 08542

PECHTER  
MIDDLE EAST  
POLLS

p: 609-759-0550  
f: 609-759-0556

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Regarding the recent ship incident, did Israel use too much force, not enough force, or the right amount of force?

Too much force	7.60%		
not enough force	39.20%		
right amount of force	45.50%		
Dont know	6.10%		
Refuse	1.60%		
Total	100.00%	N	N=500

Do you think that Israel should or should not adjust its tactics to elicit a more favorable international reaction? Do you feel that way strongly or just somewhat?

Should strongly	12.30%		
should somewhat	22.60%		
should not somewhat	16.60%		
should not strongly	44.10%		
Dont know	4.20%		
Refuse	0.30%		
Total	100.00%	N	N=500

Do you think that Israel should open up Gaza to international humanitarian shipments?

Should strongly	9.20%		
should somewhat	12.80%		
should not somewhat	14.50%		
should not strongly	58.60%		
Dont know	4.20%		
Refuse	0.70%		
Total	100.00%	N	N=500

How do you feel about the American governments reaction to the recent ship incident?

Very Satisfied 3.10%  
Somewhat Satisfied 18.70%  
Somewhat Dissatisfied 24.60%  
Very Dissatisfied 38.70%  
Dont know 14.10%  
Refuse 0.80%

Total 100.00% N N=500

In your opinion, should or shouldnt Israel accept/agree to, an international inquiry committee that will investigate the recent ship incident?

need strongly 17.10%  
need somewhat 19.50%  
not necessarily 16.60%  
definitely dont need 39.50%  
Dont know 6.80%  
Refuse 0.60%

Total 100.00% N N=500

Do you like or dislike American President Barack Obama?

Strongly like 2.40%  
somewhat like 17.10%  
somewhat dislike 24.70%  
strongly dislike 46.70%  
Dont know 8.60%  
Refuse 0.40%

Total 100.00% N N=500

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There are rumors in the media that the Turkish PM Erdogan, is planning to come in person on a ship accompanied by Turkish Navy in order to break through the closure. How should Israel react? Let him in quietly or to stop it whatever it takes?

- Let him in quietly – strongly 7.10%
- Let him in quietly – somewhat 7.10%
- stop it whatever it takes – strongly 68.10%
- stop it whatever it takes – somewhat 6.90%
- Dont know 9.80%
- Refuse 1.00%

Total 100.00% N N=500

News reports say Iran is planning to send Red Crescent ships to Gaza. If this happens, do you think Israel should or should not stop those ships, even by using force? And do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?

- Let them in quietly – strongly 3.40%
- Let them in quietly – only somewhat 3.90%
- stop them whatever it takes – strongly 77.70%
- stop them whatever it takes – somewhat 6.60%
- Dont know 6.70%
- Refuse 1.70%

Total 100.00% N N=500

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f: 609-759-0556

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I355

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Schwedt, Miriam  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-ARP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: UAEG Statement on Flotilla Incident

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**From:** Greene, Douglas C  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 9:21 AM  
**To:** McGovern, Bridget (Helen-Mary)  
**Cc:** Specht, Linda; Steinfeld, Andrew W; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Abu Dhabi Front Office; Nuutinen, Aaron A; Tarar, Humza I; Pike, Steven L  
**Subject:** UAEG Statement on Flotilla Incident

**Statement as carried by the UAE's official wire service, WAM.**

**From:** Tarar, Humza I  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:14 PM  
**To:** Olson, Richard G; Greene, Douglas C; Cooper, Susannah E; Nuutinen, Aaron A; Pike, Steven L  
**Subject:** Update: Sheikh Abdullah condemns Freedom Flotilla attack

## UAE condemns Freedom Flotilla attack

WAM  
Published: 16:02 May 31, 2010

Shaikh Abdullah said that the attack on civilians traversing across the sea to deliver aid to the Palestinian people strongly defied international laws

Abu Dhabi: The UAE has condemned Israel's violent attack on the Freedom Flotilla on Monday.

The attacks against the flotilla lead to the death of at least 19 civilians, and wounded many others.

The UAE condemned this violent act that occurred on international waters and violated international laws by targeting civilians.

Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister, said in a statement made on Monday that he called on the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) to carry out the necessary investigations on the attack, as well as submitting a clear report of this matter to the UN.

Shaikh Abdullah said that the attack on civilians traversing across the sea to deliver aid to the Palestinian people strongly defied international laws, and is an unprovoked response against an act of humanitarian intentions.

He added that Israel must be held responsible for its actions, calling on the Security Council to arrange an emergency meeting to address this issue and take the necessary procedures.

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1

He added that Israel must lift the ban it's enforcing on global media organizations so that Israeli government's intentions and actions are made clear to the world.

Shaikh Abdullah also expressed his solidarity with the families of the dead and the wounded, who have courageously given up their lives for this cause. He also called for the release of the detainees onboard the ship.

Humza Tarar  
Political Officer

U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi, UAE  
Tel: +971-2-414-2489 | Mob: +971-50-818-4347  
Email: [tararhi@state.gov](mailto:tararhi@state.gov)  
Work week: Sun-Thur | +8 hrs Eastern Standard

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IDF Chief of Staff Ashkenazi said that during the clash with the passengers of the Marmara ship, the activists used iron bars and knives.

"They even fired shots from a weapon snatched from one of the soldiers," he said. "It's clear beyond any doubt that the soldiers acted as required."

Ashkenazi added that the soldiers were prepared for the mission, but that "the crowd dispersal equipment was not enough."

As for the organizers' intentions, the army chief insisted that "it had nothing to do with humanitarian aid. The activity was radical from the very first moment."

According to Ashkenazi, the Navy operation was aimed at preventing an unsupervised infiltration of people and cargo to Gaza.

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I293

**Law, Rosemary C**

From: McGovern, Bridget (Helen-Mary)  
 Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2010 4:25 PM  
 To: S\_SpecialAssistants; D(S); D(L); P; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; SES\_DutyDeputies  
 Cc: SES-O  
 Subject: (AP) Gaza Aid ship leaves Greece for Egypt

Colleagues –

Please find below a media report with more information on the departure of the M/V Amalthea from Greece en route to Egypt. The Watch will send any updates as they become available.

Regards,  
 Bridget McGovern  
 Senior Watch Officer  
 Operations Center  
 Department of State  
 202-647-1512

Gaza aid ship leaves Greece for Egypt  
 By DEMETRIS NELLAS - Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece - (AP) A ship commissioned by a Libyan charity organization has left Greece headed for the Egyptian port of al-Arish, and not for Gaza, as originally planned, according to Greek authorities.

The Moldovan-flagged cargo ship Amalthea left around 8 p.m. local (1700 GMT) Saturday from the port of Lavrio, southeast of Athens, carrying 2,000 tons of food and medical supplies destined for Gaza, mostly donated by Greek companies and charities, organizers said.

In addition to 15 volunteers \_ all from Libya except for a Nigerian and one Moroccan \_ the ship has a crew of 12 from Cuba, Haiti, India, and Syria.

"We confirmed the destination in talks with the Libyan ambassador and the ship's agent," foreign ministry spokesman Grigoris Delavekouras told the Associated Press earlier Saturday. He said Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Dimitris Droutsas had discussed the ship's planned trip with Israeli foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman on Friday.

Youssef Sawani, executive director of Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, which has mounted the aid operation, insisted the aim remained to unload the supplies in Gaza.

"The ambassador speaks for the state of Libya, I speak for the NGO," Sawani said. He said the ship would not seek confrontation with the Israelis.

If Israel does not allow the ship into Gaza, the group will seek "any other appropriate destination \_ Al-Arish or other \_ to deliver the goods to the people in need," Sawani said.

The Amalthea's trip comes over a month after Israel boarded Gaza-bound ships, killing eight Turks and a Turkish-American on one of them. The flotilla was trying to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

"I think the Israelis need to understand we are not provoking any kind of action, we are not in military action we are a peaceful, humanitarian organization," said Sawani.

The Amalthea's trip is expected to last about 80 hours, according to the organizers, which means it will arrive at al-Arish early Wednesday.

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I299

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Conlon, Steven M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 10:02 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Greek court releases American captain of Gaza flotilla boat (SBU) (SBU)

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**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 9:59 AM  
**Subject:** Greek court releases American captain of Gaza flotilla boat (SBU) (SBU)

(SBU) The captain of the Audacity of Hope was released from custody after his July 2 arrest for attempting to set sail in defiance of a Greek ban on the flotilla boats leaving port, media report. Embassy Athens confirms the release.

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.

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I 305

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 5:15 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** Fw: Gaza flotilla organizers: 2nd ship sabotaged (AP)

David Brownstein  
NEA Staff Assistant  
[brownsteindp@state.gov](mailto:brownsteindp@state.gov)  
[brownsteindp@state.sgov.gov](mailto:brownsteindp@state.sgov.gov)  
Office: 202 647-7216  
Mobile: 202 664 3724

\*For the quickest reply, please always email the nea-staff-assistants-dl collective

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 12:54 AM  
**To:** NEWS-EUR; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_Shift-I  
**Subject:** Gaza flotilla organizers: 2nd ship sabotaged (AP)

JERUSALEM (AP) - Organizers of a Gaza-bound flotilla say Israel has sabotaged a second ship. An activist told Israel's Army Radio that the engine of an Irish ship was damaged. Earlier this week, activists said Israel damaged the propeller of a Swedish ship in the Greek port of Piraeus. Israel has not commented on the allegations. About 10 ships are due to set sail this week from Greece. It's unclear if the damaged boats will delay things. Israel imposed a naval blockade after Hamas militants overran the Palestinian territory in 2007. It says it will not allow the flotilla to reach Gaza. Last year, an Israeli raid on a similar flotilla killed nine activists on a Turkish vessel. Each side blamed the other for the violence.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

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I307

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:43 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:39 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

ATHENS (AP) - An activist says a U.S.-flagged vessel that is part of a pro-Palestinian flotilla planning to break Israel's sea blockade of Gaza may set sail from a Greek port without receiving official permission.

American Ann Wright repeated allegations Thursday that Israel is pressuring Greek authorities not to allow the 42 passengers and crew of the U.S. flagged Audacity of Hope to leave from a port near Athens.

But she wouldn't say how long activists would wait for the all-clear before the 33-meter (108-foot) ferry begins its journey.

Between 300 and 400 international activists aboard 10 ships had been due to sail this week to Gaza to try and break the naval blockade Israel imposed after Hamas militants overran the Palestinian territory in 2007.

NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.

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I311

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Buzbee, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla Update...

**Categories:** Working

Tom and team TA, we were glad to see the update below. Interest here is rising sharply as D-day (whenever that is) approaches. We'll forward today's Department statement, if you haven't seen it already, as well as a wire story that has already picked up on the statement. Nick will be sending your update below and other developments to an e-mail collective on this system including interested NEA and EUR offices and posts, other bureaus including CA and PA, and NSS. As you have further news, please chime in to that collective. If you have something that should not be shared widely, but is still appropriate for this system, please send to Paul, myself, and Nick, who will be our flotilla AO for the next week. And of course let us know if you have additional suggestions for how best to keep everyone lashed up and informed of the latest. Thanks,

John

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**From:** Elts, Colin C  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 11:53 AM  
**To:** Jakobson, Nicholas W; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Cc:** Buzbee, John R  
**Subject:** FW: Flotilla Update...

FYI

SBU  
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**From:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 4:00 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Levin, Jan  
**Subject:** Flotilla Update...

Tom -

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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I318

Law, Rosemary C

From: Jakobson, Nicholas W  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:53 AM  
 To: NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wailes, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
 Subject: Flotilla News

**ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report**

\* *Gantz comments*: Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz said that the IDF was preparing for the flotilla to Gaza, and would not permit the blockade on Gaza to be breached by any means, irrespective of whether the participants came armed or not. In statements made last night, the chief of staff added that the planned hatred flotilla was another example of the delegitimization campaign against the State of Israel.

On another matter, the chief of staff said that in advance of September, Israel should prepare for a broad range of scenarios, and added that the IDF was cooperating with the police and other bodies.

\* *Gaza flotilla*: Flotilla activists complained yesterday that Israel had sabotaged one of the ships that was due to set sail from the port of Piraeus. They said that divers had sawed off part of the propeller of the *Juliano*, and it was brought onto land for repairs.

**Flotilla Organizer: "This Wasn't the Work of Amateurs"**

*Yedioth Ahronoth* (p. 2) by Menahem Ganz (Athens) -- The 18-meter ship, *Juliano*, looks old and battered as it is led to be repaired in a shipyard outside of Athens. Anyone looking from the side would be hard put to understand how close to 20 activists and journalists agreed to board this ship and to set sail for Gaza in an attempt to break the Israeli blockade, and certainly after the sabotage that was done to the ship's propellers, which became the talk of the day yesterday among the organizers of the event, prompting a long list of speculations and accusations.

"This wasn't the work of amateurs," said Thomas Sommer-Houdeville, a spokesperson for the French group participating in the Freedom Flotilla II to Gaza, pointing to the connections between the propellers and the boat. "Look at how they cut the connection between the two propellers and the boat on both sides. That is a surgical operation by professionals. Who could have done that if not the Mossad? What, the American secret service? The Greeks? It's clear that Israel is the one that profits from this sabotage. The Mossad might not have signed this operation, but I'll leave it up to your readers to decide who it could have been."

That is just another phase in the war of versions being waged between Israel and the organizers of the flotilla. The information provided on Monday by the Israeli security forces as if people affiliated with Hamas were going to be on board the ships taking part in the flotilla, and that some of the activists intended to attack the soldiers, forced the organizers to launch a counterattack. That is the reason why they are pleased to show journalists, even ones who refused to state from the outset that they would support the Palestinian struggle, the slit in the propellers and the signs of supposed sabotage. "There's no doubt that they sawed this underwater," said the captain of the vessel Theodoros Bokas. "Greeks are seafaring people, they can tell about that sort of thing. The sabotage was committed between Friday and Sunday, and I believe we are going to need three days to fix the damage." Proof of sabotage is at least as important to them as it is to have the *Juliano* fixed and ready to leave in time to take part in the flotilla.

**"Legitimate to Hurt Us"**

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As opposed to last year, this time the organizers of the flotilla and Israel have already begun to clash even before the first ship has set sail for Gaza, with each party accusing the other of presenting misinformation and of using cheap propaganda. "Greece is mired in an economic crisis. It's desperate and needs the assistance that Israel is offering it," said members of the Italian group taking part in the flotilla. "That's why the Greek government has capitulated to Israel's pressure and is collaborating with it with the goal of preventing the flotilla from setting sail.

The Italians are convinced that the Jewish lobby, which controls the global economy, is also directing the turn of events in the ports. "Israel is spreading intelligence warnings about how there are violent activists among us and that we're in possession of chemical substances that are supposed to hurt Israeli soldiers," said one of the Italian group. "Their goal is clear: to make it legitimate to hurt us." Up until yesterday the organizers of the flotilla kept their cards close to their chests. Not even the 500 activists who had registered to take part in the flotilla had received information about the location of the ships taking part and the date on which they were setting sail. So that when the 30 members of the Italian group showed up at the meeting point that was set for them in Athens, they discovered that they now had to travel all the way to the island of Corfu. When they finally reached that northern island, they were not allowed to see the ship that was going to be taking them to Gaza, and they were told that it would be leaving from a different nearby port and would stop to pick up activists in a different port. "We're trying not to do the expected," said Jihad, a resident of Rome, "because that will make it easier for the people trying to sabotage the flotilla."

### **"I'll Be Accused of Being a Collaborator"**

Meanwhile, activists on board the *Juliano* spend their time trying to organize the three cabins that are geared to hold a total of six people so that they can house no fewer than 20 activists. The captain begins to give an explanation about the yacht, but suddenly stops and asks me to identify myself a second time and to tell them to whom I am going to be transferring this information. They are deeply suspicious: they don't know any Israelis who don't identify with their own ideology, such as Dror Feiler, his mother and the pilot Yonatan Shapira. Some remain suspicious of me throughout the entire course of our conversation, whereas others are more prepared to be trusting. Nikos Pilos, a well-known photojournalist in the city, refused to join me as I made my way to the main offices of the organizers of the flotilla. "I don't want to burn my connections," he explained to me. "If I come with you then they'll say that I'm collaborating with the Israelis, that I'm helping their agents. I don't want to be connected with you."

### **"We've Learned Lessons Too"**

The main offices are located on Notara Street in the Exarchia neighborhood of Athens, which is associated with anarchist students, the ones who are in the front lines of the demonstrations that have become common in the Greek capital. This is the most natural place for organizing a flotilla to Gaza. The mood in that neighborhood was stormy yesterday. Hundreds of police officers were forced to fire tear gas canisters in the air to disperse demonstrators.

Feiler promised that the scenes of violence of the kind that were seen last year in clashes with IDF troops would not recur. "There isn't going to be any violence," he says. "Why would we use violence if we know that the other side is stronger than we are? The last number of months have taught us that the people, who are unarmed, are the side that wins, so what is this nonsense about us being in possession of chemical substances? Soon they will say about us, like Saddam Hussein, that we have chemical weapons and an atom bomb."

Feiler offers as proof the statement that the various members of the flotilla had to sign in which they undertook not to resort to violence. "Everyone made the commitment," he said. "If things turn out otherwise, that isn't my responsibility." I reminded him that a similar commitment was made last year on the eve of the flotilla that ended with a violent clash. "Back then IDF soldiers shot two Turks in the morning. You don't know how you'd respond either if your friend was killed right next to you."

Thomas Sommer-Houdeville stood beside Feiler, and said that things had changed since the previous year. "We've also learned our lessons," he said. "We don't want this flotilla to end with the deaths of innocent people, and that is why we tried to get to know the activists better and we made them sign a declaration of non-violence."

### **Security Cabinet Ministers: PR Hysteria Surrounding Flotilla**

*Ma'ariv* (p. 6) by Eli Bardenstein -- Ministers who serve on the security cabinet were highly critical of the fact that they were not apprised of the sensitive intelligence that was disseminated on Monday night to journalists about the plans by

the organizers of the flotilla to use sulfuric acid against IDF troops, their intention to injure and kill as many soldiers as possible and the presence of terrorists on board the ships taking part in the flotilla.

Some of the ministers went so far as to accuse the spokespersons who provided that information of trying to create a media spin, which they said was part of what they described as the "public relations hysteria" surrounding the flotilla in an attempt to have it perceived as violent in nature.

"It is inconceivable that we should hear information in the security cabinet meeting to the effect that there are no threats posed by the participants in the flotilla to take violent action or about the presence of terrorists on board the ships, and that senior state organizations, including the army, should produce for the media information that is the complete opposite of what we were told," said one security cabinet minister angrily. Another high-ranking political official said last night that "there is increasing reason to fear that this is a spin. Nothing of the information that was disseminated to the media was presented to us."

One security cabinet minister said that the media briefings were geared to pressure the international community. "Prime Minister Netanyahu decided to change the version about the nature of the flotilla for two reasons that are connected to the international community. The first is for reasons of covering himself—if, suddenly, in the course of the military operation something goes awry and there are casualties, Israel will be able to say that it warned of that in advance. The second reason is to apply pressure on the international community so that governments will prevent the ships from leaving for the flotilla from the outset."

IDF officials rejected the allegations as if the information was merely a media spin or, at the very least, a deliberate attempt to create hysteria surrounding the flotilla. The military officials insisted that the intelligence they had received attested to plans to kill soldiers and to use chemical agents: "At issue are substances with dual use that are banned from entering Gaza. Those substances can be utilized in a number of ways, including so as to injure IDF soldiers. According to the intelligence we have, some of the participants in the flotilla intend to injure and kill soldiers."

Either way, as opposed to the previous flotilla, after which the *Mavi Marmara* was returned to Turkey after being towed to the Israeli coast, this time a decision has been made to confiscate any ship with the goal of deterring the ship-owners. A decision has also been made this time that any activist who uses violence against IDF troops will not be swiftly released, as occurred following the flotilla last year.

The participants in the flotilla, incidentally, denied the veracity of the information about chemical agents having been loaded on board the ships with the goal of using them as weapons to main and/or kill Israeli soldiers.

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### **They Bought Some Time**

*Yedioth Ahronoth* (p. 3) by Alex Fishman -- There is no information that there is going to be a group of radicals on board that will form a hard core of violent resistance against IDF soldiers. Nor is there any clear information about live weapons that will be on board the ships. It is very reasonable to assume that this is one working assumption, alongside of many other scenarios and working assumptions that have come up in the brainstorming sessions in the army and the various intelligence services in advance of the upcoming flotilla. But when a working assumption of that sort is turned into a fact by the Israeli public relations machine, that is liable to prove to be a boomerang that could cast Israel as unreliable.

That's the way it is in Israel. Before the previous flotilla no one bothered even to enlist people who speak Turkish to monitor the publicly-available information in Turkish, which indicated precisely what was going to happen. In advance of this flotilla they're digging up the most marginal information, some of which is based on unreliable sources and some of which has not been verified. Take, for example, the report about chemicals that supposedly are going to be used against IDF troops: The issue at hand are sacks of fertilizer that have been loaded onto one of the ships. Some of the fertilizers are phosphate-based. Israel has banned substances of that sort from entering Gaza since those organic fertilizers can be used as rocket fuel and in bombs. Hamas no longer needs to use fertilizer for those purposes, since it now obtains standard explosives via the tunnels.

There is no argument: the IDF needs to be prepared for the worst case scenario. It needs to be prepared for a situation in which someone on board the ships opens live fire. But the dramatic announcements by Israel about preparations being made on board the ships to fight to the death and to kill IDF soldiers are strongly redolent of propaganda. Smart PR work most certainly has the capacity of embarrassing the other side in public opinion. In the meantime, the more sober situation assessment is that IDF troops are liable to encounter intense physical resistance on two of the ships—the French vessel, *Le Dignité-El Karameh*, and an Arab boat that was bought by the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood.



The flotilla, which was supposed to set forth yesterday, has been delayed by two days. Some of the ships have been damaged unexpectedly. The Israeli diplomatic effort this time was successful in persuading the governments of Greece and Cyprus to prevent—or, at the very least, to delay—the departure of the ships. Every day that passes in which the flotilla does not set sail increases the chances of it becoming even more depleted. Quite a number of the people who are supposed to take part in the flotilla—people from Switzerland, the United States and Holland—flew in at their own expense, and are now stranded and waiting at their own expense. Thus far, Israel has been quite successful in its efforts to buy time and to deplete the flotilla. Out of the 15 ships that originally were supposed to take part in the flotilla, the number is now down to six. It is not inconceivable that the current delay is not the last one either. The organizers of the flotilla keep on discovering new problems every day.

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### **Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Ministry Holds Successful Exercise Ahead of Gaza Flotilla**

(Communicated by the Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Ministry Spokesman)

The Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Ministry yesterday (Tuesday), 28.6.11, held a successful readiness exercise ahead of the Gaza flotilla. In the course of the exercise, Ministry employees summoned Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Minister Yuli Edelstein to a special situation room that has been established ahead of the flotilla. The situation room is designed to disseminate public diplomacy on the Internet via messages, photos, video clips and additional materials, with emphasis on Diaspora communities, as well as Jewish organizations and friends of Israel around the world, that are seeking to assist public diplomacy activities in their languages and local environments. Participating in the exercise were professional elements from the Ministry, along with representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, the IDF Spokesperson, the Government Press Office, the Jewish Agency and public diplomacy organizations.

#### **The simulation:**

The exercise was based on a scenario in which approximately 500 activists on approximately ten ships reached Israel's territorial waters at 10:00. Despite having been warned by the IDF, the ships continued on their way. At 10:30, the Israel Navy began approaching the ships. Stun grenades were thrown at the IDF soldiers, as well as one live grenade that caused a number of casualties to our forces. At 11:00, the order was given for IDF units to physically seize control of the ships on which there was resistance. Our forces were attacked with live – and other – weapons and were obliged to neutralize the assailants. The results, by 11:45, were ten IDF soldiers wounded (one critically, four severely and the rest lightly). Among the flotilla participants, there were two dead and 14 wounded, including two severely.

As the events were taking place, the media – with emphasis on the Internet, Facebook and Twitter – were flooded with mendacious reports (by private users, Hamas and others among Israel's enemies). The situation room, in coordination with the IDF Spokesperson and the National Information Directorate, began to disseminate credible messages to Jewish communities and friends of Israel around the world. Those in the situation room responsible for new media began to update messages on the social networks, Facebook and Twitter.

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Minister Edelstein said that, "Given the provocation by the flotilla, which is entirely designed to attack Israel's image around the world, we established a special situation room that will ensure coordination between Government officials, Diaspora Jewish communities and friends of Israel around the world. We are here to expose the true face of the terrorist organizations and the inciters to hatred that have organized the flotillas and which disseminate messages and photos in real time over the Internet. I am certain that alongside us will stand significant force multipliers in the form of thousands of activists from Jewish communities around the world."

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### **PLO's Ashrawi Condemns 'Israeli Threats' on Media Coverage of Freedom Flotilla 2**

GMP20110628061001 Ramallah Wafa in Arabic 1232 GMT 27 Jun 11

[Corrected version: changed "negative" to "destructive" in text; "Ashrawi: Israel Has To Lift the Blockade Imposed on the Gaza Strip and End the Occupation" – Wafa News Agency Headline]

Ramallah, 27 June 11 (Wafa) – Hanan Ashrawi, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Department of Information and Culture, has condemned the Israeli threats against international media outlets that are participating in Freedom Flotilla 2.

Ashrawi's statements have been made following a message that "Oran Helman," director of the Israeli Government Press Office, sent to the international journalists, in which he warned them of deporting, confiscating equipment, and banning them from entering Israel for 10 years.

Ashrawi also said: "While the Arab region is witnessing radical changes and democratic transitions about basic human rights and ensuring freedoms, including the freedom of opinion and journalism, Israel is confiscating rights, targeting international media outlets, and threatening journalists with punishment."

She added: "It is not the first time that Israel is seeking to hide the facts and inhuman crimes regarding its illegitimate blockade of the Gaza Strip. In addition, Israel's refusal to end its military occupation of Palestinian land is the only reason behind its isolation on the international stage."

Ashrawi also pointed out the catastrophic conditions facing the Gaza Strip, due to Israeli control over all entry and exit points to the Gaza Strip, and the imposition of a land, air, and naval blockade, in a blatant violation of the rules of international law and international legitimacy, something that has had destructive effects on the lives and livelihoods of Palestinian civilians.

Ashrawi said further: "If Israel does not want to see freedom flotillas after today, it will have to lift its illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip, and end its occupation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 in order to establish the independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital."

Ashrawi also called on the Israeli Government to retract its threats. In addition, Ashrawi urged the journalists not to fear Israeli warnings and urged them to insist on their right to the freedom of journalism. Ashrawi said: "The Palestinians welcome the international media coverage, as one of the useful means to expose to the world Israeli violations and depict the suffering that our people are living in the occupied territories."

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

I319

Law, Rosemary C

From: Jakobson, Nicholas W  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:59 AM  
 To: NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
 Subject: Flotilla News

YNET 13:53 , 06.29.11

**Gaza-bound flotilla underway**

**French ship which departed Saturday apparently skipped Athens stop, en route to rendezvous. Jordanian activists say they purchased additional ship for \$800,000**

Aviel Magnezi

**French ship Dignity which departed for the rendezvous with vessels participating in the Gaza flotilla on Saturday has apparently decided to skip the Athens stop and is en route to Gaza.** Flotilla organizers refused to officially confirm the ship is approaching the region and are maintaining secrecy.

**Jordanian activists said they purchased an additional ship for \$805,000 which could carry as many as 200 activists. It was said it will carry 35 Jordanian activists. The organizers said that the flotilla will set sail on Thursday but noted there may be delays.**

Various reports concerning the Irish ship have also surfaced. *Several elements claimed that it was heading towards the rendezvous point but soon retracted their statements. It is apparently docking at an undisclosed port in the Mediterranean to avoid delays in Greece.*

"One ship was damaged and two others are being detained over bureaucratic claims," Hawida Araf of the Free Gaza movement told Ynet. "We will pass the checks as these ridiculous claims are baseless. The ships have already been checked."

The organizers say that claims against the American ship and the Greek-Swedish ship are causing the delays in Greece. The activists maintain that Israel sabotaged one ship which resulted in heavier security.

"The damage was done underwater with a machine that can cut through steel. It could not have happened accidentally. I can't say Israeli soldiers did it, but who else wants to stop us?," Araf said.

She noted that they have boosted security measures.

Meanwhile, the organizers are disappointed in the limited turnout. Less than 300 are expected to board the flotilla ships.

According to the organizers, the Italian ship Stefano Chiarim will carry the most passengers with 65 people; Canadian ship Tahrir will carry 48 passengers and the American vessel, which is currently detained in Greece, will carry 40 passengers.

An additional seven ships are expected to depart from Spain, France, Ireland, Greece, Sweden and Norway. Organizers expect 292 participants and 36 members of the press. It is highly likely not all of the vessels will be fit to travel.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Meanwhile, two reserve soldiers filed a criminal lawsuit against 14 foreigners who participated in last year's flotilla with the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.**

*Aviad Glickman contributed to this report*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**Nicholas Jakobson**  
Political-Military Affairs Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-4386

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

I323

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 10:09 AM  
**To:** Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masiiko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Subject:** Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

**Another Mysterious Malfunction**

*Yisrael Hayom July 1, 2011* (p.2) by Shlomo Cezana et al -- [...] [O]n Thursday Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu addressed the issue of the expected flotilla to Gaza and said that "sometimes, we not only need to deflect our enemies' physical attacks, but also deflect the attack on our right to protect ourselves." At the end of the IAF flight school graduation ceremony in Hatzerim, Netanyahu thanked the many world leaders who spoke out and acted against in recent days "against the provocation flotilla," first and foremost the American and European leaders, and the secretary general of the United Nations. The prime minister also commended his Greek counterpart George Papandreou, who is closely cooperating with Israel in coordinating the moves related to the flotilla. "Israel has the full right to act against the attempts to legitimize the smuggling of missiles, rockets and other weaponry for Hamas's terror enclave," Netanyahu said, in what could be understood as a hint to the damage some of the flotilla's vessels experienced.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak predicted on Thursday that the current flotilla would be calmer than the previous one, but stressed that Israel was bracing for any possible scenario. "The Marmara is absent and the IHH is absent, but nobody can predict that there won't be a small group, or that one of the ships will try to resist forcefully, or a more extreme case of somebody who brought weapons and will try to use them," Barak said. He added that the IDF's working premise was that they were liable to face extremely violent resistance, and even use of arms.

Barak threatened that a ship from which shots would be fired at IDF soldiers would be defined as a "terror ship." The implication would be a different attitude of the soldiers, in other words, the exercise of different procedures and other modes of action. "In such a case, things are simpler and more clear-cut. The soldiers will have an easier time dealing with it, since if they are fired at, this is no longer a ship of activists to them," security sources said on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Thursday that there is a wall-to-wall coalition in the world against the flotilla, but "there are marginal groups, anarchists and extreme Islamic groups, that will try to harm Israel by the flotilla. There are not coming to help the residents of Gaza, but to confront the State of Israel and create a provocation against it. As a sovereign state we can't allow anyone to harm our sovereignty. No self-respecting state would let that happen."

Information Minister Yuli Edelstein said on Thursday that the fact the flotilla was joined by Amin Abu Rashid, who is in charge of raising money for Hamas's terror activities, "is clear-cut evidence that this is not a humanitarian flotilla, but a covert flotilla for provocation and terror activity."

Edelstein added that in the previous flotilla, Rashid spoke of his intention to confront IDF soldiers, which should be taken into account as his intention for the current flotilla as well.

The US State Department on Thursday addressed the claims of deliberate sabotage to the ships, and the deputy spokesman said that while not justifying sabotage in any way, the flotilla itself is a bad idea that endangers the passengers.

Opposition Chairwoman Tzippi Livni met on Thursday with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York, and called to continue the delegitimization of Hamas. "Whoever wants to help citizens doesn't do so by severe and unnecessary provocations like the planned flotilla. The international community should convey a clear message to this flotilla and those that will come, that such provocations are unacceptable and should be prevented and stopped," Livni said.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

### The Activists are Splitting

Yedioth Ahronoth July 1, 2011 (p. 5) by Yossi Yehoshua, Menahem Ganz and Itamar Eichner -- Intelligence information that has reached Israel indicates that a clash is developing between two groups of activists on the planned flotilla. The argument is over the departure date for Gaza and on willingness to promise not to employ violence in an encounter with the IDF.

Peace activists groups say that they worked on organizing the flotilla for a year and that they should wait until all the malfunctions are corrected. In contrast, the extremist group of Arabs, from different countries, is demanding to leave now with the ships that are operational (this is eight out of ten ships). Another argument is over the non-consent of the Arabs to sign forms obligating them not to use weapons and their extremist statements about their wanting to hurt IDF soldiers. [...]

...Yediot reported that Israel has obtained intelligence about Arab extremists who will not commit themselves to renounce violence and who wish for the flotilla to depart now. Yediot quoted a Dutch journalist who was supposed to join the flotilla as saying that he and other journalists and crew were leaving it because they had lost faith in the operation's organizers.

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### ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report – July 1, 2011

\* Flotilla: The flotilla to Gaza might be further delayed. Flotilla initiator Greta Berlin estimated it would set sail in five days after the damage to the vessels is repaired. Flotilla organizers claim that Israel sabotaged the ships.

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### ISRAEL RADIO July 1, 2011

GRETA BERLIN, FOUNDER OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT AND ONE OF THE PROMINENT ORGANISORS OF THE FLOTILLA TOLD IL RADIO OVERNIGHT THAT SHE IS ON BOARD THE VESSEL "AUDACITY OF HOPE" ANCHORED IN PIRAEUS, "WAITING FOR THE FINAL PAPERWORK TO RELEASE OUR BOAT."

#### BERLIN TOLD IL RADIO:

"PEOPLE KEEP ASSURING US WE HAVE ONE MORE THING TO FILL OUT – ONE MORE THING TO DO. THE GREEK BUREAUCRACY IS DOING ITS BEST TO PREVENT US FROM GOING BUT WE'RE PRETTY DETERMINED. WE'VE SAID WE'RE GOING TO GO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS! I THINK THAT OUR DROP-DEAD DEADLINE IS GOING TO BE JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> I REALISE THAT THAT IS 2 WEEKS LATER THAN WE SAID WE WERE GOING TO GO, BUT I'VE DONE A LOT OF THESE AND WE ARE NEVER ON TIME."

"SOMETIMES WE FEEL THAT WE ARE THE BESIEGED PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE PALESTINIANS OF GAZA. ISRAEL IS DOING ITS VERY VERY BEST TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T GET OUT OF PORT BECAUSE ONCE WE GET OUT OF PORT – AND WE WILL – THEY ARE NOW FACED WITH WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO WITH US. SO THEY WOULD RATHER SABOTAGE OUR BOATS, TIE US UP IN PAPERWORK AND PREVENT US FROM GOING. IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THAT IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE OUR DETERMINATION."

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### Jerusalem Political-Security Update – July 1, 2011

PM Netanyahu said Thursday [ June 30] Israel is fully entitled to try to **stop an upcoming flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip in an attempt** to break Israel's naval blockade on the Strip. The Prime Minister said Israel has the full right to operate against efforts to smuggle missiles, rockets and other weapons to Hamas' terror enclave. PM Netanyahu expressed his gratitude to many world leaders who expressed themselves and acted against this provocation flotilla, including the US, Europe, the UN secretary general and Greek Prime Minister. Hamas is a ruthless enemy who maliciously harms the Israeli cities and children and holds Gilad Shalit captive against all humane standards, PM Netanyahu added at a graduating ceremony for Israel Air Force pilots.

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YNET July 1, 2011

Gazans unimpressed by flotilla (abridged)

Israeli claims over futility of flotilla receive reinforcement from surprising direction – Gazan businessmen who say it isn't imports that are problem, it's exports. 'Gaza doesn't need any more humanitarian aid,' says Gisha movement director

Israel has been claiming for quite some time that the desire to break through the blockade on the Gaza Strip is devoid of any basis since it is possible to transfer essential goods to Gaza through the monitored crossings. This claim received unexpected reinforcement on Thursday from none other than the Gazans themselves.

**In a conversation with Ynet Palestinian businessmen expressed veiled criticism saying that the flotilla organizers were missing their target since the main problem wasn't getting goods into Gaza – but exporting them outside of the strip.**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

I345

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 10:56 AM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Jacoby, Julia I; Doutrich, Jack T; Levinson, Jesse S; Frelich, Karlene H  
**Subject:** FW: US Ship to Gaza Fundraiser with Ann Wright Oct 17th 17:30pm Pacific time-Watch it LIVE via witnessgaza.com  
**Attachments:** att3110d.gif; att3110e.jpg  
**Categories:** Working

Supposed new flotilla being planned for February. Ann Wright was one of the Americans on the May 31 sailing and is a former FSO.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 7:32 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: US Ship to Gaza Fundraiser with Ann Wright Oct 17th 17:30pm Pacific time-Watch it LIVE via witnessgaza.com

Apparently there will be another sailing to Gaza in Feb. 2011.

<http://ustogaza.org/>

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**From:** ann wright [mailto:microann@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 17, 2010 10:00 AM  
**To:** Gaza Delegations  
**Subject:** US Ship to Gaza Fundraiser with Ann Wright Oct 17th 17:30pm Pacific time-Watch it LIVE via witnessgaza.com

I hope you will support the US Ship to Gaza fundraiser where ever you are in the world.

[www.ustogaza.org](http://www.ustogaza.org)

Peace,

Ann

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Ann Wright  
[microann@yahoo.com](mailto:microann@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=504291178>  
Twitter: annwright46  
"Dissent: Voices of Conscience" [www.voicesofconscience.com](http://www.voicesofconscience.com)

--- On Sun, 10/17/10, Gail Miller <[gail@nvc.rr.com](mailto:gail@nvc.rr.com)> wrote:



RELEASED IN FULL

I 349

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Ullner, Jason H  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 05, 2010 6:31 AM  
**To:** NEA-ALL-DL  
**Subject:** Fw: Israeli forces board RACHEL CORRIE (SBU)

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**From:** OpsAlert  
**Sent:** Sat Jun 05 06:17:37 2010  
**Subject:** Israeli forces board RACHEL CORRIE (SBU)

(SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv reports RACHEL CORRIE was boarded by IDF without resistance or injury and will arrive in Ashdod in two hours. Three Israeli naval ships had tailed RACHEL CORRIE for several hours and issued four demands to change course. The vessel refused to comply.

Automatic electronic distribution to: S, D(S), D(L), P, E, C, M, DG, T, R, PA, G, AF, EAP, EUR, NEA, SCA, WHA, IO, S/CRS, S/CT, H, DS, CA, PMAT, INR, IIP, ISN, CMS, S/ES, S/ES-O, NSOC, and WHSR.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I 282

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Tsou, Leslie M  
**Sent:** Monday, July 12, 2010 1:34 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Walles, Jacob; Waters, John R; Marchese, Gregory M; Finver, Frank J  
**Subject:** Email 1 of 2 on Eiland Report: MG Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team  
**Attachments:** IDF Spokesperson Announcement- Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team.doc

This is the first of two emails about the Eiland Report. What we don't yet have is a copy of the report itself, but Embassy TA is working on it.

Leslie

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**From:** IDF News Desk <idfnewsdesk@idf.gov.il>  
**To:** idfnewsdesk@idf.gov.il <idfnewsdesk@idf.gov.il>; idfnewmedia@gmail.com <idfnewmedia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jul 12 17:20:17 2010  
**Subject:** IDF Spokesperson Announcement- Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team



דובר צה"ל  
IDF Spokesperson

For Immediate Release  
July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
17:00

**Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team**

The IDF Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, received the conclusions reached by a team of experts, headed by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Giora Eiland, tasked with examining the incidents that took place at sea on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Maj. Gen. Eiland presented the team's findings and conclusions to the Chief of the General Staff as well as to officers from the General Staff and from other IDF branches and directorates who were involved in the preparations and in the actual boarding of the flotilla. The core of the report was presented the Minister of Defense of Israel as well.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

The team was appointed by the Chief of the General Staff to examine the deployment towards the flotilla, the chosen course of action and other possible alternatives, advance preparations, and the operation's implementation.

The team included eight officers and their examination focused on intelligence, Naval command, the naval commando unit responsible for carrying out the operation, the Israel Air Force, media relations, technological alternatives, medical aspects and legal counsel and international law.

The examination presented various lessons on a broad, systemic level, not only as regards this specific operation (stopping the flotilla).

In terms of the intelligence effort, the team concluded that not all possible intelligence gathering methods were fully implemented and that the coordination between Navy Intelligence and the Israel Defense Intelligence was insufficient. At the same time, the team emphasized that it is not certain that an optimal intelligence effort would create a complete intelligence picture. The team also pointed out that the anticipated level of violence used against the forces was underestimated.

In terms of situation assessments towards the flotilla, the team clarified that the operation relied excessively on a single course of action, albeit a probable one, while no alternative courses of action were prepared for the event of more dangerous scenarios.

Regarding technological alternatives, the team determined that on the day of the incident, decision makers were not presented with alternative operational courses of action other than a full boarding of the flotilla. The team emphasized the fact that as far as is currently known, no country in the world holds the ability to stop a vessel at sea in a non hostile manner. Therefore statements made on this matter following the incident are unfounded and irresponsible. At the same time, the team determined that alternative courses of action could have existed had the process of preparation begun enough time in advance, and recommended to accelerate the process of examining alternative methods.

The expert team determined that regarding media relations, the preparations made in advance were good. However, the release of press statements and visual materials was delayed due to the need to maintain reliability, the obligation to notify the families of the critically injured soldiers and the long authorization process at the levels above the IDF Spokesperson Unit. The team noted with favor the work of the IDF spokesperson following the incident and emphasized the need for better coordination between the IDF, the foreign ministry and other foreign affairs institutions.

In terms of commanding over the operation, the team determines that the location of the commanders during the incident and the presence of the Commander of the Israel Navy at sea during the operation, was proper and fit

with the Chief of the General Staff's view regarding the role of commanders at the front lines of IDF activity. His presence proved effective in terms of the decision making process, saving lives and more. The team praised the Israel Navy combat protocols, the preparations of the Naval Commando Unit, the Navy Command, the Electronic Warfare Formation and the medical evacuation.

The team determined that the Navy Commando soldiers operated properly, with professionalism, bravery and resourcefulness and that the commanders exhibited correct decision making. The report further determines that the use of live fire was justified and that the entire operation is estimable.

The team noted with favor the various stages of medical evacuation of the injured by air and by sea, including the injured passengers of the Mavi Marmara. In addition the team pointed out the serious attitude with which the General Staff and the Israel Navy approached the matter, as expressed in the preparations.

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland noted with favor the degree of cooperation and transparency exhibited by those involved in the examination at all levels. In the summary of the examination Maj. Gen. Eiland determined that the issue should be viewed with perspective, being that the damage caused to Israel is not as severe as it seemed following the incident. In addition, he said that there's a tendency to draw general conclusions based on a single incident and that "the fact that the IDF examines itself and others do not, results in that only the errors of the IDF are publicized", according to Maj. Gen. Eiland.

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by MailScanner, and is believed to be clean.



July, 12<sup>th</sup> 2010  
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## IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



דובר צה"ל  
IDF Spokesperson

I 2824

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland Presents the Chief of the General Staff with the Conclusions of his Examination Team**

The IDF Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, received the conclusions reached by a team of experts, headed by Maj. Gen. (Res.) Giora Eiland, tasked with examining the incidents that took place at sea on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Maj. Gen. Eiland presented the team's findings and conclusions to the Chief of the General Staff as well as to officers from the General Staff and from other IDF branches and directorates who were involved in the preparations and in the actual boarding of the flotilla. The core of the report was presented the Minister of Defense of Israel as well.

The team was appointed by the Chief of the General Staff to examine the deployment towards the flotilla, the chosen course of action and other possible alternatives, advance preparations, and the operation's implementation.

The team included eight officers and their examination focused on intelligence, Naval command, the naval commando unit responsible for carrying out the operation, the Israel Air Force, media relations, technological alternatives, medical aspects and legal counsel and international law.

The examination presented various lessons on a broad, systemic level, not only as regards this specific operation (stopping the flotilla).

In terms of the intelligence effort, the team concluded that not all possible intelligence gathering methods were fully implemented and that the coordination between Navy

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July, 12<sup>th</sup> 2010  
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## IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



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Intelligence and the Israel Defense Intelligence was insufficient. At the same time, the team emphasized that it is not certain that an optimal intelligence effort would create a complete intelligence picture. The team also pointed out that the anticipated level of violence used against the forces was underestimated.

In terms of situation assessments towards the flotilla, the team clarified that the operation relied excessively on a single course of action, albeit a probable one, while no alternative courses of action were prepared for the event of more dangerous scenarios.

Regarding technological alternatives, the team determined that on the day of the incident, decision makers were not presented with alternative operational courses of action other than a full boarding of the flotilla. The team emphasized the fact that as far as is currently known, no country in the world holds the ability to stop a vessel at sea in a non hostile manner. Therefore statements made on this matter following the incident are unfounded and irresponsible. At the same time, the team determined that alternative courses of action could have existed had the process of preparation begun enough time in advance, and recommended to accelerate the process of examining alternative methods.

The expert team determined that regarding media relations, the preparations made in advance were good. However, the release of press statements and visual materials was delayed due to the need to maintain reliability, the obligation to notify the families of the critically injured soldiers and the long authorization process at the levels above the IDF Spokesperson Unit. The team noted with favor the work of the IDF spokesperson following the incident and emphasized the need for better coordination between the IDF, the foreign ministry and other foreign affairs institutions.

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1700

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In terms of commanding over the operation, the team determines that the location of the commanders during the incident and the presence of the Commander of the Israel Navy at sea during the operation, was proper and fit with the Chief of the General Staff's view regarding the role of commanders at the front lines of IDF activity. His presence proved effective in terms of the decision making process, saving lives and more. The team praised the Israel Navy combat protocols, the preparations of the Naval Commando Unit, the Navy Command, the Electronic Warfare Formation and the medical evacuation.

The team determined that the Navy Commando soldiers operated properly, with professionalism, bravery and resourcefulness and that the commanders exhibited correct decision making. The report further determines that the use of live fire was justified and that the entire operation is estimable.

The team noted with favor the various stages of medical evacuation of the injured by air and by sea, including the injured passengers of the Mavi Marmara. In addition the team pointed out the serious attitude with which the General Staff and the Israel Navy approached the matter, as expressed in the preparations.

Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eiland noted with favor the degree of cooperation and transparency exhibited by those involved in the examination at all levels. In the summary of the examination Maj. Gen. Eiland determined that the issue should be viewed with perspective, being that the damage caused to Israel is not as severe as it seemed following the incident. In addition, he said that there's a tendency to draw general conclusions based on a single incident and that "the fact that the IDF examines itself

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July, 12<sup>th</sup> 2010  
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and others do not, results in that only the errors of the IDF are publicized", according to Maj. Gen. Eiland.

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## IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
18:10

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### The IDF Chief of the General Staff Refers to the Conclusions of the Eiland Report

The IDF Chief of the General Staff, Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, announced today that he adopts the report and the conclusions made by the expert team following the examination of the Flotilla incident "Winds of the Sky 7". The Chief of the General Staff thanked the team and its head, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Giora Eiland, for their thorough and comprehensive examination, which was presented to him and to a group of other commanders, this morning.

The Chief of the General Staff appointed the IDF Operations Branch and the Doctrine and Training Division, to gather the conclusions and follow their implementation by all of the relevant IDF branches. The Chief of the General Staff said that an expert's examination of this kind is at the foundations of the IDF's organizational culture as a supervised, transparent and constantly learning institution which aims to continue and improve in order to face the challenges before him.

Lt. Gen. Ashkenazi added that the flotilla incident is an opportunity that should not be wasted to learn and reach conclusions. "The IDF is confident enough to critically examine itself and improve based on the conclusions. This is the heart and soul of the IDF", said the Chief of the General Staff and added: "Not me, nor did the examination team identify a failure or negligence, but nonetheless, an examination as thorough as this brings up mistakes which must be corrected for future incidents".

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## IDF SPOKESPERSON ANNOUNCEMENT



July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
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The Chief of the General Staff expressed his appreciation for the Israel Navy and the Naval Commando Unit, which for the past three and a half years proved high and unique capabilities in the field of boarding boats during various known and unknown incidents. He stated: "We continue to send our soldiers every day, in the air, on land and at sea, to missions much more dangerous than this flotilla. We want them to continue to act charge and take risks. I wouldn't want commanders and soldiers to embark on missions much more complicated and dangerous, knowing that back on land, or past the border at home, there waits an investigation committee. Therefore, the centrality of the examination, its thoroughness and quality, are a central method in our military culture".

### IDF Spokesperson Unit - Foreign Press Branch

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I 284

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:23 AM  
**To:** Burnett, David R; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Mayo, Iris J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Greene, Elisa; Harutunian, Ruben; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**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.

*Ruth*

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I285

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:57 AM  
**To:** Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Greene, Elisa; Harutunian, Ruben; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** DEPORTATIONS UPDATE @ CoB --- YNET

YNET 18:18 , 06.02.10

**State Prosecutor: All foreign flotilla detainees have been released**

State Prosecutor Moshe Lador said that "all the foreign detainees from the aid convoy have been released; some are at the airport and some are already on board airplanes. There is only one injured person that cannot be flown for medical reasons, but Israel has not detained even one passenger from the ship."

Lador did not give out information regarding detainees that are not considered foreign citizens, namely Israelis and Palestinians.

(Ronen Medzini)

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I 289

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Vasquez, Edgar J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 12:14 PM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** Article on Gaza Flotilla

**Categories:** Working

AP has picked up on our statement...

## **US steps ups pressure on Gaza flotilla activists**

By MATTHEW LEE - The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - (AP) The Obama administration is stepping up pressure on activists planning to challenge Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip, warning that they will face action from Israeli authorities and that American participants may also be violating U.S. law.

The State Department said Friday that attempts to break the blockade are "irresponsible and provocative" and that Israel has well-established means of delivering assistance to the Palestinian residents of Gaza. It noted that the territory is run by the militant Hamas group, a U.S. designated foreign terrorist organization, and that Americans providing support to it are subject to fines and jail.

The warning is the third in as many days and follows the announcement by 36 Americans that they will sail aboard a U.S.-flagged vessel in a flotilla to Gaza.

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I291

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2011 10:47 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Biome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens)  
**Subject:** Announcement by Flotilla Organizers  
**Categories:** Working

Announcement issued by the flotilla organizers following their press conference in Athens.

<http://www.shiptogaza.gr/English/News-Announcements/item/738-GAZA-WE-ARE-COMING-Despite-pressure-and-threats-of-violence-flotilla-will-sail>

**[Athens] On Saturday, 25 June, the French boat, Dignity / Karama, left the port of Corsica to meet up with at least nine other vessels sailing to Gaza to challenge Israel's illegal blockade. Israel's best efforts to stop our boats at port, including pressure on governments, threats against insurance and communications companies, intimidation of human rights defenders, and other underhanded tactics, have thus far failed. The Freedom Flotilla has set sail.**

In the coming days the rest of the vessels in the flotilla, two cargo ships and seven other passenger boats, will leave from various ports to a meeting point in international waters from which the boats will sail all together towards Gaza. We will carry nearly three thousand tons of aid and hundreds of civilians from dozens of countries, including members of parliament, politicians, writers, artists, journalists and sports figures, as well as representatives of indigenous peoples and various faith groups.

Unfortunately some of our vessels are facing delays admittedly prompted by frivolous complaints from the Israel Law Center, attempted sabotage of some boats, as well as administrative obstacles created by the Greek government in response to Israeli pressure. We call upon the Greek government not to become complicit in Israel's illegal actions by succumbing to this pressure.

There is no question that Israel's near hermetic closure of the Gaza Strip is illegal; this has been affirmed again and again by numerous international human rights bodies including the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. There is no question that Israel's closure policy has had a devastating effect on the occupied people of Gaza. This has also been well documented. The only question is why does the international community of states allow Israel to keep violating the law and rights of the Palestinian people with impunity?

Recent steps taken by Israel to address the concerns raised in the public eye by the *Freedom Flotilla II – Stay Human* initiative, including last week's announcement of authorization for construction materials for 1,200 homes and 18 schools in Gaza, prove that flotillas work. However, this is not enough, as our effort is not simply about increasing humanitarian aid to Gaza. It is about freedom for Palestinians in Gaza and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories. Calls by some world leaders for flotilla organizers to use "established channels" to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza show a fundamental disregard for Palestinian human rights. The Palestinian people do not want handouts from the international community; rather they want liberation – a call we must all support.

Therefore, despite intimidation, pressure, and threats of violence from the Israeli government, which is not ashamed to boast that it will use snipers and attack dogs against unarmed civilians, we will sail. We are part of a growing movement, led by Palestinian civil society

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campaigning for their freedom, that Israel's strong-arm tactics cannot stop. We call on our governments to do their utmost to protect their citizens as we take to the sea, nonviolently, in defense of freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. **Gaza, we are coming.**

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I292

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Shelstad, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 9:50 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-III  
**Subject:** (AP) Israel sending American on seized ship home

WASHINGTON - (AP) - A former U.S. ambassador aboard a Gaza aid ship seized by Israel commandos is on his way home, his wife said. Edward Peck, 80, of Chevy Chase, Md., was among activists in the flotilla trying to get humanitarian aid to Gaza, said his wife, Ann Peck. She said she received a brief e-mail from Israel's foreign ministry on May 31 informing her that her husband was fine and headed home. The e-mail said he would likely arrive June 1 and would call from a New York airport when he landed, Ann Peck said. She said that as of the evening of May 31 she hadn't spoken with U.S. officials, nor was she able to talk to her husband, a former U.S. ambassador to Mauritania.

Jeff Shelstad  
Watch Officer  
Department of State Operations Center (S/ES-O)  
[ShelstadJ@state.gov](mailto:ShelstadJ@state.gov) (202) 647-1512

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I298

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Conlon, Steven M  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 4:09 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Greece intercepts Gaza-bound American activists (Reuters)

**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 4:08 PM  
**To:** NEWS-EUR; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-III; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Greece intercepts Gaza-bound American activists (Reuters)

ATHENS/JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Greece prevented a boat of U.S. activists from sailing on Friday to join a flotilla of pro-Palestinian campaigners planning to challenge Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip.

The small flotilla of activists from the United States, France and Canada was due to leave at least a week ago, but the departure has been constantly put back amid allegations of sabotage.

The Greek coastguard intercepted the boat soon after it left the port of Perama, near Piraeus, for the open sea, one of the activists said.

"We are just here, two miles off Piraeus," said U.S. activist Ann Wright, aboard the ship. "We've been stopped by the coastguard. Their ship manoeuvred in front of us and they are now talking to the captain. They want us to turn around," she told Reuters by phone.

Some hours later the vessel started heading back to the Greek shore, said a coastguard official who declined to be named.

Wright said the mission had wanted to sail to the Greek island of Crete but the coastguard would not allow them.

Greek authorities said earlier on Friday that ships destined for Gaza -- which involves transit through international waters -- were prohibited from leaving Greek ports.

But another activist said the coastguard's interception was illegal and would not deter the rest of the flotilla, which is expected to leave in the following days.

"The interception does affect us but we believe it is illegal and unreasonable," Vangelis Pissias told Reuters. "We are determined to continue. How can they be doing this?"

Israel says its blockade of Gaza is aimed at stopping weapons from reaching the enclave's rulers, Hamas -- an Islamist group that is branded a terrorist organisation by the West.

Palestinians and their supporters say the naval blockade is illegal and constitutes collective punishment for Gaza's 1.5 million residents.

Israel has urged foreign governments not to let the latest convoy get under way. On Thursday, Israeli Prime

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Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked allies, including Greece, for taking steps to block the activists.

A spokeswoman for the campaigners said the flotilla would set sail from Greece by the middle of next week.

"Israel is doing its very, very best to make sure we don't get out of port," spokeswoman Greta Berlin said, speaking by telephone from Greece where some of the ships are moored.

"We want to move the boats by July 5 to get to our rendezvous point no later than July 6 or 7 ... We will go with what we have," she said adding that nine boats were now hoping to take part in the mission against original plans for up to 15.

Irish activists accused Israel on Thursday of sabotaging their boat in Turkey, stopping it from sailing to Gaza.

Israel has denounced the flotilla as a provocation, but has denied allegations that it sabotaged either the Irish boat or a Swedish vessel that reported propeller damage after berthing in a Greek port.

Just over a year ago, Israeli marines stormed another pro-Palestinian flotilla that had set sail from Turkey and approached Gaza. Nine activists died in the onboard clashes, provoking an international outcry.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

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I300

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 02, 2011 9:58 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** Fw: Israel denies it damaged Gaza bound ships (AP)

David Brownstein  
 NEA Staff Assistant  
[brownsteindp@state.gov](mailto:brownsteindp@state.gov)  
[brownsteindp@state.sgov.gov](mailto:brownsteindp@state.sgov.gov)  
 Office: 202 647-7216  
 Mobile: 202 664 3724

\*For the quickest reply, please always email the nea-staff-assistants-dl collective

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 02, 2011 09:38 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Israel denies it damaged Gaza bound ships (AP)

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel has denied claims it sabotaged ships trying to breach its sea blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Activists accuse Israel of damaging two ships docked in Turkey and Greece that are part of a flotilla attempting to reach the Palestinian territory with humanitarian aid. Efforts were further stalled Friday when Greece prevented ships from sailing.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor on Saturday dismissed the sabotage charges as "ridiculous," calling them "sad conspiracy theories."

Israel says it imposed the blockade in 2007 to stop weapons reaching the Islamic militant group Hamas that rules Gaza. Activists describe the blockade as a form of incarceration for the Palestinians.

Nine activists were killed last year in an Israeli raid on a similar flotilla.

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**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 12:05 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Israel foreign minister: Don't take eyes off Iran (AP)

David Brownstein  
NEA Staff Assistant  
[brownsteindp@state.gov](mailto:brownsteindp@state.gov)  
[brownsteindp@state.sgov.gov](mailto:brownsteindp@state.sgov.gov)  
Office: 202 647-7216  
Mobile: 202 664 3724

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:54 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA; NEWS-Iran  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS  
**Subject:** Israel foreign minister: Don't take eyes off Iran (AP)

VIENNA (AP) - Israel's foreign minister says Iran is using the smoke screen of Mideast unrest to advance both its missile and nuclear programs.

Avigdor Lieberman also urged would-be participants of the pro-Palestinian flotilla to give up their plans and deliver their aid to U.N. supervised ports for distribution.

Lieberman spoke to reporters Thursday after meeting with Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger. Spindelegger said Austria had not yet made up its mind whether to support U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state, adding he preferred a joint EU approach to the issue.

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I 304

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 10:44 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza flotilla boat departs from Greek port (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 10:37 AM  
**To:** NEWS-CA; NEWS-EUR; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** Gaza flotilla boat departs from Greek port (AP)

ATHENS (AP) - Witnesses say a boat carrying several dozen Americans who seek to break Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip has set sail from a Greek port.

The boat dubbed "The Audacity of Hope" is part of a flotilla of nine vessels and several hundred activists who say they want to deliver aid to the Palestinian territory. The boat left the port of Perama on Friday afternoon.

American activists have alleged that the administrative delays in their plans were caused by Israeli pressure on Greece.

Israel has said it will thwart any effort to breach the sea blockade of Gaza.

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*I306*

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:20 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla Update

Update on one of the boats in Greek docks.

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**From:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** Snipes, Christopher K; Goodman, Ian A  
**Cc:** Cockrell, John D (Athens)  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Update

FYI. Regards, Dan L.

SBU  
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**From:** Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 3:05 PM  
**To:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Subject:** Gaza flotilla update, this just in

Per two Gaza flotilla websites, passengers on the U.S. Boat to Gaza, *The Audacity of Hope*, invited Greek and international media to inspect the boat on June 30 at 3:00 pm in Perama, Greece. The passengers note that they were inspected by Greek officials on Monday, June 27, but have not yet received notification of their findings. Gale Courey Toensing, a passenger on the American boat said to the media today, "Our voyage is totally transparent and we have nothing to hide. All we want to do is sail to Gaza with our cargo of letters from Americans to the people of Gaza. We are sulfur-free and ready to sail." Due to vandalism discovered Monday on the propeller of the Swedish-Greek vessel Juliano, flotilla participants have organized guard duty rosters for each ship that is due to sail for Gaza. The Juliano was towed for repairs to a shipyard at another port and should be ready to sail on July 1 pending another assessment by Greek officials. The Canadian ship, which an anonymous complaint also labeled unfit to sail, has been reinspected and received clearance as seaworthy.

*Leah A. Martin*  
Political Officer  
U.S. Embassy Athens  
(210) 720-2382  
[MartinLA@state.gov](mailto:MartinLA@state.gov)

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B1,B5,1.4(D),1.4(C),B6

18

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

B5

Marc

Classification Extended on : 11/28/2012 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 6/3/2035

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:19 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

Roger that -- one and the same.

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:16 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

James-

[Redacted]

Marc

**From:** Pomper, Stephen  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:02 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

L/PM will take a look at this and get back with additional thoughts

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:20 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

Jim -- Adding others in L here (and this issue is mainly in L/PM's lane). Here are my understandings:

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

---

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

SECRET//NOFORN

Kevin,

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

Thanks,

Jim

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:15 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location (SECRET)

B6  
B3 DOD-CP

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

Mr. Sindle,



Attached is a powerpoint slide showing

[Redacted]

Very Respectfully,

[Redacted]

B6

B3 DOD-CP

**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:23 AM  
**To:** J2 ADDI JCS; Williams, Richard A.; Loewy, Benjamin D.; Clay, Andreia; Szekely, Peter M. PB3; JAC IDWM MWA; Pruce, Joseph L. LT; Suldo, Joseph GG-14; Schlereth, LCDR Frank G.; McGrory, James P; Sanford, Lara N; Giese, Ashton K  
**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET/NOFORN

Folks,

[Redacted]

B5

1.4(D)  
B1

By the way, Embassy Nicosia informed me today that the Challenger II, according to Cypriot authorities, is in the port of Limassol, Cyprus. Cypriots have also said they are not allowing it to leave.

V/R,

**Jim Sindle**

*Pol-Mil Officer*

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Phone: 202-647-4386

ClassNet: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

OpenNet: SindleJM@state.gov

Unless otherwise noted, this email is classified SECRET per E.O. 12958, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d). Declassify 10 years from date sent.

Attachment Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR  
Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

I9

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 3:38 PM  
**To:** Dwyer, Stuart A; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Boyer, Spencer P  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) [redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

Negative.

---

**From:** Dwyer, Stuart A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 3:29 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Boyer, Spencer P  
**Subject:** FW: (S/NF) [redacted]

Any update from there on status of the Corrie? SD

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Classified by:** Stuart Dwyer, Deputy Director, EUR/WE, Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4(d)  
**Declassify On:** 2020/06/04

---

**From:** McEldowney, Nancy E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 3:04 PM  
**To:** Dwyer, Stuart A; Boyer, Spencer P  
**Cc:** Hackworth, Jason K  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) [redacted]

What is the latest on [redacted]

---

**From:** Slattery, Phillip T  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 10:27 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; SES\_DutyDeputies; S\_SpecialAssistants; D(S); D(L); P; C; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Cc:** SWO; SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Subject:** (S/NF) [redacted]

SECRET//NOFORN

Colleagues –

The latest information Ops has received [redacted]  
[redacted]

Ops will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

Regards, **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

-Phill

SECRET/NOFORN

**Phillip T. Slattery**  
Senior Watch Officer  
State Department Operations Center (S/ES-O)  
[SlatteryPT@state.sgov.gov](mailto:SlatteryPT@state.sgov.gov)  
tel: 202-647-1512

*TIOA*

SECRET//NOFORN

DECL: 08/29/2025

### GAZA FLOTILLAS

On May 31, Israeli Naval Forces (INF) intercepted in international waters a flotilla of six vessels carrying passengers and humanitarian cargo bound for Gaza in an attempt to break Israel's maritime blockade. After flotilla organizers rejected Israeli requests to divert to the port of Ashdod to unload their cargo, Israeli forces boarded the vessels and met with violence aboard the Turkish-flagged M/V Mavi Marmara. As a result, four Israeli soldiers were wounded and nine Turkish citizens, including one Turkish-American, were killed. The Turkish organizers claim that the INF opened fire without provocation, causing a controversy over the facts. The incident resulted in intense international criticism of Israel, the acceleration of already deteriorating Israeli-Turkish relations, additional vessels attempting to break the blockade, and several investigations into the incident.

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

Since the May 31 incident, several other vessels have capitalized on the Mavi Marmara's publicity by attempting to break the blockade or by delivering goods to the Egyptian port of El-Arish for overland delivery to Gaza. On June 4, the INF boarded the M/V Rachel Corrie without incident, escorted it to Ashdod, offloaded and screened its cargo for delivery to Gaza, and immediately repatriated the participants.

[Redacted]

Israel has attempted to improve relations with Turkey since the May 31 tragedy by lifting a travel ban to Turkey, releasing all of the passengers and vessels detained, allowing more goods into Gaza, and participating in the UN Secretary General's panel of inquiry.

[Redacted]

SECRET//NOFORN

Classified by: NEA A/S Jeffrey D. Feltman  
E.O. 13526 Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

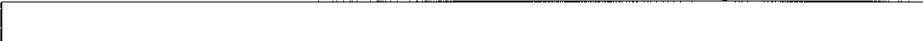
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

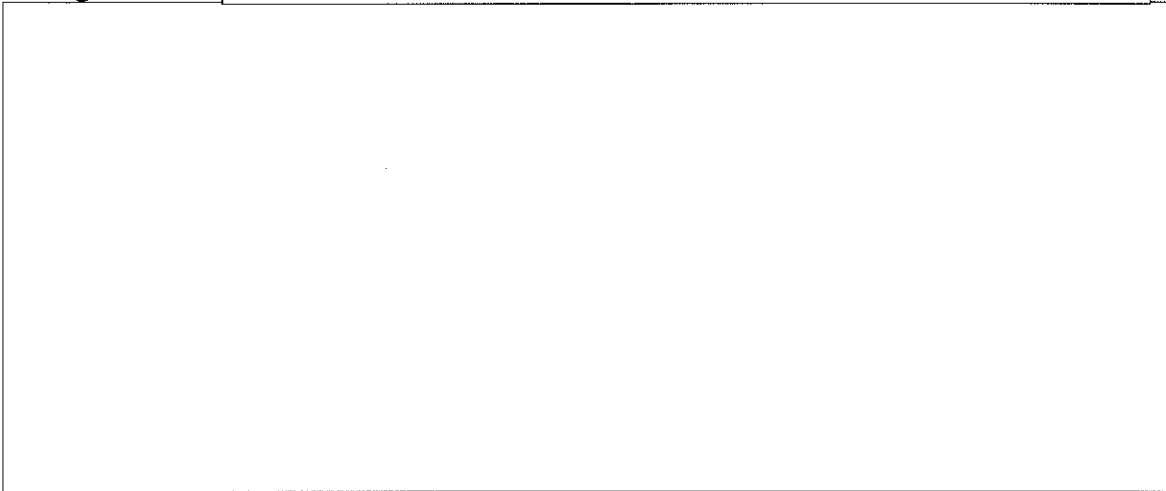
SECRET//NOFORN

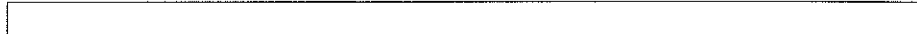
- 2 -

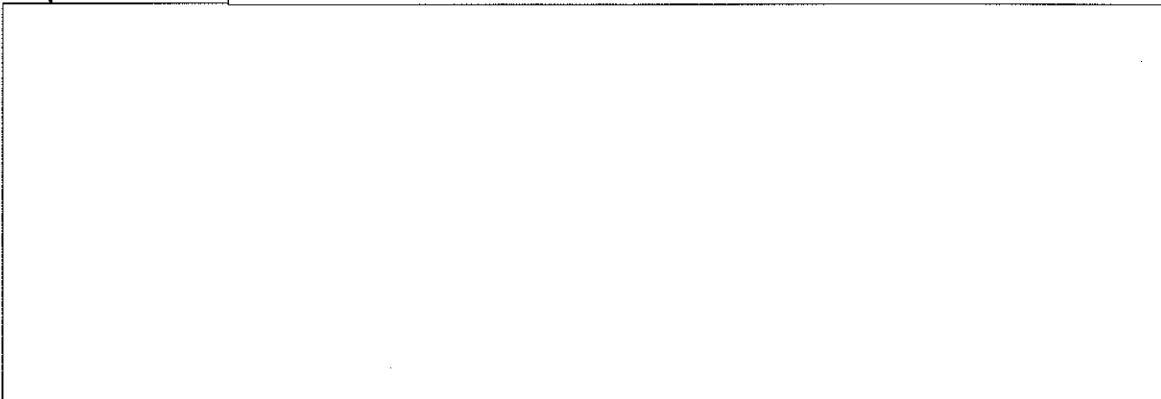


1.4(D)  
B1

Significant differences over the appropriate mechanism to handle an investigation into the Mavi Marmara incident resulted in several different investigative bodies being formed. 



We have welcomed UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon's establishment of – and Israel and Turkey's cooperation with – a panel to receive and review the Israeli and Turkish investigations. The panel convened in New York on August 10-11 and will meet again in early September. It aims to produce an interim report on September 15. 



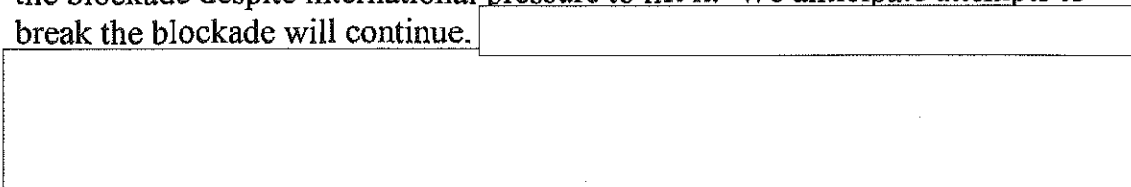
Israel's naval blockade of Gaza was established in 2007 in an attempt to cut off the flow of illicit arms to Hamas, which was at the time launching rockets from Gaza into southern Israel. It is that overriding security concern that underlies Israel's position that its naval blockade on Gaza is legitimate. Israel insists it has not

SECRET//NOFORN

SECRET//NOFORN

- 3 -

committed any violations of international law, and that it will continue to enforce the blockade despite international pressure to lift it. We anticipate attempts to break the blockade will continue.



1.4(D)  
B1

SECRET//NOFORN

Approved: NEA Jeffrey D. Feltman

Drafted: NEA/IPA Jim Sindle; x 7-4386, afterhours 703-867-9543

Cleared: NEA/FO: RSchlicher - ok  
NEA/FO: JWalles - ok  
NEA/IPA: PSutphin - ok  
P: ECatalano - ok  
D(S): DSchrepel - ok  
D(L): SCarl-Yoder - ok  
S/P: DRand - ok  
S/SEMEP: SKhoury-Kincannon -  
EUR/SE: ASchrank - ok  
IO/UNP: AMorrison - ok  
USUN/W: WBass - ok



RELEASED IN PART B6

I 11

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Chakravorty, Anamika X  
**Sent:** Monday, June 07, 2010 12:26 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000324 -- Gaza Flotilla Tidbits from the Swedish Government and Port Union

R:071450Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0126  
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 000324

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PINR, EUN, IS, GZ, SW  
SUBJECT: Gaza Flotilla Tidbits from the Swedish Government and Port Union

1. (U) The following summarizes recent reactions to the Gaza aid Flotilla by the Swedish Parliament, MFA and Port Workers Union.

2. (SBU) Parliament: At the initiative of the Left Party, the Swedish Parliament today held a debate on the wider Gaza aid issue. As Sweden is four months away from general elections, the debate was more about campaigning than foreign policy making. Foreign Minister Carl Bildt summed up the debate well with his closing statement: "What is the Red-Green opposition's position? Foreign policy is no laughing matter. The opposition basically only agrees on one thing--to bring home the military attache, and even then they agree that it probably will not have any effect whatsoever."

3. (SBU) MFA: On June 4, DCM Silverman met with [redacted]

[redacted] stated that the Swedish position is clear in two aspects: Israel was wrong to board the ships in international waters and Israel had used extensive violence. Bildt has stated that Sweden will continue to build on the EU's unity and work through the international system.

4. (SBU) Port Workers Union: The AP news wire reported on 5 June that the Swedish Port Workers Union will launch a weeklong boycott of Israeli ships and goods in response to the raid on the Gaza-destined aid flotilla. Although Swedish trade unions are traditionally very powerful, this is a small freestanding group with only 1,500 members. Post does not expect this group to have

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B6

any real impact on trade between Sweden and Israel.  
BARZUN

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART NR,B6

T13

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, May 06, 2011 9:31 PM  
**To:** Walles, Jacob; NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: FYI Update on Amcit Cases: CONS TLV Meets with MFA  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

**Categories:** Working

FYI

**Paul Sutphin**  
Director  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
Room 6251, Department of State

(T) 202-647-3672 (F) 202-736-4461

Privacy/PII  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Eilts, Colin C  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 05, 2011 11:31 AM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Buzbee, John R  
**Subject:** FYI Update on Amcit Cases: CONS TLV Meets with MFA

FYI

Note updates on Flotilla,

NR

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 05, 2011 06:22:54  
**To:** Greene, Elisa

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Cc: Parker, Andrew C; ANKARA-SMARTS; Jerusalem, SMARTS; Goldberger, Thomas H; TELAVIV-SMARTS

Subject: Update on Amcit Cases: CONS TLV Meets with MFA

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Privacy/PII



MRN: 11 TEL AVIV 1512  
Date/DTG: May 05, 2011 / 051522Z MAY 11  
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, KWBG, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, PRIVACY  
Reference: A) TEL AVIV 562  
Subject: Update on Amcit Cases: CONS TLV Meets with MFA

**SUMMARY**

1. (SBU) The Consul General and ACS Chief met with [redacted] for a follow-up meeting on May 3, 2011 regarding a range of ongoing ACS cases. END SUMMARY.

B6

[redacted]

NR

[redacted]

NR

[redacted]

NR

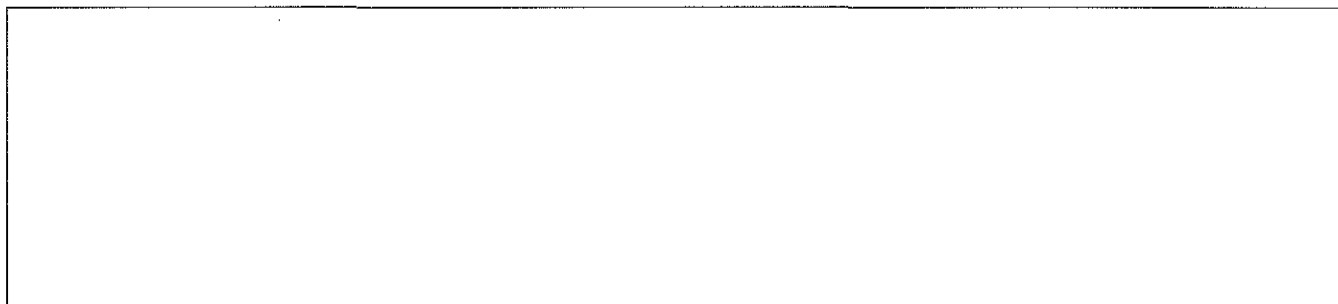
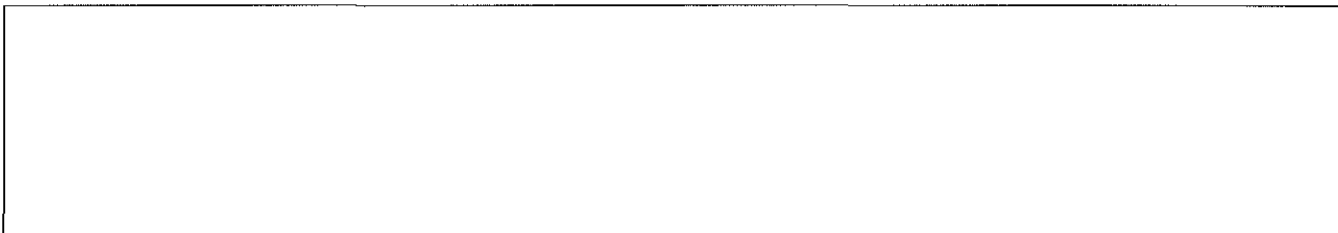


**FLOTILLA UPDATES**

6. (SBU) Furkan Dogan: Post delivered a dipnote on April 27, 2011 regarding the missing personal effects of American citizen Furkan Dogan, who was killed on the Mavi Marmara vessel during the May 2010 Gaza flotilla. The dipnote included a list of 7 items belonging to the deceased that were not received by the next of kin, Prof. Ahmet Dogan. MFA confirmed the Note has been forwarded to the Ministry of Defense for further information.

7. (SBU) Property: According to the MFA, the catalogue received by Post contains only the property taken from the Mavi Marmara. Some of that property was handed over to the IDF and the rest to the Turkish Embassy. Post requested that the MFA determine if there are any items still in the possession of the IDF, and if so, when they will be released and to whom. MFA reps stated that the GOI sent three air shipping containers filled with personal property (but not electronics) to Turkey after the May 2010 flotilla. Two months ago, the GOT returned one shipping container filled with approximately 200 suitcases to Israel. MFA reps described the GOT's actions as "very bizarre" and requested that Post send a message to the GOT via Embassy Ankara asking why these items were returned. Additionally, the GOI removed non-personal items from the flotilla ships and is storing these items, which fill at least part of seven shipping containers which are stored at the Kishon building at the Ashdod Port, under IDF purview. MFA reps stated that the GOI is stumped on what to do with the confiscated ships and property in the shipping containers. COMMENT: The fact that the MFA requested that the USG send a message to the GOT rather than the GOI contacting the GOT directly speaks to the poor state of relations between Israel and Turkey. END COMMENT.

8. (U) Future Flotillas: MFA had no updates on upcoming possible flotillas. MFA reps suggested the USG put out a travel alert requesting Amcits not participate in future flotillas.



11. (U) Post's meeting with MFA reps was insightful and productive. Post will continue to follow up on these cases.

Signature: GOLDBERGER

---

Drafted By: TEL AVIV:Zuckerman, Eve

Cleared By: CONS:Parker, Andrew C  
CONS - ACS:Greene, Elisa

Approved By: Front Office:Goldberger, Thomas H

Released By: TEL AVIV:Greene, Elisa

Info: Parker, Andrew C *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; Goldberger, Thomas H *ROUTINE*

Attachments: Metadata.dat

---

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: Released Copy

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Privacy/PII

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),NR

IIF

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 7:56 PM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd; Lentz, Andrew N; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Knopf, Payton L; Reisser, Wesley J; Groeblacher, Julia  
**Subject:** FW: (S/NODIS) Scenesetter for Abbas Visit

**From:** Rubinstein, Daniel H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:21 PM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hale, David M; Connelly, Maura; Rudman, Mara; 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Cunningham, James B; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** (S/NODIS) Scenesetter for Abbas Visit

SECRET/NODIS entire

1. (S) Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen)

NR

[Redacted]

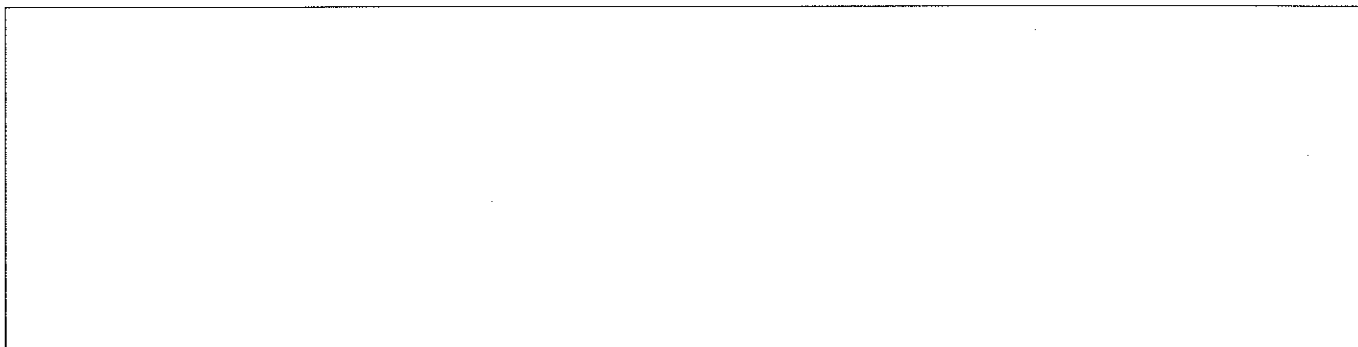
[Redacted]

**Proximity Negotiations**

[Redacted]

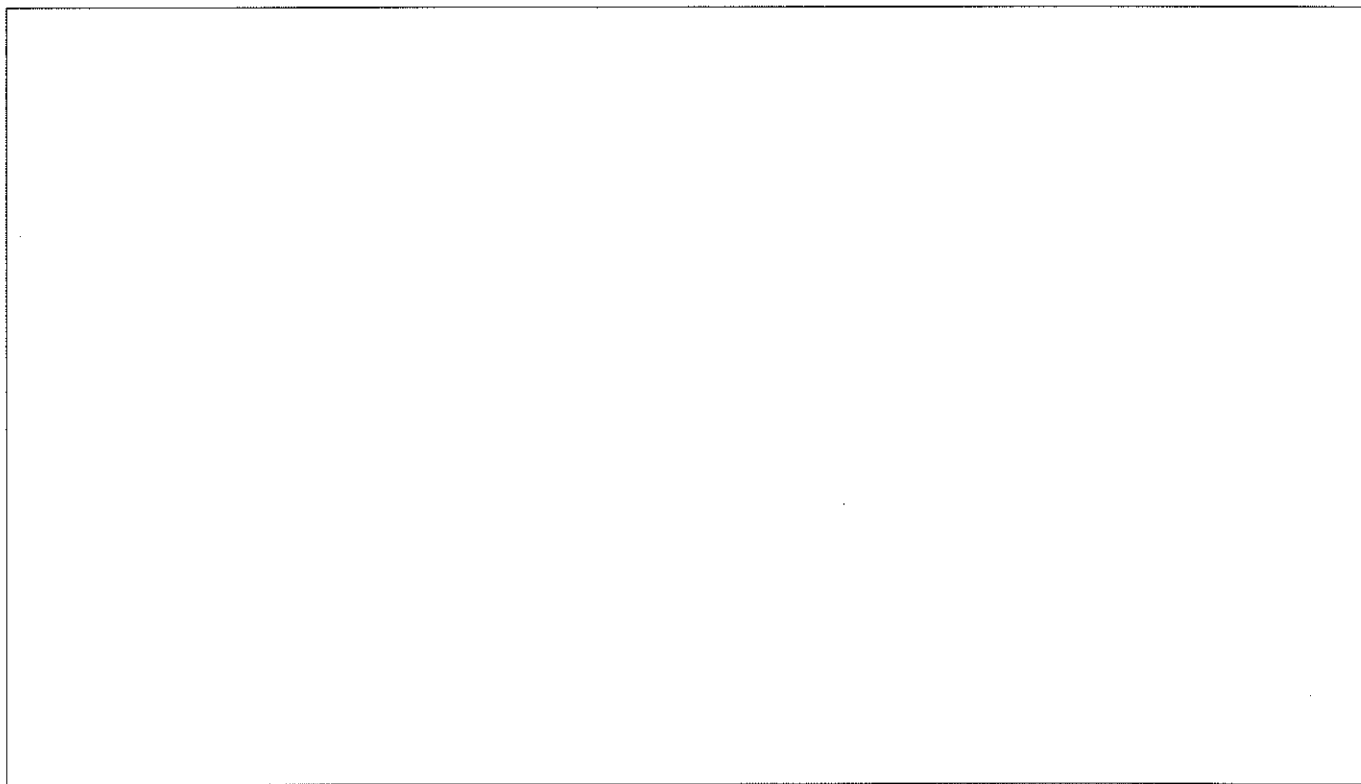
**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Transition to Direct Negotiations**



NR

**State-Building**



**Gaza and Hamas**



1.4(D)

B1

11. (S) The May 31 "Free Gaza" flotilla incident returned Gaza to the forefront of Palestinian politics [redacted]

[redacted] He has sharply criticized the GOI's handling of the event, describing it as a "major public relations victory" for [redacted]

NR

12. (S) The flotilla incident may have also contributed to Abu Mazen's decision to send an emissary to Gaza, as a public sign of his support for intra-Palestinian reconciliation. ( Hamas refused to receive him.) While [redacted]

[redacted]

NR

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

I19

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 11:24 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (S//OC/NF) [redacted] the Findings 1.4(D)  
the UN Gaza Flotilla B1

**Categories:** Working

[redacted]

**Jack Doutrich**  
Political Officer  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

**From:** Lester, Raymond  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:51 AM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J  
**Cc:** Gregonis, Meghan E; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J; Mokhtarzada, Homeyra N  
**Subject:** (S//OC/NF) [redacted] the Findings of the UN Gaza Flotilla



11-CIA%20WASHI  
5TON%20DC-41197

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Classification: SECRET  
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 (b)

Declassify On: 2021/04/12

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

I29

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Scovitch, Joseph R  
**Sent:** Monday, August 02, 2010 3:08 PM  
**To:** NEA-ALL-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Afternoon Brief 08/02/10 (S/NF)  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

SECRET/NOFORN



**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
*Operations Center*

***Afternoon Brief***  
Monday, August 02, 2010  
1500 EDT

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**ISRAEL TO COOPERATE WITH UN PROBE;**

[Redacted]

- (SBU) Senior members of PM Netanyahu's cabinet voted to allow the panel access to material gathered by two Israeli committees conducting separate probes into the May 31 raid on a Gaza aid flotilla, media report. The Israel-Palestinian Affairs Office notes the Israeli government and the UN have been working out modalities since Netanyahu's July 6 visit to Washington in order to forestall potentially divisive resolutions at the upcoming UN General Assembly. *(Ops/Israel and Palestinian Affairs Office e-mail, Reuters)*

- (S/NF) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

[Large Redacted Block]

NR

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Drafted: EACasteel

Approved: JPerkinsShaker/HFRodriguez

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

SECRET/NOFORN

DERIVED FROM: Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail DECLASSIFY ON: 20200801

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

I 31A

NotesTele.txt

Jan X Levin 06/02/2010 04:16:47 PM From DB/Inbox: Jan X Levin

Cable  
Text:

S E C R E T NOFORN TEL AVIV 01225

CXTeIA:

ACTION: POL

INFO: PD RES ECON DCM DAO AMB AID ADM RSO CONS

DISSEMINATION: POL

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:MSIEVERS

DRAFTED: POL:JLEVIN

CLEARED: ECON:DBURNETT

VZCZCTVI625

OO RUEHC RUEHKK RUEHZL RUEHAK

DE RUEHTV #1225/01 1531305

ZNY SSSSS ZZH

O 021305Z JUN 10

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7128

INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0040

BT

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 TEL AVIV 001225

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2020

TAGS: PREL, CASC, KWBG, KPAL, IS

SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 2

REF: TEL AVIV 1218

Classified By: A/DCM MARC SIEVERS; REASONS 1.4(b), (d)

1. As of 4 p.m. local time on June 2:

POLITICAL-MILITARY  
-----

2. (U) The Israeli government continues to reiterate that its actions in stopping the Gaza flotilla were legitimate. The security cabinet issued a communique this morning which announced that "The Cabinet decided that the imposition of restrictions on the entry of ships into Gaza, which is controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization, is an outstanding act of self-defense against Hamas's continued aggression against Israeli citizens and communities; so too the IDF action against the violent provocation on the high seas. The Cabinet regrets the fact that there were fatalities during the event but lays full responsibility on those elements that took violent action which tangibly endangered the lives of IDF soldiers."

3. (C) [redacted] told the Ambassador this afternoon that a way had been found to release all the Turkish

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NotesTele.txt

detainees, and possibly all nationalities today.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

As of 3 p.m. local time, the MFA informed Embassy that Ella Prison had been closed and all the flotilla detainees from Ella were in transit en route to Ben Gurion Airport.

4. (C)

[Redacted] told EconOff today that eight truckloads of humanitarian goods from the flotilla entered Gaza via Kerem Shalom June 1, and more were scheduled to enter today. COGAT is coordinating remaining shipments with the ICRC and UN. UN approval is still pending; ICRC is still in discussions with Hamas regarding delivery of medical items. The items offloaded from the flotilla ships were not packaged properly and need to be repackaged for transfer (e.g. unpacked motor scooters); union safety rules at the port are complicating offloading since ships were not loaded properly and many items had just been thrown in unpacked. [Redacted] estimated that in all, the items offloaded from the ships might total some 70-80 truckloads.

5. (S/NF)

[Redacted]

6. (S)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

7. (U) Demonstrations of support for the IDF were held across Israel today. Two of the main organizations behind the shows of solidarity were Im Tirtzu and Bnei Akiva, who brought hundreds of activists into the streets. (Note: Im Tirtzu is the organization that launched the recent campaign against the New Israel Fund, which supports many human rights organizations, some of which provided evidence which was used in the Goldstone Report.) Im Tirtzu organized pro-IDF demonstrations in Israeli universities in Beersheva and Haifa, at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and across the street from the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv. They are calling for another demonstration June 2 at Tel Aviv University, as well as another at sea near Haifa, under the title "We're all navy." Im Tirtzu's chairman, Ronen Shuval, said that the organization's aim was to show public support for the IDF as well as to "make people boycott Turkey and its products, to combat Turkish hypocrisy."

CONSULAR  
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8. (SBU) On June 1, consular officers visited 12 American detainees, 11 at Ella Prison in Beersheva. All were in good health and signed Privacy Act waivers. All families were contacted. All said they would agree to be deported. One detainee, moderately injured in altercations with Israeli Navy personnel at sea and with immigration police at the Port of Ashdod, refused medical treatment and is being held at Givon Prison, Ramle. CONS continues efforts to locate and contact seven possible AmCits who may have been on the flotilla vessels.

9. (SBU) CONS asked MFA for a list of AmCits deported from Israel, those to be deported, and those likely to remain in detention. MFA said it may be able to provide such a list later today.

10. (SBU) The document all detainees are being asked to sign, a Request for Immediate Departure, does not specify any further consequences to those who sign. We have asked MFA to clarify whether those signing will be barred for a period of years from entering Israel. Generally, deportations from Israel incur a ten-year bar.

11. (SBU) ConGen Jerusalem ConOff and Consular Assistant visited [Redacted] at the Ein Kerem Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem. As previously reported, [Redacted] injured when hit by an IDF-launched tear gas canister on May 31 during a pro-flotilla protest at Oalandiya, on the West Bank. [Redacted]

B6

SECURITY  
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12. (S/NF) [Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

NotesTele.txt

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

13. (C) A relatively small minority of the Israeli Arab community in Israel participated in a general strike on June 1, though all Arab schools and some shops were closed throughout the country. Israeli Arabs noted higher participation in Umm al-Fahem, Nazareth, and east Jerusalem. The rumor that Israeli Islamic Movement head Sheikh Raed Salah had been seriously injured or killed on board the Mavi Marmara has now been dispelled and most Israeli observers, including in the Ministry of Internal Security, head of Arab Affairs, are not concerned there will be any further increase in tensions resulting from the May 31 violence.

14. (SBU) After an eight-hour hearing, an Israeli judge extended for a week the arrest of the four Israeli Arab leaders involved in the flotilla, citing possible disruption of legal proceedings against them and concerns about the public peace. Sheikh Raed Salah appeared to enjoy the media attention at the hearing regarding him and the other leader of the Islamic Movement, along with the head of the Arab Higher Monitoring Committee.

15. (SBU) In what appears to be the sole case of violence, one man in Netanya who sustained light wounds said he was stabbed repeatedly by an Arab shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) this morning. Israeli Arabs say their community has generally responded maturely, and has not resorted to any violent demonstrations. Some Israeli Arabs say the Mavi Marmara incident contributes to a growing sense of alienation and powerlessness among Israeli Arabs that leads them to look to the international community for help on Palestinian issues like the Gaza blockade. On the whole, the Israeli Arab reaction appears to be tempered in spite of incendiary statements by the Islamic Movement and some Arab members of the Knesset aiming to stir up protests.

#### PRESS REPORTING

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16. (U) Today the Israeli newspapers began looking at issues including the impact the incident will have on Israel's foreign relations (including with the U.S.), the fate of Gaza, the current Israeli leadership's ability to make decisions in such matters, and the possibility of conducting an investigation into the affair. Media quoted Mossad Director Meir Dagan as saying before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that "Israel is gradually turning from an asset to the United States to a burden."

17. (SBU) Key commentaries in the news focused on the international ramifications of the flotilla incident, as well as what the future will hold if Israel does not divest itself completely from Gaza and make peace with the Palestinians. The larger conclusion was that Israel had better take dramatic international steps to remedy its present position, or face growing isolation and



NotesTele.txt

condemnation.  
CUNNINGHAM  
BT  
#1225  
NNNN

End Cable Text

Jan X Levin 06/02/2010 04:16:47 PM From DB/Inbox: Jan X Levin

Recipient/Profile Information

Cable Recipients:

Julie D Adams  
Rubens S Almeida  
Thaddeus S Apa  
Virginia E Baldwin  
Desiree A Baron  
Theodore A Brosius  
Steven R Buck  
David R Burnett  
Terry D Burton  
Isaac T Cain  
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Christopher J Freitas  
Dennis J Garcia  
Leah George  
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Jason H Green  
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Jennifer L McAndrew  
Andrew J Mckim

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NotesTele.txt

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Joseph M Wilson LMDS Profiles/Office symbols:  
POL

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- No Folders -

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR,B6

I34A

NotesTele.txt

Ryan T Campbell 06/01/2010 06:06:00 PM From DB/Inbox: Ryan T Campbell

Cable  
Text:

CONFIDENTIAL  
TELEGRAM

June 01, 2010

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ALGIERS (ALGIERS 524 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, AEMR, AMGT, KISL, IS  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Subject: MGGZ01: ALGERIA RESPONDS TO ISRAELI INTERCEPTION OF  
GAZA FLOTILLA  
Ref: None

C O N F I D E N T I A L SIPDIS ALGIERS 00524  
CXALG:

ACTION: POLEC  
INFO: POLMIL DAO OSC AMB DCM RSO PAO

DISSEMINATION: POLEC /1  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:WJORDAN  
DRAFTED: POLEC:RCAMPBELL  
CLEARED: RSO:KWHITSON, PAO:LRANDOLPH

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS 06/26/2012~ Class:  
CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~  
Declassify on: 06-01-2020

VZCZCASI587  
OO RUEHC RUEHEE  
DE RUEHAS #0524/01 1521700  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 011700Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8939  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ALGIERS 000524

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/MAG,  
DS/IP/NEA, DS/TIA/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2015  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, KISL, AEMR, AMGT, AG, IS, GZ  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: ALGERIA RESPONDS TO ISRAELI INTERCEPTION  
OF GAZA FLOTILLA

Classified By: DCM William Jordan; reasons 1.4 (b and d).

1. (C) SUMMARY: Algerian news outlets have universally  
condemned the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla, which  
Page 1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NotesTele.txt

reportedly included an Algerian vessel and a contingent of around 30 Algerians led by the vice president of the Islamist Movement for Society and Peace (MSP) political party. Local press circulated unverified reports on June 1 that two Algerians are among the casualties. Press also focused criticism on the West's tepid response to the crisis. One paper cited the "embarrassed reaction of the U.S.," which called into question the value of President Obama's Cairo message.

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted] PUBLICLY, the MFA denounced the Israeli raid as cowardly and criminal in a statement released May 31. To date, there have been no reports of demonstrations or violence in response to the Gaza incident. MSP party officials reportedly plan organize a rally near the UN's offices in Algiers or the Algerian Presidency.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR  
NR

ALGERIA TO CONTINUE POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT AT ARAB LEAGUE

2. (SBU) Ambassador delivered demarche points on the Gaza flotilla incident to Algerian MFA Secretary General Boudjemaa Delmi, who said we was speaking on behalf of Foreign Minister Medelci still attending, along with President Bouteflika, the France - Africa summit in Nice. Delmi said the Israeli attack was a very serious and unwelcome development that would make the Arab League discussion of proximity talks difficult.

[Redacted]

NR

MSP PARTY LEADS ALGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN FLOTILLA

3. (U) Algeria's leading news outlets widely reported the Israeli raid against the Gaza flotilla, universally characterizing Israel's response as a massacre of civilians and deploring the tepid response by western countries. Press articles on June 1 focused on the reported number of dead and injured as a result of Israeli military action. Some newspapers circulated unverified reports that 2 Algerians died during the Israeli raid. There were reportedly 32 Algerians who participated in the flotilla, including members of parliament, senators, political party representatives, journalists, students, and businessmen. Algeria's Islamist

NotesTele.txt

Movement for Society and Peace political party organized the Algerian component's participation in the flotilla. MSP Vice President Abderrezak Mokri is the reported head of the delegation; local press cited MSP party member Ahmed Brahim as the Algerian group's campaign coordinator. MSP President Bougerra Soltani (whose wife, Masar Nedjma, is part of the Algerian group) called a press conference to underscore MSP efforts to ascertain the welfare and whereabouts of the Algerian participants. He also called for an emergency meeting with the FLN and RND parties (major elements of the "presidential alliance") to elaborate a common position on the incident. A journalist from "Le Soir d'Algerie" said MSP might attempt a rally in front of the Presidency or UN mission in Algiers by late afternoon on June 1.

4. (C) [redacted] told us June 1 that reports of Algerian victims among those killed were unconfirmed; [redacted] said MSP was working with Algeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish embassy to obtain more information. [redacted] said the Algerian flotilla group was aboard a vessel purchased in Turkey but sailing under an Algerian flag as well as a white flag. He said the Algerian vessel was transporting prefabricated homes to be distributed to Gaza residents living in tents. [redacted] said MSP lost contact with Algerian group soon after the Israeli raid. In a brief message, [redacted] communicated that the Algerian group intended to travel to Gaza as planned.

B1

[redacted]

NR

[redacted]

1:4(B)  
1:4(D)  
B1

MFA STATEMENT ON GAZA INCIDENT

6. (U) The Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs released an official statement May 31 condemning Israeli military action, which it called cowardly and criminal. The GOA urged the international community and the UN Security Council to respond with a vigorous and unanimous reaction condemning the incident. The statement concluded by reaffirming Algeria's

NotesTele.txt

solidarity with the Palestinian people, its support for the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and its support for a resolution to the question of Palestinian refugees in accordance with international law.

7. (U) Embassy unofficial translation of MFA communique, dated May 31, 2010:

BEGIN TEXT:

Algeria condemns with the strongest words the cowardly and criminal aggression by the Israeli army against the peace-freedom flotilla carrying activists as well as food to break up the inhumane blockade imposed on civilian populations in Gaza since June 2007.

In light of this deplorable military action, perpetrated in international waters, against a long-planned humanitarian initiative, Algeria calls for a vigorous and unanimous reaction from the international community, including at the level of the United Nations Security Council, to condemn with the strongest words this unjustifiable international bloody act of piracy.

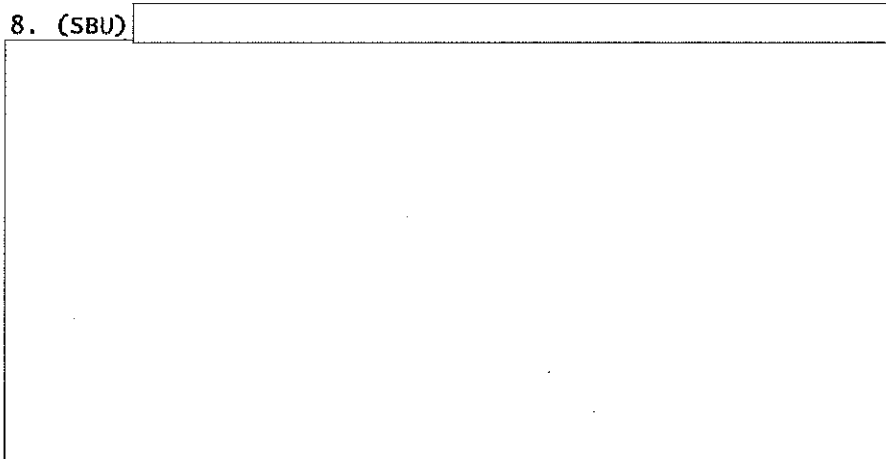
The international community must also take the necessary steps to shed immediately, without any delay, light on this violation of international humanitarian law so that such an act, which is condemned by international morality, will not happen again.

During this painful ordeal, Algeria reiterates its highest level of solidarity to the Palestinian cause and its full support to the Palestinian people's struggle to recover all its stolen rights through the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and the resolution of its refugee situation in conformity with international law.

END TEXT.

EMBASSY EAC ACTION

8. (SBU)



NR

COMMENT:

NotesTele.txt

9. (C) Given the size of the Algerian component in the Gaza flotilla, the GOA will have to contend with an inflamed public opinion in the coming days. Rumors of Algerian casualties are already circulating and, if verified, will further aggravate the reaction here. Politically, the flotilla incident represents an opportunity for the MSP to boost its popularity with Algerians and portray itself as standing up to Israel. This message will resonate with many here who harbor residual anger left over from the Gaza attacks in December 2008/January 2009. The tone of newspaper editorials on June 1 reflects the public's sentiment: impunity for Israel, massacre of civilians, tepid denunciations by Western countries, general outcry elsewhere. The French language daily "Liberte" commented that the "embarrassed" reaction of the United States called into question the sincerity of President Obama's promises in Cairo for a new relationship between the U.S. and the Muslim world. After 52 years of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, the article continued, the President, like his predecessors, appeared only to be serving the interests of Israel.

PEARCE  
BT  
#0524

---

Additional Addressees:  
None

cc:  
None

Distribution:  
N/A

End Cable Text

Ryan T Campbell 06/01/2010 06:06:00 PM From DB/Inbox: Ryan T Campbell

Recipient/Profile Information

Cable Recipients:  
Mishale G Ainsley  
Michael L Alexander  
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Paul Beatty  
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NotesTele.txt

DeVaris T Mangum  
Roland P Minez  
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LMDs Profiles/Office Symbols:

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RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),B6

I37B

**Subject:** (ISRAEL/TURKEY) GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 3

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

O 031554Z JUN 10

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T NOFORN

SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 3

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2020

\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1218

B. TEL AVIV 1225

CLASSIFIED BY: A/DCM MARC SIEVERS, REASONS 1.4 (B), (D)

1. (U) AS OF 6:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 3:

POLITICAL-MILITARY

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2. (U) DURING A SPECIAL EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS OFFICE ON JUNE 2, PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU ADDRESSED THE HARSH INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM LEVELED AT THE IDF'S GAZA FLOTILLA INTERVENTION. SPEAKING IN ENGLISH AND HEBREW, NETANYAHU SAID THAT ISRAEL REGRETS THE LOSS OF LIFE, BUT WILL NOT APOLOGIZE FOR DEFENDING ITSELF. HE NOTED THAT ISRAEL IS ONCE AGAIN FACING WHAT HE TERMED INTERNATIONAL "HYPOCRISY" AND A "BIASED RUSH TO JUDGMENT."

3. (U) NETANYAHU ARGUED THAT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, ISRAEL

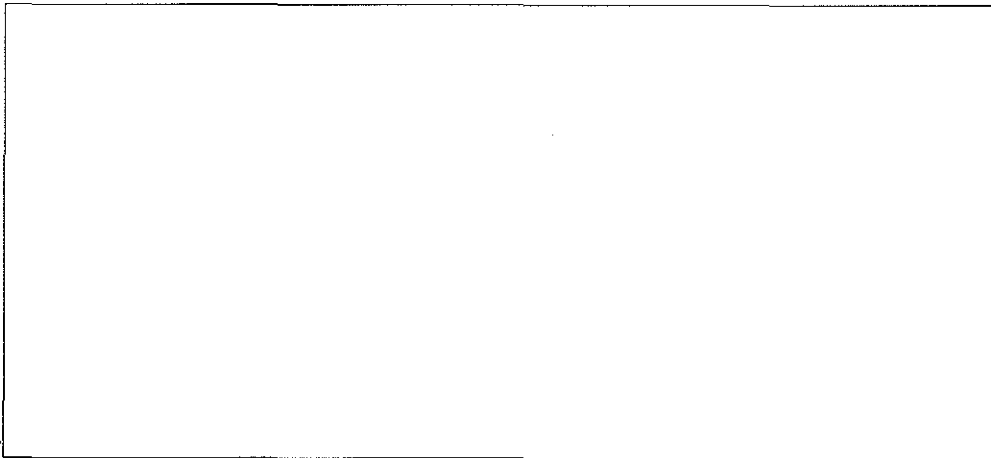
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

HAD THE RIGHT TO INTERDICT AND INSPECT THE GAZA FLOTILLA SHIPS. PREVIOUS INTERDICTIONS -- THE FRANCOPI AND THE KARINE A -- DISCOVERED TONS OF WEAPONS DESTINED FOR HIZBALLAH AND FATAH, RESPECTIVELY. NETANYAHU SAID THAT HAMAS ALREADY POSSESSES ROCKETS CAPABLE OF HITTING TEL AVIV -- ISRAEL CANNOT AFFORD TO PERMIT IRAN TO ESTABLISH A MEDITERRANEAN PORT, WHICH WOULD ALSO BECOME A THREAT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

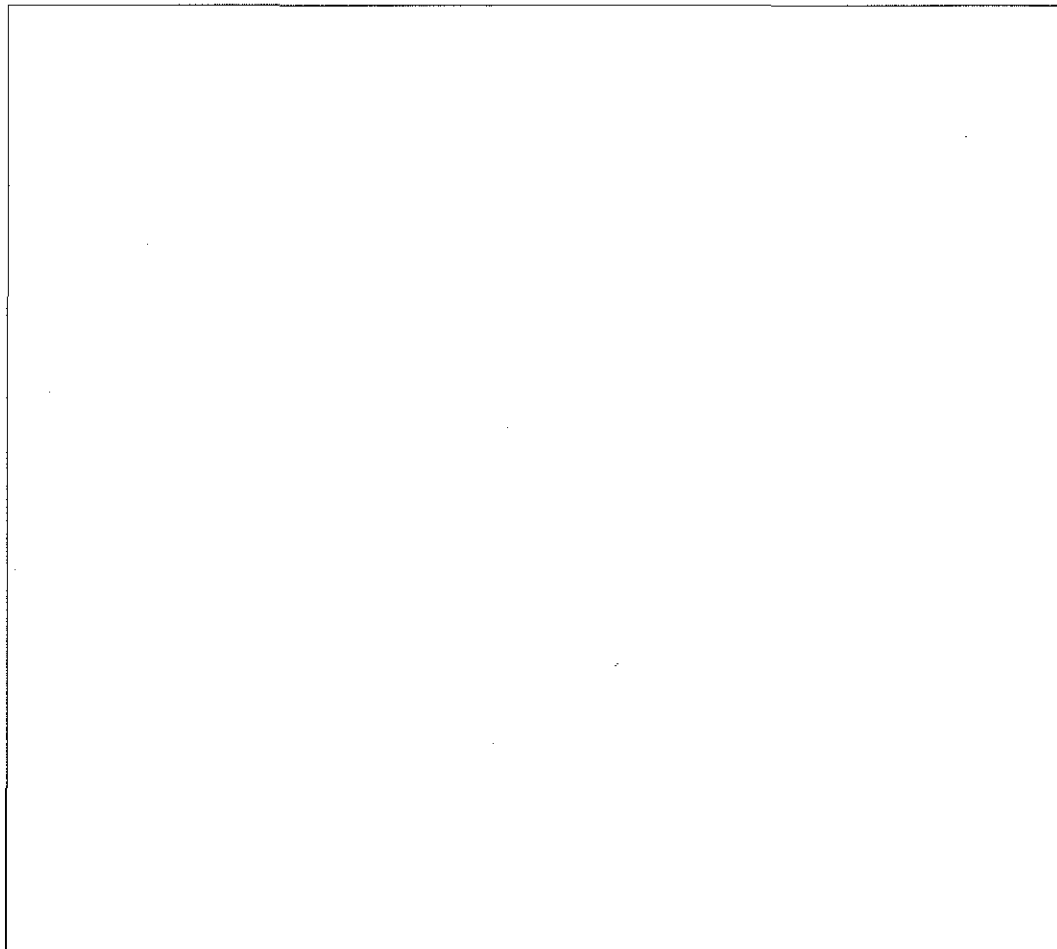
4. (U) NETANYAHU DEFENDED THE ACTIONS OF THE IDF NAVAL COMMANDOS THAT BOARDED THE MAVI MARMARA, WHO WERE MET BY A "VICIOUS MOB" WHICH STABBED, CLUBBED AND FIRED UPON THEM. HE SAID THIS WAS NOT A "LOVE BOAT," BUT A "HATE BOAT" OF "VIOLENT SUPPORTERS OF TERRORISM." HE ASKED INTERNATIONAL LEADERS HOW THEY WOULD RESPOND IF FACING A SIMILAR SITUATION, AND REITERATED ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF.

5. (C) DURING A JUNE 3 BRIEF TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,

1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(D)  
B1



7. (U) THE IDF MILITARY ADVOCATE GENERAL RELEASED A REPORT  
DETAILING THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE FLOTILLA  
INTERDICTION. THE REPORT STATES THAT ACCORDING TO THE LAWS  
OF ARMED CONFLICT, A STATE PARTY TO AN ARMED CONFLICT HAS THE  
RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NAVAL BLOCKADE ON ITS ENEMY'S COAST FOR  
SECURITY REASONS. A NAVAL BLOCKADE MEANS PREVENTING THE  
PASSAGE -- ENTRY OR EXIT -- OF ALL VESSELS TO OR FROM THE  
PORTS AND COASTAL AREAS OF THE ENEMY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE  
KIND OF CARGO CARRIED BY THESE VESSELS. THE REPORT ALSO

QUOTES THE U.S. NAVY'S "COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS," WHERE ARTICLE 7.7.1 STATES THAT NATIONS ARE ENTITLED TO SEARCH CONTENTS ENTERING OR EXITING, AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO BLOCKADE "INTENDED TO PREVENT VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT, REGARDLESS OF THEIR CARGO, FROM CROSSING AN ESTABLISHED AND PUBLICIZED CORDON SEPARATING THE ENEMY FROM INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND/OR AIRSPACE."

8. (U) ALL FOUR ISRAELI ARAB PARTICIPANTS IN THE FLOTILLA HELD IN CUSTODY WERE RELEASED JUNE 3 TO HOUSE-ARREST UNTIL JUNE 8. THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD-AFFILIATED ISLAMIC MOVEMENT'S NORTHERN BRANCH LEADER, SHEIKH RAED SALAH, CLAIMED IN COURT THAT ISRAELI SOLDIERS TRIED TO KILL HIM AND SHOT AT SOMEONE ELSE THEY THOUGHT WAS HIM. NEWS REPORTS TODAY ALLEGED THAT SALAH WAS ONE OF THE ACTIVISTS WHO ATTACKED IDF SOLDIERS BOARDING THE MARMARA AND WHO "TRIED TO PROVIDE COVER" FOR A GUNMAN WHO OPENED FIRE ON THE COMMANDOS. THE THREE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT LEADERS AND THE HEAD OF THE ARAB HIGHER MONITORING COMMITTEE WERE RELEASED ON BAIL OF NIS 150,000 (ABOUT USD 39,000) AND THE CONDITION THEY NOT LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR 45 DAYS. STREET CELEBRATIONS WERE PLANNED TO BE HELD IN UMM AL-FAHEM TODAY TO WELCOME THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT LEADERS HOME.

9. (S//NF) THE IDF CONTINUES TO WATCH FOR ADDITIONAL VESSELS THAT MAY POTENTIALLY PARTICIPATE IN A "SECOND WAVE." ISRAELI

AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE  
INTENTIONS OF THE M/V RACHEL CORRIE, A CAMBODIAN-FLAGGED  
1,200-TON CARGO VESSEL. [REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

HOWEVER, PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY ORGANIZERS SUGGEST THE RACHEL  
CORRIE MAY DELAY ITS ARRIVAL AT GAZA UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 7, IN  
ORDER TO MAXIMIZE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE.

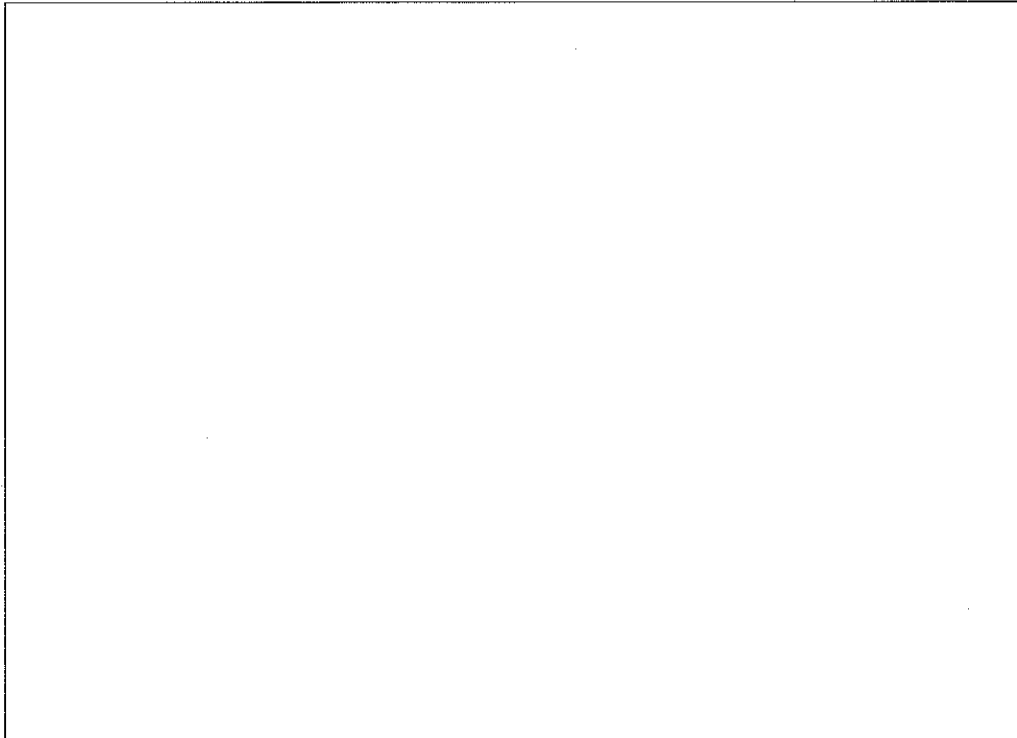
10. (S//NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

11. (C) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.4(D)  
B1



CONSULAR

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12. (SBU) DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 3, CONS  
CONFIRMED THROUGH THE MFA THE DEPARTURE OF EIGHT AMCITS TO  
ISTANBUL AND ONE AMCIT TO ATHENS. THE NINE AMCITS LEFT FROM  
BEN GURION AIRPORT ON AIRCRAFT SENT BY THE GREEK AND TURKISH  
GOVERNMENTS. CONSULAR ACCESS WAS NOT PERMITTED AT BEN GURION  
AIRPORT. ONWARD TRANSPORTATION WAS TO BE THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF EACH TRAVELER. MANY INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED  
CONCERNING [REDACTED], AN ACTIVIST WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED  
PREVIOUSLY IN ISRAEL. HE SHOWED SIGNS OF BRUISING ALL OVER  
HIS BODY WHEN CONSULAR OFFICERS VISITED HIM ON JUNE 2. HE

B6

ALLEGES MISTREATMENT AND HAS PUBLICIZED HIS CONDITION TO PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO THE MEDIA.

13. (SBU) POST LATER LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE DECEASED WHOSE REMAINS WERE RETURNED TO TURKEY AT THE SAME TIME WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY THAT OF FURKAN DOGAN, A 19-YEAR OLD TURKISH AMERICAN DUAL NATIONAL WHOM WE HAD BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. EMBASSY ANKARA IS WAITING FOR THE TURKISH MFA TO CONFIRM THE IDENTITY OF THE DECEASED. POST DOES NOT KNOW OF ANY AMCITS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FLOTILLA WHO REMAIN IN DETENTION. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THREE POSSIBLE AMCITS:

[REDACTED]

B6

14. (SBU) AMCIT PARTICIPANT UPDATE:

DEPORTED TO ISTANBUL

-- [REDACTED]

DEPORTED TO ATHENS

-- [REDACTED]

DEPARTED VIA ALLENBY BRIDGE

-- [REDACTED]  
--

B6

DEPARTED VIA BEN GURION AIRPORT TO UNITED STATES ON MAY 31

-- [REDACTED]  
--

OTHERS

-- [REDACTED] (DUAL IRISH/AMCIT) IS USING HIS IRISH  
PASSPORT AND ARRIVED IN ISTANBUL, ACCORDING TO A FELLOW  
TRAVELER.

-- [REDACTED] (DUAL PALESTINIAN/AMCIT) IS IN RAMALLAH,  
WEST BANK, ACCORDING TO HER HUSBAND [REDACTED]

PRESS REPORTING

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15. (U) THE MOST DOMINANT THEME IN THE ISRAELI PRESS THREE  
DAYS REMOVED FROM THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT IS THE DEBATE  
OVER WHAT TYPE OF INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE LAUNCHED. AS  
REFLECTED THROUGHOUT THE PRESS, THE "SPIRIT OF INVESTIGATIONS  
PAST" LOOMS OVER THE DEBATE AND GUIDES THE ISRAELI  
LEADERSHIPS CURRENT BEHAVIOR IN THE MATTER -- SPECIFICALLY,  
THE INTERNAL WINOGRAD COMMISSION INVESTIGATING THE 2006  
SECOND LEBANON WAR, AND THE EXTERNAL GOLDSTONE REPORT  
INVESTIGATING THE 2008-2009 OPERATION CAST LEAD IN GAZA.



16. (U) CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS DEMANDS OF ISRAEL TO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL PROBES, THERE IS A COMPELLING RECOGNITION IN THE PRESS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD ALLOW SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL SCRUTINY AND PARTICIPATION -- EVEN IF LIMITED -- IN ITS OWN INVESTIGATION OF THE EVENTS, HOPEFULLY STAVING OFF A FULL-BLOWN "GOLDSTONE II." ANOTHER OPTION DISCUSSED IS COOPERATION WITH AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION AS A LESSON LEARNED FROM THE RESULTS OF ISRAEL'S NON-COOPERATION WITH THE GOLDSTONE REPORT. THE WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THIS UNPRECEDENTED ACTION ALSO STEMS FROM THE LIMITED MANDATE OF THE WOULD-BE PROBE, AND THE FACT THAT ISRAEL'S CASE IS BACKED BY PHYSICAL AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE AND "POSITIVE" LEGAL OPINIONS.

17. (U) ACCORDING TO ISRAEL RADIO NEWS ON JUNE 3, A MAJORITY OF MINISTERS ARE OPPOSED TO THE FORMATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY. THAT SAID, THEY BELIEVE THAT AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE MUST EXAMINE OPERATIONAL ISSUES TO DETERMINE INTELLIGENCE FAILURES AND FLAWS IN THE POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. FM LIEBERMAN HAS INDICATED HE SUPPORTS AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION THAT MIGHT BE SUPERVISED BY IMPARTIAL FOREIGN OFFICIALS.

CUNNINGHAM

BT

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),1.4(C)

I40

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Slattery, Phillip T  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 10:27 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group; SES\_DutyDeputies; S\_SpecialAssistants; D(S); D(L); P; C; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Cc:** SWO; SES-O\_Shift-II  
**Subject:** (S/NF) [redacted] Rachel Corrie

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1

SECRET/NOFORN

Colleagues –

[redacted]

Ops will continue to monitor the situation and update accordingly.

Regards,

-Phill

SECRET/NOFORN

**Phillip T. Slattery**  
Senior Watch Officer  
State Department Operations Center (S/ES-O)  
[SlatteryPT@state.sgov.gov](mailto:SlatteryPT@state.sgov.gov)  
tel: 202-647-1512

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Classification Extended ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(C), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 06/03/2020

I41

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Holmes, Stephanie E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:18 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (SBU) MGGZ01: MOROCCAN MFA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

UNCLAS RABAT 000474

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ASEC, MARR, PINR, MO, GZ, IS  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: MOROCCAN MFA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: FELTMAN-NEA AMBASSADORS E-MAIL, MAY 31, 2010

1. (SBU) OFFICIAL REACTION: With Minister of Foreign Affairs Taieb Fassi Fihri in France for the France-Afrique Summit, the Ambassador delivered our talking points to [redacted], MFA [redacted] on June 1. The GOM was "dismayed" by Israeli actions against the Gaza flotilla, [redacted] said, and deeply troubled by the possible impact the event could have on those states in the region that have, up to now, been quietly committed to the two-state solution and the peace process. He lamented what he described as Kuwait's decision to "withdraw" from the Arab Peace Initiative in response to the incident, and worried that other less moderate Arab states were likely to follow suit. In addition, he worried that the Netanyahu government had badly jeopardized the extremely important diplomatic role Turkey has been trying to play in the region. [redacted] expressed some optimism that Turkey and Israel could ultimately move beyond this crisis, but noted that they would "need help," namely in the forms of 1) outside mediation (i.e., from the U.S.) and 2) Israel's "reaching out" (i.e., offering a carefully worded apology).

B6

2. (SBU) As for Morocco, [redacted] assured the Ambassador that Morocco "remains committed, in our way, to supporting the peace process and the two state solution." The GOM will counsel "patience and more negotiations" and will try to shore up Abu Mazen, who will again face great criticism in the wake of this crisis. The Ambassador emphasized the very helpful role Turkey, Morocco and Jordan have traditionally played in fostering the peace process, and noted that a greater burden may now fall to Morocco, at least until Turkey and Israel move beyond this incident and its fallout. [redacted] clearly took this direct message on board, and promised to underscore it when transmitting our demarche to the Foreign Minister.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

3. (SBU) POPULAR REACTION: As of June 3, the Moroccan press continued to be awash in scathing criticism of Israel's action; a

significant minority of press commentary has criticized the United States for its support to Israel. Human rights and pro-Palestinian NGOs are planning a "National Day of Anger" to include public demonstrations in Rabat (and possibly in other cities) for Sunday, June 6. Such demonstrations in the past have brought upwards of 50,000 to the streets in Rabat alone, but we expect police control of such events to be adequate. The prominent leader of Morocco's Jewish community told the Ambassador that, in general terms, there has been a strongly negative popular reaction to the Gaza flotilla incident; however, he judged it to be much less vehement than the anti-Israel reactions to events of previous years such as the military incursions into Gaza of 2006 and 2008. Other observers have also suggested that even though the participation of seven Moroccans in the flotilla has increased public interest, the fact that none was hurt could contribute to the issue fading more quickly than we initially expected.

KAPLAN

UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I44A

NotesTele.txt

Maria DG Olson 06/03/2010 05:49:14 PM From DB/Inbox: Maria DG Olson

Cable  
Text:

S E C R E T AMMAN 01269

CXAMMAN:

ACTION: POL

INFO: LEGT RSO ECON PA RAO DCM AMB

DISSEMINATION: POL

CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:RSBEECROFT

DRAFTED: POL:MOLSON

CLEARED: DCM:LM, POL:RH, PAO:JR

VZCZCAJI377

PP RUEHC RUEHEE RHEHNSC

DE RUEHAM #1269/01 1541246

ZNY SSSSS ZZH

P 031246Z JUN 10

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7692

INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC 0468

BT

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 001269

NOFORN

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

NEA/ELA, MEPI FOR ARI RATNER, NSC FOR ALEXANDRA TRABER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2020

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KPAL, JO

SUBJECT: JORDAN CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAID ON FREEDOM FLOTILLA,  
URGES INTERNATIONAL ACTION

REF: AMMAN 1231

Classified By: Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (S/NF) Summary: Jordanian officials and the public have sharply criticized Israel's May 31 raid of a ship attempting to break the Gaza blockade and urged stronger international action. Jordan's Foreign Minister proposed in a June 2 emergency Arab League meeting a plan of action to respond to Israel's raid.

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

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Official Reaction  
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2. (U) At a June 2 emergency Arab League session, Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh proposed measures to respond to the May  
Page 1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NotesTele.txt

31 Israeli raid. Under Judeh's proposal as outlined in press reports:

-- The UN's Arab Group would call for a continuation of the United Nations' 10th emergency session to press for a resolution condemning Israel.

--The Arab Group would also press for an international investigation of the attack and urge an end to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip.

--The Arab Group in Geneva would seek an emergency session of the UN Human Rights Council to support a resolution condemning Israel and to call for an international investigation and an end to the blockade.

--The Arab League would study the possibility of suing Israel in the International Court of Justice for "repeated breaches of international human rights."

3. (U) A day before the Arab League session, Jordan's King Abdullah strongly condemned Israel's raid, saying it constituted a clear violation of international law. The King called for an international investigation into the "crime" and urged the international community to take immediate and effective measures to lift the illegal embargo on Gaza. The King asserted that Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands was the main cause of regional tension, adding that establishing a viable and independent Palestinian state was the only way to bring peace, security and stability to the region.

4. (U) The King's comments followed the May 31 condemnation by Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communications Nabil Sharif who labeled the Israeli act "a heinous crime." Sharif added in statements to the media that: "This is rejected, unjustified and unprovoked belligerence and a gross breach of international laws and conventions." Jordan's Senate President Taher Al Masri also criticized the Israeli attack, urging world countries to confront continued Israeli aggression on the Palestinian people and violations of international law.

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Media Reaction  
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5. (U) All local media outlets carried lengthy coverage of the attack and international reaction, with photos, news articles, and analysis highly critical of Israel. June 2 editorials praised the Turkish government's strong condemnation of Israeli action, comparing the response critically to that of Arab governments. For example, in the independent, Arabic-language daily, Chief Editor Taher Odwan argued: "The Arab official policies are in need of comprehensive revision in terms of the position on Israel and on the evil alliance between America, Europe, and the occupation country." He lashed out: "It is ironic that any Arab regime would claim to be on the throne of the Arab nation when it contributes to sealing the siege against the Palestinians in Gaza or to creating the atmosphere in the region that encourages Israel to practice more brutality, bloodshed, and violations of rights." A leading political

Page 2

NotesTele.txt

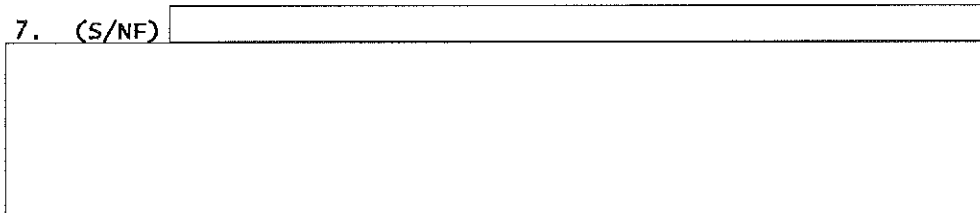
analyst, Mohammad Abu Rumman, in the independent Al-Ghad Arabic daily opined: "The rules of the game are clear, but we, the Arabs, do not get them. Israel knows them and so does Turkey, Iran, and those countries that own their choices and their will and have the ability to define their interests and security and to defend them. No one is going to offer to defend our security and our interests as long as we are afraid to."

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Public Reaction  
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6. (U) The public has been outraged by the Israeli action. Since the May 31 event, there have been daily protests in Amman, including near the Israeli Embassy. PAO attended a thesis defense on Monday, May 31, in which the candidate, a professional journalist and former Jordanian diplomat, asked the attendees to rise and observe a moment of silence for "the martyrs of the Freedom Flotilla." In an invitation to a monthly meeting for entrepreneurs, technology experts, and academics, organizers noted that as part of the agenda they would begin with a few moments "to honor our brothers in Gaza". In response to the Embassy's Facebook posting of the President's National Security Strategy, fans evoked the Israeli raid and criticized what they saw as U.S. bias toward Israel. A prominent businessman declined the invitation to the Embassy's July 4 reception, citing the United States' "unhumanitarian stance in Palestine."

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Comment  
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7. (S/NF)



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Beecroft  
BT  
#1269  
NNNN

End Cable Text

Maria DG Olson 06/03/2010 05:49:14 PM From DB/Inbox: Maria DG Olson

Recipient/Profile Information

Cable Recipients:  
Nadim F Abdush-Shahid  
Beth A Albrecht  
Robert S Beecroft  
Manu X Bhalla  
Laura J Brown  
Sean D Burke  
Daniel L Choldin

NotesTele.txt

Mario N Crifo  
Claudia R Ellingwood  
Robin Emerson  
Philip A Frayne  
George M Frederick  
Andrea G Gubser  
Joyce E Harley  
Garret J Harries  
Duane M Hillegas  
Richard C Hinman  
Edith I Houston  
Rusty P Ingraham  
Andrew W Kaleczyc  
Carol A Kelley  
Kathryn A Kiser  
Jay L Knott  
Jeffrey P Kraus  
Rachel I Landgraff  
Clinton D Larry  
Alica E Lejlic  
Leslie D Long  
Joshua P Lucas  
Michael M Mack  
Lawrence C Mandel  
Ramiro A Martinez  
Julie S McGuinness  
Matthew E McKinney  
Ira Pamela M McPherson  
Clifton W Middleton  
Gregory J Milliman  
Maria DG Olson  
Sherril L Pavin  
Jacqueline D Phillips  
Matthew A Poe  
Jennifer L Rasamimanana  
Craig R Reistad  
Frank R Roach  
Margarita O Roach  
Rick P Rosenberg  
Mark T Ryniak  
Katherine P Skarsten  
Anne M Slack  
Karen S Thomas  
Crystal E Thompson  
Jacqueline L Ward  
Seth A Wikas  
Michael N Wray LMDS Profiles/Office Symbols:  
POL

LEGT  
RSO  
ECON  
PA  
RAO  
DCM  
AMB

Cablexpress Folders:  
CONS



RELEASED IN PART B6

I46

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Rathod, Rona R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 6:43 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** (U) MGGZ01: INDONESIAIANS INJURED ABOARD HUMANITARIAN SHIP BOUND FOR GAZA

O 010903Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5295  
INFO ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
NSC WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC

UNCLAS JAKARTA 000765

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/RSP  
NSC FOR J. BADER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: ASEC, ID, KISL, PGOV, IR  
SUBJECT: TWO INDONESIAIANS INJURED ABOARD HUMANITARIAN SHIP  
BOUND FOR GAZA

1. (U) This message is Sensitive but Unclassified. Please handle accordingly.

2. (SBU) According to [redacted]

[redacted] two Indonesians were injured when the Mavi Marmara was allegedly stormed by Israeli forces on May 31. The Mavi Marmara was part of the Freedom Flotilla attempting to bypass the Israeli blockade to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. The Indonesian government is working through its embassies in Beirut, Turkey and Jordan to ascertain the current health and welfare of its citizens. Indonesia maintains no diplomatic ties with Israel. There were 12 Indonesians in the flotilla from three pro-Palestine activist groups (one considered hardline) and five local journalists. Peaceful protests are ongoing throughout Jakarta with approximately 1,000 gathered outside Embassy Jakarta.

3. (SBU) The Indonesian government condemned the alleged attack and urged the United Nations to fully investigate the incident. Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalagawa announced that one of the groups, Medical Emergency Rescue

1  
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

B6

Committee (Mer-C), notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (KEMLU) prior to its departure. KEMLU officials reportedly told Mer-C that it appreciated efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza, but warned of the high risk associated with this action.

4. (SBU) Mer-C is one of three pro-Palestine organizations aboard the Mavi Marmara and Indonesia's largest contingency with five representatives. It is known as a Muslim hardline group focused on providing humanitarian and disaster relief. This group sent representatives into Gaza in the aftermath of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict last year. Although the group is not known to have official ties to any jihadi group, there are allegations that it provided financial assistance to widows of the conflict in Poso, which may have included families of terrorist suspects.

5. (SBU) The other two organizations include the Indonesian Committee for Palestine Solidarity (KISPA) and Friends of Al Aqsa Mosque (Sahat Al Aqsa). KISPA is a humanitarian and charity organization for the Palestine Authority, actively involved in a forum supporting Palestinian independence. Other members of the forum include the moderate mass-Muslim organization Muhammadiyah (with over 35 million members) and more hardline groups such as the Islamic Defender's Front (FPI) and Dewan Dakwah Islamiyah Indonesia (DDII). Friends of Al Aqsa Mosque conducts awareness campaigns on issues related to Palestinian humanitarian efforts. It was founded by an activist from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), Indonesia's largest Islamic-based political party.

6. (SBU) Also on board were several local journalists [redacted]

B6

[redacted]  
[redacted] a popular Muslim women's magazine. [redacted] was chosen in the past to participate in a regional East-West Center program, although [redacted] was unable to attend, and is a contributor to Indonesia's largest English-language newspaper. [redacted] is reportedly among the injured and remains hospitalized in QHaifa. [redacted] Magazine, Indonesia's second largest current affairs magazine. According to our information, [redacted] (KISPA) also sustained minor injuries.

HUME

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN PART B6

155

From: Olsen, Briana L  
Sent: 6/7/2010 10:53:23 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla Tidbits from the Swedish Government and Port Union

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 STOCKHOLM 324  
Date/DTG: Jun 07, 2010 / 071450Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, PINR, EUN, IS, GZ, SW  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Subject: Gaza Flotilla Tidbits from the Swedish Government and Port Union

1. (U) The following summarizes recent reactions to the Gaza aid Flotilla by the Swedish Parliament, MFA and Port Workers Union.
2. (SBU) Parliament: At the initiative of the Left Party, the Swedish Parliament today held a debate on the wider Gaza aid issue. As Sweden is four months away from general elections, the debate was more about campaigning than foreign policy making. Foreign Minister Carl Bildt summed up the debate well with his closing statement: "What is the Red-Green opposition's position? Foreign policy is no laughing matter. The opposition basically only agrees on one thing--to bring home the military attaché, and even then they agree that it probably will not have any effect whatsoever."
3. (SBU) MFA: On June 4, DCM Silverman met with [redacted] stated that the Swedish position is clear in two aspects: Israel was wrong to board the ships in international waters and Israel had used extensive violence. Bildt has stated that Sweden will continue to build on the EU's unity and work through the international system.
4. (SBU) Port Workers Union: The AP news wire reported on 5 June that the Swedish Port Workers Union will launch a weeklong boycott of Israeli ships and goods in response to the raid on the Gaza-destined aid flotilla. Although Swedish trade unions are traditionally very powerful, this is a small freestanding group with only 1,500 members. Post does not expect this group to have any real impact on trade between Sweden and Israel.

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Signature: BARZUN

Drafted By: STOCKHOLM:Long, Amanda and Waluszewski, Hanna  
Cleared By: Stockholm:Olsen, Briana L  
Approved By: STOCKHOLM:Olsen, Briana L  
Released By: STOCKHOLM:Olsen, Briana L

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2

Info: Meltzer, Alan *DROUTINE*; Selinger, Thomas *BROUTINE*;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

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Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 4

157

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/1/2010 11:54:45 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: SAUDIS FOCUSSED ON LIFTING GAZA SIEGE IN AFTERMATH OF FLOTILLA INCIDENT

CONFIDENTIAL



Classification Extended on : 07/30/2012 ~ Class:Declassify on:  
06-01-2020

MRN: 10 RIYADH 639  
Date/DTG: Jun 01, 2010 / 011346Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY RIYADH  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, SA, IS, IR  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Reference: A. REF: FELTMAN-SMITH 6/1/2010 EMAIL B. "DEMARCHE ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT"  
Subject: SAUDIS FOCUSSED ON LIFTING GAZA SIEGE IN AFTERMATH OF FLOTILLA INCIDENT

CONFIDENTIAL RIYADH 000639

SIPDIS

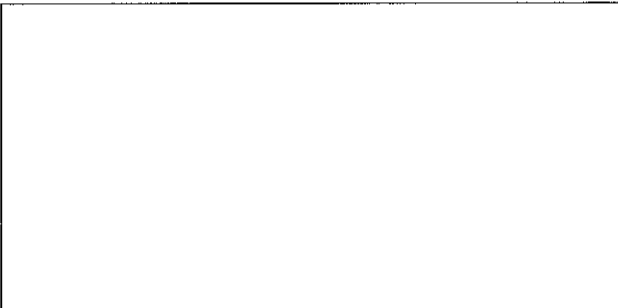
E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2015  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, SA, IS, IR  
SUBJECT: SAUDIS FOCUSSED ON LIFTING GAZA SIEGE IN AFTERMATH OF FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: A. REF: FELTMAN-SMITH 6/1/2010 EMAIL  
B. "DEMARCHE ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT"

Classified By: Ambassador James B. Smith  
reasons 1.4 (b & d)

1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 6.

SUMMARY

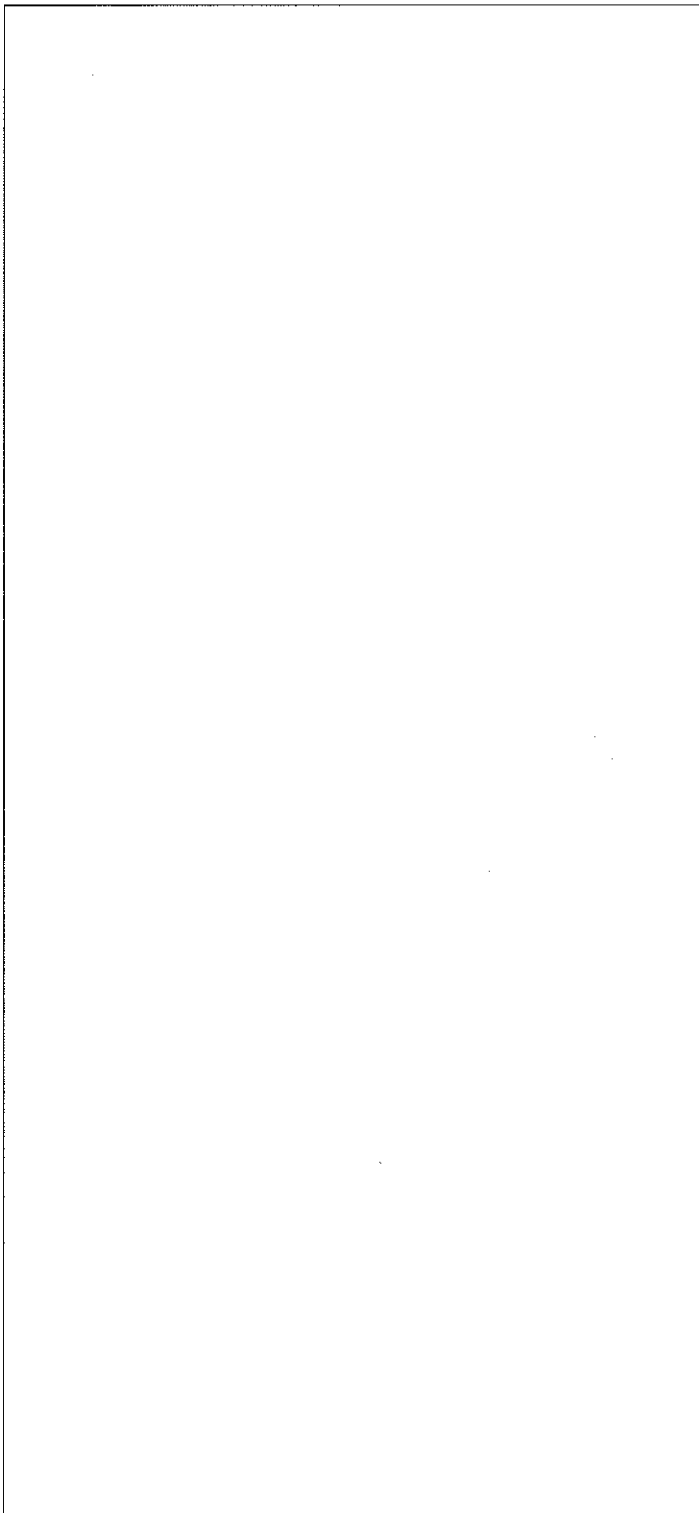


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 4

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 4

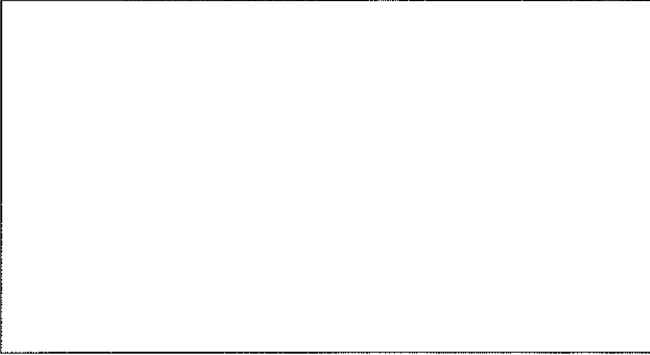


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 4

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 3 of 4

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



SAUDI CABINET STATEMENT CONDEMNS "MASSACRE"

7. (U) The initial Saudi reaction was a statement released Monday evening following the weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers. The statement: (quote) The Cabinet denounced and condemned the massacre committed today by Israel whose forces attacked the aid flotilla heading to the Gaza Strip to break the siege imposed by the Israeli authorities. The Cabinet described this attack as aggressive and reflecting Israel's inhuman practices, flagrant defiance of the whole world and international law, insistence to starve the Palestinian people and prevent all kinds of humanitarian relief, and indulgence in killing innocent people. The Cabinet called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards the barbarous attacks and policy of Israeli occupation authorities. (End quote)

(U) SAUDI MEDIA REFLECTS POPULAR OUTRAGE AND SOME ANGER AT ARAB INACTION

8. (U) News of the Flotilla incident has dominated the Saudi media, with most articles and editorials expressing outrage and denunciations of Israel and criticisms of perceived U.S. failure to hold Israel accountable for its "crimes." There was also widespread criticism of perceived Arab inaction to confront Israeli aggression and inability to effectively help Gaza. Several editorials hailed Turkey's apparent decision to abandon its role as a mediator and called for "freezing the peace process," and taking action against Israeli action, "which cannot be stopped except by force."

OIC TO HOLD MINISTERIAL JUNE 6

9. (C) In Jeddah, [redacted] told Poloff that the OIC was planning to call an Executive Meeting at the Foreign Ministers level on June 6th in Jeddah to allow for an exchange of views and to identify ways to put pressure on Israel.<sup>8</sup> He said that a strong joint statement from the group should be expected. [redacted] added that the OIC had hoped for a harsher statement from the U.S. and was specifically disappointed that term & condemnation<sup>8</sup> was not used.  
SMITH

Signature: SMITH

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 3 of 4

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**

Page 4 of 4

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<b>Classified By:</b>	Ambassador James B. Smith,
<b>Reason:</b>	1.4 (b & d)
<b>Declassify on:</b>	06/01/2015
<b>Info:</b>	CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FLIMMEDIATE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION IMMEDIATE; USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FLIMMEDIATE; NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVEIMMEDIATE
<b>Attachments:</b>	metadata.dat

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<b>Dissemination Rule:</b>	Archive Copy
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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**

Page 4 of 4



CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

IL61

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/4/2010 11:00:41 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MGGZ01: MOROCCAN MFA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 RABAT 474  
Date/DTG: Jun 04, 2010 / 041547Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY RABAT  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ASEC, MARR, PINR, MO, GZ, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Reference: FELTMAN-NEA AMBASSADORS E-MAIL, MAY 31, 2010  
Subject: MGGZ01: MOROCCAN MFA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

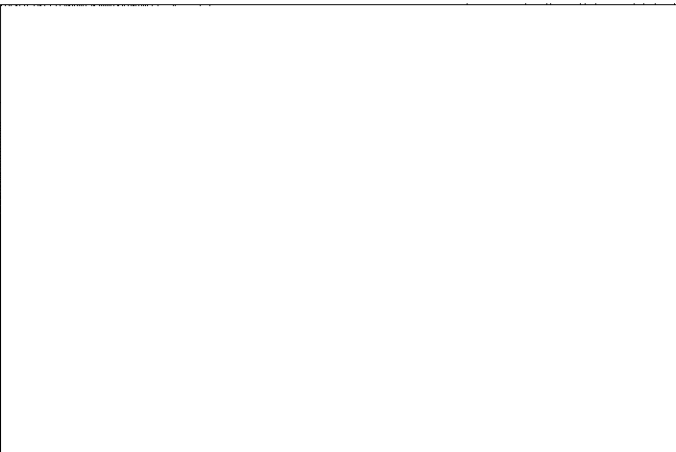
UNCLAS RABAT 000474

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on : 01/12/2012 ~ Class:  
CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on:  
06/04/2020

SIPDIS  
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ASEC, MARR, PINR, MO, GZ, IS  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: MOROCCAN MFA ON GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: FELTMAN-NEA AMBASSADORS E-MAIL, MAY 31, 2010

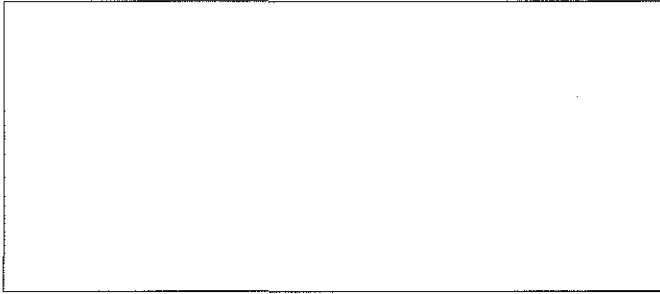


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (SBU) POPULAR REACTION: As of June 3, the Moroccan press continued to be awash in scathing criticism of Israel's action; a significant minority of press commentary has criticized the United States for its support to Israel. Human rights and pro-Palestinian NGOs are planning a "National Day of Anger" to include public demonstrations in Rabat (and possibly in other cities) for Sunday, June 6. Such demonstrations in the past have brought upwards of 50,000 to the streets in Rabat alone, but we expect police control of such events to be adequate. The prominent leader of Morocco's Jewish community told the Ambassador that, in general terms, there has been a strongly negative popular reaction to the Gaza flotilla incident; however, he judged it to be much less vehement than the anti-Israel reactions to events of previous years such as the military incursions into Gaza of 2006 and 2008. Other observers have also suggested that even though the participation of seven Moroccans in the flotilla has increased public interest, the fact that none was hurt could contribute to the issue fading more quickly than we initially expected.  
KAPLAN

Signature: KAPLAN

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Info: ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

Attachments: metadata.dat

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Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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Sensitive

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Page 2 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
Page 1 of 4

*Ilolo*

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

From: Miller, James N  
Sent: 6/4/2010 12:26:33 PM  
To: svcSMARTHTSPOP3  
Subject: [redacted] ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND [redacted]  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

NR

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

SECRET//NOFORN



MRN: 10 PARIS 563  
Date/DTG: Jun 04, 2010 / 041627Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY PARIS  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE/IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, SY, LE, IR, IS, TU, EG, FR  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS, NOFORN  
Reference: A) PARIS POINTS, JUNE 1 - 3  
B) PARIS 547  
C) 09 PARIS 969

Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
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

1.4(D)  
1.4(B)

Subject: [redacted] ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND [redacted]  
[redacted]

NR

1. (S/NF) SUMMARY: The French currently prefer for the Quartet to act as the international element of an investigation into the events that took place May 31 on board the Gaza flotilla, [redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

NR  
NR

FRANCE PREFERS QUARTET TO LEAD RESPONSE TO GAZA FLOTILLA

2. (C) [redacted] the French currently believe the Quartet should act as the international element of an investigation into the events that took place May 31 on board the Gaza flotilla (refel

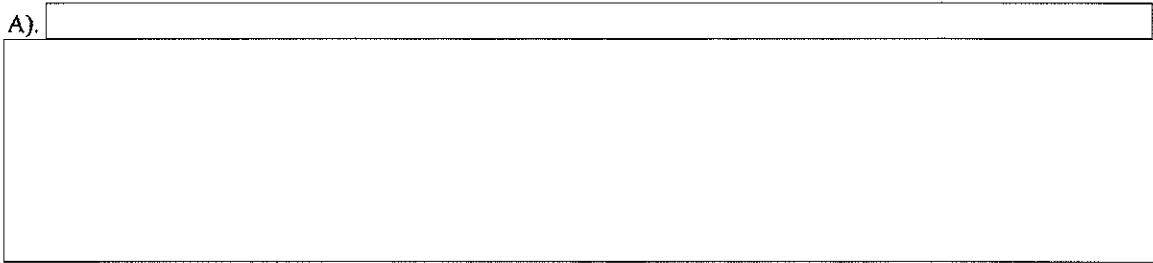
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

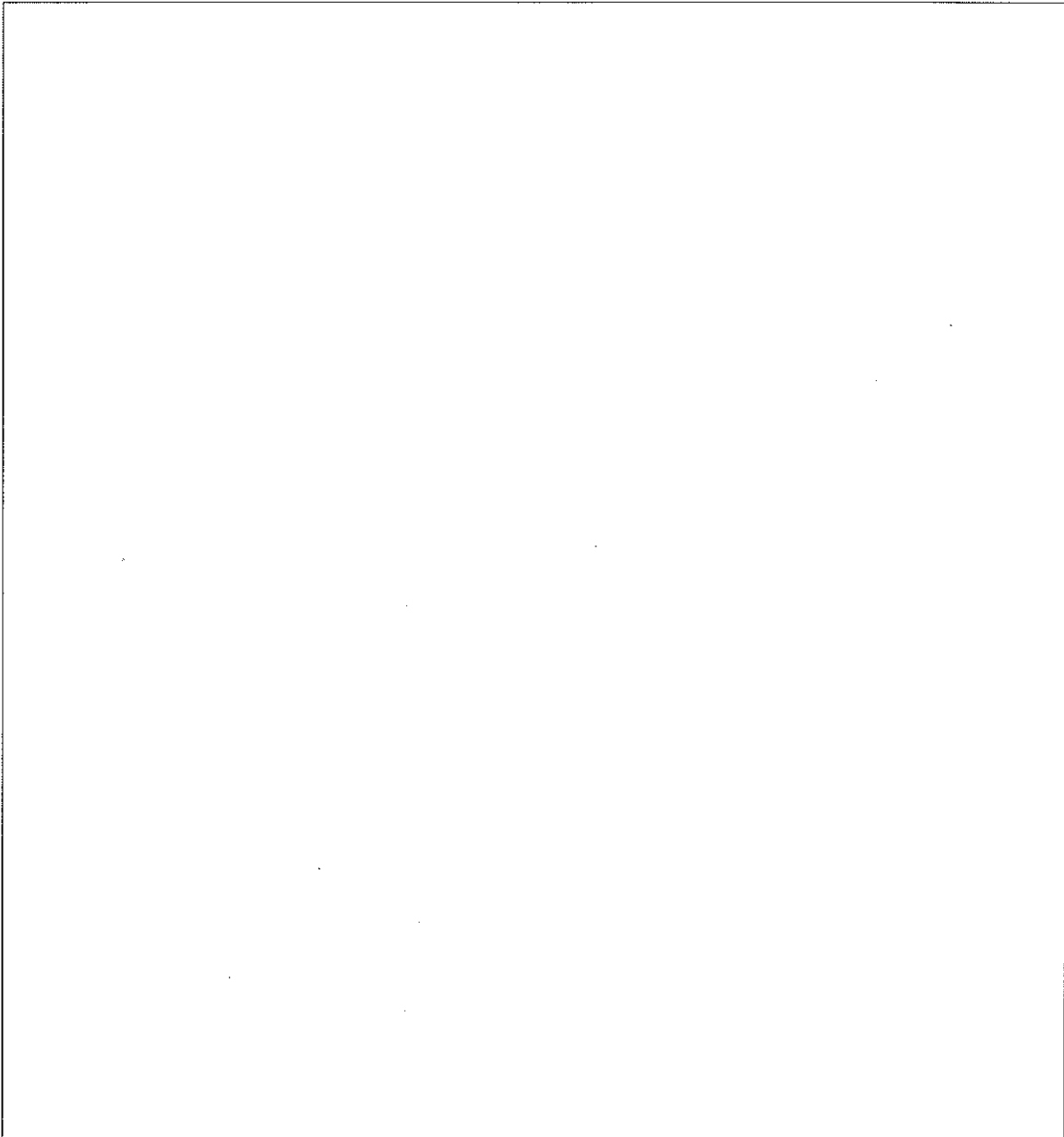
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
Page 1 of 4

**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
Page 2 of 4

A).



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

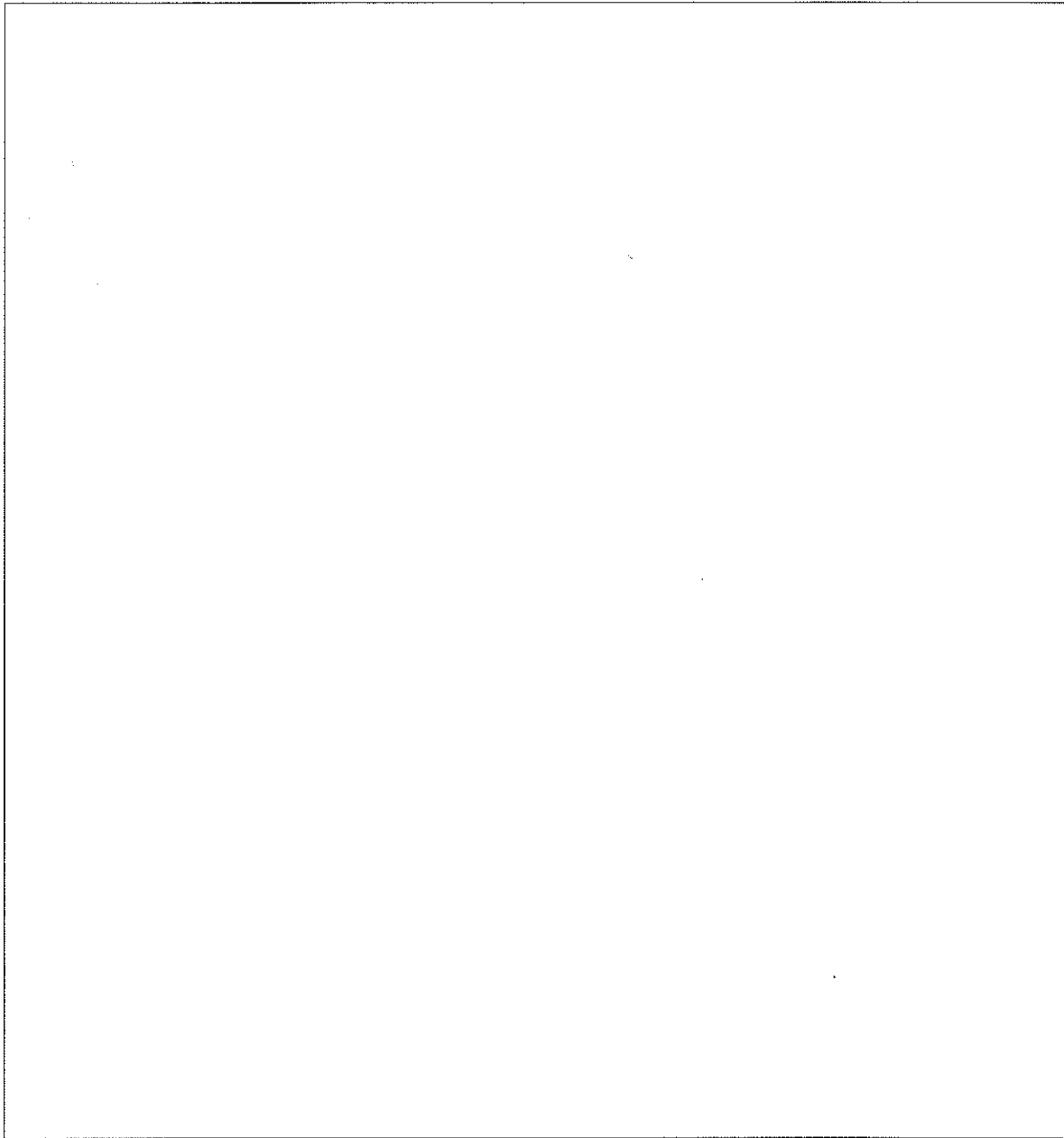


NR

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Page 2 of 4

**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
Page 3 of 4

NR



**Signature:** RIVKIN

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**Classified By:** Kathy Allegrone, Minister Counselor for Political Affairs  
Pol  
State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2020/06/04

**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
Page 3 of 4

**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
Page 4 of 4

**Drafted By:** PARIS:Miller, James N  
**Cleared By:** Young, Andrew R  
**Approved By:** Allegrone, Kathleen H  
**Released By:** PARIS:Miller, James N  
**Info:** EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE/IMMEDIATE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE/IMMEDIATE;  
MAGHREB COLLECTIVE/ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA;  
ZEN/AMEMBASSY PODGORICA; 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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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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Page 4 of 4

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 3

I70

**From:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Sent:** 6/23/2010 12:28:50 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTBTSP0P3  
**Subject:** SITREP: Lebanese Flotilla as of COB June 23  
**Attachments:** DSCN0675.jpg; DSCN0671.jpg; Metadata.dat

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**MRN:** 10 MDA 39106  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 23, 2010 / 231630Z JUN 10  
**From:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Action:** Cohen, Jonathan RROUTINE; Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.govROUTINE; Hagar\_H\_Hajjar@nss.eop.govROUTINE; Sievers, Marc JROUTINE; Cunningham, James B ROUTINE; Lawson, Christine MROUTINE; Catalano, Elisa ROUTINE; Shampaine, Nicole D ROUTINE; Riley, Richard HROUTINE; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE; Walles, Jacob ROUTINE; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE; Feltman, Jeffrey DROUTINE; Holmstrom, Todd CROUTINE; Jeffrey, James FROUTINE; Silliman, Douglas AROUTINE; Godfrey, Anthony FROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PBTS, PHUM, KPAL, IS, LE  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** SITREP: Lebanese Flotilla as of COB June 23

(SBU) *JULIA / NAJI AL-ALI* SHIP STATUS: The MV *Julia* is still sitting next to the pier in the Tripoli port (attached are two photos taken yesterday, one showing a truck from which cargo was being loaded onto the ship). Our investigator reported that, as of 17:00 local time today, no paperwork has been submitted on the boat -- neither a request for permission to leave port nor a passenger manifest. Their police and port contacts therefore concluded that the *Julia* would not be departing Lebanon today. There was no activity of any kind around the ship during the several hours we were watching it during the day. We will send our LES investigator back to Tripoli in the morning to continue to observe and report on developments.

(SBU) *MARIAM* STATUS: The organizers of the *Mariam* effort continue to assert that they are planning to launch a ship for Gaza with 50-70 women on board, but it has become increasingly clear that the group has not yet identified a specific ship they can use. Transportation Minister Ghazi Aridi is reported in today's press as having said that only one ship -- the *Julia* -- is currently being prepared for launch. Aridi indicated that the *Mariam* planners were still working on putting their effort together. Aridi also was reported as having claimed to the media that he had already granted permission for the *Julia* to depart. We note that Aridi's permission is not the only legal requirement the ship's organizers must meet.

(SBU) *MARIAM* ORGANIZER'S COMMENTS; AMCIT ISSUES: [redacted] to meet today with [redacted]  
[redacted] claimed that it will have 50-70 women on board from all nationalities and religions. She also stated that the *Mariam* mission is not affiliated with any political party. Citing privacy and security concerns, she declined to provide a manifest or confirm how many AmCits were going to be on board. She said that as soon as the ship had departed from Lebanon she would send us the manifest. She did mention, however, that three American nuns were planning on joining the trip (Note: the press here has been reporting that four or five "U.S. nuns" would be part of the group.). [redacted] also overheard a phone call in which [redacted] made reference to an American woman from Qatar [redacted] who was going to join the ship. [redacted] refused to say which port the ship would be sailing from, stating only that it would be "from the shores of Lebanon." She also said they were waiting for clearance from Cyprus, and that they expected to depart "in the next couple of days." She said that all precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of the ship. As of COB June 23, we still have no reports of a specific ship being identified as the intending *Mariam*.

B6

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 3

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 3

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Info:**

Sison, Michele *JROUTINE*; Cornforth, Jeremy *AROUTINE*; Bauer, Paul (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Lantz, James *VROUTINE*; AOC SESO *CMSROUTINE*; AOC SESO *CMS DEPDIRECTORROUTINE*; AOC SESO *DEPDIRECTORROUTINE*; AOC SESO *DirectorROUTINE*; AOC SESO *DSROUTINE*; AOC SESO *EAROUTINE*; AOC SESO *EDITORROUTINE*; AOC SESO *Mil RepROUTINE*; AOC SESO *OSROUTINE*; AOC SESO *SWINGROUTINE*; AOC SESO *SWOROUTINE*; AOC SESO *WOROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *CMSROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *Deputy Director ROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *DirectorROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *DSROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *EAO ROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *EditorROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *MilRepROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *OS ROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *SWOROUTINE*; Bartish, Tiffany *MROUTINE*; Choi, Dahm *ROUTINE*; CMS *DutyROUTINE*; Copley, Yanira *ROUTINE*; Doner, Susan *ROUTINE*; Dorn, Christopher H *ROUTINE*; Finnegan, Joseph *PROUTINE*; Goldberg, Joshua *WROUTINE*; Leedy, Jean B *ROUTINE*; Matier, Paul *TROUTINE*; Premont, Bridget *MROUTINE*; Roy, Kenneth *MROUTINE*; Shelton, Deretta *FROUTINE*; Zareski, Karen *BROUTINE*; AOC SESO *DSROUTINE*; Bitter, Rena *ROUTINE*; Pascual, Michael *TROUTINE*; Roy, Kenneth *MROUTINE*; Zareski, Karen *BROUTINE*; Beer, Jeremy *HROUTINE*; Bitter, Rena *ROUTINE*; Copley, Yanira *ROUTINE*; Matier, Paul T *ROUTINE*; Pascual, Michael *TROUTINE*; Revell, Sara *MROUTINE*; Roy, Kenneth *MROUTINE*; Sickles, Brittney *AROUTINE*; Zareski, Karen *BROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *OSROUTINE*; Beer, Jeremy *HROUTINE*; Brown, Justin *PROUTINE*; Casteel, Ezra *AROUTINE*; Deyo, Justin A *ROUTINE*; Hsiang, Margaret *EROUTINE*; Johnson, Andrew Kim *ROUTINE*; McNeil, Matthew C *ROUTINE*; Morgan, Jack *AROUTINE*; Packer, Adam *DROUTINE*; Pearce, Jennifer *ROUTINE*; Polley, Mary *EROUTINE*; Revell, Sara *MROUTINE*; Roberts, Kristin *ROUTINE*; Rudnitski, Jennine *RROUTINE*; Shelstad, Jeffrey *ROUTINE*; Simmons, Krista *MROUTINE*; Valdez, Pablo *MROUTINE*; Withers, Anne *MROUTINE*; AOC SESO *CMS DEPDIRECTORROUTINE*; AOC SESO *DEPDIRECTORROUTINE*; AOC SESO *DirectorROUTINE*; AOC SESO *Mil RepROUTINE*; AOC SESO *SWOROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *Deputy DirectorROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *Director ROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *MilRepROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *SWOROUTINE*; Banks, Dana *ROUTINE*; Beekman, Philip *MROUTINE*; Beer, Jeremy *HROUTINE*; Bitter, Rena *ROUTINE*; Crosby, Colin *TROUTINE*; Matier, Paul *TROUTINE*; McGovern, Bridget (Helen-Mary) *ROUTINE*; Parris, Walter *ROUTINE*; Pascual, Michael *TROUTINE*; Revell, Sara *MROUTINE*; Rodriguez, Hugo *FROUTINE*; Roy, Kenneth *MROUTINE*; Sanders, Robert *PROUTINE*; Slattery, Phillip *TROUTINE*; Thomas, Robert *WROUTINE*; Zareski, Karen *BROUTINE*; Abdalla, Alyce *NROUTINE*; Acosta-Licea, Dulce *MROUTINE*; AOC SESO *EDITORROUTINE*; AOC SESO *SWINGROUTINE*; AOC SESO *WOROUTINE*; AOC2\_SESO *WOROUTINE*; Beekman, Philip *MROUTINE*; Beer, Jeremy *HROUTINE*; Berenberg, Alex *MROUTINE*; Brown, Justin *PROUTINE*; Chakravorty, Anamika *ROUTINE*; Dalrymple, Angela *VROUTINE*; Duffy, Sarah *AROUTINE*; Finnegan, Joseph *PROUTINE*; Goldberg, Joshua *WROUTINE*; Holmes, Stephanie *EROUTINE*; Hsiang, Margaret *EROUTINE*; Johnson, Andrew Kim *ROUTINE*; Lee, Andrew *TROUTINE*; Leedy, Jean *BROUTINE*; Marsh, Victor *LROUTINE*; McNeil, Matthew *CROUTINE*; Packer, Adam *DROUTINE*; Parris, Walter *ROUTINE*; Pearce, Jennifer *ROUTINE*; Polley, Mary *EROUTINE*; Rathod, Rona *RROUTINE*; Revell, Sara M *ROUTINE*; Roberts, Kristin *ROUTINE*; Rudnitski, Jennine *RROUTINE*; Shelstad, Jeffrey *ROUTINE*; Simmons, Krista *MROUTINE*; Smith, Alexis *LROUTINE*; Snipes, Christopher *KROUTINE*; Stancer, Wendy *ROUTINE*; User100, Test *ROUTINE*; Valdez, Pablo *MROUTINE*; Wegmann, Stephanie *MROUTINE*; Whittington, Tracy *ROUTINE*; Withers, Anne *MROUTINE*; Zurcher, Kenneth *MROUTINE*; Watch Information *ROUTINE*; Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov *ROUTINE*; Jackson, Mollie *JROUTINE*; Cizek, Michael *ROUTINE*; Schellhammer, Michael W *ROUTINE*; Johnson, Andrew Kim *ROUTINE*; Netos, Eleftherios *EROUTINE*; Riley, Robert J *ROUTINE*; Baily, Jess *LROUTINE*; Schedlbauer, Amy *WROUTINE*; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 3



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Page 3 of 3

*ROUTINE*; Abraham, Nisha *MROUTINE*; Coley, Lea *MROUTINE*; Doutrich, Jack *TROUTINE*;  
*ROUTINE*; Giauque, Jeffrey *GROUTINE*; Groeblacher, Julia *ROUTINE*; Holmstrom, Todd *C*  
*ROUTINE*; Jacoby, Julia *IROUTINE*; Knopf, Payton *LROUTINE*; Lentz, Andrew *NROUTINE*;  
Mayo, Iris *JROUTINE*; Reisser, Wesley *JROUTINE*; Riley, Le'Shawnda V (OIG) *ROUTINE*;  
Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA) *ROUTINE*; Sindle, James *MROUTINE*; Sisso, Ilanit *ROUTINE*;  
Kimberly.Harrington@js.pentagon.mil *ROUTINE*; Hunter, Jo-Ann *LROUTINE*; Richter, Kim B  
*ROUTINE*; Mendel, Teresa *SROUTINE*

**Attachments:** DSCN0675.jpg, DSCN0671.jpg, Metadata.dat

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Page 3 of 3

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Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN PART B6

**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 6/24/2010 6:51:33 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** SITREP: Lebanese flotilla as of 1345 Beirut time on June 24

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**MRN:** 10 MDA 39240  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 24, 2010 / 241050Z JUN 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)ROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan RROUTINE ; Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nss.eop.govROUTINE ; Hagar\_H.\_Hajjar@nss.eop.govROUTINE ; Sievers, Marc JROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Lawson, Christine MROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisarROUTINE ; Champaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Riley, Richard HROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer RROUTINE ; Urbancic, Frank CROUTINE ; Walles, JacobROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Feltman, Jeffrey DROUTINE ; Jeffrey, James FROUTINE ; Silliman, Douglas AROUTINE ; Godfrey, Anthony FROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PBTS, PHUM, KPAL, IS, LE  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 10 MDA 39106  
**Subject:** SITREP: Lebanese flotilla as of 1345 Beirut time on June 24

B6

(SBU) [redacted] downplay flotilla progress: [redacted] told the Ambassador this morning that he was working closely with [redacted] on the issue of ships planning to sail from Lebanon to Gaza. [redacted] said, "We have a handle on the situation" and added that no activity was taking place in the Tripoli port near the MV *Julia*. The GOL knows, he emphasized, that the journey of such a ship toward Gaza "is not in our interest." [redacted] also underscored to the Ambassador today that "nothing is happening" with regards to the MV *Julia*.

(SBU) *Julia/Naji al-Ali* ship status: The MV *Julia* (aka *Naji al-Ali*) is still sitting next to the pier in the Tripoli port. Our investigator reported that, as of 1200 local time today, no paperwork has been submitted on the boat -- neither a request for permission to leave port nor a passenger manifest. There was no activity of any kind around the ship during the several hours we were watching it during the day. We also touched base with Customs, General Security, the Lebanese Armed Forces' G-2, and the Internal Security Force at the ports in Sidon, Beirut, and Tripoli ports, in addition to all of those agencies' headquarters. Furthermore, the DATT spoke with [redacted] yesterday and asked him to notify us if any suspect vessels depart Lebanese ports. Outside of the MV *Julia* in Tripoli, we have not learned of any other vessels suspected of planning to sail to Gaza.

(SBU) Transportation minister says no *Mariam* exists: Transportation Minister Aridi told *As-Sharq al-Awsat* newspaper on Wednesday that he has no information regarding a Lebanese aid ship dubbed *Mariam*. "There is a campaign called *Mariam*, and the organizers of the campaign to lift the Gaza blockade did not say there was a vessel carrying that name." He added that the only aid ship, the MV *Julia*, is currently docked at the Tripoli port, and he said it has been dubbed the *Naji al-Ali*.

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT: Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Info:** Sison, Michela JROUTINE ; Cornforth, Jeremy AROUTINE ; Bauer, Paul (Beirut)ROUTINE ;

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

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Page 2 of 2

Lantz, James VROUTINE ; AOC SESO CMSROUTINE ; AOC SESO CMS DEPDIRROUTINE ;  
ROUTINE ; AOC SESO DirectorROUTINE ; AOC SESO DSROUTINE ; AOC SESO EAOROUTINE ;  
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AOC2\_SESO CMSROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO Deputy DirectorROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO Director  
ROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO DSROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO EAOROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO Editor  
ROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO MilRepROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO OSROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO SWO  
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Pearce, JenniferROUTINE ; Polley, Mary EROUTINE ; Roberts, KristinROUTINE ;  
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Valdez, Pablo MROUTINE ; Withers, Anne MROUTINE ; Banks, DanaROUTINE ;  
Beekman, Philip MROUTINE ; Crosby, Colin TROUTINE ; McGovern, Bridget (Helen-Mary)  
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Slattery, Phillip TROUTINE ; Thomas, Robert WROUTINE ; Abdalla, Alyce AROUTINE ;  
Acosta-Licea, Dulce MROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESO WOROUTINE ; Berenberg, Alex MROUTINE ;  
Chakravorty, AnamikaROUTINE ; Dalrymple, Angela VROUTINE ; Duffy, Sarah AROUTINE ;  
Holmes, Stephanie EROUTINE ; Lee, Andrew TROUTINE ; Marsh, Victor LROUTINE ;  
Rathod, Rona RROUTINE ; Smith, Alexis LROUTINE ; Snipes, Christopher KROUTINE ;  
Stancer, WendyROUTINE ; User100, TestROUTINE ; Wegmann, Stephanie MROUTINE ;  
Whittington, TracyROUTINE ; Zurcher, Kenneth MROUTINE ; Watch InformationROUTINE ;  
Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.govROUTINE ; Jackson, Mollie JROUTINE ; Cizek, MichaelROUTINE ;  
Schellhammer, Michael WROUTINE ; Netos, Eleftherios EROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ;  
Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy WROUTINE ; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)ROUTINE ;  
Abraham, Nisha MROUTINE ; Coley, Lea MROUTINE ; Doutrich, Jack TROUTINE ;  
Frelich, Karlene HROUTINE ; Giauque, Jeffrey GROUTINE ; Groeblacher, JuliaROUTINE ;  
Holmstrom, Todd CROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ;  
Lentz, Andrew NROUTINE ; Mayo, Iris JROUTINE ; Reisser, Wesley JROUTINE ;  
Riley, Le'Shawnda V (OIG)ROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA)ROUTINE ; Sindle, James M  
ROUTINE ; Sisso, IlanitROUTINE ; Kimberly.Harrington@js.pentagon.milROUTINE ;  
Hunter, Jo-Ann LROUTINE ; Richter, Kim BROUTINE ; Mendel, Teresa SROUTINE ;  
robert.buzzell@me.navy.milROUTINE ; Cornforth, Jeremy AROUTINE

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Page 2 of 2

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Page 1 of 2

I 72

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 8/20/2010 10:42:53 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P8  
**Subject:** August 20 Mariam flotilla update  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**MRN:** 10 MDA 1831  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 20, 2010 / 201443Z AUG 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Action:** AOC\_SESORROUTINE ; AOC2\_SESORROUTINE ; Sanders, Robert PROUTINE ; SES-O\_CMS ROUTINE ; SES-O\_DS\_OnlyROUTINE ; SES-O\_FrontOfficeROUTINE ; SES-O\_OSROUTINE ; SES-O\_SWOROUTINE ; SES-O\_WOROUTINE ; Watch InformationROUTINE ; Abell, J Andrew ROUTINE ; Addis, Casey LROUTINE ; Allen, Katherine EROUTINE ; Allison, Alicia PROUTINE ; Baily, Jess LROUTINE ; C KlotterROUTINE ; Catalano, ElisaROUTINE ; Citrin, RuthROUTINE ; Cohen, Jonathan RROUTINE ; Connelly, MauraROUTINE ; Cornforth, Jeremy AROUTINE ; Cunningham, James BROUTINE ; Dan SchapiroROUTINE ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) ROUTINE ; Embury, Benjamin SROUTINE ; Embury, Benjamin SROUTINE ; Evans, Jennifer R ROUTINE ; Fitzsimmons, Richard SROUTINE ; Goldberger, Thomas HROUTINE ; H Mustafa ROUTINE ; Hagar HajjarROUTINE ; Hale, David MROUTINE ; Herbol, Denise AROUTINE ; Hof, Frederic CROUTINE ; Holmstrom, ToddROUTINE ; Howell, David WROUTINE ; J2ROUTINE ; J2 addiROUTINE ; J2 ddiROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia IROUTINE ; James Lantz MiiROUTINE ; Jasmine el-GamalROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton LROUTINE ; Knopf, Payton L (Jerusalem)ROUTINE ; Kumar, Prem (USUN)ROUTINE ; Lantz, James VROUTINE ; Lawson, Christine MROUTINE ; McCutcheon, Robert HROUTINE ; Morris, Kent XROUTINE ; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DLROUTINE ; Nobles, David TROUTINE ; Riggs, Susan JROUTINE ; Riley, Robert JROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon ROUTINE ; Santos, Alfred XROUTINE ; Scarletelli, Adam WROUTINE ; Schedlbauer, Amy W ROUTINE ; Schellhammer, Michael WROUTINE ; Schlicher, Ronald LROUTINE ; Shampaine, Nicole DROUTINE ; Sievers, Marc JROUTINE ; Silverman, Robert JROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Smith, Anita R (Beirut)ROUTINE ; Somerset, Ann DROUTINE ; Stewart, Nan EROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul RROUTINE ; Tsou, Leslie MROUTINE ; Walles, Jacob ROUTINE ; Wells, Alice GROUTINE ; Woods, William HROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, EWWT, PTER, KPAL  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 10 BEIRUT 719  
**Subject:** August 20 Mariam flotilla update

No Activity Around Flotilla Ships

(SBU) At midday on August 20, an Embassy security team determined that the *Mariam* (formerly the *Jounieh Star*), a ship docked in the Lebanese port of Tripoli that intends to break the Gaza blockade, remained in its position on the wharf with no activity taking place on or around it. Its sister ship the *Julia* (aka the *Naji al-Ali*) remains anchored in the port with no activity taking place on or around it.



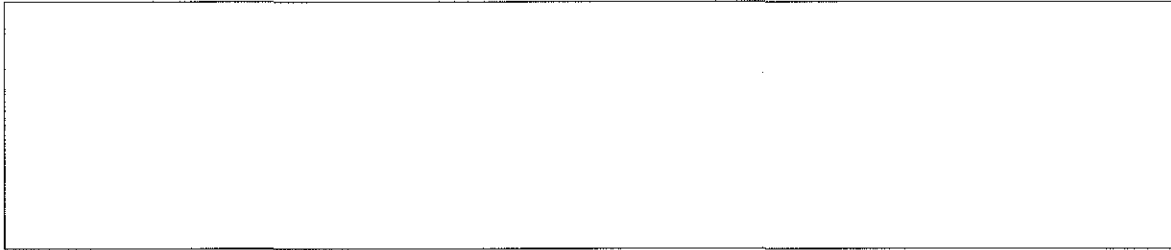
1.4(D)  
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1.4(B)

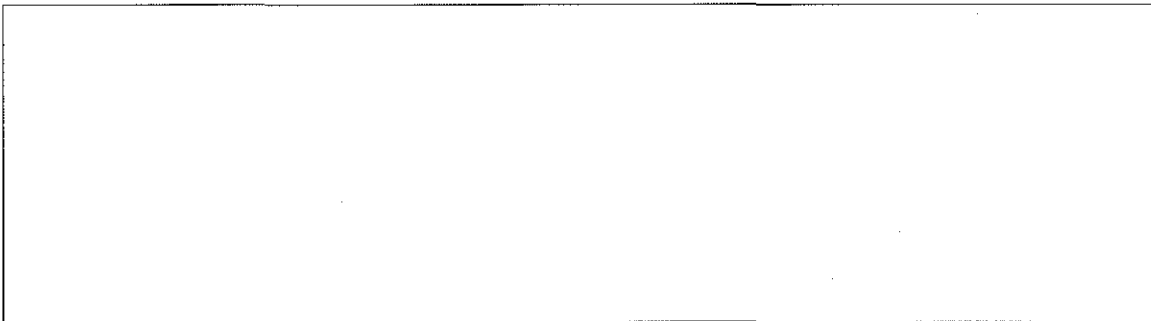
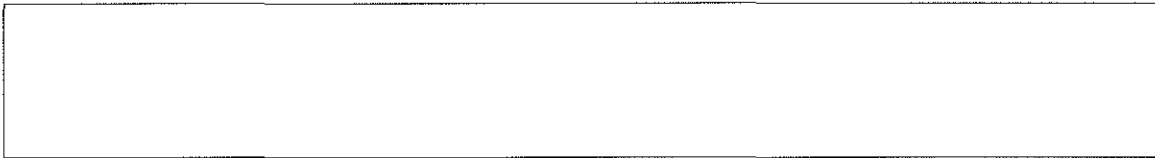
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



{SBU} We are currently reaching out to the Lebanese Armed Forces, as well, to urge that the ship's departure be prevented. We will send a team to observe the port all day on August 21 and 22 to report on the situation.

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**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
Embassy Beirut  
State  
**Declassify on:** 2020/08/20  
**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Info:** Stein, Lawrence J. CAPT [Lawrence.Stein@jac.eucom.smil.mil]ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 2

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RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I90

From: Rosenberger, Thomas  
Sent: 6/2/2010 10:55:56 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP04  
Subject: "FLOTILLA HEROES" WELCOMED HOME, PARLIAMENTARY CALL FOR ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE PULLOUT [redacted]  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

1.4(B)

1.4(D)  
B1

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 10 KUWAIT 399  
Date/DTG: Jun 02, 2010 / 021456Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, KISL, PINR, IS, KU  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Reference: A) 10 KUWAIT 387  
B) 10 KUWAIT 379  
Pass Line: NEA/ARP, NEA/IPA, NEA/RA  
USOFFICE NEWINGTON PASS TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
Subject: "FLOTILLA HEROES" WELCOMED HOME, PARLIAMENTARY CALL FOR ARAB PEACE INITIATIVE PULLOUT [redacted]

1. (C) Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Khorafi and PM Shaykh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al Sabah welcomed and hailed as heroes Kuwait's 16 "Freedom Flotilla" participants upon their June 2 return from Israel via Jordan. The Amir and Crown Prince also extended their congratulations and support to the group, which was met by a large crowd of relatives, friends and press at Kuwait's airport. Comments from the flotilla participants in subsequent press interviews praised the Amir for allocating the Amiri plane to provide transport to Kuwait, Kuwait's National Assembly for its political support of the cause, and Jordan for its intervention with the Israelis. In emotional public comments, returnees variously condemned the Israelis as "terrorists" and accused them of mistreatment and abuse, including forcing the captives to disrobe and subjecting them to intense interrogations. MP Walid Al-Tabtabaie, still attired in "Israeli prison garb," claimed to the press that Israeli soldiers opened fire on the flotilla, beat the participants, and prevented them from eating, sleeping and using the bathroom for 24 hours. Despite the ordeal, the participants expressed pride in their participation and an intent to return, with journalist Mona Shester summing up the view by stating, "I will return again once, twice, and many more times until Palestine is liberated."

2. (C) The Parliament's approval June 1 of a motion calling inter alia for Kuwait to withdraw from the Arab Peace Initiative (ref A) was the subject of confusing local press coverage June 2. Speaker of the Parliament Jassem Al-Khorafi publicly noted that the motion was not binding on the government and should be considered only as advice or a recommendation. The GoK, however, was reported by some media outlets to have accepted the motion, although some reports clarified that the government would accept "some" of the recommendations.



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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Page 2 of 2

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

**Signature:** WILLIAMS

---

**Classified By:** Peter O'Donohue, Political Counselor  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2020/06/02  
**Drafted By:** KUWAIT:Rosenberger, Thomas  
**Cleared By:** POL:O'Donohue, Peter A  
**Approved By:** Executive:Williams, Thomas E  
**Released By:** KUWAIT:Rosenberger, Thomas  
**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYIMMEDIATE ; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONIMMEDIATE ;  
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; CIA WASHINGTON DC  
 IMMEDIATE ; ISLAMIC COLLECTIVEIMMEDIATE ; ZEN/AMEMBASSY BANGUI;  
 USOFFICE NEWINGTONIMMEDIATE ; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA

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**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 3

I 92

**From:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Sent:** 6/16/2010 9:14:11 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSPOP1  
**Subject:** Update on potential Lebanese flotilla to Gaza  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**MRN:** 10 MDA 1031  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 16, 2010 / 161314Z JUN 10  
**From:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Action:** Lawson, Christine *MIMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPAL, PBTS, GZ, IS, LE  
**Subject:** Update on potential Lebanese flotilla to Gaza

Latest Developments

(C) Based on our further inquiries today and on press reports, we now believe that two separate efforts are underway in Lebanon to launch follow-up "flotillas" to attempt to run the Israeli blockade into Gaza. The first, organized by the Lebanese NGOs Journalists Without Limits (JWL) and the Free Palestine Movement (FPM), published an advertisement in *As-Safir* over the weekend calling for contributions to help them rent or buy a boat. The second, supported at least nominally by the Free Palestine Movement and led by the wife of Gen. Ali el-Hajj (one of the four generals formerly detained by UNIIIC for suspicion of involvement in the Hariri assassination), is attempting to assemble an all-female group of Lebanese and foreign nationals to travel aboard a boat called the *Mariam*. Of the two, the latter appears to be making more concrete progress, to the point that within the last 24 hours the possibility of it actually making an attempt seems to have increased significantly.

(C) [redacted] told the Ambassador this morning that a Lebanese journalist who is enlisted in the joint JWL/FPM effort said today that the group expects to have a boat or boats ready to depart on Saturday. The effort was initially disorganized, the contact said, but it has recently become better organized. A separate contact told UNSCOL that the effort was likely to have a boat ready to launch "in the next several days." The JWL/FPM effort is the one that reportedly involves at least one Amcit, named in the press as Paul Laroody (phonetic). [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(C) [redacted] told our PAO this morning that the all-female group trying to organize the effort of the *Mariam* is "dead serious" about launching the boat, though he said the group had declined to give him a specific date for their launch. He assessed that they might be ready to launch by the end of this week.



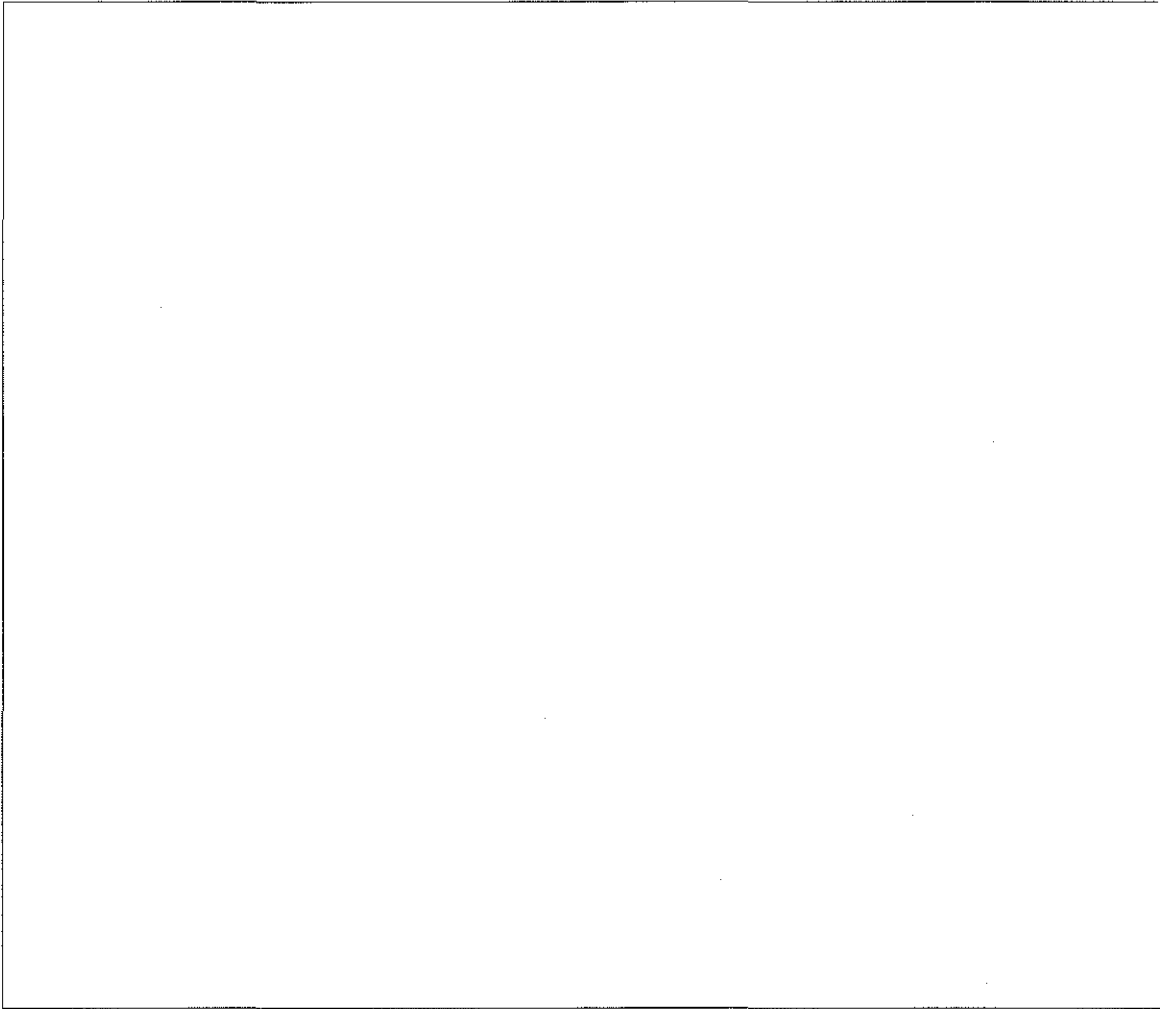
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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Our Contacts with the GOL



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Conclusion

(C) We will continue to register our concerns: [redacted]

[redacted] we do believe it is possible that one or more boats may succeed in launching from Lebanon in the next 3-5 days. We will continue to report on developments.

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**Classified By:** Thomas F. Daughton, Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy Beirut  
Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2020/06/16  
**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 3

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 3 of 3

**Approved By:** U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Info:** Sievers, Marc *JROUTINE*; Cunningham, James *BROUTINE*; Hale, David *MROUTINE*; Connelly, Maura *ROUTINE*; Holmstrom, Todd *ROUTINE*; Sison, Michele *JROUTINE*; Hof, Frederic *CROUTINE*; Sachar, Alon *ROUTINE*; Knopf, Payton *LROUTINE*; Knopf, Payton L (Jerusalem) *ROUTINE*; Shapiro, Daniel B. *ROUTINE*; Cornforth, Jeremy A *ROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer *RROUTINE*; Schlicher, Ronald *LROUTINE*; Fellman, Jeffrey D *ROUTINE*; Riley, Richard *HROUTINE*; Kumar, Prem G. *ROUTINE*; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.' *ROUTINE*; Walles, Jacob *ROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer *RROUTINE*; Shampaine, Nicole *DROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 3 of 3

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Page 1 of 4

I93

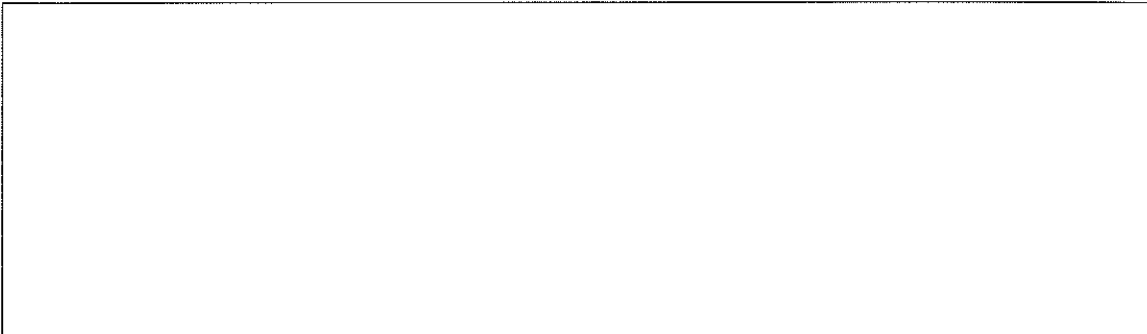
RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
Sent: 6/17/2010 6:41:36 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P2  
Subject: Lebanese Gaza Flotilla Update -- June 17, 2010  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL

MRN: 10 MDA 1049  
Date/DTG: Jun 17, 2010 / 171041Z JUN 10  
From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
Action: Lawson, Christine IMMEDIATE; HHajjar@nss.eop.sgov.gov IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, PBTS, KPAL, PHUM, GZ, IS, LE  
Subject: Lebanese Gaza Flotilla Update -- June 17, 2010

SITUATION UPDATE  
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1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(C) POSSIBLE LAUNCH TOMORROW? Media contacts say that the *Mariam* is hoping to launch for Gaza the morning of June 18 carrying 50 women of different nationalities. *An-Nahar* reports that the *Mariam* effort is being led by Inam Saad, the wife of a Saida-based opposition politician who is a foe of PM Hariri. Conflicting press reports have said the boat plans to launch from Beirut, Jounieh (just north of Beirut), Tripoli and Saida. We have verified that the *Mariam* is not in Beirut or Jounieh, and are seeking now to verify the Saida report (Saida is roughly halfway between Beirut and the Israeli border; the Maronite bishop of Saida is presiding over a mass there today to bless the *Mariam's* undertaking). A security team that went to look at the Saida port saw one vessel that might be the *Mariam*. We have sent a separate security team to Tripoli to see if anything is happening at the port there. The press is also reporting that Yasser Kashlak, a wealthy Palestinian businessman based in the Gulf, is the main funder of the *Mariam* effort. Kashlak heads the Palestinian Businessmen's Association as well as the Lebanese Institute of International Research.

(C) AMCIT INVOLVEMENT: One newspaper is reporting that "four U.S. nuns"

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

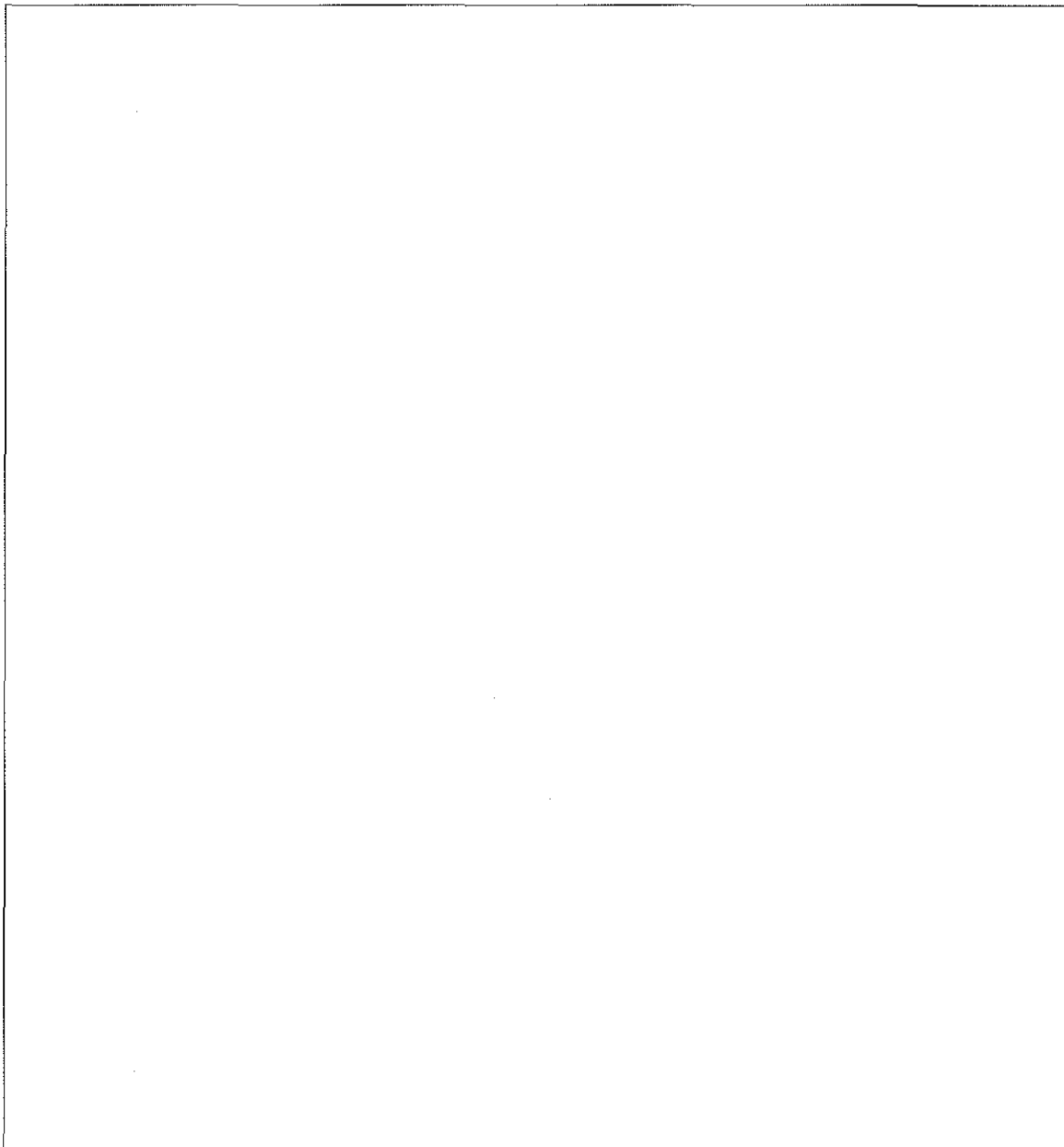
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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plan to be among the 50 women aboard the Mariam. Separately, Amcit Paul Larudee (who was on the first Gaza flotilla) gave an interview to a Beirut paper, but it is not clear from the article that Larudee was present in the country at the time of the interview. [REDACTED]

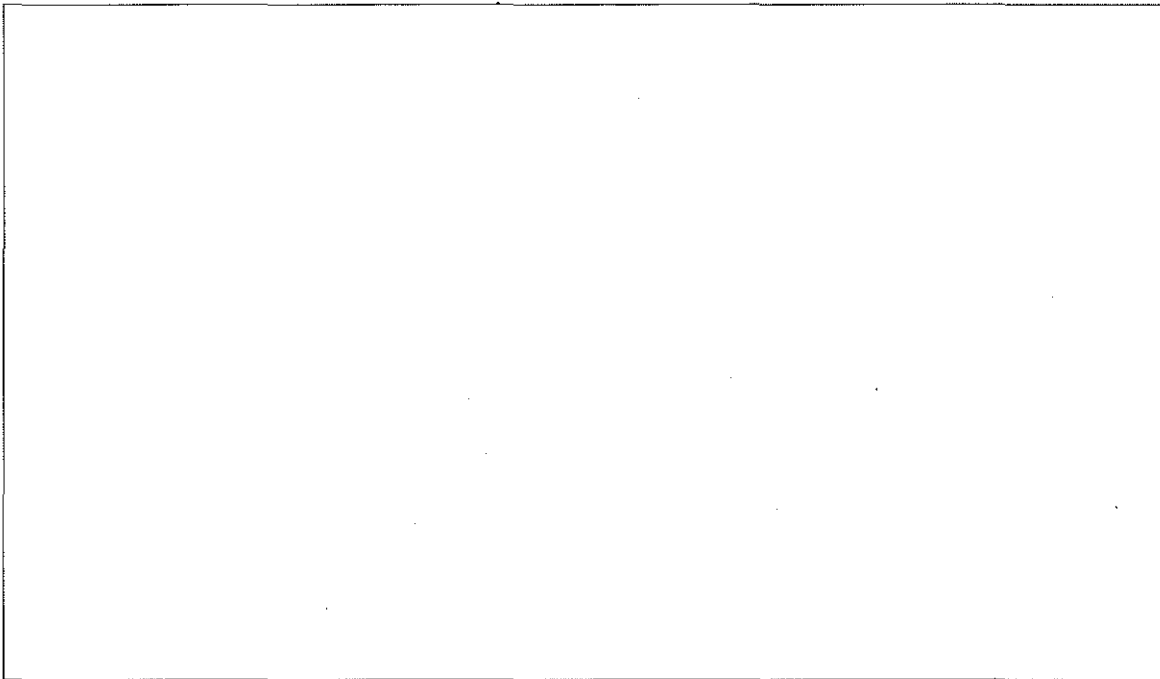
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CONTACTS WITH GOL AND OTHERS**  
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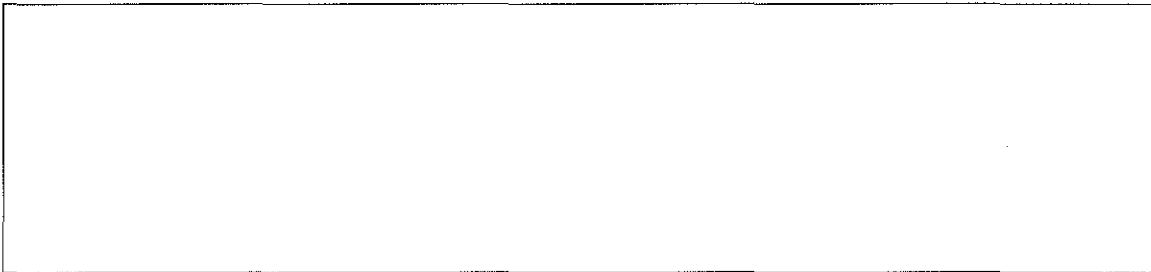
**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 4

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1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

CONCLUSION  
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**Classified By:** Thomas F. Daughton, Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy Beirut  
Department of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2020/06/17

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Approved By:** U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Released By:** BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Info:** Mull, Stephen *DROUTINE*; Sievers, Marc *JROUTINE*; Cunningham, James *BROUTINE*;  
Hale, David *MROUTINE*; Connelly, Maura *ROUTINE*; Holmstrom, Todd *ROUTINE*;  
Sison, Michele *JROUTINE*; Hof, Frederic *CROUTINE*; Sachar, Alon *ROUTINE*; Knopf, Payton L

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Page 4 of 4

*ROUTINE*; Knopf, Payton L (Jerusalem)*ROUTINE*; DShapiro@nss.eop.sgov.gov*ROUTINE*;  
*ROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer R*ROUTINE*; Schlicher, Ronald L*ROUTINE*; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
*ROUTINE*; Riley, Richard H*ROUTINE*; PKumar@nss.eop.sgov.gov*ROUTINE*; Walles, Jacob  
*ROUTINE*; Shampaine, Nicole D*ROUTINE*; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)*ROUTINE*;  
Sison, Michele J*ROUTINE*; Nephew, Richard M*ROUTINE*; Catalano, Elisa*ROUTINE*;  
Rana, Gautam A*ROUTINE*; Walles, Jacob*ROUTINE*; Cornforth, Jeremy A*ROUTINE*;  
Wong, Kam T*ROUTINE*; Vassilev, Ivaylo*ROUTINE*; Williams, Prestina D*ROUTINE*;  
Bauer, Paul A*ROUTINE*; Solly, Janet R (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Williams, Jennifer L*ROUTINE*;  
Lantz, James V*ROUTINE*; Pannaman, Jeffrey E*ROUTINE*; Balestri, Richard R*ROUTINE*;  
Riley, Richard H*ROUTINE*; Hinton, Terrance*ROUTINE*; Brown, Karen L*ROUTINE*;  
Hosking, Erika L (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Citrin, Ruth*ROUTINE*; Embury, Benjamin S*ROUTINE*;  
Herbol, Denise A*ROUTINE*; Abell, J Andrew*ROUTINE*; Kontek, Ted L (Beirut)*ROUTINE*;  
Gliha, Ryan M*ROUTINE*; Wilt, Mark C (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; Addis, Casey L*ROUTINE*;  
Creedon, Reid M*ROUTINE*; Evans, Jennifer R*ROUTINE*; Tachco, Amy N (Beirut)*ROUTINE*;  
Polacheck, Joshua W (Beirut)*ROUTINE*; McCulloch, Megan L*ROUTINE*

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 4

I97

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 6/8/2010 12:59:44 PM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA REACTION: DISAPPOINTMENT, SKEPTICISM, CAUTIOUS HOPE IN GAZA

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 JERUSALEM 969  
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081642Z JUN 10  
From: AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS, TU  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Reference: A. JERUSALEM 921 B. JERUSALEM 922  
Subject: "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA REACTION: DISAPPOINTMENT, SKEPTICISM, CAUTIOUS HOPE IN GAZA

CONFIDENTIAL JERUSALEM 000969

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/2020  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS, TU  
SUBJECT: "FREE GAZA" FLOTILLA REACTION: DISAPPOINTMENT, SKEPTICISM, CAUTIOUS HOPE IN GAZA

REF: A. JERUSALEM 921  
B. JERUSALEM 922

Classified By: Greg Marchese, Acting Principal Officer, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: A week after Israel's May 31 interdiction of the "Free Gaza" flotilla, contacts in the Gaza Strip describe life returning to "normal" -- by Gaza standards -- and few report closely following the news of subsequent flotilla efforts, including by the MV "Rachel Corrie." Gaza contacts, reflecting on the events of the previous week, expressed sadness that people had died trying to help them; felt some consolation that Gaza was again on the international community's agenda; noted admiration for Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan; and reiterated their disappointment in the political leaders in Gaza, the West Bank, and Egypt. Despite that international focus, none of Post's contacts predicted an upturn in the situation in Gaza anytime soon. End summary.

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More of the Same?

2. (C) According to Gaza contacts reached on June 5, the MV "Rachel Corrie" and its peaceful interdiction by the Israeli navy received scant attention inside Gaza. (In contrast, Gazans had closely watched the events following the May 31 interdiction of the "Mavi Marmara.") While some commented positively on reports indicating changes to Gaza's access regime, they noted that the perception in Gaza remains that the closure will continue. [redacted]

[redacted] said that the mood in Gaza is "darker, but with a little hope in the air." However, another contact remarked that Israel's actions were interpreted in Gaza as a message to the international community not to "break the siege, or a price will be paid."

1.4(D)  
B1  
B6

Leadership and its Absence

3. (C) Contacts described Gazans as impressed by the response of Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan, who one contact called the "first leader" for Palestinians in Gaza, adding that many wished that their own leaders were more like him. Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas's reference to Turkey in his June 2 speech at the Palestine Investment Conference elicited a standing ovation, said Gaza [redacted] and one should expect the response by Palestinian refugees in Gaza's camps to be "ten times" stronger than the business elite in the West Bank. [redacted] remarked that there is now "a larger window for Turkey to intervene."

4. (SBU) According to Gaza contacts, Hamas and Fatah are perceived as parties more concerned with their own interests than the well-being of Gazans. Hamas seized supplies from humanitarian convoys to Gaza for its own purposes, said contacts working in the humanitarian field, who were relieved that Hamas was denied this opportunity. One contact compared Abbas's unwillingness to suspend proximity talks after the flotilla incident with his weak leadership during the Goldstone affair. The PA's gain this past week, noted one contact, is "zero percent." Even leading up to the current crisis, said one contact, Abbas has "failed to engage with civil society and the private sector in Gaza." According to other contacts, Gazans resented the foreign activist organizers of the flotilla, who were perceived to be Hamas supporters with a political message to "sustain the division between Gaza and West Bank."

5. (SBU) Hamas-led protests at the Gaza port during the couple days following the May 31 events numbered in the thousands. A Gaza contact derided this, saying that a successful demonstration would require "hundreds of thousands." Other Palestinian factions held symbolic demonstrations, but none gathered noticeable traction. According to contacts, Palestinians in Gaza have not expressed solidarity in the wake of the flotilla incident, in contrast with large-scale demonstrations against Israeli military actions in the past.

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6. (C) While Palestinians in Gaza have not rallied behind Hamas since the events of May 31, the movement has benefited significantly from international attention as well as from greater internal cohesion within its ranks, said one contact. The international media "storm" emboldened Hamas, said Shaban, leaving the movement more "united, proud, and energized" and more likely to resist further reconciliation

with Fatah. [redacted] said that events surrounding the interdiction of the flotilla "served Hamas's interests one hundred percent."

1.4(D)  
B1  
B6

7. (SBU) According to contacts, Gazans are "angry" with Egypt's reaction. Egypt's opening of the Rafah crossing with Gaza is seen as a political ploy to simply reduce the anger of Palestinians and (even more so) Egyptians, said contacts. Rafah is restricted to certain travelers only, such as patients and those with Egyptian visas. One contact said he tried to cross to Egypt at Rafah in the past week, but was denied permission, since he did not have a visa and had no guidance on how to obtain one. Rafah is expected to be closed again within days, said contacts, and this decision will be interpreted as a sign of Egypt's true position towards Gaza.

No More Aid; "End the Siege"

8. (SBU) NGO contacts say that Gazans are not in need of the aid delivered by the flotilla, since most basic supplies are available through the tunnels, with the exception of reconstruction materials. According to contacts, Palestinians in Gaza wish an "end to the siege," especially in order to increase employment and to travel outside of Gaza, whether for health, family, or professional reasons.

9. (C) A number of Gazans said the opening of land crossings with Israel would represent neither a favor nor a victory for Hamas. Goods permitted through Israeli crossings are available to everyone in the market, directly improve people's lives, and lead to "greater economic options" and fewer reasons to "turn to radicalization," according to

[redacted] With the import of glass and aluminum, prices fell, and Gazans were relieved to be able to conduct basic repairs to their homes, without giving any credit to Hamas. According to an NGO contact, the import of goods through Israeli crossings least benefits Hamas, which is in a position to assert control over goods smuggled through the tunnels or received by humanitarian aid convoys.

Reaction to the U.S. Response

10. (SBU) Contacts reported that Gazans were disappointed with the USG for its perceived role in "watering down" the text of the June 1 U.N. Security Council presidential statement on Gaza. Though hoping for stronger language, Gazans were pleased to hear statements of President Obama and Secretary Clinton referring to the blockade as "unacceptable" and calling for an investigation into the flotilla incident.  
MARCHESE

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 3 of 4

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Page 4 of 4

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**Signature:** MARCHESE

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**Classified By:** Greg Marchese, Acting Principal Officer,  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b) and (d)  
**Declassify on:** 06/08/2020  
**Info:** ISTANBUL, AMCONSULROUTINE ; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVEROUTINE  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
Sensitive

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 4

I100

RELEASED IN PART B6

From: svcsmartmfi  
Sent: 5/31/2010 7:03:43 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION UPDATE

UNCLASSIFIED  
Sensitive



MRN: 10 JERUSALEM 921  
Date/DTG: May 31, 2010 / 311051Z MAY 10  
From: AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Pass Line: DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA  
Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION UPDATE

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 000921

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR S/ES-O, NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CASC, KPAL, KWBG, IS  
SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA REACTION UPDATE

Summary

1. (SBU) Senior Palestinian Authority (PA) officials condemned Israel's naval interdiction of the "Free Gaza" flotilla on May 31, but emphasized a commitment to keep the security situation in the West Bank under control. A peaceful demonstration was ongoing in Ramallah at mid-day on May 31, and protest activities appeared to be gearing up elsewhere in the West Bank. Israeli authorities were on high alert in East Jerusalem, but the Old City was quiet, with many shops in the Muslim Quarter closed in protest. Post is investigating a report of an Amcit injured in a protest in the West Bank. End summary.

Official Palestinian reactions

2. (U) PA President Mahmoud Abbas has declared a three-day period of mourning in response to reports of deaths of a number of those on board the "Free Gaza" flotilla intercepted by Israeli naval forces

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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early on May 31. Calling the Israeli naval operation a "massacre," Abbas called on the Arab League to hold an emergency meeting.

3. (SBU) A joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Fatah Central Committee, already scheduled to take place at 6:30 p.m. local time on May 31 to discuss other topics, will now discuss the flotilla incident, according to Palestinian sources.

4. (SBU) In separate discussions with Post, a number of senior Palestinian officials reported having been contacted by Major General Eitan Dangot, the Israeli Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, who offered a briefing on the incident. A senior PLO official said Dangot called the Israeli actions absolutely justified. The PLO official said he asked Dangot how the incident occurred, given that previous attempts by activists to carry supplies to Gaza by boat had been allowed to proceed. Dangot answered that Israeli military personnel were attacked, and said he was sorry for what happened, according to the senior PLO official.

5. (SBU) The senior PLO official predicted consequences as a result of the Israeli actions -- which he called "unjustified" -- particularly if Islamic Movement in Israel-Northern Branch leader Ra'ed Salah, allegedly wounded in the Israeli interdiction of the flotilla, were to die. Note: press reports on Salah's situation are contradictory. End note. He said that "we know who" -- that is, Hamas -- will use this incident for political advantage. He noted Aljazeera reportage "calling for demonstrations," including in Cairo, and for the Egyptian government to open the Rafah crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. Such coverage was breaking Hamas's way, according to the senior PLO official; "everyone will use it." He noted further that the incident was occurring at the same time that candidates are being selected for local elections scheduled to take place in the West Bank on July 17; it could have political ramifications, he said.

6. (SBU) A top PA official told Post that he was following up on security ramifications of the flotilla incident, describing that as his major focus at the moment. He had likewise heard from Dangot, although Dangot did not relay any information not already being carried by the news media, he said.

7. (SBU) The PA official stated that, as in previous situations, Palestinians in the West Bank would have room to express themselves peacefully. The PA's goal would be to keep demonstrators away from potential flashpoints of conflict with Israeli security personnel, he said. He expected some public events; as of this morning, but had only heard of demonstration activity in Ramallah (see below).

8. (SBU) According to a senior PA security official, PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad held a meeting with security chiefs just after a very short cabinet meeting on the morning of May 31. In the meeting with security chiefs, Fayyad stressed the need to keep the situation under control. PA security forces are on high alert and will deploy surveillance detection units to spot any signs of friction with Israeli military personnel in the West Bank, the senior PA security official said.

9. (SBU) The senior PA security official confirmed having received from Israeli counterparts a request to help keep the situation calm. He said he responded by characterizing this latest event as a new challenge, but emphasized a continuing PA commitment to prevent any provocations. The senior PA security official

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
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noted calls for protests in various parts of the West Bank. He called the situation tense but said PA security forces were working to ensure calm.

10. (U) Prime Minister Fayyad issued a statement on May 31. Referring to the interdiction of the flotilla, the statement said that the "Palestinian government strongly condemns this crime." It called on the international community to condemn the Israeli actions, and also called for "lifting the siege" on Gaza.

11. (U) PLO Chief Negotiator Sa'eb Erekat likewise issued a statement, calling the interdiction of the flotilla a "war crime." Erekat called on the international community to "act immediately to end the illegal Israeli siege and to protect the civilians savagely attacked by Israeli forces," according to the statement.

#### Hamas Reaction

12. (U) In the Gaza Strip, Hamas "Prime Minister" Ismail Haniyeh has called on the PA to stop talks with Israel in response to the Israeli interdiction of the flotilla.

13. (SBU) A Gaza-based source told Post that Hamas has called for a general strike in the West Bank as well as the Gaza Strip. A number of political factions in Gaza were planning demonstrations in protest of the flotilla's interdiction, the Gaza-based source said.

#### West Bank

14. (SBU) A West Bank "popular committee" leader told Post that demonstrations in Bethlehem's Nativity Square would begin at 2:00 p.m. local time. Various "popular committees" were organizing protests throughout major West Bank cities in order to demonstrate solidarity with the flotilla, he said. Among these events, various Palestinian political factions were participating in a mid-day demonstration in Ramallah's Manara square. Post contacts expected to the demonstration to be peaceful.

15. (SBU) [redacted] for an organization that promotes "peaceful resistance" demonstrations in the West Bank against the Israeli separation barrier told Post that 70 demonstrators had assembled in Ramallah's Manara Square as of 11:00 a.m. Fatah had announced it would join, and that a reported strike by PA employees was expected to swell participation further. A report of an incident of stone-throwing near the Qalandiya checkpoint was the only sign of violence in East Jerusalem and the West Bank as of mid-day May 31.

B6

#### Jerusalem

16. (SBU) Israeli police were on high alert and deployed in force throughout East Jerusalem, including the Old City, as of mid-day May 31. Jerusalem's Old City, particularly the Muslim Quarter, was very quiet as of mid-day May 31, with many shops having closed in protest of the flotilla incident.

17. (SBU) [redacted] with insights into Salah's Islamic Movement of Israel-Northern Branch described Salah's appeal in predominant Arab East Jerusalem as strong (and noted its use of tools like phone trees to organize that support), but not strong

B6

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**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**  
Page 4 of 4

enough to trump general aversion to mass-protest events. He did not expect widespread violent protest in Jerusalem immediately, but rather predicted attempts by Salah's supporters to mobilize events later in the week, in conjunction with Friday prayers.

American Citizens

18. (SBU) Post is attempting to confirm a report of one Amcit having been injured by a tear gas cannister fired during a demonstration in the West Bank on May 31.

RUBINSTEIN

**Signature:** RUBINSTEIN

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**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; AMMAN, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; ANKARA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; BEIRUT, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; CAIRO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; ISTANBUL, AMCONSULROUTINE

**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Sensitive

**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED**  
Page 4 of 4

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

I109

**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Sent:** 6/2/2010 5:27:12 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** Return of Lebanese detainees from Gaza flotilla to Lebanon

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**MRN:** 10 FTR 22496  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 02, 2010 / 020926Z JUN 10  
**From:** Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPKO, LE, IS  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Subject:** Return of Lebanese detainees from Gaza flotilla to Lebanon

<<Metadata.dat>> Tom,

Here is more info you can send. I'll wrap it all into the O/I, as well:

[redacted] told us at midday that the GOI had confirmed [redacted] that three detainees -- [redacted], and [redacted] -- would be transferred to UNIFIL at Naqoura today. [redacted] said no time for the transfer had been fixed, but he expected it to be after dark. [redacted] who holds both Irish and Lebanese citizenship, will be transferred at Naqoura, as well, if he can produce his Lebanese passport. If not, he will be deported directly to Ireland. As for [redacted] who [redacted] reported sustained a gunshot to the leg, he is currently in a hospital in Israel

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted]

Hizballah Agriculture Minister Hussein al-Hajj Hassan told Future News today that Israel will pay for its attack on the convoy. "Lebanese nationals detained by Israel are our responsibility as a government, people and Resistance," Hajj Hassan said, in reference to the three Lebanese nationals who had been detained by Israeli forces following the raid on Monday.

[redacted]

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:48 AM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; Slson, Michele J; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'; Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Shampaine, Nicole D; Lawson, Christine M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Hale, David M; Rana, Gautam A; Catalano, Elisa; Hof, Frederic C; Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Subject:** RE: Lebanese detainees in Israel

More information on what transpired at last night's cabinet meeting:

We spoke this morning to [redacted] who said that the cabinet did not make any formal decisions about the Lebanese held by Israel.

[redacted]

Thomas F. Daughton  
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on : 8/30/2012 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 06/02/2020

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 2

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2

U.S. Embassy - Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: (961) 154-2600

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Feltman, Jeffrey D

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:11 AM

**To:** Sison, Michele J; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'; Cunningham, James R; Sievers, Marc J; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; Sullivan, Jacob J; Schlicher, Ronald L; Shampaine, Nicole D; Lawson, Christine M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Hale, David M; Rana, Gautam A; Catalano, Elisa; Hof, Frederic C

**Subject:** Lebanese detainees in Israel

To all:

[redacted] called me, and [redacted] called both me and Maura Connelly. Their concern: that the Israelis are holding five Lebanese citizens who were on the Gaza flotilla. [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

I talked with Michael Oren, Israeli Ambassador. After checking with his government, he reported the following:

- 3 Lebanese will be deported to Lebanon via Ras Naqoura tomorrow.
- 1 Lebanese is Irish-Lebanese and is being expelled via the airport as an Irish citizen
- The fifth Lebanese is wounded and therefore is being treated as a suspect. The Israeli Attorney General has not decided yet what action to take with the wounded in general, all of whom are considered suspects in the attacks on the IDF soldiers. So the fifth will not be released now.

[redacted]

Jeffrey Feltman  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
Department of State  
202-647-7209

---

**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A

---

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**UNCLASSIFIED**

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 2 of 2



CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

1115

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: Rendo, Christopher M  
Sent: 7/19/2010 9:16:14 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP03  
Subject: Ireland's Reaction to the Gaza Flotilla  
Attachments: Meladata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN



MRN: 10 DUBLIN 195  
Date/DTG: Jul 19, 2010 / 191316Z JUL 10  
From: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PREL, KIRF, EI, IS  
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS, NOFORN  
Reference: A) 10 STATE 72296  
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
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: Ireland's Reaction to the Gaza Flotilla

1. (SBU) Summary: Ireland tends to view the Israel/Palestine conflict through its own troubled history with the British and will identify with the Palestinians on most issues. Irish criticism of the raid on the Gaza flotilla came from across the political spectrum. However, according to Embassy contacts and from our observations, anger over the flotilla raid has been directed at Israel specifically and has not been broadly anti-Semitic. End summary.

**Community Reaction**

2. (SBU) Malcolm Lewis, head of the Dublin Hebrew Congregation, said that he has not seen or heard of any rise in anti-Semitism in Ireland following the raid on the flotilla. He told Poloff that the Irish have been very clear that they are protesting specifically the actions of Israel, rather than actions of Jews in general. In addition, he said that he found incidents of anti-Semitism (as opposed to anti-Israel) to be extremely rare in Ireland.
3. (SBU) The leader of the Terenure Hebrew Congregation, the largest in Ireland, also told Poloff that he had not seen a recent increase in anti-Semitism. Cantor Shulman made very similar points to those made by Lewis, stating that in his 19 years in Ireland anti-Semitism has never been a very big problem. He noted that while people may be angry with Israel, they do not blame Jews generally or Ireland's Jewish population for Israel's actions.

**Media Reaction**

4. (SBU) The media criticism of the raid on the flotilla has been aimed at Israel. Stories in the mainstream media have been careful to refer to Israel in their coverage of the flotilla raids, and they have not tied Judaism to the events. The *Irish Times* and *Irish Independent*, Ireland's two largest newspapers, published a number of letters to

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the editor about the flotilla raid. These letters, while generally in opposition to the raid on the flotilla and the blockade of Gaza, also did not link Israel's action to the broader Jewish community. In addition, the two publications published a number of letters from readers who defended Israel's actions.

**Protests**

5. (SBU) Numerous protests were held Dublin following the raid on the flotilla. Following news of the raid, protesters marched across Dublin to the Israeli Embassy, where more protesters joined. Police estimated 1,600 people took part in the protest. Protesters demanded the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador, which did not happen. Protests have continued outside the Israeli Embassy over the last seven weeks, most frequently on Friday mornings.

6. (C) [redacted] reported that during one of the protests clear shouts of "Haybar, Haybar Ya Yahud" (Holy war against the Jews) could be heard. [redacted] told Poloff that [redacted] had received roughly 40 calls that were clearly anti-Semitic, referring to "dirty Jews" and how "Hitler should have a done a better job." [redacted] said they also recently received a letter that included ethnic slurs and Holocaust denials.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Outlook**

7. (C) Protests outside the Israeli Embassy have dwindled following the initial outrage over the raid on the flotilla. There have been no reports of anti-Semitism from the local community, [redacted] Post will continue to monitor for future incidents of anti-Semitism.

**Signature:** ROONEY

**Classified By:** Jennifer Duval, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission  
Executive  
State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2020/07/19

**Drafted By:** DUBLIN:Rendo, Christopher M

**Cleared By:** CONS:Duval, Jennifer L

**Approved By:** CONS:Duval, Jennifer L

**Released By:** DUBLIN:Rendo, Christopher M

**Info:** CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE ; DIA 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

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 2

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP

I/21

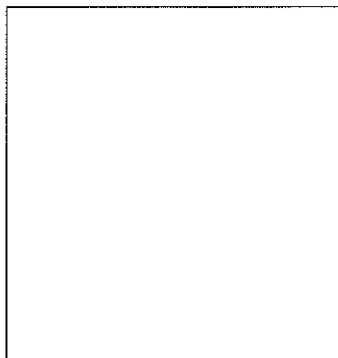
Bowers, Allyson M

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 3:37 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc:  
Subject: mostly hearing 25 June--but also 5 July as FF2 date

B3 DOD-CP

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Just FYI... Checked all-source and nothing too notable over the weekend.



## KUNA: Turkey Leaves 2nd Freedom Convoy Set To Sail July 5 (U)

GMP20110619966102 Kuwait *KUNA Online* in English 1525 GMT 19 Jun 11 (U)

["Turkey Leaves 2nd Freedom Convoy Set To Sail July 5" -- KUNA Headline (U)]

[ Computer selected and disseminated without OSC editorial intervention ]

(Kuwait News Agency) - Today: 19 June 2011 Time: 06:20 PM Turkey leaves 2nd Freedom Convoy set to sail July 5 Politics 6/19/2011 5:53:00 PM AMMAN, June 19 (KUNA) -- Turkish committee for solidarity with Gaza Strip withdrew from the international committee of the Second Freedom Flotilla, Wael Al-Saqa, Chairman of Jordan Lifeline Committee said here Sunday, noting that the Gaza-bound convoy was postponed to July 5. Al-Saqa told the press that, "the cause behind this withdrawal is the willingness of the Turkish committee, as a member of the international committee, to invalidate the Israeli excuse regarding the existence of an Islamic state leading the flotilla, and consequently attacking the participants." He also expected that Turkey's official withdrawal will put further international pressures on Israel to allow the activists, mostly Europeans, to cross the sea toward Gaza.

Further, he said that the voyage's supervisors are preparing relevant paperwork for eight ships, which are ready to set sail and belong to the Netherlands, Italy and Greece and carrying on board hundreds of European activists, who will take part in breaking the siege imposed on Gaza by Israel.

Asked about the Turkish participation, he said that Turks will take part as single individuals onboard of the ship, which the Arab activists currently seek to purchase, or on the European ships which will carry about 600 participants from 40 countries. Al-Saqa made clear that Jordan Lifeline Committee is now at the final stage

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

negotiations for purchasing a ship carrying both Jordanian and Arab activists, noting that the Jordanian committee has been able to raise up till now USD 500, 000 in order to take part in the convoy. The international committee of the Second Freedom Flotilla Convoy postponed the ships' voyage toward Gaza to help Turkish activists take part in the parliamentary elections, which were held June 12.

[Description of Source: Kuwait KUNA Online in English -- Official news agency of the Kuwaiti Government;  
URL: <http://www.kuna.net.kw>]

DERIVED FROM: MS  
DECLASSIFY ON: MR  
DATE OF SOURCE: 20110620

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

I/23.

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** SMART Core [svcSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 2:02 PM  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T; Buzbee, John R; Tsou, Leslie M; Frelich, Karlene H; Sutphin, Paul R; Jacoby, Julia I; Sachar, Alon; Sindle, James M; Levinson, Jesse S; Riley, Le'Shawnda V; Reed, Julia G; Rudman, Mara; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Irwin, Matthew T; Eilts, Colin C; Jakobson, Nicholas W; Pickett, Margarita; Rubinstein, Arriel J; Jimenez, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** GAZANS PAY SCANT ATTENTION TO "FREEDOM FLOTILLA II"  
**Attachments:** image003.png; StateSeal.gif  
**Categories:** Archival

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Info Office:** POLITICAL, PRINCIPALS, ECONOMIC, POL\_MIL, SE\_MEP, SE\_MEP\_PAL\_ECON\_ID, SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV, CONSULAR

**MRN:** 11 JERUSALEM 591  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 19, 2011 / 191751Z JUL 11  
**From:** AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** ECON, PREL, KPAL, GZ, IS  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR NEA FO, SEMEP, AND NEA/IPA  
 NSC FOR SIMON/KUMAR  
**Subject:** GAZANS PAY SCANT ATTENTION TO "FREEDOM FLOTILLA II"

1. (SBU) On July 19, the Israeli Navy reportedly intercepted the M/V Dignite – a single ship of the "Freedom Flotilla II" that set sail for the Gaza Strip – without incident. On the same day, Post contacts in Gaza reported that local interest in "flotilla" events was at a low ebb. Amjad Shawwa, the head of the Gaza branch of the umbrella group Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), called for a "symbolic reception ceremony" for the "Freedom Flotilla II" on July 19. Only seven supporters (including PNGO staff) attended the gathering and then dispersed within a half hour, according to a Post contact present at the event. (See attached photo.) Journalists, in contrast, were well represented, numbering close to 30 representatives of local and regional press, freelance journalists, and bloggers.

2. (C) Several local civil society contacts reported to Post that Palestinians in Gaza have paid scant attention over the past several weeks to this year's flotilla attempt, particularly in comparison to the build-up to (and aftermath of) the "Free Gaza Flotilla" in May 2010. [REDACTED] told Post that Gazans, realizing the flotilla would not reach their shores, lost interest in public events like the one organized by PNGO. Other Post contacts were unaware of PNGO's "ceremony" altogether.

1.4(D)  
B1

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



**Signature:** MARCHESE

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**Classified By:** Name: Greg Marchese, Title: Acting Principal Officer  
**Reason:** 1.4 (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/07/19  
**W/O Attachment(s):** This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from UNCLASSIFIED attachment(s).  
**Drafted By:** JERUSALEM:Miller, Walter R  
**Cleared By:** ECON:Beran, Sarah M  
WHA/EX:Martinez, David J  
**Approved By:** Marchese, Gregory M  
**Released By:** JERUSALEM:Miller, Walter R  
**Info:** AMMAN, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ATHENS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; BEIRUT, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; PARIS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_IPA\_PASS, DIS\_ECONOMIC, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_A, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_PAL\_ECON\_ID, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I 124

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** SMART Core [svcSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2011 11:14 AM  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T; Buzbee, John R; Tsou, Leslie M; Sutphin, Paul R; Sachar, Alon; Irwin, Matthew T; Elits, Colin C; Pickett, Margarita; Rubinstein, Arriel J; Jimenez, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif  
**Categories:** Archival

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Info Office:** POLITICAL, PRINCIPALS

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**MRN:** 11 ATHENS 407  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 06, 2011 / 061512Z JUL 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PHUM, PHSA, PTER, KCSY  
**Reference:** A) 11 ATHENS 383  
 B) 11 ATHENS 349  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
 AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
 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:** Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

- (C) SUMMARY: The Greek government's decision on July 1 to prohibit the departure of ships from Greek ports intended for Gaza was a significant shift from Greece's previous, less visibly confrontational, approach towards "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" Gaza vessels and activists. Over the July 4 weekend two boats attempting to depart Greek ports, in violation of the ban, were intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard, resulting in the arrest of the AMCIT captain of one of the boats. Also over the weekend, Gaza flotilla activists protested the Coast Guard action at the American Embassy and the Embassy Mission Residence (EMR). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Greek Ban on Departure of Ships to Gaza

2. (SBU) On July 1, the Ministry of Citizen Protection released a notice to flotilla participants that the departure of ships with Greek and foreign flags from Greek ports to the maritime area of Gaza was prohibited, and that the Hellenic Coast Guard would take all appropriate measures to enforce the decision. Despite the departure ban by the Greek government (as well as an order to remain in port due to unresolved questions about the vessel's documentation and seaworthiness), the American-flagged vessel "Audacity of Hope" attempted to depart the Greek port of Perama, near Piraeus on July 1. The Hellenic Coast Guard intercepted the vessel and after a standoff at sea, the ship consented to return to port.
3. (SBU) The American captain was arrested by Greek authorities upon the ship's return to port. Embassy Athens provided regular consular services to Amcit members of this year's "Flotilla II – Stay Alive" US Boat to Gaza organization both before and after the captain's arrest. On June 24, American Citizens Services (ACS) Chief and Counsel General met with AMCIT flotilla participants to provide a consular briefing and ACS Chief had regular contact with the captain and his attorney, including a meeting on July 5 to verify that he was in good health, understood his arrest, had legal representation, and that authorities were treating him well. The captain was released on July 6 without bail. There will be a trial at some point, but the captain will not have to return to Greece.
4. (C) On July 4, the Canadian boat "Tahrir" was intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard five kilometers off shore when it attempted to leave the eastern port of Aghios Nikolaos on the island of Crete. The boat carrying 50 Gaza activists and medicine was towed back to an undisclosed location on Crete. According to reports, no arrests were made. According to Embassy sources, a total of nine ships intending to participate in the flotilla docked around Greece. Two of those, the "Audacity of Hope" and "Tahrir", defied the departure ban, prompting Coast Guard action. Seven have remained docked.
5. (SBU) On July 1 some 35 demonstrators assembled outside the American Embassy to protest on behalf of the Gaza flotilla. On the evening of July 3, a group of eight people from the US Boat to Gaza organization assembled at the American Embassy and presented a letter calling for U.S. officials to defend their rights to sail out of Greece to Gaza and to request 50 tickets to the Embassy's upcoming Independence Day celebration. On both occasions the protestors dispersed peacefully. On July 4, nine demonstrators assembled outside the EMR. The demonstrators were taken into custody briefly for identification checks after stating they planned to sleep on the sidewalk in front of the EMR. The demonstrators spent under two hours in the station and were released. They were never placed under arrest.
6. (SBU) In addition to the group's regular website updates and Tweets, the Embassy has received roughly 500 calls and emails since July 1 asking the USG to put pressure on Greece to allow the flotilla to proceed to Gaza.

Greek Proposal to Deliver Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

7. (SBU) PM Papandreou spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas on July 3. According



to reports, Abbas positively viewed a Greek government proposal to facilitate the transport of humanitarian aid to Gaza, in cooperation with the United Nations. The proposal was confirmed later in the day when the MFA released a statement announcing Greece's intention to undertake the task of transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza through "appropriate channels." The statement also reiterated Greece's ban on departure from Greek ports primarily to protect human life and stressed Greece's concurrent view that the naval blockade should be lifted. The MFA announced plans to liaise with all concerned parties, while flotilla organizers and activists decied both the Greek government's intent and Abbas' alleged backstabbing collusion with the Greek

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

8. (C) Late July 5, MFA [redacted] provided the Ambassador an update. [redacted]

[redacted]

COMMENT

9. (C) On June 22, the Greek MFA issued a strongly worded statement discouraging its citizens from participating in the flotilla [redacted]

[redacted]

**Signature:** SMITH

---

**Classified By:** Name: Daniel B. Smith, Title: Ambassador  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/07/06  
**Drafted By:** ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Cleared By:** POL:Cockrell, John D (Athens)  
POL:Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
Brandeis, Charles D (Athens)  
Smith, Stuart M (Athens)  
Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
Brandeis, Katherine (Athens)

**Approved By:** EXEC:Smith, Daniel B (Athens)  
**Released By:** ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE;  
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:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_POLITICAL, DIS\_PRINCIPALS

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Bowers, Allyson M**

I 125

**From:** Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 11:31 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Subject:** Greece Urges Its Citizens and Greek-Registered Vessels Not to Participate in Gaza Flotilla  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

RELEASED IN PART  
1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**Categories:** Working

In case you have not seen.

---

**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 11:25 AM  
**To:** Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Greece Urges Its Citizens and Greek-Registered Vessels Not to Participate in Gaza Flotilla

FYI - Chris

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/23

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**From:** Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 11:04 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Goodman, Ian A; Snipes, Christopher K  
**Cc:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Subject:** FW: Greece Urges Its Citizens and Greek-Registered Vessels Not to Participate in Gaza Flotilla

All,

Please see below for your information.

Best,

Leah Martin

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/23

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2011 05:48:39  
**To:** Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Cc:** ATHENS-SMARTS; TELAVIV-SMARTS; MILAN-SMARTS; SMARTS, Reykjavik; Valletta, SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; BAKU-SMARTS; SOFIA-SMARTS; NICOSIA, SMARTS;

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

TBILISI, SMARTS; BARCELONA, SMARTS; OSLO-SMARTS; Stockholm-SMARTS; BELGRADE-SMARTS; Dushanbe, SMARTS; VILNIUS, SMARTS; VATICAN, SMARTS; THEHAGUE-SMARTS; USNATO, SMARTS; YEREVAN-SMARTS; PODGORICA, SMARTS; SKOPJE, SMARTS; MOSCOW-SMARTS; WARSAW-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; TALLINN, SMARTS; Sarajevo, SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; BERN, SMARTS; UNVIE-SMARTS; LISBON, SMARTS; DUBLIN, SMARTS; Tashkent, SMARTS; BRUSSELS-SMARTS; OSCE-SMARTS; ISTANBUL, SMARTS; BUDAPEST-SMARTS; FRANKFURT, SMARTS; ZAGREB-SMARTS; LJUBLJANA-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; KYIV-SMARTS; Ottawa-SMARTS; HELSINKI-SMARTS; ASTANA-SMARTS; Tirana-SMARTS; Bishkek, SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; BRATISLAVA-SMARTS; PRAGUE, SMARTS; HAMBURG-SMARTS; Riga, SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; ROME, SMARTS; KRAKOW-SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; LUXEMBOURG-SMARTS; NAPLES, SMARTS; Copenhagen-SMARTS; MUNICH-SMARTS; CHISINAU-SMARTS; Pristina, SMARTS; Ashgabat, SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; BUCHAREST-SMARTS; VIENNA-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); cklotter@fbi.gov.gov;

[redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; [redacted]@dia.smil.mil;  
[redacted]@dia.smil.mil

B6

**Subject:** Greece Urges Its Citizens and Greek-Registered Vessels Not to Participate in Gaza Flotilla

**CONFIDENTIAL**




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**MRN:** 11 ATHENS 383  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 23, 2011 / 231446Z JUN 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, IS, TU, GR  
**Reference:** A) 11 ATHENS 235  
 B) 11 ATHENS 349  
 C) 11 ATHENS 355  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
 AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
 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:** Greece Urges Its Citizens and Greek-Registered Vessels Not to Participate in Gaza Flotilla

1. (C) MFA Secretary General Zepos called the Ambassador June 23 to highlight the MFA's "Announcement Regarding the Intention of Greek Citizens to Participate in a Flotilla That Will Attempt to Break the Gaza Blockade." The statement urges Greek citizens and Greek-registered vessels not to participate in the new flotilla

bound for Gaza. The MFA published the statement June 22 on the MFA website, and it has been picked up by the local media. [redacted]

2.

[redacted]

3.

[redacted]

4. (U) The text of the MFA June 22 statement on the Gaza flotilla follows: "On 31 May 2010, Israeli military forces intercepted a flotilla that was attempting to break the Gaza blockade, with the well-known, tragic consequences. In view of the new attempt to break the Gaza naval blockade, the UN Secretary General expressed his conviction that humanitarian aid for Gaza should be supplied through official channels and asked the member states of the UN – and particularly those with access to the Mediterranean – to discourage such operations, which run the risk of escalating the violence. Greece’s positions on the need to lift the Gaza blockade and improve the humanitarian situation in the region are well known. Equally well known is Greece’s position of principle on the need to respect international law and avoid the use of violence. We have made these positions clear to all the interested parties. The Foreign Ministry – bearing in mind the UN Secretary General’s request, the Israeli government’s stated intention not to allow vessels to approach the Gaza coast and the immediate danger to human life entailed in participation in the operation in question, particularly in light of last year’s events – urges Greek citizens as well as Greek-registered vessels not to participate in the new flotilla headed for the Gaza port. The government is responsible for planning and exercising the country’s foreign policy, based on the promotion of Greece’s interests. In this critical state of affairs, everyone needs to show similar responsibility or take full responsibility for their actions. The planned operation does not deal with the substance of the humanitarian problem in Gaza. In the past, Greece and Cyprus have made specific proposals in the direction of meeting the humanitarian needs of Gaza residents. The potential for implementing these proposals was also discussed at the recent meeting of the two countries’ Foreign Ministers in Nicosia. The ultimate objective remains the full lifting of the Gaza blockade. Greece actively supports the reopening of the peace talks as the only path to a comprehensive and viable solution on the Palestinian problem.

Signature: SMITH

Classified By: Name: Daniel B. Smith, Title: Ambassador

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2021/06/23

**Drafted By:** ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Cleared By:** POL:Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Smith, Daniel B (Athens)  
**Released By:** ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE;  
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:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D),1.4(C)

I130

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Margolis, Aaron R  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 07, 2011 9:34 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Miller, Michael F; McCormick, Beth M; Kirshner, Josh H; CMS; INR Watch  
**Cc:** Dver, Lisa L; Miller, Daniel E 1.4(C)  
**Subject:** Report on Israel: [redacted] 1.4(D)  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg B1  
**Categories:** Working

Dear All,

(S//REL TO USA, GBR) NGA just released the following report, [redacted]

(S//REL TO USA, GBR) The Israel Naval Forces (INF) [redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),NR

I135

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 1:09 PM  
**To:** Champagne, Nicole D; NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** Schedlbauer, Amy W; Parrs, Walter; Walles, Jacob  
**Subject:** RE: From Cairo re Rafah crossing and flotilla

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

**Paul Sutphin**

Director  
NEA/IPA  
tel: 202-647-3672  
Fax: 202-736-4461  
VIPER; 202-647-1686

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/02

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**From:** Champagne, Nicole D  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 1:05 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** Schedlbauer, Amy W; Parrs, Walter  
**Subject:** From Cairo re Rafah crossing and flotilla

**(S/NF) Rafah Crossing, Gaza Flotilla:**

[Redacted]

NR

[Redacted]

The M/V Finch remains moored outside the port of El-Arish.

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

[Redacted]

NR

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer





NR

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** **SECRET**  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/02

I136

**Bowers, Allyson M** [RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B3 DOD-CP,B1,1.4(D)]

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2011 10:21 AM  
**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]  
 [redacted] Howard, Jeremiah H; Blome, Donald A; Burnett, David [B3 DOD-CP]  
**Subject:** RE: FW: IHH Reaches out to Israel  
**Attachments:** image001.gif  
**Categories:** Working



This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s). 1.4(B)  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive 1.4(D)  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL B1  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/13

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2011 4:50 PM B3 DOD-CP  
**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]  
 [redacted] Howard, Jeremiah H; Blome, Donald A  
**Subject:** FW: IHH Reaches out to Israel

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/13

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2011 04:45:06  
**To:** Levin, Jan X  
**Cc:** TELAVIV-SMARTS; NICOSIA, SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; Cairo-SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); [redacted]  
**Subject:** IHH Reaches out to Israel

**CONFIDENTIAL**



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**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 693  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 13, 2011 / 131344Z JUN 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PARM, PTER, PHSA, KWBG, IS  
**Reference:** A) 11 TEL AVIV 689  
**Subject:** IHH Reaches out to Israel

1.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2.

3.

4.

[Redacted Box] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**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

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I148

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Berenberg, Alex M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:16 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: BAHRAIN SUPPORTIVE OF PEACE PROCESS [REDACTED] ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST FLOTILLA

1.4(D)  
B1

PTP4588

CONFIDENTIAL PTP4588

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00263 021359Z

@INFO: C(00) DRL(00) D(00) E(00) G(00)  
IO(00) L(00) MA(00) NSCE(00) P(00)  
PA(00) PM(00) R(00) SCT(00) SP(00)  
SS(00) SSO(00) SSS(00) USUNW(00)  
===== 021043L JUN 10 AMB (TOTAL COPIES:000)

@COMMENT: NSACSS//M4313

@INFO: CMS(00) DOHS(00) DSCC(00) EAO(00)  
GIWI(00) GSWA(00) M(00) OPSDS(00)  
OPSPATHREADERDEFAULT(00)P(00)  
QDDR(00) SRMC(00) SRMC(00)  
SSI(00) SWCI(00) T(00)  
===== 021358Z JUN 10 STePS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

ACTION NEA-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AF-00 AID-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DNI-00  
DODE-00 PERC-00 DS-00 DHSE-00 EUR-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00  
H-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00  
VCIE-00 DCP-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 GIWI-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00  
FMPC-00 SSO-00 SS-00 T-00 NCTC-00 SCRS-00 DSCC-00  
PRM-00 SAS-00 FA-00 GSWA-00 SWCI-00 SNKP-00 PESU-00  
SRMC-00 SANA-00 /000W  
-----6E46C7 021359Z /38

P 021347Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9452  
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE  
COMUSNAVCENT  
HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL

CONFIDENTIAL MANAMA 000263

SIPDIS [REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer]

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/02/2020  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KISL, BA  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: BAHRAIN SUPPORTIVE OF PEACE PROCESS  
[REDACTED] ISRAELI ACTION AGAINST FLOTILLA

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

REF: A/S FELTMAN EMAIL - 06/01/2010

Classified By: Ambassador Adam Erel for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Ambassador delivered ref email points to Crown Prince  
Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa on June 1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. (C) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

3. (SBU) Public reaction has been sharp, and the flotilla issue continues to dominate local press. Editorials and blogs are critical of Arab and Muslim leaders as well as the international community, with considerable ire directed toward the United States. An official GOB statement on June 1 condemned the "barbaric attack" and demanded an investigation into the "unjustified terrorism of Israel." Among other protests and sit-ins organized throughout Bahrain, approximately 100-200 people demonstrated peacefully on May 31 outside the local UN House. On June 1, fourteen political societies -- Sunni and Shia alike -- organized another, larger demonstration outside the UN House condemning the Israeli action. Another demonstration is expected to take place on Friday, June 4.

4. (U) Four Bahraini citizens were aboard the Turkish vessel and were taken into custody unharmed by Israeli forces. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Nizar Al Baharna confirmed to the press on June 2 that the four would return home later that day via Jordan.  
ERELI

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I150

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Berenberg, Alex M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:16 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: FM KUSA'S RESPONSE TO GAZA FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

PTP4753

CONFIDENTIAL PTP4753

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00514 021434Z

@INFO: C(00) CIAE(00) D(00) E(00) G(00)  
GSWA(00) L(00) MA(00) NSCE(00) P(00)  
PA(00) PM(00) R(00) SCT(00) SS(00)  
SSO(00) SSS(00) T(00) USUNW(00)  
===== 021035L JUN 10 CKS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

@COMMENT: NSACSS//M4313

@INFO: CMS(00) DOHS(00) DSCC(00) M(00)  
OPSDS(00) OPSPATHREADERDEFAULT(00)  
P(00) QDDR(00) SP(00) SRMC(00)  
SS1(00) SWCI(00) WO(00)  
===== 021433Z JUN 10 STePS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

ACTION NEA-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AF-00 AID-00 INL-00 DODE-00 PDI-00  
DS-00 DHSE-00 EUR-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00 H-00 TEDE-00  
INR-00 IO-00 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00  
NSAE-00 OIC-00 NIMA-00 MCC-00 DOHS-00 FMPC-00 SP-00  
SSO-00 SS-00 NCTC-00 SCRS-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00  
SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00 PESU-00 /000W  
-----6E4F6E 021434Z /38

O P 021432Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6324  
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE  
NSC WASHINGTON DC  
CIA WASHINGTON DC  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL TRIPOLI 000514

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG, NEA/IPA AND GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/2/2020

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KISL, KPAL, LY, IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: FM KUSA'S RESPONSE TO GAZA FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

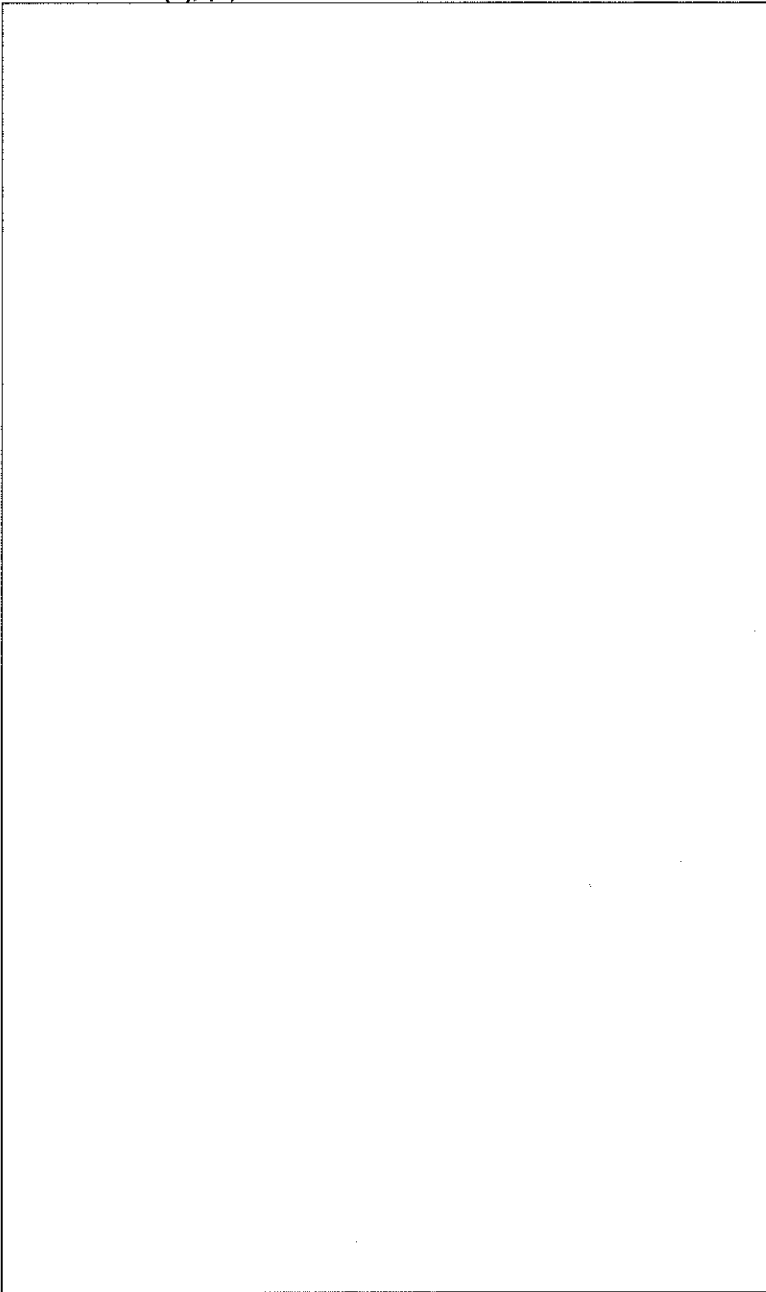
REF: A. NEA/IPA EMAIL TO NEA AMBASSADORS AND DCMS

B. TRIPOLI 513

C. TRIPOLI 260

CLASSIFIED BY: Joan Polaschik, Charge d'Affaires, US Embassy  
Tripoli, Department of State.

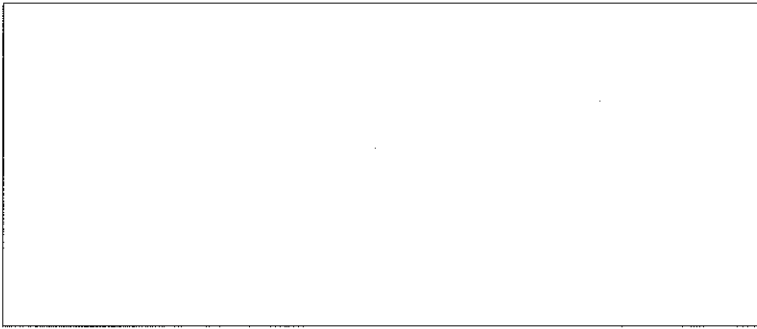
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)



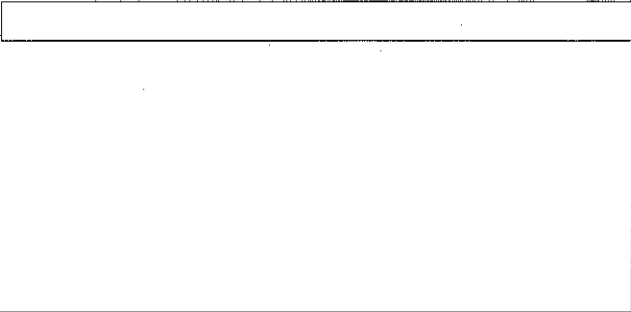
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



5. (C) Comment. Gaza dominated all Libyan news and official commentary on June 1. Qadhafi's strong rebuke of the Israeli operation in his letter to POTUS was reported on all official news outlets and on the Foreign Ministry's website. In all references, Qadhafi styled himself the President of the Arab Summit.



POLASCHIK

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I151

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Berenberg, Alex M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:16 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: JUNE 2, 2010, UPDATE OF ALGERIAN REACTION TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

PTP5575

CONFIDENTIAL PTP5575

PAGE 01 ALGIER 00531 021744Z

@INFO: C(00) D(00) E(00) EEB(00) EUR(00)  
G(00) GSWA(00) IO(00) L(00) MA(00)  
NSCE(00) P(00) PA(00) PM(00) R(00)  
SCT(00) SP(00) SS(00) SSO(00) SSS(00)  
T(00) USUNW(00)  
===== 021345L JUN 10 CKS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

@COMMENT: NSACSS//M4313

@INFO: CMS(00) DOHS(00) DSCC(00) IMWG(00)  
IRM(00) M(00) OPSDS(00)  
OPSPATHREADERDEFAULT(00)P(00)  
QDDR(00) SESIRM(00)SRMC(00)  
SRND(00) SS1(00) SS1(00) SSEX(00)  
SSEX(00) SWCI(00) WO(00)  
===== 021744Z JUN 10 STePS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

ACTION NEA-00

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 AF-00 AID-00 A-00 GHFS-00 CIAE-00  
INL-00 DNI-00 DODE-00 PERC-00 DS-00 DHSE-00 VCI-00  
FO-00 DIAS-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 LAB-01 ARMY-00 MOFM-00  
MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00 DCP-00 NSAE-00 OIG-00 NIMA-00  
MCC-00 DOHS-00 FMPC-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 ASDS-00  
CBP-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 ALM-00 SAS-00 FA-00  
SWCI-00 PESU-00 SRND-00 SANA-00 /001W  
-----6E809B 021745Z /38

O 021743Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8950  
INFO ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 000531

SIPDIS REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

DEPARTMENT FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/MAG,  
DS/IP/NEA,DS/TIA/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/02/2020

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, KISL, AEMR, AMGT, AG, IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: JUNE 2, 2010, UPDATE OF ALGERIAN REACTION  
TO GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: ALGIERS 524

Classified By: DCM William Jordan; reasons 1.4 (b and d).

PRESS UPDATE

-----

1. (U) Outrage over Israel's raid on the Gaza flotilla continued to dominate Algerian headlines on June 2. Press focused on the whereabouts of the Algerian citizens detained by Israel after the military assault and the international community's inadequate response. Political parties of the Presidential Alliance (MSP, FLN, RND) held a solidarity rally at the People's House June 1, at which Palestinian "Ambassador" to Algeria Mohamed el-Hourani, Movement for Society and Peace (MSP) President Bouguerra Soltani, National Liberation Front (FLN) Secretary General Abdelaziz Belkhadem, and National Democratic Rally (RND) Spokesman Miloud Chorfi jointly denounced Israel's actions and the "silence and indifference of the international community." Belkhadem called for Arab unity in support of the Palestinian cause and requested Egyptian authorities keep the Rafah crossing border open permanently to allow for the transportation of medical and food supplies. At a Workers Party press conference June 1, party leader Louisa Hanoune called on the GOA to lift the state of emergency so that people could demonstrate their support for the Palestinian people in the streets. Other calls for popular marches to denounce Israeli actions came from Moussa Touati, president of the Algerian National Front.

RUMORS OF DEMONSTRATIONS NEAR EMBASSY

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2. (SBU) Two separate groups (a Facebook group of journalists and intellectuals as well as a group organized by ex-FIS spiritual leader Ali Belhadj, who referred to themselves as "the Revolutionaries") called for peaceful demonstrations in front of U.S. Embassy Algiers June 2 at 11:00 to protest U.S. support for Israel. Host government police officials informed RSO that they would not permit demonstrations to occur in or around Embassy premises. Neither group, in the end, made a serious attempt at protesting. RSO reported two young men arrived at the Embassy main entrance but were

quickly escorted from the Embassy by Algerian law enforcement. There were no reports of arrests. AP reported that a small group of Algerian intellectuals gathered near the Embassy to protest, carrying banners that were confiscated by police. RSO, however, did not observe such activity in the immediate vicinity of the Embassy.

ALGERIAN FLOTILLA COMPONENT IN JORDAN

3. (C) [redacted] told us that all 32 members of the Algerian flotilla component were released from Israeli detention during the afternoon of June 1, negating earlier rumors that two Algerians were killed or that some Algerians were still in Israeli custody. [redacted] said the delegation is at the Algerian Embassy in Amman and would be repatriated in groups starting June 2.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

COMMENT:

4. (C) Events in Gaza have been used successfully to mobilize public protest in Algeria in the past; however, there have not yet been any known demonstrations in the streets of Algiers or other cities. Authorities told RSO that the GOA will not approve marches or demonstrations. Many news outlets continued to criticize Western countries' insufficient condemnation of Israeli actions. "L'Expression" claimed the U.S. performed "gymnastics" to avoid criticizing the "Israeli murder" and made a comparison with U.S. efforts to impose sanctions on Iran, a country only suspected of having nuclear arms. MSP addressed a letter to the Ambassador signed by party leader Soltani urging the U.S. and others to intervene against Israel's (or, as Soltani referred to it for one of the first times we have seen in recent memory, the "Zionist Entity's") defiant actions and warned of negative fallout from the incident. The strong rhetoric in the press and Algerians' sincere outrage over the Gaza incident have not hampered Embassy operations. The Ambassador's reception June 1 for the opening of the Algiers Trade Fair was well attended. Prime Minister Ouyahia toured the U.S. pavilion on the opening day of the trade fair with the Ambassador;

[redacted]

PEARCE

CONFIDENTIAL

I 152

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Berenberg, Alex M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:16 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: TUNISIA DEMONSTRATION AND CONTINUED REACTIONS TO GAZA INCIDENT

PTP5201

CONFIDENTIAL PTP5201

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00396 00 OF 02 021619Z

@INFO: C(00) D(00) E(00) G(00) GSWA(00)  
IO(00) L(00) MA(00) NSCE(00) P(00)  
PM(00) SCT(00) SP(00) SS(00) SSO(00)  
SSS(00) T(00) USUNW(00)  
===== 021345L JUN 10 CKS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

@COMMENT: NSACSS//M4313

@INFO: CMS(00) DOHS(00) DSCC(00) IMWG(00)  
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SSEX(00) SWCI(00) SWE(00) WO(00)  
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DHSE-00 EUR-00 FAAE-00 FBIE-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00 TEDE-00  
INR-00 LAB-01 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 M-00 VCIE-00  
NSAE-00 ISN-00 OIG-00 NIMA-00 PA-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00  
FMPC-00 IRM-00 SSO-00 SS-00 NCTC-00 ASDS-00 R-00  
SCRS-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00  
PESU-00 /001W

-----6E6B44 021620Z /38

O 021558Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7662  
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 000396

SIPDIS

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/02/2020  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, KPAL, ASEC, PINR, TS, IS, GZ  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: TUNISIA DEMONSTRATION AND CONTINUED  
REACTIONS TO GAZA INCIDENT

REF: A. TUNIS 389  
B. TUNIS 293

Classified by Ambassador Gordon Gray for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

-----  
Summary  
-----

1. (C) The Government of Tunisia sanctioned a demonstration on June 1 that voiced solidarity with the Palestinian people and protested Israeli actions over the Gaza flotilla incident. Poloffs observed hundreds of people gathering for the event, which newspapers reported included "thousands." Leaders of the ruling Democratic Constitutional Rally (RCD) party and senior government officials such as Presidential advisor Ben Dhia appeared and claimed credit for organizing the demonstration. Widespread press coverage and condemnations of the Gaza flotilla incident continued for a third day. End summary.

-----  
Gaza Demonstration  
-----

2. (C) The government allowed a demonstration about the Gaza flotilla incident on the afternoon of June 1, following the prevention of several other demonstrations earlier in the week (ref A). Police closed off a portion of Mohamed V Avenue, a prominent street in Tunis, for the event, and poloffs observed Tunisians gathering for the demonstration carrying banners, flags, and a megaphone. Poloffs estimated that there were several hundred people on the street, probably before the protest began, and newspapers report that the demonstrations included "thousands." Police forces heavily monitored the event, and poloffs observed them lining the demonstration area and on street corners. The Tunisian General Labor Union (UGTT) has called for another demonstration on June 3.

3. (C) While banners appearing in the media expressed predictable sympathy for the Palestinians and anger at Israel, at least some banners carried by opposition activists included slogans such as "No to American interests and to Zionist embassies on Arab land," and "Shame on Arab regimes,

Gaza is dying." According to reports UGTT leader Abdessalam Jerad was sending a message of thanks and encouragement to the Ambassador of Turkey and a message of condemnation to the U.S. Ambassador. (Note: No such message has yet been received by the Embassy. End note.)

---

Widespread Coverage in Press

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4. (U) All eight of the daily newspapers carried headlines about the demonstration on the first page. The daily papers, which are either owned by the government or privately owned but pro-government, used the same text from the official news outlet, the Tunisian African Press Agency. The story highlighted that that "political parties, national organizations, and components of civil society" staged the demonstration and included the demonstrators' calls for the support for the Palestinian people and the lifting of the blockade on Gaza. The Arabic language papers have had wide coverage of the flotilla incident. The tabloid Chourouq, for example, carried a three page commentary of four Tunisian experts in international law who condemned Israeli actions as a violation of international law.

---

Ruling Party Anxious to be Seen in Front

---

5. (C) High-profile leaders of the RCD party and government featured prominently in photos of the demonstration, which also included heads of civil society organizations and opposition parties. Some of the leaders present were Presidency Spokesman Ben Dhia, the head of the Chamber of Advisers, RCD Secretary General Ghariani, RCD political bureau member Nezzi Naziha Zarrouk, and head of the Social Liberal Party Mondhor Thabet. Several civil society organizations were represented, including the UGTT, the farmers union, and the women,s union.

6. (C) An Embassy contact said that the demonstration was originally called by three opposition parties, the El-Tajdid (Renewal) party, the Democratic Forum for Labor and Liberties (FDTL), and the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP). They requested permission for the demonstration from the Ministry of Interior, and the governor of Tunis subsequently called on

the parties to have a large demonstration with all parties represented.

---

Comment

7. (C)

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

GRAY

CONFIDENTIAL



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

1153.

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Berenberg, Alex M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:43 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** MGGZ01: Turkey: SitRep 7 on IHH Flotilla; Dual National AMCIT May be Among the Dead

PTP9188

CONFIDENTIAL PTP9188

PAGE 01 ANKARA 00799 00 OF 02 031223Z

@INFO: EAO(00)  
===== 031041L JUN 10 MKT (TOTAL COPIES:000)

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SS1(00) SWCI(00) WO(00)  
===== 031224Z JUN 10 STePS (TOTAL COPIES:000)

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INFO LOG-00 AF-00 AID-00 INL-00 PERC-00 PDI-00 DS-00  
DHSE-00 EUR-00 FBIE-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00 H-00 TEDE-00  
INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 VCIE-00  
DCP-00 NSAE-00 ISN-00 NIMA-00 ISNE-00 DOHS-00 FMPC-00  
SP-00 SSO-00 SS-00 NCTC-00 BBG-00 IIP-00 SCRS-00  
DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-00 CARC-00 SAS-00 FA-00 SWCI-00  
PESU-00 SANA-00 /001W  
-----6F21F0 031225Z /38

O R 031220Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0135  
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
DIA WASHINGTON DC  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC  
EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE  
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
ODC ANKARA TU  
CIA WASHINGTON DC  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IQ  
AFOSI DET 521 ANKARA TU  
JAC MOLESWORTH UK

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

CONFIDENTIAL ANKARA 000799

SIPDIS

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 MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/03

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU

SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 7 on IHH Flotilla; Dual National AMCIT May be Among the Dead

REF: 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 779; 10 ISTANBUL 203

CLASSIFIED BY: Laura H. de Otalvaro, Internal Unit Chief, Political Section; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

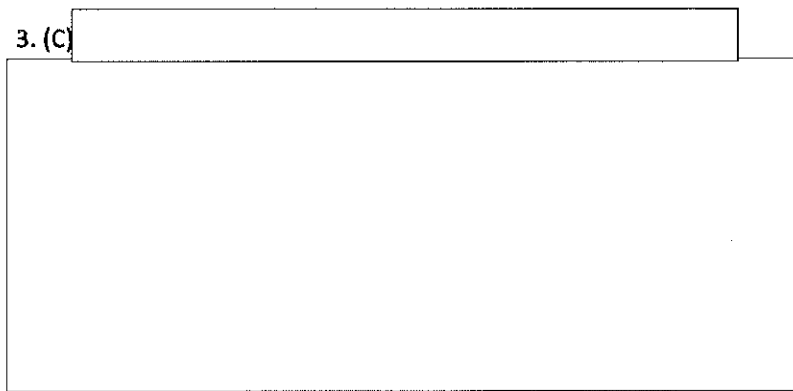
1. (C) SUMMARY: A dual national AMCIT may be among the nine killed during the flotilla's interception. The GOT is reviewing its bilateral relationship with Israel with a view towards restricting government-to-government and commercial cooperation. Protests today have been subdued, but are expected to grow Saturday. The GoT is exploring bringing criminal charges and civil suits against Israeli officials in international and national legal venues. END SUMMARY.

AMCIT MAY BE AMONG THOSE KILLED

2. (SBU) The nine bodies returned to Turkey all appear to have been Turkish citizens. Reportedly, one of the nine was a dual national AMCIT. Due to the wounds suffered by the possible American decedent, positive identification will be difficult. We are seeking confirmation of his identity from the MFA.

GOT REVIEWING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

3. (C)



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

4. (U) Trade Minister Mehmet Zafer Caglayan announced Turkey could easily sacrifice its trade relationship with Israel, which from January to April of this year was valued at \$1 billion (\$695.4 million in Turkish exports to Israel and \$415.9 in imports). Energy Minister Tamer Yildiz said Turkey would not consider energy trade deals with Israel until "relations are normalized." The Turkish media reports 20,000-50,000 Israelis have canceled their plans to vacation in Turkey since the flotilla's interception. Atlasjet and El Al have canceled their planned code-share agreement, which was to have come into effect June 20 with a direct flight from Istanbul to Tel Aviv. THY, Turkey's national airlines is maintaining its schedule of multiple daily flights between Turkey and Israel.

**MORE PROTESTS EXPECTED OVER THE WEEKEND**

5. (C) [redacted]

[redacted] told us his party is working to ensure protests do not become violent. [redacted] intervened during a protest at the Israeli Consulate to prevent demonstrators from throwing stones at the building. According to [redacted]

[redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (SBU) Protests are continuing in Istanbul; funerals today for activists killed during the flotilla's interception may attract large crowds. Around 100 protestors erected five tents outside the Israeli Consulate. The consulate tells us it has not been the target of violence. The Turkish-Jewish community in Istanbul has not reported any hostility and commends government official's care in focusing public anger at the Israeli government and not the Israeli people or Jews, generally.

7. (U) Protests continued in Ankara today, focused on the Israeli Ambassador's residence. A maximum of 250 protestors June 2 chanted: "Close the Zionist Embassy; Atrocious Israel will account for this; We are all soldiers and good enough to beat Israel," and "God is great." Referring to Jerusalem's Al Aksa Mosque, one banner read: "Mescid-i Aksa is ours forever". One protestor recited Koranic verses through a bullhorn. Protestors are maintaining a 24-hour presence at the residence. Turkish National Police have advised us to expect large coordinated demonstrations in Ankara and Istanbul on Saturday, June 5.

**TURKISH CRIMINAL CHARGES**

8. (U) The GoT is exploring bringing criminal charges and civil suits against Israeli officials in international and national legal

venues. According to Article 8 of the Turkish Criminal Code, which pertains to territorial jurisdiction, a crime "is presumed to have been committed in Turkey" if it was committed "in the open sea...and in, or by using, Turkish sea...vessels" (section (2)(b)). By asserting the Mavi Marmaris is a Turkish vessel, the GoT may bring criminal charges in Turkish courts against the Israel Defense Force personnel who boarded the ship. We have seen reports the ship was flying under the Comoros flag.

JEFFREY

CONFIDENTIAL

I160

**Bowers, Allyson M**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B3 DOD-CP,B1,B5,1.4(D)

**From:** Tyson, Paul H  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 5:28 PM  
**To:** Heinemann, Thomas B; Guarin, Marc F; Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Maxwell, Raymond D; Stevens, John E  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:42 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F; Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

Marc

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:19 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

Classification Extended on : 08/13/2012 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~  
Declassify on: 06/03/2020

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**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:16 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

James-

[Redacted]

B5

Marc

---

**From:** Pomper, Stephen  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:02 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:20 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

---

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

SECRET//NOFORN

Kevin,

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,

Jim

**From:** [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:15 PM

**To:** Sindle, James M

**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location (SECRET)

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

Mr. Sindle,

[Redacted]

*Very Respectfully*

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.sgov.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:23 AM

**To:** J2 ADDI JCS; Williams, Richard A.; Loewy, Benjamin D.; Clay, Andreia; [Redacted]

[Redacted] McGrory, James P; Sanford, Lara N; Giese, Ashton

**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location

**Importance:** High

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Folks,

[Redacted]

V/R,

**Jim Sindle**

*Pol-Mil Officer*

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Phone: 202-647-4386

ClassNet: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

OpenNet: SindleJM@state.gov

Unless otherwise noted, this email is classified SECRET per E.O. 12958, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d). Declassify 10 years from date sent.

Attachment Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR



**Bowers, Allyson M**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B3 DOD-CP,B1,B5,1.4(D)

I162

**From:** Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:42 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F; Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

Marc

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:19 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

[Redacted]

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:16 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

James-

Classification Extended on : 08/13/2012 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~  
Declassify on: 06/03/2020

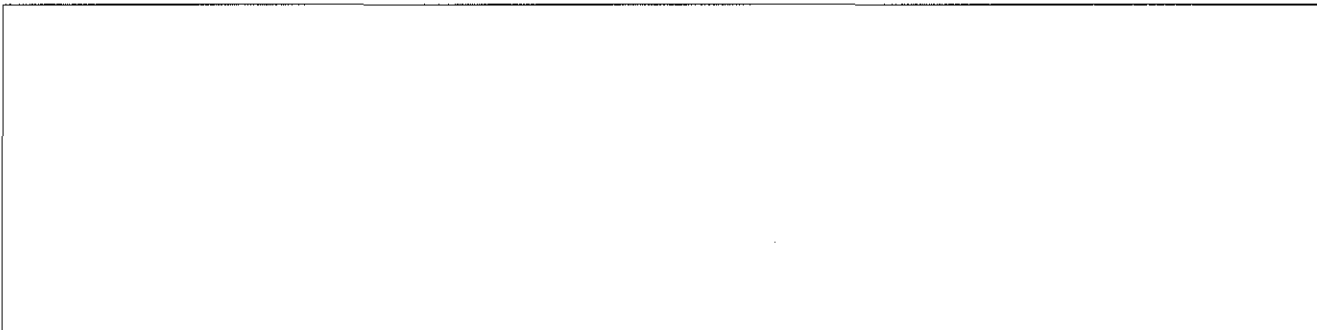


Marc

**From:** Pomper, Stephen  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:02 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

L/PM will take a look at this and get back with additional thoughts.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:20 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location



Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

SECRET//NOFORN

Kevin,



Thanks,

Jim

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:15 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location (SECRET)

B3 DOD-CP

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

Mr. Sindle,

[Redacted]

Very Respectfully,

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:23 AM  
**To:** J2 ADDI JCS; Williams, Richard A.; Loewy, Benjamin D.; Clay, Andrea; [Redacted]

James P; Sanford, Lara N; Giese, Ashton

**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET/NOFORN

Folks,

[Redacted]

V/R,

Jim Sindle

Pol-Mil Officer

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Phone: 202-647-4386

ClassNet: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

OpenNet: SindleJM@state.gov

Unless otherwise noted, this email is classified SECRET per E.O. 12958, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d). Declassify 10 years from date sent.

Attachment Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR  
Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

I164

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:54 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Rachel Corrie

---

**From:** Galpern, Steven G  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 8:46 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** Rachel Corrie

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

**Steven G. Galpern, Ph.D.**  
*Palestinian Affairs Analyst*  
Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
U.S. Department of State  
(202) 647-8840  
**ClassNet:** [GalpernSG@state.sgov.gov](mailto:GalpernSG@state.sgov.gov)  
**OpenNet:** [GalpernSG@state.gov](mailto:GalpernSG@state.gov)

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (c)  
**Declassify On:** 2035/06/04

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

I173.

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 24, 2010 9:47 AM  
**To:** Berglund, Katherine H  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUEST: DEMARCHE ON PLANNED ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

**Categories:** Working

Katherine,

Can you check if Islamabad will be sending something in on this today, or if I missed it?

JD.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/11/24

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 04:33:01  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Sachar, Alon; Levinson, Jesse S; Riley, Le'Shawnda V; Reed, Julia G; Hof, Frederic C; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: DEMARCHE ON PLANNED ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Info Office:** POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SE\_MEP, SE\_MEP\_DAM\_BEI, SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV

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**MRN:** 10 STATE 119883  
**Date/DTG:** Nov 19, 2010 / 192126Z NOV 10  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; ISLAMABAD, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; NEW DELHI, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, TU, IN, PK, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: DEMARCHE ON PLANNED ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 119883

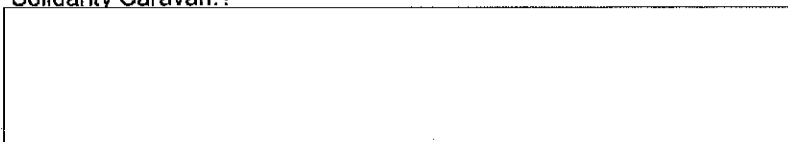
SIPDIS

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/11/19  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, TU, IN, PK, IS  
SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: DEMARCHE ON PLANNED ASIA TO GAZA AID  
CARAVAN

Classified by: Jeffrey Feltman, A/S  
NEARreason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 5.
2. (C) New Delhi, Islamabad, and Ankara are requested to demarche host governments to reiterate that those wishing to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza do so through existing mechanisms so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings. Posts are also requested to seek more information on the ?Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan.?



1.4(D)  
B1

Organizers claim the caravan will depart from India on December 2 and travel through Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Syria and Jordan en route to a Syrian or Turkish port, where goods and activists would board ships departing for Gaza on December 26. The ships aim to arrive in Gaza on December 27, the second anniversary of 2008-2009 Israeli incursion into Gaza ?Operation Cast Lead.?

Information from the organization can be found on its website at [asiatogaza.org](http://asiatogaza.org).

4. (U) According to press reports and Asian People?s Solidarity for Palestine press releases, organizers expect 500 activists from 17 Arab and Asian nations to participate. Organizers, including the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), announced plans for the caravan in early October in India, Iran, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Turkey.

5. (C/REL India, Pakistan, and Turkey) New Delhi, Islamabad, and Ankara are requested to deliver the following points to appropriate host government officials and report by November 24; slug reply to NEA/IPA Jack Doutrich. Begin talking points:

- We have heard reports regarding the ?Asian People?s Solidarity for Palestine? planned ?Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan,? particularly its stated intention to break through Israel?s naval blockade to deliver assistance to Gaza by sea.
- We would be interested in hearing what your government knows about this group and its planned ?Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan.?
- The United States believes strongly that aid flotillas that aim to deliver goods directly to Gaza by sea are irresponsible and intentionally provocative.
- We urge you to take whatever steps you can to prevent this convoy from taking this approach; we must do all we can to avoid another incident like the tragic events of May 31 aboard the M/V Mavi Marmara.
- We are committed to meeting the humanitarian and development needs of those in Gaza, including rebuilding the private sector that will be the engine of Gaza?s recovery.
- Legitimate mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by states and groups that want to do so.
- All those wishing to deliver goods should do so through established channels so cargo can be inspected and transferred via

land crossings into Gaza.

-- We hope that you will engage the convoy organizers to underscore the need to focus on how best to assist the people of Gaza and to avoid provocative confrontations.

6. (U) Minimize considered.

CLINTON

**Signature:** CLINTON

---

**Classified By:** Jeffrey Feltman, A/S NEA,  
**Declassify on:** 2020/11/19  
**Drafted By:** NEA\_IPA:DOUTRICH, JACK T -- 11/19/10  
**Cleared By:** NEA/FO:WALLES, JACOB S/SEMEP:RUDMAN, MARA NEA/IPA:SUTPHIN, PAUL R  
EUR/SE:GREGONIS, MEGHAN E SCA/INSB:SANGHEA, BASANT S SCA/P:BERGLUND,  
KATHERINE H DRL:LIEBERMAN, JESSICA D (DRL) LEGAL:JACOBSON, LINDA MAIN  
STATE RM 7220:SCHREPEL, DAWN M  
**Approved By:** NEA/FO:FELTMAN, JEFFREY D  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; AMMAN, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; BEIRUT,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY  
*ROUTINE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_POLITICAL, DIS\_ECONOMIC, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_A, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_DAM\_BEI,  
DIS\_SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Tracking:



**Recipient**  
Berglund, Katherine H

**Read**  
Read: 11/24/2010 10:04 AM

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D)

I198

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2011 4:32 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** FW: EUR/SE - NEA/IPA - S/CT Meeting re Gaza Flotilla  
**Categories:** Working

Fyi.. wanted to make sure we had shared this (if we haven't already) -- Post readout of their meeting with the Israeli Embassy in Ankara on these issues...

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/26

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 5:53 PM  
**To:** O'Grady, Daniel J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Schrank, Alexander D; Riley, Robert J; Goodman, Ian A  
**Subject:** RE: EUR/SE - NEA/IPA - S/CT Meeting re Gaza Flotilla

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Hey, Meghan:

I have no insights for you beyond what Dan wrote below, but I do have some additional information, which shows the Israelis are already communicating with the GoT on this, followed by one question:

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) The Israeli Embassy here expects 15 or so ships from various countries to set sail for an eastern Mediterranean rally point as early as May 15. The embassy expects one of those ships to be the Mavi Marmara herself. The embassy said this flotilla is making no pretence of delivering humanitarian aid to Gazans. The Israelis perceive its goal to be: break the blockade.

(SBU) The embassy and Israeli MoD are inviting a group of Turkish journalists to visit Gaza to show them there's no humanitarian crisis.

(U) This commemoration convoy would be sailing within two-to-three weeks of the parliamentary elections here.

[Redacted]

B5

-- Jerry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** J. Howard, D/POLCOUNS  
**Reason:** 1.4(b)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/26

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**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 5:37 PM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Buzbee, John R; Norman, Marc E  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Schrank, Alexander D; Bilge, Kerem S; Gregonis, Meghan E; Goodman, Ilan A; Blazakis, Jason M; Nardi, Margaret H; Jacobson, Michael N  
**Subject:** RE: EUR/SE - NEA/IPA - S/CT Meeting re Gaza Flotilla



B5

**Paul Sutphin**  
**Director**  
**NEA/IPA**

703-362-3672

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/03/25

---

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:26 PM  
**To:** Buzbee, John R; Sutphin, Paul R; Norman, Marc E  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Schrank, Alexander D; Bilge, Kerem S; Gregonis, Meghan E; Goodman, Ilan A; Blazakis, Jason M; Nardi, Margaret H; Jacobson, Michael N  
**Subject:** RE: EUR/SE - NEA/IPA - S/CT Meeting re Gaza Flotilla

John – That sounds good and thanks for offering up IPA for the meeting in 6251. 2:00p works for SE. Will let other offices chime as well on your suggested date and time. Many thanks, Bob

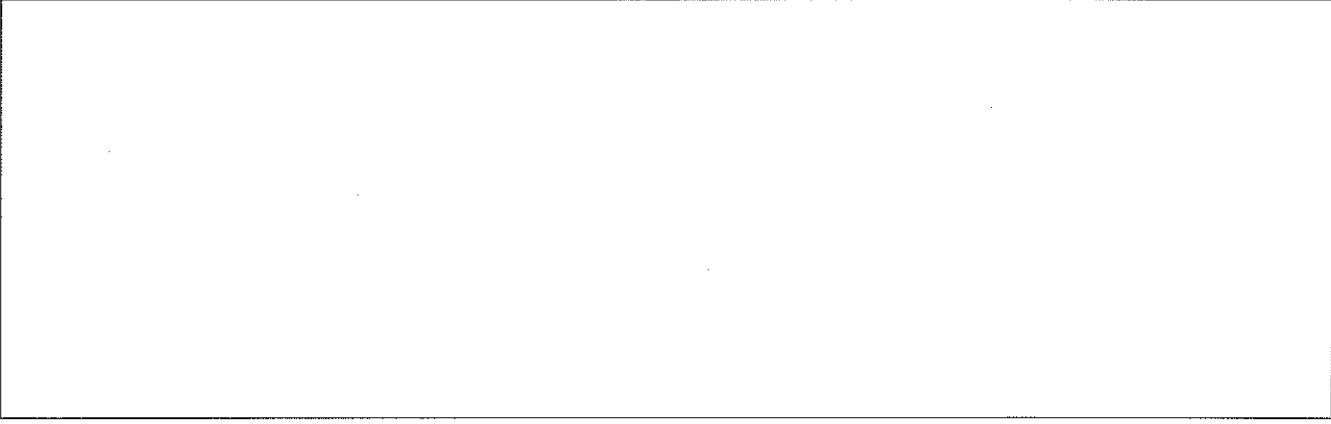
**Robert J. Riley**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)**  
**U.S. Department of State**  
Office: 202-647-5120  
Cell: 202-374-0849  
riley.rj@state.sgov.gov

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Robert J. Riley, Deputy Director, EUR/SE, State

Reason: 1.4(b), (d)  
Declassify On: 2021/03/25

---

**From:** Buzbee, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 3:00 PM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Sutphin, Paul R; Norman, Marc E  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Schrank, Alexander D; Bilge, Kerem S; Gregonis, Meghan E; Goodman, Ian A  
**Subject:** RE: EUR/SE - NEA/IPA - S/CT Meeting re Gaza Flotilla



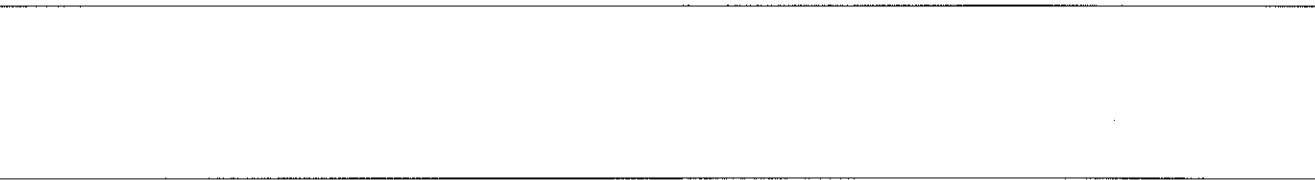
B5

John

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**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2011 1:26 PM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Buzbee, John R; Norman, Marc E  
**Cc:** Baily, Jess L; Schrank, Alexander D; Bilge, Kerem S; Gregonis, Meghan E; Goodman, Ian A  
**Subject:** EUR/SE - NEA/IPA - S/CT Meeting re Gaza Flotilla

Paul, John and Marc –



Many thanks,

Bob

**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  
rileyrtj@state.sgov.gov

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL

**Classified by:** Robert J. Riley, Deputy Director, EUR/SE, State

**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2021/03/25

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

I182

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 4:25 PM  
**To:** Mokhtarzada, Homeyra N  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Israeli MFA Updates on Flotilla Preparations  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif  
  
**Categories:** Working

**Jack Doutrich**  
Political Officer  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/10

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**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 12:10 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Zurcher, Kenneth M; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Gregonis, Meghan E; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Cc:** Ellts, Colin C  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Israeli MFA Updates on Flotilla Preparations

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

**Jack Doutrich**  
Political Officer  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/10

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 10:07 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** 'Antonietti, Patrick M CIV OSD POLICY'; 'eric.lynn@osd.smil.mil'; 'ronald.tuggle@osd.smil.mil'; 'david.wiltse@osd.smil.mil'; Grubb, Jason B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Khanna, Melanie J; Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Katz, Jonathan D  
**Subject:** FW: Israeli MFA Updates on Flotilla Preparations

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/10

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Friday, June 10, 2011 05:0:20  
**To:** Levin, Jan X  
**Cc:** TELAVIV-SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; MOSCOW-SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; daria.darnell@incirlik.af.smil.mil; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team)  
**Subject:** Israeli MFA Updates on Flotilla Preparations

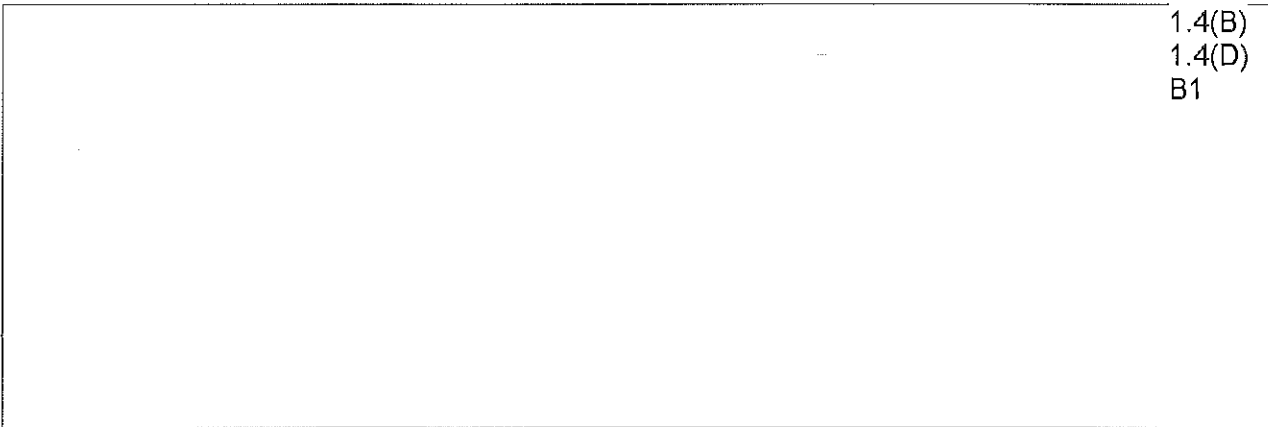
**SECRET**



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**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 689  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 10, 2011 / 101359Z JUN 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KWBG, PARM, PTER, PHSA, IS  
**Subject:** Israeli MFA Updates on Flotilla Preparations

1.		1.4(B) 1.4(D) B1
2.		
3.		



**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:** 2021/06/10

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Cleared By:** POL:Grubb, Jason B  
POL:Silverman, Robert J

**Approved By:** EXEC:Goldberger, Thomas H

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Info:** USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; GENEVA, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; LONDON, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; MOSCOW, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; OSD WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**SECRET**

**Tracking:**



**Recipient**  
Mokhtarzada, Homeyra N

**Read**  
Read: 6/10/2011 4:25 PM

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

I186

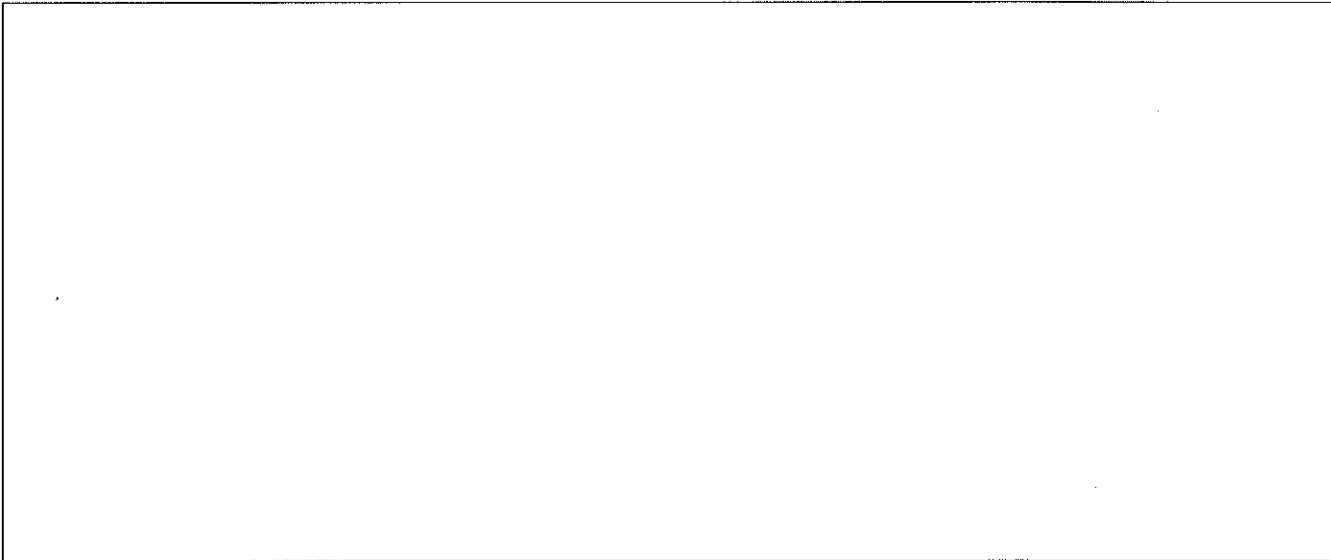
**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Silverman, Robert J  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2011 5:33 AM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; Delgado, Gustavo X  
**Cc:** Levin, Jan X; Goldberger, Thomas H; NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: [redacted]  
**Attachments:** Statesear.gr

NR

**Categories:** Working

Suzanne and Gustavo,



NR

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/07

---

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2011 7:39 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Cc:** TELAVIV POL; Goldberger, Thomas H; Katz, Jonathan D; Cassidy, Joseph P; Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Lapenn, Jessica E; Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Cassayre, Mark J  
**Subject:** FW: MFA Elaborates on Goldstone Follow-up, September Scenarios, Flotilla Planning

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/07

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2011 07:36:08  
**To:** Levin, Jan X  
 Amman-SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; VILNIUS, SMARTS; Valletta, SMARTS; MILAN-SMARTS; Stockholm-SMARTS; TALLINN, SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; ATHENS-SMARTS; WARSAW-SMARTS; BRUSSELS-SMARTS; THEHAGUE-SMARTS; ZAGREB-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; ISTANBUL, SMARTS; BUDAPEST-SMARTS; UNVIE-SMARTS; LISBON, SMARTS; FRANKFURT, SMARTS; DUBLIN, SMARTS; PRAGUE, SMARTS; HAMBURG-SMARTS; LJUBLJANA-SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; LUXEMBOURG-SMARTS; BRATISLAVA-SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; HELSINKI-SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; Copenhagen-SMARTS; Riga, SMARTS; ROME, SMARTS; NICOSIA, SMARTS; VIENNA-SMARTS; MUNICH-SMARTS; TELAVIV-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); Aims, Clifford A; daria.darnell@incirlik.af.smil.mil; cklotter@fbi.gov; daoprague@dia.smil.mil

**Cc:**

**Subject:** MFA Elaborates on Goldstone Follow-up, September Scenarios, Flotilla Planning

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 433  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 07, 2011 / 071635Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PINS, PTER, MOPS, KWBG, PHUM, UNHRC-1, IS  
**Reference:** A) 11 TEL AVIV 423  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
**Subject:** MFA Elaborates on Goldstone Follow-up, September Scenarios, Flotilla Planning

1. (C) Summary: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] On flotilla

planning [Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

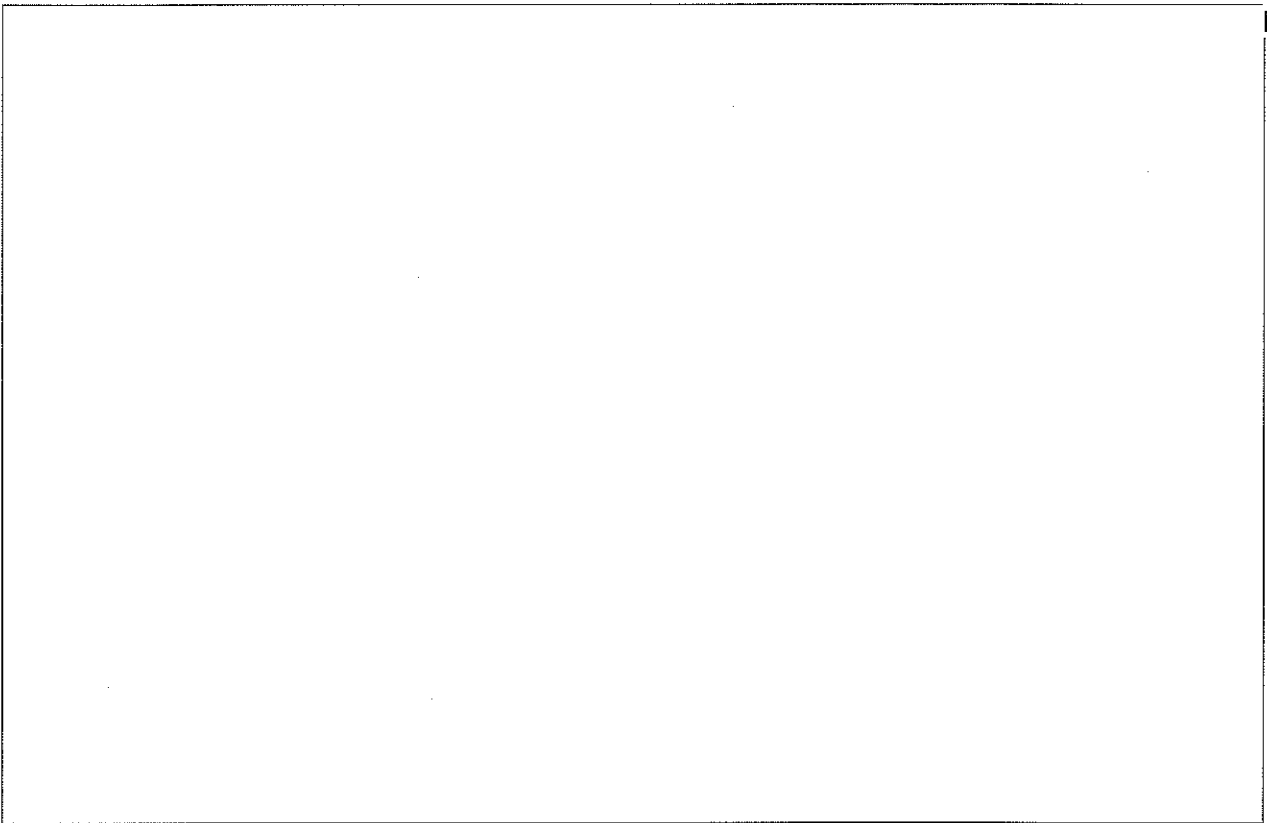
Goldstone Redux

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2.

NR

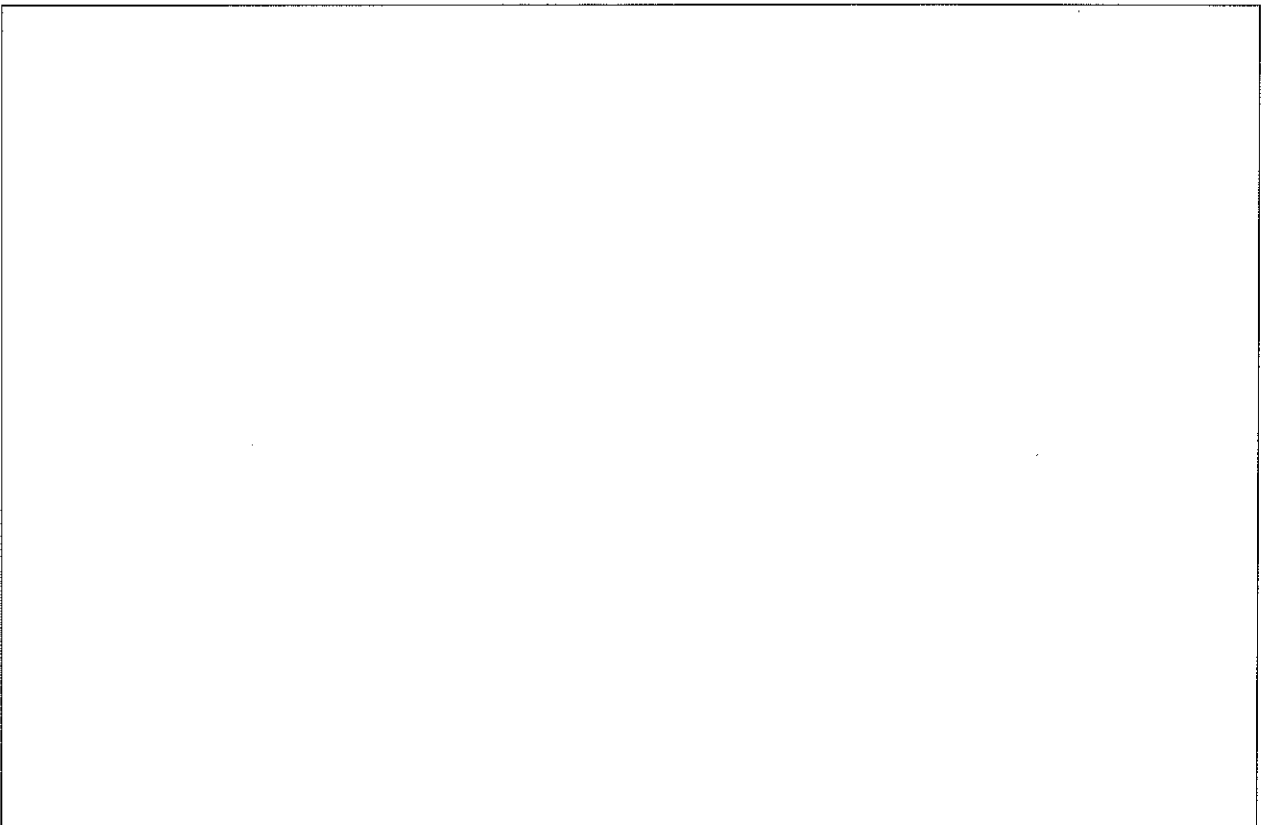
3.



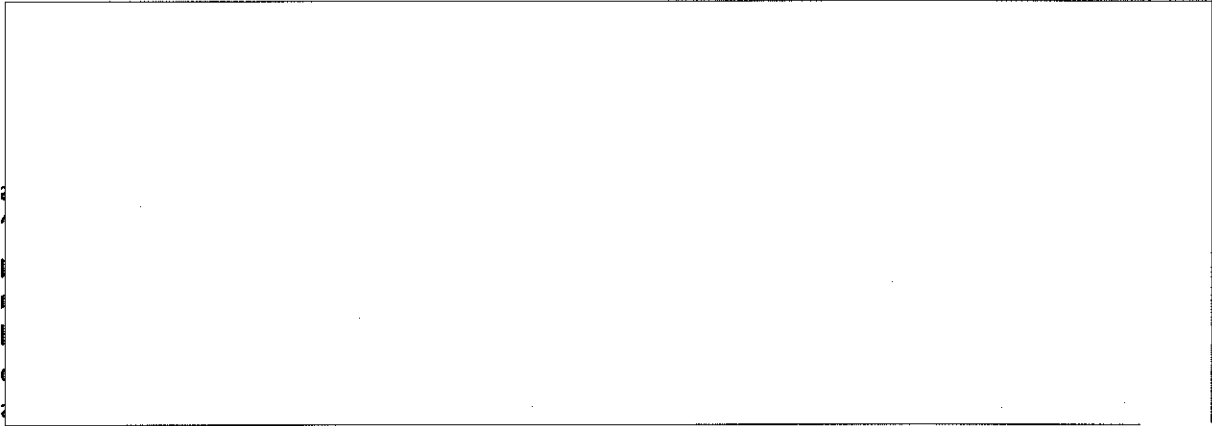
Palestinian Recognition: September Scenarios

4.

5.



6.



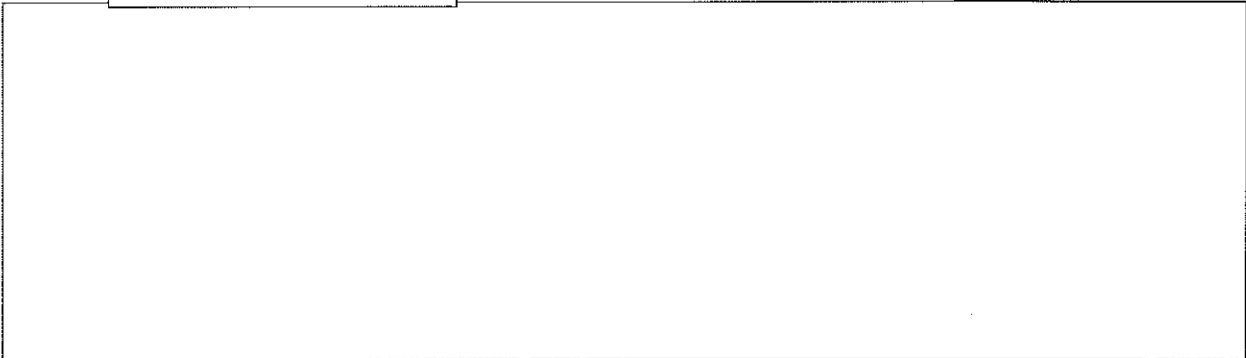
Flotilla

1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

7. (C) MFA [redacted] expanded on his April 5 discussion with us by [redacted]



**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:** 2021/04/07

**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:** AMMAN, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; GENEVA, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF; ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

I189

From: Bell, Richard K  
Sent: 4/20/2011 11:07:28 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP04  
Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 11 COPENHAGEN 175  
Date/DTG: Apr 20, 2011 / 201507Z APR 11  
From: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, IS, DA  
Reference: A) STATE 36240  
Pass Line: STATE FOR NEA/IPA:JSINDLE, EUR/NB  
Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA: DEMARCHE DELIVERED

1. (C) Denmark has not yet given much thought to a possible Gaza flotilla in May [redacted] due to its intensive focus on Libya, but the Israeli Ambassador has made a demarche, and the Danes know they need to make a decision after the Easter break, according to [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] Responding to refel demarche April 19, he told Pol-EconCouns he [redacted] 1.4(D)  
[redacted] B1

NR

2. (U) Post will follow up after the Easter break (April 21 through 25) and report septel.

Signature: FULTON

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d  
Declassify on: 2021/04/20  
Drafted By: COPENHAGEN: Bell, Richard K  
Cleared By: Copenhagen: Cristina, Stephen A  
Approved By: Copenhagen: Fulton, Laurie S  
Released By: COPENHAGEN: Bell, Richard K  
Info: TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE; JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

I194

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: Siler, Brian J  
Sent: 4/28/2011 12:57:36 PM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP05  
Subject: Ireland: Gaza Flotilla - Neither Yes nor No  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN



MRN: 11 DUBLIN 49  
Date/DTG: Apr 28, 2011 / 281657Z APR 11  
From: AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, PHSA, PGOV, KWBG, TU, IS, EI  
Captions: NOFORN  
Reference: A) 11 STATE 36240  
Subject: Ireland: Gaza Flotilla - Neither Yes nor No

1. (C) Summary: PoOff delivered reftel demarche to [redacted] the Middle East and North Africa Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on April 20. [redacted] replied that Irish Free Gaza activists and supporters, including elected members of Ireland's parliament, plan to be aboard an Ireland-registered yacht that will take part in the 2011 Free Gaza Flotilla.

[redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (C) In response to PoOff's demarche, DFAT [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] confirmed that, again this year, an Irish vessel would take part in the flotilla, this time a yacht registered in Ireland. [redacted] the vessel is reported to already be in the Mediterranean. [redacted]

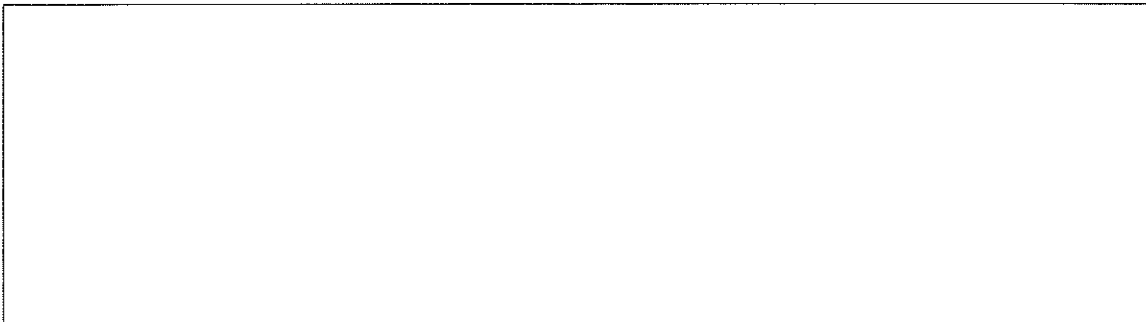
[redacted] it is beyond the reach of Ireland's own maritime authorities at this point.

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 2



1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

5. (U) Speaking in parliament on April 21, Foreign Minister Gilmore refused a call by Deputy Boyd Barrett to state government's explicit support for the Gaza flotilla, but the ForMin recognized "the essentially humanitarian motivation" that gave rise to participation in the flotilla. He described the blockade as "absolutely unacceptable" and said the Irish government "will continue to press Israel to do all possible to facilitate those wishing to transport humanitarian goods to Gaza." With regard to Irish participation in the flotilla, he noted, however, that "I cannot support a project which would involve Irish citizens engaging in actions which could lead them into real danger. DFAT's travel advice would remain, he said, that "people should not attempt to sail to Gaza at the present time."

**Signature:** ROONEY

---

**Classified By:** Name: John Hennessey-Niland, Title: DCM  
Office: Exec, Embassy Dublin  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/28

**Drafted By:** DUBLIN:Siler, Brian J

**Approved By:** Exec:Hennessey-Niland, John

**Released By:** DUBLIN:Siler, Brian J

**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; ANKARA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ;  
ISTANBUL, AMCONSULROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 2



CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

I202

From: Vaughan, Gareth J  
Sent: 4/21/2011 9:13:13 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP05  
Subject: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON FREE GAZA ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA; MFA RELATES FURTHER INFO ON [redacted]  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

NR

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 11 KYIV 323  
Date/DTG: Apr 21, 2011 / 211313Z APR 11  
From: AMEMBASSY KYIV  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, UP, IS, GZ, KPAL  
Reference: A) 11 STATE 37374  
B) 11 KYIV 247  
Pass Line: STATE FOR NEA/PA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
Subject: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON FREE GAZA ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA; MFA RELATES FURTHER INFO ON [redacted]

NR

1. (C) PolOff met April 20 with [redacted] the MFA [redacted] to deliver ref A demarche on the planned "Free Gaza" anniversary flotilla. [redacted] said that the GOU is currently not engaged in any special monitoring of this 1.4(B) situation, as it only involves NGOs, but declared that the GOU shared our concerns regarding the possibility of particip[redacted] 1.4(D) sustaining injury or death during the flotilla. [redacted] said that he was not aware if any Ukrainians were plannin[redacted] B1 participate, [redacted]

2. (C) [redacted]

NR

Signature: TEFFT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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**Classified By:** Name: Colin Cleary, Title: Political Counselor  
Office: U.S. Embassy  
Agency: Kyiv

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/21

**Drafted By:** KYIV:Vaughan, Gareth J

**Cleared By:** POL:Bennett, Kirk

**Approved By:** POL:Cleary, Colin M

**Released By:** KYIV:Vaughan, Gareth J

**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; CIS COLLECTIVEROUTINE; NATO EU COLLECTIVE  
ROUTINE; ZENIAMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK; ZENIAMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG;  
ZEN/AMEMBASSY MINSK

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 2

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

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Page 1 of 2

I203.

**From:** Kilner, Scott F  
**Sent:** 6/1/2011 10:09:34 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHTSPOP4  
**Subject:** Istanbul Demonstrators Mark Free Gaza Flotilla Anniversary  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL

**MRN:** 11 ISTANBUL 145  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 01, 2011 / 011411Z JUN 11  
**From:** AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATEIMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, TU, IS  
**Reference:** A) 11 ANKARA 737  
**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  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** Istanbul Demonstrators Mark Free Gaza Flotilla Anniversary

1. (SBU) A few tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered in Istanbul's central Taksim Square on May 30 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Israeli security forces' raid on the Mavi Marmara-led flotilla. The rally, organized primarily by the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), was also supported by two small fringe opposition political parties – the Islamist Saadet Party (Felicity Party, or SP) and the ultranationalist Grand Unity Party (BBP). According to press reports, demonstrators marched along a popular pedestrian thoroughfare carrying signs and Palestinian flags, chanting the names of those who died last May and slogans such as "Wait Palestine, Mavi Marmara is coming," and "Millions hand in hand, en route to Gaza."

2. (U) Following the march, demonstrators amassed around a stage in Taksim Square for speeches, including Quran recitations and prayers for the Mavi Marmara victims, as well as speeches from Palestinians including Sheikh Raed Salah and Palestinian member of the Israeli parliament Muhammad Zeldan. On behalf of the families of those who died, Cigdem Topcuoglu – widow of Cetin Topcuoglu – gave a speech and said "You are the pride of Palestine and this community and the heroes of Mavi Marmara. You are the fear of Israel, its annihilation." IHH Chairman Bulent Yildirim, addressing Israel and the United States, said that the IHH is preparing a second flotilla and that IHH has received 500,000 applicants to join the flotilla, up from 600 last year.

3. (SBU) Throughout Istanbul around the anniversary date, we noticed a larger-than-usual display of posters and banners bearing the IHH logo, and several outdoor exhibits commemorating the anniversary of the flotilla. A busy square in Istanbul's Sultanahmet district – near the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque – was taken over by a photo exhibition displaying graphic images of casualties from the Mavi Marmara. On May 30 we saw a conspicuous elderly Shia cleric –

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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surrounded by aides – holding a banner with photos of the nine flotilla victims while posing for a photo in front of the Hagia Sophia. (Note: Although the Turkish press did not focus on the Iranian delegation's participation, one article noted that Ayatollah Kaimmakami – head of the Fehmide Foundation – visited Turkey in conjunction with the Mavi Marmara anniversary. End Note.)

4. (C) [Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

5. (C) Comment: While the Taksim demonstration was by far the largest in Istanbul, the Mavi Marmara flotilla's anniversary also sparked other emotionally-charged commemorations throughout the city. Foreign participants emphasized themes of solidarity and remembrance, [Redacted]

**Signature:** KILNER

---

**Classified By:** Name: Scott Kilner, Title: Consul General  
Office: EXE  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 d

**Declassify on:** 2021/06/01

**Drafted By:** ISTANBUL:Hood, Courtney M (Istanbul)

**Cleared By:** POL/ECON:Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)  
POL:Howard, Jeremiah H  
POL/ECON:Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul)

**Approved By:** Kilner, Scott F

**Released By:** ISTANBUL:Kilner, Scott F

**Info:** JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UKROUTINE;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DCROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DC  
ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DCROUTINE; TEL AVIV IS, USDAOROUTINE;  
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MDROUTINE; 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

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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RELEASED IN PART B6

I 204

From: Martinek, Paul J  
Sent: 4/27/2011 5:37:59 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P1  
Subject: PORTUGAL: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 11 LISBON 159  
Date/DTG: Apr 27, 2011 / 280642Z APR 11  
From: AMEMBASSY LISBON  
Action: SECSTATE WASHDCROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PGOV, PARM, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS, PO  
Reference: A) 11 STATE 36240  
Pass Line: DEPT FOR NEA/IPA  
Subject: PORTUGAL: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"

(C) Poloff delivered refel demarche April 20 to the [redacted] Portuguese MFA. He said the GOP knows of no Portuguese individuals or vessels participating in the flotilla in May to break the blockade of Gaza.

B6

Signature: KATZ

Classified By: Name: Paul Martinek, Title: Pol-Econ Officer  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)  
Declassify on: 2021/04/27  
Drafted By: LISBON: Martinek, Paul J  
Cleared By: POL/ECON: Mosby, David G  
DCM: Tamlyn, Lucy  
Approved By: EXEC: Katz, Allan J  
Released By: LISBON: Martinek, Paul J  
Info: USMISSION USUN NEW YORKROUTINE; ALL NEAR EAST COLLECTIVEROUTINE  
XMT: AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI; REO HILLAH  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

CONFIDENTIAL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

I 205

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

**From:** Miller, Lisa D  
**Sent:** 4/20/2011 7:16:20 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHTBTSPOP1  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Demarche Delivered London  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN**



**MRN:** 11 LONDON 227  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 20, 2011 / 201116Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY LONDON  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATEROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, UK, IS  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 11 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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Demarche Delivered London

1. (C/NF) Poioff delivered ref tel demarche on April 19.

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] The FCO [Redacted]  
[Redacted] expected to send options to Ministers for a decision later this week. While the FCO's position has not been fully vetted, our contacts expected their public line to advise against traveling to Gaza (as it already does) and to warn against any attempts to run the Israeli naval blockade.  
[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

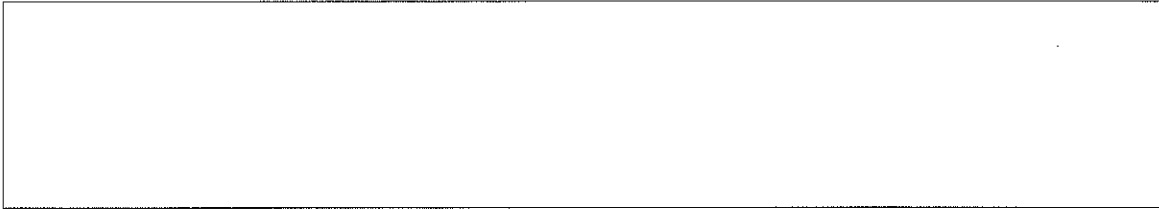
2. (C/NF) Contacts said they would take Washington's concerns under consideration and requested any additional information on the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) that we can provide. The FCO is currently unaware of any British flagged ships that are planning to participate in the flotilla, but stressed that it was "extremely unlikely" HMG would prevent British nationals or boats from participating. Contacts expressed serious concerns regarding the possible involvement of extremist elements, while noting that HMG is "broadly sympathetic" to the desire to end the blockade and noting that last year's "clearly political" flotilla had actually resulted -- in addition to the many clearly negative impacts -- in a positive easing of the restrictions on Gaza.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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NR



**Signature:** SUSMAN

**Classified By:** Name: Toby Bradley, Title: Acting Political MC  
Office: Embassy London  
Agency: Dept of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/20

**Drafted By:** LONDON:Miller, Lisa D

**Cleared By:** London:Bradley, Tobin J

**Approved By:** London:Bradley, Tobin J

**Released By:** LONDON:Miller, Lisa D

**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; JERUSALEM, AMCONSULROUTINE ;  
CAIRO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; ANKARA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; RABAT, AMEMBASSY  
ROUTINE ; Sindle, James MROUTINE ; Abbaszadeh, NimaROUTINE ; Boland, Matthew H  
ROUTINE ; Carlson, Eric JROUTINE ; Deacon, Daniel CROUTINE ; Dwyer, Stuart AROUTINE ;  
Feldmann, DavidROUTINE ; Hackworth, Jason KROUTINE ; Ireland, AndrewROUTINE ;  
Milton, Monica GROUTINE ; Paradise, David TROUTINE ; Reidhead, Van EROUTINE ;  
Stanton, Michael WROUTINE ; Williamson, Rebecca OROUTINE ; Zimmerman, Jane BROUTINE ;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE ; 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

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
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I206

RELEASED IN PART B6

**From:** Bagwell, D. Ashley (Luxembourg)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2011 7:21:13 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P3  
**Subject:** DEMARCHE DELVIERED ON GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

UNCLASSIFIED



**MRN:** 11 LUXEMBOURG 97  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 20, 2011 / 201121Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS, LU  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR NEA/PA AND EURWE(PARADISE)  
**Subject:** DEMARCHE DELVIERED ON GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"

1. (SBU) DCM delivered ref tel demarche to [redacted] April 20. [redacted] said that Luxembourg residents or firms were almost certain to have no ties to the planned flotilla. He promised to share the U.S. message with his MFA colleagues to ensure his government was doing everything it could on this issue. He agreed that these kinds of blockade running attempts are not the way to resolve the situation in Gaza, nor related issues of concern. He emphasized that the Government of Luxembourg in general seeks to reach within the EU, and then to implement, a consensus on issues like this one.

B6

**Signature:** CAMPBELL

**Drafted By:** LUXEMBOURG:Pol/Econ  
**Cleared By:** Luxembourg:Fetter, David R (Luxembourg)  
**Approved By:** Department of State:Campbell, Arnold H  
**Released By:** LUXEMBOURG:Bagwell, D. Ashley (Luxembourg)  
**Info:** EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I209

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

From: Allison, Alicia P  
Sent: 4/26/2011 8:22:05 AM  
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P2  
Subject: CYPRUS: ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA RESPONSE  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 11 NICOSIA 129  
Date/DTG: Apr 26, 2011 / 261222Z APR 11  
From: AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, PHSA, KWBG, TU, IS, CY  
Reference: A) 11 STATE 36240  
Pass Line: DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE AND NEA/IPA  
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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
Subject: CYPRUS: ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA RESPONSE

1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel points to Republic of Cyprus MFA [redacted] April 26. 1.4(B)  
[redacted] confirmed that the ROC would maintain in force the decision it made last year to prevent ships setting sail for Gaza 1.4(D)  
from ROC ports. [redacted] B1  
[redacted] noted that the ROC had already been approached by Israel on the matter. [redacted]  
[redacted] emphasized that the ROC policy was driven by the belief that "ports which are not legally  
in operation should not be approached." [redacted]

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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Signature: URBANCIC

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Classified By: Name: Alicia Allison, Title: Section Chief  
Office: POL  
Agency: State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2021/04/26

Drafted By: NICOSIA:Allison, Alicia P

Cleared By: Schellhammer, Michael W

Approved By: Cohen, Jonathan R

Released By: NICOSIA:Allison, Alicia P

Info: TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; JERUSALEM, AMCONSULROUTINE;  
BEIRUT, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; Sindle, James M  
ROUTINE; Scariatelli, Adam WROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE/IMMEDIATE;  
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

Attachments: Metadata.dat

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Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I210

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**From:** Sirotic, Aldo J  
**Sent:** 4/29/2011 9:13:40 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP05  
**Subject:** Norway Agrees Free Gaza Anniversary Flotilla Unnecessary  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



**MRN:** 11 OSLO 189  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 29, 2011 / 291313Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY OSLO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, KWBG, PTER, IS, NO  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Subject:** Norway Agrees Free Gaza Anniversary Flotilla Unnecessary

1. (C) On April 27, Acting PolEcon Counselor delivered ref A demarche on the Free Gaza "Anniversary Flotilla" to [redacted] the Norwegian MFA's Middle East section. [redacted] said there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza today and that goods, including commercial goods, are flowing to the area. Land border crossings have adequate capacity to handle increased trade. [redacted] said there is no need for a flotilla and that Palestinian PM Fayyad is certainly not interested in one. He told us that Norway unsuccessfully sought to include a line in the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLIC) Chair's Summary on this subject. However, there is a need for reconstruction and infrastructure development. Norway and the United States are discussing with the parties in the region ways to improve Gaza's water supply.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



[redacted] suggested that the issue is thus far attracting scant interest in Norway, including in the press.

3. (U) On April 28, Norwegian left-leaning media outlet *Klassekampen* reported the organization Ship to Gaza Norway is going against warnings from the MFA and is determined to travel to Gaza to break the blockade. The Norwegian group is collaborating with 20 organizations from various countries that will bring aid supplies to Gaza in late May. The chairman of Ship to Gaza Norway, Georg Morland, says the ship will pursue a non-violent strategy if attacked. Several MPs will take part in the travel, including Storting Vice President Akhtar Chaudhry (Socialist Left - SV, which is in the governing coalition), and possibly Labor Party parliamentarian Hadia Tajik, who says she is still weighing her participation. The Ship to Gaza group's webpage is <http://www.shiptogaza.no>.

4. (U) Chaudhry was criticized by Israel-friendly Christian Democrat (KrF) politician Hans Olav Syversen for his decision to participate. In comments to newspaper *VG* April 9, Foreign Minister Stoere warned his Labor Party colleagues that they might be "exploited" by groups with ulterior motives, and expressed a fear that the aid could end up in the hands of Hamas. Stoere stressed that as a member of the government, he did not want to restrict parliamentarians' freedom to choose their own course of action. Tajik told *VG* that she has made clear her

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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expectations to the flotilla organizers with respect to ensuring that civil society rather than Hamas will benefit from the shipment. She said she believes it is possible to ensure that the cargo will not fall into the hands of Hamas, and that the flotilla is a good way to show solidarity with the Palestinian civilian population.

**Signature:** White

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**Classified By:** Name: Cherrie Daniels, Title: Political-Economic Counselor  
Office: U.S. Embassy Oslo  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/29

**Drafted By:** OSLO:Sirotic, Aldo J

**Approved By:** POL:Daniels, Cherrie S

**Released By:** OSLO:Sirotic, Aldo J

**Info:** ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I211

**From:** Brock, Samuel V  
**Sent:** 4/26/2011 8:56:42 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP05  
**Subject:** Canada Possibly To Express Concern About Gaza Flotilla After Canadian Elections  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**

**RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)**



**MRN:** 11 OTTAWA 125  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 26, 2011 / 261314Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
**Action:** SECSTATE WASHDC ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS, CA  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** PASS TO NEA/IPA  
**Subject:** Canada Possibly To Express Concern About Gaza Flotilla After Canadian Elections

1. (C/NF) Canada will possibly make a public statement of concern about the planned Gaza flotilla (ref a) after the Canadian federal elections take place on May 2, 2011, [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted] explained the Canadian government is in caretaker mode, and DFAIT cannot make sensitive public statements during the campaign. Once the election is over, [redacted] said he "pretty sure" DFAIT would make a press announcement about the flotilla. [redacted] said some of the groups organizing the flotilla are based in Canada, but he has few details about them. DFAIT is not aware of any Canadian-based vessels planning to be part of the flotilla, he said. [redacted] saw little utility in approaching the flotilla organizers, saying "they probably wouldn't listen to us anyway."

**Signature:** JACOBSON

**Classified By:** Name: Samuel Brock, Title: Minister Counselor for Political Affairs  
Office: U.S. Embassy Ottawa  
Agency: U.S. State Department  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/20  
**Drafted By:** OTTAWA:Fertik, Elliot C  
**Cleared By:** POL:VanDerWalde, Kurt  
**Approved By:** POL:Brock, Samuel V  
**Released By:** OTTAWA:Brock, Samuel V  
**Info:** SINDLEJM@STATE.SGOV.GOV ROUTINE ; AMCONSUL HALIFAX ROUTINE ;  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL ROUTINE ; AMCONSUL TORONTO ROUTINE ;  
AMCONSUL CALGARY ROUTINE ; AMCONSUL VANCOUVER ROUTINE

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
Page 1 of 3

*12/2*

**From:** Miller, James N  
**Sent:** 5/6/2011 12:26:25 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P3  
**Subject:** GOF ACTIVELY OPPOSES FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN GAZA FLOTILLA  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

SECRET



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 PARIS 431  
**Date/DTG:** May 06, 2011 / 061626Z MAY 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY PARIS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, IS, FR  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
B) PARIS POINTS, APRIL 8, 2011  
C) E-MAIL OF APRIL 27, 2011, NOTAL  
D) PARIS POINTS, MAY 5, 2011  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
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:** GOF ACTIVELY OPPOSES FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN GAZA FLOTILLA

1. (S) SUMMARY: The GOF has taken steps to dissuade French citizens from participating in the flotilla designed to break the Israeli maritime blockade of Gaza later this year (refels). [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] 1.4(D)  
[redacted] told us French officials have taken three key B1  
actions: they spoke directly to discourage a French group seeking to join the flotilla; made a statement in the UN Security Council; and issued an official travel warning. They also plan to issue a public declaration the week of May 9.  
[redacted]

MFA WARNS FRENCH GROUP NOT TO SEND SHIP; GROUP LACKS FUNDING

2. (C) A group of French citizens may send a ship to join the flotilla of vessels planning to break the Israeli

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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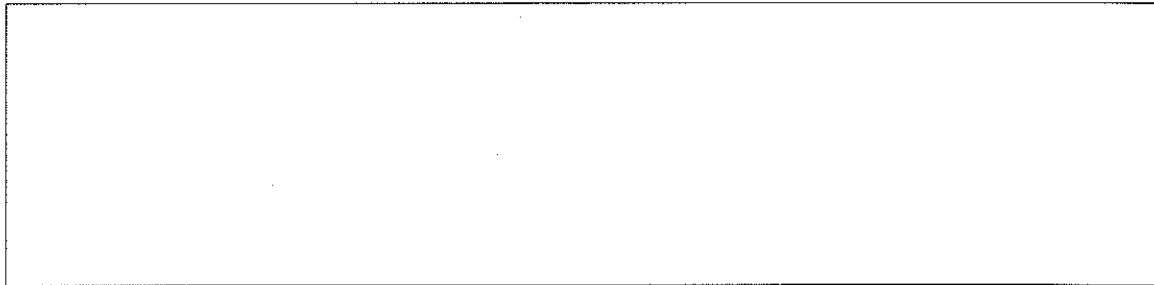
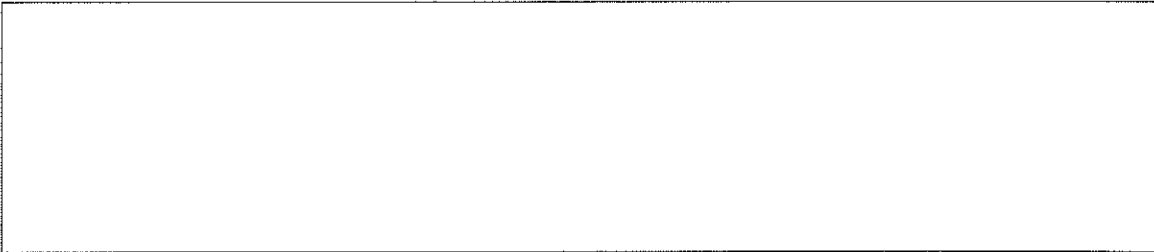
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
Page 2 of 3

maritime blockade of Gaza, [redacted] In late April, the group contacted and met with French MFA officials, who delivered a stern warning not/not to participate in the flotilla. [redacted] told us the MFA urged the group to send humanitarian aid through existing land channels rather than engaging in provocative, risky endeavors. The group reportedly said they would "take into account" the MFA warning, but did not promise to suspend their effort. Group members acknowledged problems paying for a French ship, [redacted] [redacted] predicted they would struggle to raise the necessary funds.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

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GOF PUBLICLY DISCOURAGES FRENCH PARTICPATION  
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3. (C) On April 22, in the UN Security Council open debate on the Middle East, the French representative urged those wishing to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza to use existing land channels to do so. [redacted] said the GOF will issue a similar public statement the week of May 9. In the meantime, the MFA published an official travel warning on May 5 urging French citizens not to participate. The text reads, "It is formally discouraged to board ships intending to break the maritime blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip, in light of the security risks involved in such an enterprise."



Signature: RIVKIN

Classified By: Name: David H. Van Cleve, Title: Counselor for Political Affairs  
Office: Pol  
Agency: State  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)  
Declassify on: 2021/05/06  
Drafted By: PARIS:Miller, James N  
Cleared By: Van Cleve, David H  
Approved By: Van Cleve, David H  
Released By: PARIS:Miller, James N  
Info: EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE ; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE ;  
MAGHREB COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE ; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY ;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA ; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE ; . . . . .

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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; ; 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

**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**SECRET**

**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I 213.

**From:** Timmons, Timothy S  
**Sent:** 4/19/2011 6:04:24 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP07  
**Subject:** CZECH RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL**



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 PRAGUE 175  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 19, 2011 / 191004Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 11 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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** CZECH RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

1. (C) On 18 April we delivered refel demarche to Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Middle East and North Africa Department [redacted] [redacted] said the Czechs agree with the U.S. position. They support opening the borders to Gaza but believe that cargos must be inspected to stop weapon smuggling. The Czechs see the flotilla as a political statement, not a humanitarian effort to improve the lives of the people in Gaza.

2. (C) [redacted] said they have indications that more than 15 ships with over 1000 people will participate in the flotilla. The Czechs are now considering changing their travel warning for Israel and the Palestinian territories to advise travelers of possible greater danger due to the flotilla [redacted]. The Czechs believe that due to the large number of ships participating in the flotilla the chances of violence occurring is greater than last year and they are hoping that no Czechs participate in this activity. There were three Czech journalists on board the Mavi Marmara last year. To date the MFA does not know of any Czechs planning to participate in the flotilla.

**Signature:** Eisen

**Classified By:** Name: Charles Blaha, Title: POLEC Counselor  
Office: Prague  
Agency: DOS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 2

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/19  
**Drafted By:** PRAGUE:Timmons, Timothy S  
**Cleared By:** Dixon, Michael S  
**Approved By:** Blaha, Charles O  
**Released By:** PRAGUE:Timmons, Timothy S  
**Info:** Frankenfield, Elizabeth *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; Sindle, James *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  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 1

I214

**From:** Phipps, Brian H  
**Sent:** 4/19/2011 6:55:47 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHTBTSPOP6  
**Subject:** LATVIA: NO KNOWN GAZA FLOTILLA PARTICIPATION  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B), B1, 1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 RIGA 73  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 19, 2011 / 191100Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY RIGA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PREL, EWWT, LG, PHSA, PTER, IS, TU, KWBG  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
**Subject:** LATVIA: NO KNOWN GAZA FLOTILLA PARTICIPATION

(C) Latvian officials are unaware of any Latvian participation of any kind in the "anniversary flotilla" to Gaza planned in late May. MFA [redacted] thanked us for our April 19 delivery of reftel demarche points.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** GARBER

**Classified By:** Name: Brian Phipps, Title: POL-ECON Counselor  
Office: Riga P/E  
Agency: State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/19  
**Drafted By:** RIGA:Phipps, Brian H  
**Approved By:** RIGA:Phipps, Brian H  
**Released By:** RIGA:Phipps, Brian H  
**Info:** EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE ; ZEN/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Page 1 of 2

1215

**From:** Le Claire, Claire (Rome)  
**Sent:** 4/22/2011 10:58:30 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P1  
**Subject:** ITALY: FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA" RESPONSE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

**MRN:** 11 ROME 273  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 22, 2011 / 221500Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ROME  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS, IT  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, SIPDIS, NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** NEA/IPA JIM SINDLE  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
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:** ITALY: FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA" RESPONSE

NR

1. (C//NF) On April 21, Poloff delivered reftel points [redacted] to [redacted] noted that the MFA was convening a GOI interagency meeting in the coming week to assess the risk of a Gaza "Anniversary Flotilla" ship emanating from Italy and to coordinate preventive strategies. The meeting will be chaired by Central Director for the Mediterranean and Middle East Domenico Giorgi. [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** THORNE  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
Office: POL  
Agency: STATE  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/22

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
Page 2 of 2

**Drafted By:** ROME:Le Claire, Claire (Rome)  
**Approved By:** POL:Brown, Lee R  
**Released By:** ROME:Le Claire, Claire (Rome)  
**Info:** MILAN, AMCONSULROUTINE; NAPLES, AMCONSULROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE;  
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:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN**

**CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL**  
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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
Page 1 of 1

I216

**From:** Hamrick, Andrew S  
**Sent:** 4/26/2011 11:05:06 AM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** MACEDONIA: NO KNOWN PARTICIPATION IN GAZA ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA

UNCLASSIFIED



RELEASED IN PART B6

**MRN:** 11 SKOPJE 226  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 26, 2011 / 261502Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY SKOPJE  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PREL, MK, PHUM, TU, IS  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR NEA/ IPA  
**Subject:** MACEDONIA: NO KNOWN PARTICIPATION IN GAZA ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA

1. (U) The GoM is aware of no Macedonian citizens planning to participate in a flotilla being organized to breach Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza on the one-year anniversary of the Mavi Marmara incident, stated MFA [redacted] on April 26. [redacted] was aware that there were three citizens of Macedonia aboard the ship at the time of the May 13, 2010 incident and stated that the GoM will contact us if it learns of citizens of Macedonia planning to participate this year.

B6

**Signature:** REEKER

**Drafted By:** SKOPJE:Hamrick, Andrew S  
**Cleared By:** POLECCOM:Burger, David  
**Approved By:** POLECCOM:Burger, David  
**Released By:** SKOPJE:Hamrick, Andrew S  
**Info:** Sindle, James MRoutine ; Smith, Sammie ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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I223

**From:** O'Keeffe, Thomas A (The Hague)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2011 8:40:51 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP05  
**Subject:** NETHERLANDS/GAZA: DUTCH GOVERNMENT WARNS NGOS OF FLOTILLA CONFRONTATION, TO NO AVAIL  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

SECRET//NOFORN



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 THE HAGUE 183  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 20, 2011 / 201241Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PHUM, IS, GZ, NL  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE, NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Subject:** NETHERLANDS/GAZA: DUTCH GOVERNMENT WARNS NGOS OF FLOTILLA CONFRONTATION, TO NO AVAIL

1. (S/N/F) SUMMARY: The Dutch have publicly and privately warned individuals and organizations against participating in the Free Gaza anniversary flotilla in May. END SUMMARY.

2. (S/NF) PolOff delivered refel demarche to MFA [redacted] [redacted] April 19. [redacted] said that the MFA had taken a series of steps, publically and privately, to communicate the danger and ineffectualness of attempting to deliver uninspected goods directly to Gaza, and undertaking any provocations that would invite and escalate a confrontation.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (S/NF) "Our Minister spoke out about this in parliament, and we talked to individual organizations about the dangers involved," [redacted] said. [redacted]  
[redacted] We have issued a travel advisory against Gaza, and told activists to speak with their insurance companies before going. If they are arrested, we can only offer them consular services."

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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4. (S/NF) [ ] provided a link to the following website of Dutch NGOs active in the Gaza Flotilla II campaign: [www.nederland-gaza.nl](http://www.nederland-gaza.nl). The website, which is primarily in Dutch, outlines a well-developed program of activism with widespread NGO participation, linkages throughout the EU, Facebook pages and even fundraising schemes, such as sales of olive oil the profits of which support humanitarian aid to Gaza. 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1
5. (S/NF) [ ] also provided a Dutch-language letter by the Netherlands-Gaza Foundation seeking funds and 35 participants to sail with a Dutch ship. The Foundation says it is comprised of Dutch Christian, Jewish, Islamic and secular organizations. They are looking specifically for people with journalism backgrounds, as well as lawyers, writers, doctors, academics and politicians, to participate as passengers. Interested individuals are asked to contact Rob Groenhuijzen at +31-061.468.6769 or via email at [re4evolution@gmail.com](mailto:re4evolution@gmail.com) or [infor@nederland-gaza.nl](mailto:infor@nederland-gaza.nl). Funding is also requested to be sent to bank account No. 447872605 t.n.v. Stichting Nederland-Gaza in Gouda, Netherlands.
6. (S/NF) The Netherlands-Gaza Foundation letter lists 24 supporting organizations:
- Al Maktaba
  - Al Awda Netwerk Palestina
  - Atlasbridges Foundation
  - Een Ander Joods Geluid
  - Federatie Islamitische Organisaties Nederland
  - Friends of Nazareth
  - Internationale Socialisten
  - Nederlands Instituut Palestina/Israel
  - Nederlands Palestina Komitee
  - Palistijnse Gemeenschap Nederland
  - Palestina Komitee Rotterdam
  - Rotterdam voor Gaza
  - Stichting ISRAA
  - Stichting Palestijnse Vrouwen in Nederland
  - Stichting Talliq

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- Stop de Bezetting
- Utrecht4Palestine
- Vreinden van Sabeel Nederland
- Vereniging Ettaouhid
- Vereniging Landelijk Organisatie Op Koers (LOOK)
- Vrouwen in het Zwart
- Werkgroep Keerpunt
- Wij Bliven Hier

Signature: LEVIN

---

**Classified By:** Name: TAO'Keeffe, Title: PolOff  
Office: The Hague  
Agency: State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/20

**Drafted By:** THE HAGUE:O'Keeffe, Thomas A (The Hague)

**Cleared By:** The Hague:Gray, Shawn K (The Hague)

**Approved By:** The Hague:Nolan, Edwin R (The Hague)

**Released By:** THE HAGUE:O'Keeffe, Thomas A (The Hague)

**Info:** Collins, Arthur ROUTINE ; Cooney, Thomas F ROUTINE ; Dahouk, Abbas K ROUTINE ; Del Prete, Vitessa A ROUTINE ; Foran, David M ROUTINE ; Foster, Stephen L ROUTINE ; Garvin, Brendan T ROUTINE ; George, Michael D ROUTINE ; Gobeille, Todd R ROUTINE ; Gore, Chadwick R ROUTINE ; Hanley, Jennifer L ROUTINE ; Hines, Grant K ROUTINE ; Johnson, Kari E ROUTINE ; Keenan, Sean A ROUTINE ; Knoch, Johanna L ROUTINE ; Kwak, Scott R ROUTINE ; Marchese, Cathy E ROUTINE ; Nelson, Anna M ROUTINE ; O'Keeffe, Kevin P ROUTINE ; Pulliam, Jennifer A ROUTINE ; Puttmann, Patricia A ROUTINE ; Rosati, Christina S ROUTINE ; Schaab, Rachel Featherstone R ROUTINE ; Smith, Michael L ROUTINE ; Stoeckle, Will N ROUTINE ; Twal, Dana I ROUTINE ; Vang, Nouzong L ROUTINE ; Washburn, Thomas D ROUTINE ; Buzbee, John R ROUTINE ; Coley, Lea M ROUTINE ; Doutrich, Jack T ROUTINE ; Eilts, Colin C ROUTINE ; Frelich, Karlene H ROUTINE ; Jacoby, Julia I ROUTINE ; Levinson, Jesse S ROUTINE ; MacWilliams, Benjamin W G ROUTINE ; Pickett, Marganite R ROUTINE ; Sachar, Alon R ROUTINE ; Sindle, James M ROUTINE ; Sutphin, Paul R ROUTINE ; Boland, Matthew H ROUTINE ; Carlson, Eric J ROUTINE ; Deacon, Daniel C ROUTINE ; Dwyer, Stuart A ROUTINE ; Feldmann, David R ROUTINE ; Ireland, Andrew R ROUTINE ; Marcus, Robert B ROUTINE ; Paradise, David T ROUTINE ; Stanton, Michael W ROUTINE ; Williamson, Rebecca O ROUTINE ; Zimmerman, Jane B ROUTINE ; Brooke, Kyla L ROUTINE ; Catipon, Lauren W ROUTINE ; Crowley, Shirley J (The Hague) ROUTINE ; Gray, Shawn K (The Hague) ROUTINE ; Hayes, Tasha A ROUTINE ; Mann, Andrew C (The Hague) ROUTINE ; Merideth, Denny J (The Hague) ROUTINE ; Moyes, Allan R ROUTINE ; Musselman, Marissa L (The Hague) ROUTINE ; O'Keeffe, Thomas A (The Hague) ROUTINE ; Walker, Jillian M ROUTINE

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I 226

**From:** Angelica, Beata  
**Sent:** 3/24/2011 1:55:30 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P4  
**Subject:** POLISH MFA: EU DIVIDED ON GAZA FLOTILLA RESOLUTION  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

**MRN:** 11 WARSAW 165  
**Date/DTG:** Mar 24, 2011 / 241755Z MAR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PHUM, UN, PL  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 10 STATE 16233  
**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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** POLISH MFA: EU DIVIDED ON GAZA FLOTILLA RESOLUTION

(C) The EU countries are divided on the Gaza flotilla incident follow-up resolution, according to [redacted] While Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary oppose the resolution, France and Great Britain support it, [redacted] According to [redacted] Poland is cognizant of divisions within the EU on Israel-related resolutions and therefore consistently lobbies member states to adopt a uniform EU position of abstaining on Israel-related resolutions. This practice notwithstanding, [redacted] said Poland is currently considering opposing the resolution on follow-up to the Goldstone report. [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

NR

**Signature:** FEINSTEIN  
**Classified By:** Name: Beata Angelica, Title: Political Officer  
Office: POL  
Agency: STATE  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 2

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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Declassify on: 2021/03/24  
Drafted By: WARSAW:Angelica, Beata  
Cleared By: POL:Conway, Craig M  
Approved By: POL:Sainz, Francisco D  
Released By: WARSAW:Angelica, Beata  
Info: GENEVA, USMISSIONROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE;  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE; 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  
Attachments: Metadata.dat

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Action Post:  
Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 1

I 227

**From:** Callahan, J. Nicole  
**Sent:** 4/22/2011 8:46:03 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTPO7  
**Subject:** Demarche Response: Gaza Anniverary Flotilla  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 ZAGREB 157  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 22, 2011 / 221246Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ZAGREB  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PREL, HR, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS  
**Subject:** Demarche Response: Gaza Anniverary Flotilla

1) (C) On April 21, PolOff delivered refel demarche on the possibility of an anniversary flotilla to Gaza during May to [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] the MFA. The GoC understands and shares our concerns. At this [redacted] 1.4(D)  
time they do not have any information that would lead them to believe that Croatian citizens, boats, or ports will be part  
of the flotilla. [redacted] B1

**Signature:** Foley

**Classified By:** Name: Janet Nicole Callahan, Title: Political Officer  
Office: POL  
Agency: State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/22  
**Drafted By:** ZAGREB:Callahan, J. Nicole  
**Cleared By:** Sears, Michael J  
**Approved By:** Sears, Michael J  
**Released By:** ZAGREB:Callahan, J. Nicole  
**Info:** Sindle, James M/ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

CONFIDENTIAL

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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I 228

**From:** Hinman, Richard C (Amman)  
**Sent:** 4/21/2011 9:24:27 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHTBTSP03  
**Subject:** Jordan Claims No Knowledge of Gaza Flotilla  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**SECRET**



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 AMMAN 569  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 21, 2011 / 211324Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PARM, PTER, PHSA, GZ, IS, JO  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Subject:** Jordan Claims No Knowledge of Gaza Flotilla

1. (S) PolOff delivered refTel points to [redacted] the MFA. [redacted] acknowledged our concerns [redacted]. He also said that the issue had not been discussed within the ministry and that he did not know anything more about it than had appeared in the media.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (S) COMMENT: [redacted]

**Signature:** MANDEL

**Classified By:** Name: Lawrence Mandel, Title: Charge' d'Affaires ad Interim  
Office: Exec  
Agency: State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/21  
**Drafted By:** AMMAN:Hinman, Richard C (Amman)  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Mandel, Lawrence C (Amman)  
**Released By:** AMMAN:Hinman, Richard C (Amman)  
**Info:**  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**SECRET**

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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I229

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** 4/25/2011 9:58:54 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTPOPS  
**Subject:** Anniversary Flotilla: IHH Plans to Postpone Past Elections  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**SECRET//NOFORN**



**RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)**

**MRN:** 11 ANKARA 661  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 25, 2011 / 251359Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, TU, IS, UN  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) STATE 36240  
B) 11 ANKARA 497  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
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:** Anniversary Flotilla: IHH Plans to Postpone Past Elections

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Ambassador continues to urge the GoT to forestall Turkish participation in or support for the anniversary "Free Gaza" flotilla. [redacted]

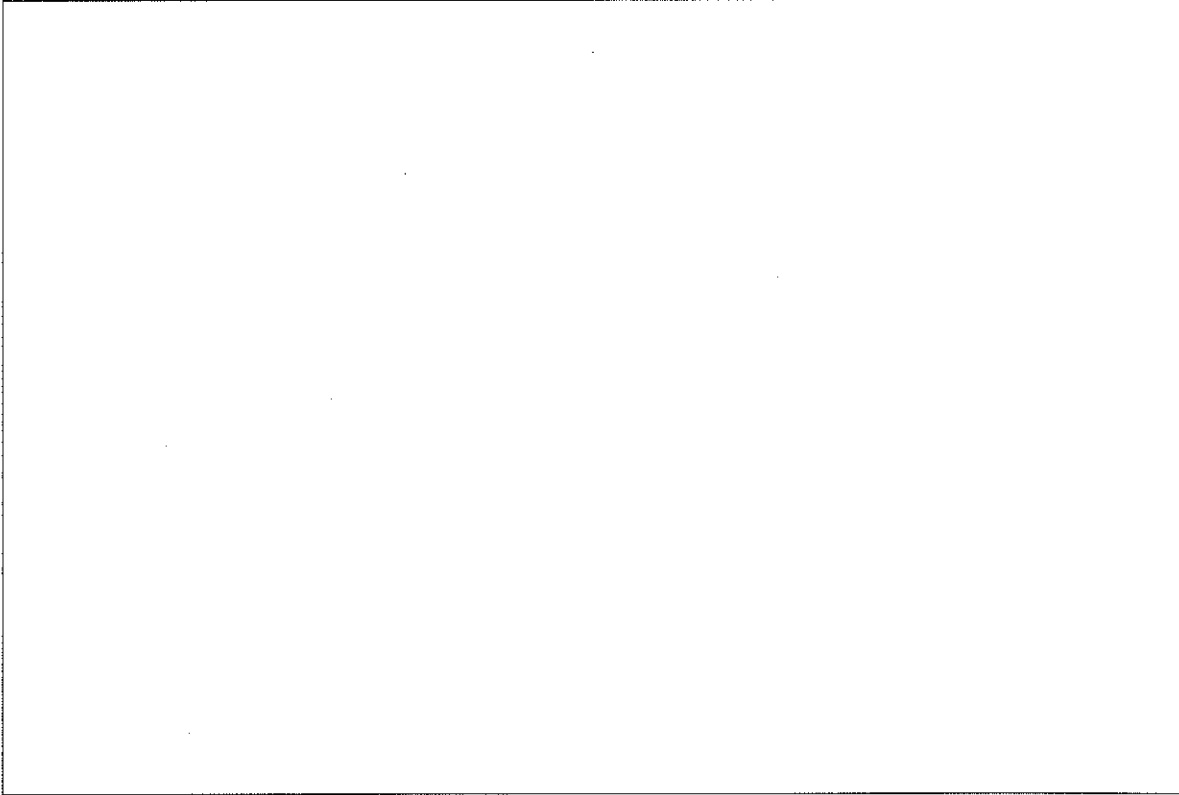
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (C) During April 1 (REF B) and April 14 discussions with MFA [redacted] the Ambassador urged the GoT to forestall Turkish participation in or support for the anniversary "Free Gaza" flotilla. [redacted]

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** RICCIARDONE

---

**Classified By:** Name: Doug Silliman, Title: DCM  
Office: EXEC  
Agency: STATE

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2036/04/25

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah H

**Cleared By:** Political:O'Grady, Daniel J

**Approved By:** Silliman, Douglas A

**Released By:** ANKARA:O'Grady, Daniel J

**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE;  
CIA WASHINGTON DCROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DCROUTINE;  
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MDROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE; 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:**

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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T230

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**Sent:** 5/7/2011 5:55:25 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P1  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara Anniversary Flotilla's Timing Still Unclear  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA and GBR**



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 ANKARA 737  
**Date/DTG:** May 07, 2011 / 072155Z MAY 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, MARR, MOPS, PGOV, GZ, IS, TU  
**Reference:** A) ANKARA 663  
**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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** Mavi Marmara Anniversary Flotilla's Timing Still Unclear

1. (C//REL UK) SUMMARY: 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. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] END SUMMARY.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[REDACTED]

3. (C//REL [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] 1500 people from 22 countries will participate in the commemorative flotilla, sailing on 15 vessels. 150 of the 1500 are Turks. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

6. (U) In a recent posting, the IHH website announced plans to dispatch May 31 a 1000-ton ship to Gaza, carrying "construction materials, textile products and medicine...The ship will have been sent...before the departure of the second "Freedom Flotilla" and will dock at Egypt's Arish port. Aid supplies will be loaded aboard trucks here which will then be transported to Gaza through the Rafah Border Crossing which was opened to Gazans after the public revolution in Egypt."



Signature: RICCIARDONE

**Classified By:** Name: J. Howard, Title: A/POLCOUNS

**Reason:** 1.4 (b)

**Declassify on:** 2021/05/08

**Drafted By:** ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah H

**Approved By:** POL:Howard, Jeremiah H

**Released By:** ANKARA:Howard, Jeremiah H

**Info:** CNO WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ;  
CIA WASHINGTON DCROUTINE ; DIA WASHINGTON DCROUTINE ;  
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MDROUTINE ; EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GEROUTINE ;  
CAIRO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; ISTANBUL, AMCONSULROUTINE ;  
USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE ; USNATO, USMISSIONROUTINE ;  
CJCS WASHINGTON DCROUTINE ; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE ;  
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

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA and GBR

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I231

**From:** McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Sent:** 4/19/2011 7:15:37 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP05  
**Subject:** The Free Gaza "Anniversary Flotilla" - Lebanon Response  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 BEIRUT 313  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 19, 2011 / 191115Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, PREL, KWBG, IS, LE  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR NEA/IPA JIM SINDLE  
**Subject:** The Free Gaza "Anniversary Flotilla" - Lebanon Response

(C) On April 19, poloff delivered reftel demarche on the impending Gaza flotilla to [redacted] MFA [redacted] [redacted] reported that [redacted] had no information about vessel movements related to this flotilla -- or any plans for the flotilla to enter or depart Lebanese ports -- [redacted] [redacted] We will follow up with the MFA and report any additional information septel.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** Connelly

**Classified By:** Name: Maura Connelly, Title: Ambassador  
Agency: Department of State  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2036/04/19  
**Drafted By:** BEIRUT:Comeau, Russell X  
**Cleared By:** McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Approved By:** McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Released By:** BEIRUT:McCutcheon, Robert H (Beirut)  
**Info:** Sindle, James MROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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1233

**From:** Kiene, Robert R (Brussels)  
**Sent:** 4/20/2011 8:28:06 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSPOP3  
**Subject:** BELGIANS LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY GAZA FLOTILLA, BUT NOT ON THEIR OWN SHIP  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**CONFIDENTIAL**



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 BRUSSELS 225  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 20, 2011 / 201228Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE/ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PREL, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, IS, BE, TU  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR EUR/WE AND NEA/IPA  
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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** BELGIANS LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY GAZA FLOTILLA, BUT NOT ON THEIR OWN SHIP

1. (C) On April 19, Deputy Political Economic Counselor discussed with [redacted] MFA [redacted] [redacted] the likelihood that Belgian citizens may participate in a politically charged Gaza flotilla on the anniversary of last year's flotilla events. Four Belgian citizens were arrested on board the Mavi Marmara in 2010. They are identified as [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] said that the Belgian government is still involved in consular efforts in Israel to recover some of their property confiscated by the Israelis. These persons and others are now attempting to organize Belgian participation in the 2011 flotilla. There are a number of websites visible, including "BelgiumtoGaza.com", which unites various groups in a fundraising effort to procure a ship for the trip to Gaza.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

2. (C) According to [redacted], fundraising has not been successful, so no ship is likely to depart Belgium to join the flotilla. A few Belgians may travel on ships organized by other national groups to Gaza. [redacted] [redacted] the Belgian government is still considering whether to do more than it has already done, which is to issue a travel warning advising against travel to Gaza. [redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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3. (C) Deputy Political Counselor told [redacted] that the port of Ashdod is being made available by the Israelis as a safe alternative for delivery of goods to the Gazans. He also mentioned that the USG has called on Israel to exercise restraint if the flotilla arrives as planned. [redacted] agreed to keep on touch about developments in the [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Signature: GUTMAN

---

**Classified By:** Name: Steven Fagin, Title: Political Economic Counselor  
Agency: Embassy Brussels

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/04/20

**Drafted By:** BRUSSELS:Kiene, Robert R (Brussels)

**Approved By:** POL:Fagin, Steven H

**Released By:** BRUSSELS:Kiene, Robert R (Brussels)

**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; CAIRO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; BEIRUT, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; USUN NEW YORK, USMISSIONROUTINE ; ANKARA, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVEROUTINE ; 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

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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I 234

**From:** Cline, Melissa R  
**Sent:** 5/10/2011 9:37:33 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP0P1  
**Subject:** "Anniversary Flotilla" Demarche Delivered  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

SECRET



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 CAIRO 545  
**Date/DTG:** May 10, 2011 / 101337Z MAY 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, PARM, KWBG, IS, TU, EG  
**Reference:** A) 11 STATE 36240  
**Subject:** "Anniversary Flotilla" Demarche Delivered

1. (S) On May 8, Ambassador raised reftel points on a potential attempt to break the Israeli maritime blockade of Gaza with MFA [redacted] Ambassador asked if the GOE would allow humanitarian assistance to be delivered through the port of el-Arish in northern Sinai, as Egypt had previously done. [redacted] said no decision had been made, but believed that the flotilla planned for late-May would be "delayed." [redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**Signature:** SCOBHEY

**Classified By:** Name: Margaret Scobey, Title: Ambassador  
Office: Executive Office  
Agency: DOS  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/05/10  
**Drafted By:** CAIRO:Cline, Melissa R  
**Cleared By:** Blome, Donald A  
O'Dowd, Stephen P  
**Approved By:** Scobey, Margaret M  
**Released By:** CAIRO:Cline, Melissa R  
**Info:** TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ;  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE ; HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL ROUTINE ;  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

SECRET

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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I235

**From:** Mates, Michael J  
**Sent:** 4/21/2011 10:41:47 AM  
**To:** svcSMARTHTSPOP2  
**Subject:** Anniversary Flotilla Demarche Passed to Government of Moldova  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

SECRET



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**MRN:** 11 CHISINAU 99  
**Date/DTG:** Apr 21, 2011 / 211445Z APR 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY CHISINAU  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS, MD  
**Reference:** A) STATE 36240  
**Pass Line:** DEPT FOR EUR/UMB, NEA/IPA-JSINDLE  
AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
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:** Anniversary Flotilla Demarche Passed to Government of Moldova

1. (S) On April 21, we passed reftel demarche to [redacted] the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. [redacted] promised that Government of Moldova would inform us immediately if any information became available about Moldovan citizens or Moldovan-flagged ships involved in the Free Gaza "Anniversary Flotilla."

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Chaudhry

**Signature:** CHAUDHRY

**Classified By:** Name: Asif J Chaudhry, Title: Ambassador  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/04/21

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET  
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**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
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**Drafted By:** CHISINAU:Mates, Michael J  
**Cleared By:** Chisianu:Winstead, Gregory M  
**Approved By:** Chisianu:Micheli, Marcus R  
**Released By:** CHISINAU:Mates, Michael J  
**Info:** EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE:ROUTINE; ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE;  
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:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**SECRET**

**CLASSIFICATION: SECRET**  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I237

From: svcsmartnfi  
Sent: 6/7/2010 4:29:46 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: MGGZ01:TUNISIA [REDACTED] ON GAZA FLOTILLA, ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CONFIDENTIAL**



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

MRN: 10 TUNIS 408  
Date/DTG: Jun 07, 2010 / 070802Z JUN 10  
From: AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATEPRIORITY  
E.O.: 12958  
TAGS: PREL, ASEC, KPAL, PGOV, PHUM, TS, GZ, IS  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Subject: MGGZ01:TUNISIA [REDACTED] ON GAZA FLOTILLA, ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL

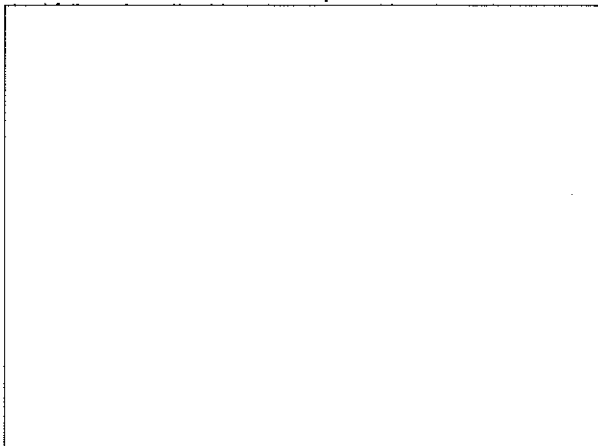
CONFIDENTIAL TUNIS 000408

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2020  
TAGS: PREL, ASEC, KPAL, PGOV, PHUM, TS, XP, GZ, IS  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01:TUNISIA [REDACTED] ON GAZA FLOTILLA, ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL

Classified by Ambassador Gordon Gray for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) [REDACTED] told the Ambassador on June 5 that deliberations at the Arab League Ministerial convened in Cairo June 3 in reaction to the May 31 Gaza flotilla incident



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[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

NR

4. (C) The Ambassador underlined U.S. views that the Gaza incident needed to be investigated and that efforts for peace must continue.

[Redacted]

NR

GRAY

Signature: GRAY

Classified By: Ambassador Gordon Gray.  
Reason: 1.4 (b) and (d)  
Declassify on: 06/05/2020  
Info: ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE ROUTINE  
Attachments: metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
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I238

**From:** Schedlbauer, Amy W (USUN)  
**Sent:** 6/23/2010 5:48:31 PM  
**To:** svcSMARTHBTSP07  
**Subject:** ISRAELI FM LIEBERMAN MEETING WITH AMB RICE ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND PROXIMITY TALKS  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL



RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),NR

**MRN:** 10 USUN NEW YORK 397  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 23, 2010 / 232148Z JUN 10  
**From:** USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** PREL, KWBG, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Subject:** ISRAELI FM LIEBERMAN MEETING WITH AMB RICE ON GAZA FLOTILLA AND PROXIMITY TALKS

1. (C) Summary: Ambassador Rice met June 8 with Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman and discussed Iran sanctions, follow-up on the Gaza flotilla incident, and the proximity talks.

[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

NR

Iran

[Redacted]

NR

Gaza Flotilla follow-up

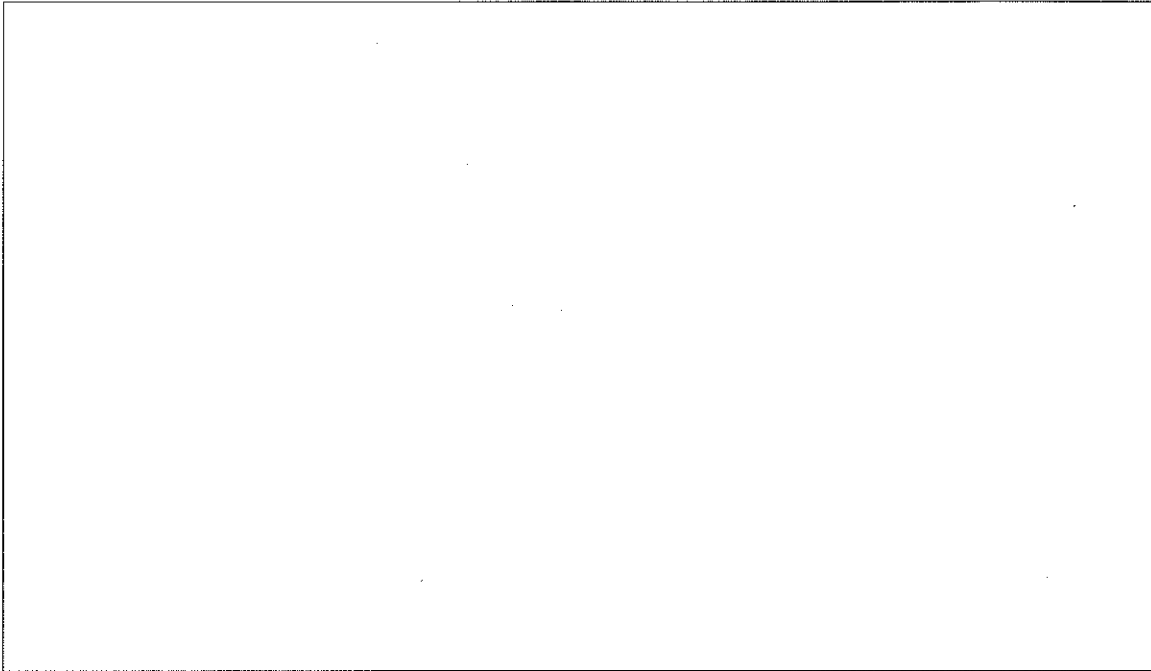
3. (C) [Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

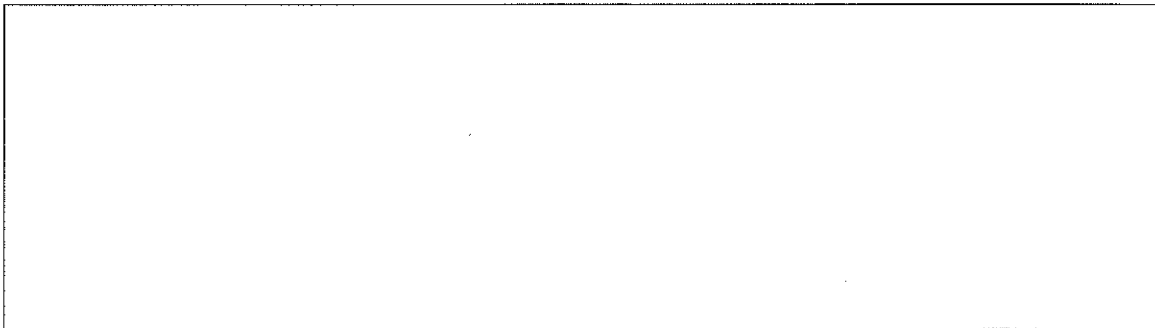
**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 1 of 3

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 3

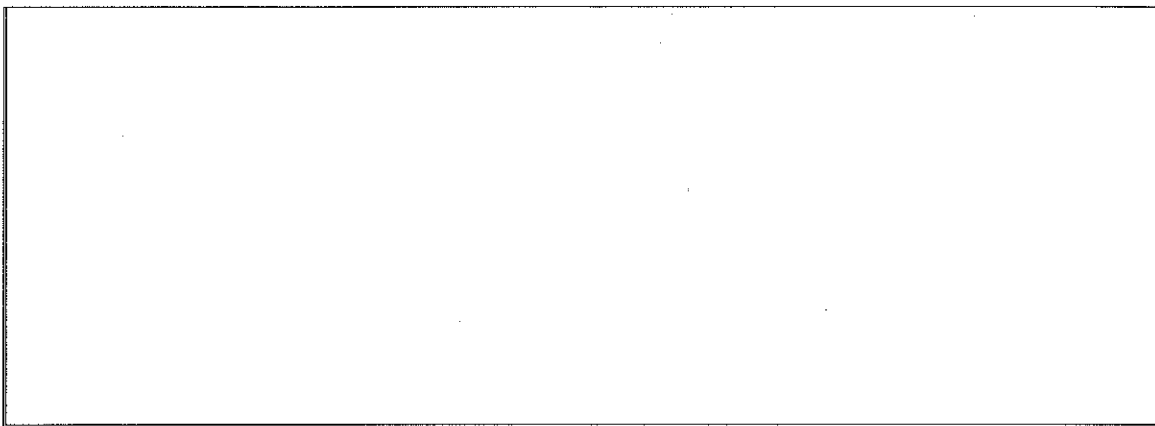


1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1



NR

Palestinian and Proximity Talks



NR

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 2 of 3

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 3 of 3

NR

Egypt

---

**Signature:** Rice

---

**Classified By:** Susan E. Rice, Ambassador  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2020/06/23  
**Drafted By:** USUN NEW YORK:Masilko, Barbara  
**Cleared By:** USUNNY:Wolff, Alex (USUN)  
USUN New York:DeLaurentis, Jeffrey  
USUNNY:Germain, Ellen J (USUN)  
**Approved By:** US Mission NY:Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
**Released By:** USUN NEW YORK:Schedlbauer, Amy W (USUN)  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSULROUTINE ; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSYROUTINE ;  
Masilko, Barbara J (USUN)ROUTINE  
**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Dissemination Rule:** Archive Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL  
Page 3 of 3

RELEASED IN PART B1,1.4(D)

T250

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 8:45 AM  
**To:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Cc:** TELAVIV POL; 'MEISEL, OMER (TE)(FBI)'; 'ROSENTHAL, RUSSELL H. (TE) (FBI)'; 'Cyril, COL Todd'; Sindle, James M; Sutphin, Paul R; Buzbee, John R; Parker, Andrew C; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** RE: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN  
**Attachments:** image001.gif  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Working

Very good. Please ask IPA to follow up on those questions.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/21

**From:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 2:55 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** TELAVIV POL; MEISEL, OMER (TE)(FBI); 'ROSENTHAL, RUSSELL H. (TE) (FBI)'; 'Cyril, COL Todd'; Sindle, James M; Sutphin, Paul R; Buzbee, John R; Parker, Andrew C; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

Tom -

I followed up with MFA [redacted] on our latest efforts detailed below regarding the "Asia to Gaza Aid Caravan"; [redacted] appreciated the information. He alerted me to several internet reports ([www.telegraphindia.com](http://www.telegraphindia.com), among others) noting that an Iranian-American citizen named Azam Azaditabar Carlton or Carlson is participating in the caravan and was apparently denied entry into Turkey from Iran. [redacted] asked if we knew the reasons for the denied entry, or if we had asked the Turkish authorities to intervene.

1.4(D)  
B1

Regards,  
Jason

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/21

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 07:16:43  
**To:** Silverman, Robert J; Wilson, Joseph M; Wholters, James R; Drake, Virginia D; Eussen, Matthew M; Parsell, Benjamin C; Burgess, Richard J; Burton, Terry D; Failla, Ann M; Goldberger, Thomas H;

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Grubb, Jason B; Hennard, John S; Kirk, Edward W; Lawrence, Tim R; Levin, Jan X; Lurie, Mikael D; Madera, Eduardo A; Mederrick, Debra J; Nelson, Timothy D; Otto, Jeffrey L; Shannon, Clark L; Stepp, Elizabeth D; Stepp, Keith L; Usher, William R; Wilson, Dennis R

**Cc:** Adams, Julie D; Baldwin, Virginia E; Burnett, David R; Cain, Isaac T; Conklin, DeWitt C; Garcia, Dennis J; Hall, Loretta H; Manyam, Shaila B; McConaughy, Christine H; Monosson, Danielle H; Parker, Andrew C; Rohrlich, Paul E; Swartz, Charles J; Tate, Sonja T; Treacy, Stephen M; Crippen, Ramona; Crippen, John

**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Action Office:** POL, DAO  
**Info Office:** POL\_INFO, EXEC\_INFO, FPD

---

**MRN:** 10 STATE 129967  
**Date/DTG:** Dec 20, 2010 / 201705Z DEC 10  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** AMMAN, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*; BEIRUT, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY *IMMEDIATE*  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, IR, TU, SY, LE, JO, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** ANKARA 1649  
NEW DELHI 1923  
STATE 119883  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 129967

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/12/20  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, IR, TU, SY, LE, JO, IS  
SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

REF: A) ANKARA 1649  
B) NEW DELHI 1923  
C) STATE 119883

Classified by: Ronald Schlicher, A/S, Acting  
NEARReason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 5.
2. (C) The department appreciates responses from Embassies Ankara and New Delhi (Refs A and B) to the November 19 demarche request (ref C) asking host governments to reiterate that those wishing to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza do so through existing mechanisms ?- so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings --

and for additional information about the planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan" that originated in India. Reports at that time indicated the group might seek to break the Israeli naval blockade and enter Gaza by sea. In recent press releases and interviews, the organizers are now stating they will sail to Al-Arish, Egypt and enter Gaza by land at the Rafah crossing. Posts are requested to seek more information about this group from host governments and urge host governments to deter this group from attempting to break the naval blockade.

3. (C) BACKGROUND: After getting underway in India in early December, the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan," organized by the ad-hoc coalition "Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine," traveled through Pakistan and is currently in Iran. Iranian media reports that President Ahmadinejad greeted the caravan at an event in Tehran on December 13, and several Iranian MPs will join the group. Organizers state the caravan will continue on to Turkey and Syria en route to a Syrian or Turkish port, where goods and activists would board ships and sail to Rafah, Egypt before traveling to Gaza by land. Depending on timing, the caravan may seek to enter Jordan and/or Lebanon, or meet up with additional caravan elements originating from those countries. The group's aim is to arrive in Gaza on December 27, the second anniversary of 2008-2009 Israeli incursion into Gaza "Operation Cast Lead." Information from the organization can be found on its website at [asiatogaza.org](http://asiatogaza.org). Posts are also requested to seek more information on the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."

4. (U) According to press reports and Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine press releases, organizers expect 100-500 activists from 17 Arab and Asian nations to participate. Organizers, including the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), announced plans for the caravan in early October in India, Iran, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Turkey.

5. (C/REL Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) Amman, Beirut, and Damascus are requested to deliver the following points to appropriate host government officials. Please slug reply to NEA/IPA Jack Doutrich.

Begin talking points:

-- After getting underway in India in early December, the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan," organized by the ad-hoc coalition "Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine," traveled through Pakistan and is currently in Syria.

-- Early statements by organizers indicated that the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan" intended to break through Israel's naval blockade to deliver assistance to Gaza by sea.

-- Although recent public statements suggest the group will instead seek to sail from Turkey or Syria to Al-Arish, Egypt and then travel to Gaza by land, we remain concerned that the group could follow its earlier plan and attempt to enter Gaza by sea.

-- We would be interested in hearing what your government knows about this group and its planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."

-- The United States believes strongly that aid flotillas that aim to deliver goods directly to Gaza by sea are irresponsible and intentionally provocative.

-- We urge you to take whatever steps you can to prevent this convoy from taking this approach; we must do all we can to avoid another incident like the tragic events of May 31 aboard the M/V Mavi Marmara.

-- We are committed to meeting the humanitarian and development needs of those in Gaza, including rebuilding the private sector that will be the engine of Gaza's recovery.

-- Legitimate mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by states and groups that want to do so.  
-- All those wishing to deliver goods should do so through established channels so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza.  
-- We hope that you will engage the convoy organizers to underscore the need to focus on how best to assist the people of Gaza and to avoid provocative confrontations.  
6. (U) Minimize considered.  
CLINTON

**Signature:** CLINTON

---

**Classified By:** Ronald Schlicher, A/S, Acting NEA,  
**Declassify on:** 2020/12/20  
**Drafted By:** NEA\_IPA:DOUTRICH, JACK T -- 12/20/10  
**Cleared By:** NEA/FO:WALLES, JACOB SEMEP (NEA/I-POL):KHOURY-KINCANNON, SAHAR  
NEA/IPA:BUZBEE, JOHN R NEA/RIGGS, SUSAN J EA/ELA:ABELL, J ANDREW  
NEA:ROBERTS, KRISTI M DRL/MLGA:JOHNSTON-GARDNER, SARAH R (DRL)  
L/AN:DOLAN, JOANN  
**Approved By:** NEA/FO:SCHLICHER, RONALD L  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; CAIRO,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ISLAMABAD, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; NEW DELHI,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, DAO\_Action2, POL\_INFO, EXEC\_INFO

**CONFIDENTIAL**



RELEASED IN PART B5

I252

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 8:57 AM  
**To:** Abell, J Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Demarches/Convoy  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

**Categories:** Working

Thx.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2035/12/21

---

**From:** Abell, J Andrew  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 6:28 PM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** FW: Demarches/Convoy

[Redacted]

B5

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2035/12/20

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**From:** Munir, Junaid Jay  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 6:14 PM  
**To:** Abell, J Andrew; Goodfriend, Andre M  
**Cc:** Hunter, Charles F; Tachco, Amy N; Shampaine, Nicole D; Creedon, Reid M; Cummings, Joanne  
**Subject:** Demarches/Convoy

Andy,

[Redacted]

Thanks! Jay.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This document is CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2035/12/21

---

**From:** Abell, J Andrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 1:10 AM  
**To:** Goodfriend, Andre M; Munir, Junaid Jay  
**Cc:** Hunter, Charles F; Tachco, Amy N; Shampaine, Nicole D; Creedon, Reid M  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

Andre/Jay,



B5

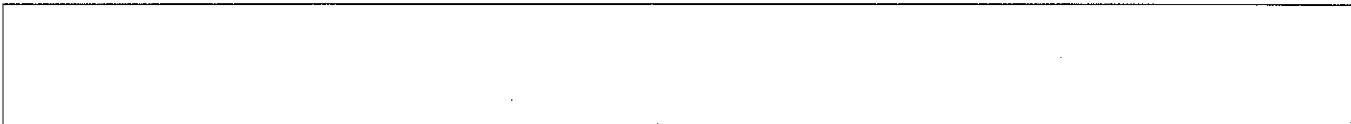
Best,  
Andy

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2035/12/20

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 4:54 PM  
**To:** Abell, J Andrew  
**Cc:** Shampaine, Nicole D; Creedon, Reid M; Sutphin, Paul R; Munir, Junaid Jay  
**Subject:** RE: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN



JD.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

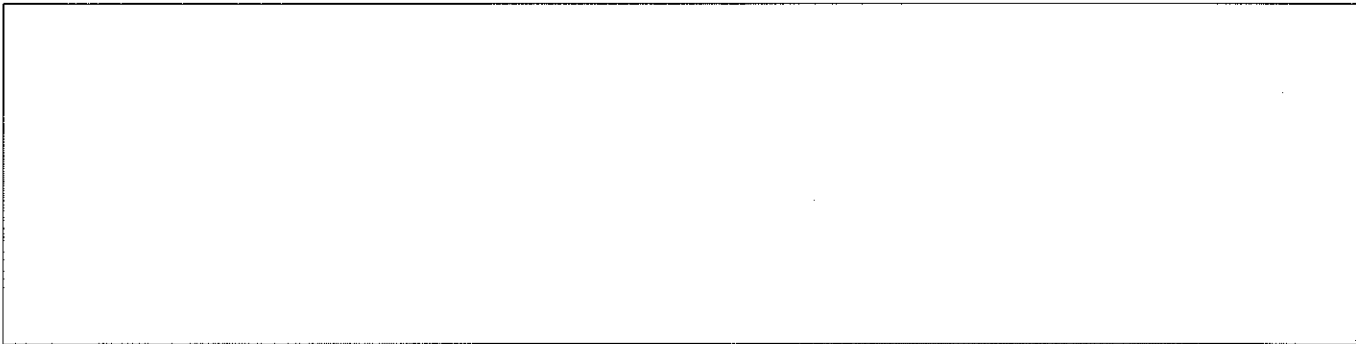
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN

Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d  
Declassify On: 2035/12/20

---

**From:** Abell, J Andrew  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 3:48 PM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Munir, Junaid Jay  
**Cc:** Champagne, Nicole D; Creedon, Reid M  
**Subject:** RE: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

Jack,



B5

Thanks,  
Andy

- We would be interested in hearing what your government knows about this group and its planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."
- The United States believes strongly that aid flotillas that aim to deliver goods directly to Gaza by sea are irresponsible and intentionally provocative.
- We urge you to take whatever steps you can to prevent this convoy from taking this approach; we must do all we can to avoid another incident like the tragic events of May 31 aboard the M/V Mavi Marmara.
- We are committed to meeting the humanitarian and development needs of those in Gaza, including rebuilding the private sector that will be the engine of Gaza's recovery.
- Legitimate mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by states and groups that want to do so.
- All those wishing to deliver goods should do so through established channels so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza.

This document is CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN when separated from CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN attachment(s).

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN  
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d  
Declassify On: 2035/12/20

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 1:49 PM

**To:** Rosenstock, Matthew S; Munir, Junaid Jay  
**Cc:** Waters, John R; Silverman, Robert J; Abell, J Andrew; Kosa, Lauren S  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN  
**Importance:** High

Matt/Jay,



B5

JD.

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/20

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 12:16:44  
**To:**  
Doutrich, Jack T; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Sachar, Alon; Levinson, Jesse S; Riley,  
**Cc:** Le'Shawnda V; Reed, Julia G; Hof, Frederic C; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Irwin, Matthew T; Eilts, Colin C  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Info Office:** POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SE\_MEP, SE\_MEP\_DAM\_BEI, SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV

---

**MRN:** 10 STATE 129967  
**Date/DTG:** Dec 20, 2010 / 201705Z DEC 10  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Action:** AMMAN, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; BEIRUT, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, IR, TU, SY, LE, JO, IS  
**Captions:** SIPDIS  
**Reference:** ANKARA 1649  
NEW DELHI 1923  
STATE 119883  
**Subject:** ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 129967

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/12/20

TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, IR, TU, SY, LE, JO, IS

SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

REF: A) ANKARA 1649

B) NEW DELHI 1923

C) STATE 119883

Classified by: Ronald Schlicher, A/S, Acting  
NEARreason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 5.
2. (C) The department appreciates responses from Embassies Ankara and New Delhi (Refs A and B) to the November 19 demarche request (ref C) asking host governments to reiterate that those wishing to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza do so through existing mechanisms -- so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings -- and for additional information about the planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan" that originated in India. Reports at that time indicated the group might seek to break the Israeli naval blockade and enter Gaza by sea. In recent press releases and interviews, the organizers are now stating they will sail to Al-Arish, Egypt and enter Gaza by land at the Rafah crossing. Posts are requested to seek more information about this group from host governments and urge host governments to deter this group from attempting to break the naval blockade.
3. (C) BACKGROUND: After getting underway in India in early December, the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan," organized by the ad-hoc coalition "Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine," traveled through Pakistan and is currently in Iran. Iranian media reports that President Ahmadinejad greeted the caravan at an event in Tehran on December 13, and several Iranian MPs will join the group. Organizers state the caravan will continue on to Turkey and Syria en route to a Syrian or Turkish port, where goods and activists would board ships and sail to Rafah, Egypt before traveling to Gaza by land. Depending on timing, the caravan may seek to enter Jordan and/or Lebanon, or meet up with additional caravan elements originating from those countries. The group's aim is to arrive in Gaza on December 27, the second anniversary of 2008-2009 Israeli incursion into Gaza "Operation Cast Lead." Information from the organization can be found on its website at [asiatogaza.org](http://asiatogaza.org). Posts are also requested to seek more information on the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."
4. (U) According to press reports and Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine press releases, organizers expect 100-500 activists from 17 Arab and Asian nations to participate. Organizers, including the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), announced plans for the caravan in early October in India, Iran, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Turkey.
5. (C/REL Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) Amman, Beirut, and Damascus are requested to deliver the following points to appropriate host government officials. Please slug reply to NEA/IPA Jack Doutrich.

Begin talking points:

-- After getting underway in India in early December, the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan," organized by the ad-hoc coalition "Asian

People's Solidarity for Palestine," traveled through Pakistan and is currently in Syria.

-- Early statements by organizers indicated that the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan" intended to break through Israel's naval blockade to deliver assistance to Gaza by sea.

-- Although recent public statements suggest the group will instead seek to sail from Turkey or Syria to Al-Arish, Egypt and then travel to Gaza by land, we remain concerned that the group could follow its earlier plan and attempt to enter Gaza by sea.

-- We would be interested in hearing what your government knows about this group and its planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."

-- The United States believes strongly that aid flotillas that aim to deliver goods directly to Gaza by sea are irresponsible and intentionally provocative.

-- We urge you to take whatever steps you can to prevent this convoy from taking this approach; we must do all we can to avoid another incident like the tragic events of May 31 aboard the M/V Mavi Marmara.

-- We are committed to meeting the humanitarian and development needs of those in Gaza, including rebuilding the private sector that will be the engine of Gaza's recovery.

-- Legitimate mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by states and groups that want to do so.

-- All those wishing to deliver goods should do so through established channels so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza.

-- We hope that you will engage the convoy organizers to underscore the need to focus on how best to assist the people of Gaza and to avoid provocative confrontations.

6. (U) Minimize considered.

CLINTON

**Signature:** CLINTON

---

**Classified By:** Ronald Schlicher, A/S, Acting NEA,  
**Declassify on:** 2020/12/20  
**Drafted By:** NEA\_IPA:DOUTRICH, JACK T -- 12/20/10  
**Cleared By:** NEA/FO:WALLES, JACOB SEMEP (NEA/I-POL):KHOURY-KINCANNON, SAHAR  
NEA/IPA:BUZBEE, JOHN R NEA/RIGGS, SUSAN J EAVELA:ABELL, J ANDREW  
NEA:ROBERTS, KRISTI M DRL/MLGA:JOHNSTON-GARDNER, SARAH R (DRL)  
L/AN:DOLAN, JOANN  
**Approved By:** NEA/FO:SCHLICHER, RONALD L  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; CAIRO,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ISLAMABAD, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; NEW DELHI,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_POLITICAL, DIS\_ECONOMIC, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_A, DIS\_SE\_MEP\_DAM\_BEI,  
DIS\_SE\_MEP\_ECON\_DEV

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D)

I254

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Schrank, Alexander D  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** RE: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN  
**Attachments:** image001.gif  
**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

Let me know if you need any further assistance with this.

Thanks,  
Alex.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/22

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:45 AM  
**To:** Taylor, Victoria J; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M  
**Subject:** RE: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

[Redacted]

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/22

**From:** Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 10:35 AM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Schrank, Alexander D  
**Subject:** RE: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

Hi Jack,

[Redacted]

Best,  
VT **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/21

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** FW: FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN



B5

JD.

This document is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/21

**From:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 21, 2010 2:55 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** TELAVIV POL; MEISEL, OMER (TE)(FBI); 'ROSENTHAL, RUSSELL H. (TE) (FBI)'; 'Cyril, COL Todd'; Sindle, James M; Sutphin, Paul R; Buzbee, John R; Parker, Andrew C; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

Tom –

I followed up with MFA [redacted] on our latest efforts detailed below regarding the "Asia to Gaza Aid Caravan"; [redacted] appreciated the information. He alerted me to several internet reports ([www.telegraphindia.com](http://www.telegraphindia.com), among others) noting that an Iranian-American citizen named Azam Azaditabar Carlton or Carlson is participating in the caravan and was apparently denied entry into Turkey from Iran. [redacted] asked if we knew the reasons for the denied entry, or if we had asked the Turkish authorities to intervene.

1.4(D)  
B1

Regards,  
Jason

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2020/12/21

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2010 07:16:43  
**To:** Silverman, Robert J; Wilson, Joseph M; Wholters, James R; Drake, Virginia D; Eussen, Matthew M; Parsell, Benjamin C; Burgess, Richard J; Burton, Terry D; Failla, Ann M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Grubb, Jason B; Hennard, John S; Kirk, Edward W; Lawrence, Tim R; Levin, Jan X; Lurie, Mikael D; Madera, Eduardo A; Mederrick, Debra J; Nelson, Timothy D; Otto, Jeffrey L; Shannon, Clark L;



Stepp, Elizabeth D; Stepp, Keith L; Usher, William R; Wilson, Dennis R

Cc: Adams, Julie D; Baldwin, Virginia E; Burnett, David R; Cain, Isaac T; Conklin, DeWitt C; Garcia, Dennis J; Hall, Loretta H; Manyam, Shaila B; McConaughy, Christine H; Monosson, Danielle H; Parker, Andrew C; Rohrlich, Paul E; Swartz, Charles J; Tate, Sonja T; Treacy, Stephen M; Crippen, Ramona; Crippen, John

Subject: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

CONFIDENTIAL



Action Office: POL, DAO  
Info Office: POL\_INFO, EXEC\_INFO, FPD

---

MRN: 10 STATE 129967  
Date/DTG: Dec 20, 2010 / 201705Z DEC 10  
From: SECSTATE WASHDC  
Action: AMMAN, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; BEIRUT, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE; DAMASCUS, AMEMBASSY IMMEDIATE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, IR, TU, SY, LE, JO, IS  
Captions: SIPDIS  
Reference: ANKARA 1649  
NEW DELHI 1923  
STATE 119883  
Subject: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 129967

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2020/12/20  
TAGS: PREL, KPAL, KWBG, PHUM, IR, TU, SY, LE, JO, IS  
SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: FOLLOW UP DEMARCHE ON THE ASIA TO GAZA AID CARAVAN

REF: A) ANKARA 1649  
B) NEW DELHI 1923  
C) STATE 119883

Classified by: Ronald Schlicher, A/S, Acting  
NEARreason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 5.
2. (C) The department appreciates responses from Embassies Ankara and New Delhi (Refs A and B) to the November 19 demarche request (ref C) asking host governments to reiterate that those wishing to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza do so through existing mechanisms -- so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings -- and for additional information about the planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan" that originated in India. Reports at that time

indicated the group might seek to break the Israeli naval blockade and enter Gaza by sea. In recent press releases and interviews, the organizers are now stating they will sail to Al-Arish, Egypt and enter Gaza by land at the Rafah crossing. Posts are requested to seek more information about this group from host governments and urge host governments to deter this group from attempting to break the naval blockade.

3. (C) BACKGROUND: After getting underway in India in early December, the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan," organized by the ad-hoc coalition "Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine," traveled through Pakistan and is currently in Iran. Iranian media reports that President Ahmadinejad greeted the caravan at an event in Tehran on December 13, and several Iranian MPs will join the group. Organizers state the caravan will continue on to Turkey and Syria en route to a Syrian or Turkish port, where goods and activists would board ships and sail to Rafah, Egypt before traveling to Gaza by land. Depending on timing, the caravan may seek to enter Jordan and/or Lebanon, or meet up with additional caravan elements originating from those countries. The group's aim is to arrive in Gaza on December 27, the second anniversary of 2008-2009 Israeli incursion into Gaza "Operation Cast Lead." Information from the organization can be found on its website at [asiatogaza.org](http://asiatogaza.org). Posts are also requested to seek more information on the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."

4. (U) According to press reports and Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine press releases, organizers expect 100-500 activists from 17 Arab and Asian nations to participate. Organizers, including the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation (IHH), announced plans for the caravan in early October in India, Iran, Indonesia, Lebanon, and Turkey.

5. (C/REL Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria) Amman, Beirut, and Damascus are requested to deliver the following points to appropriate host government officials. Please slug reply to NEA/IPA Jack Doutrich.

Begin talking points:

-- After getting underway in India in early December, the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan," organized by the ad-hoc coalition "Asian People's Solidarity for Palestine," traveled through Pakistan and is currently in Syria.

-- Early statements by organizers indicated that the "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan" intended to break through Israel's naval blockade to deliver assistance to Gaza by sea.

-- Although recent public statements suggest the group will instead seek to sail from Turkey or Syria to Al-Arish, Egypt and then travel to Gaza by land, we remain concerned that the group could follow its earlier

plan and attempt to enter Gaza by sea.

-- We would be interested in hearing what your government knows about this group and its planned "Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan."

-- The United States believes strongly that aid flotillas that aim to deliver goods directly to Gaza by sea are irresponsible and intentionally provocative.

-- We urge you to take whatever steps you can to prevent this convoy from taking this approach; we must do all we can to avoid another incident like the tragic events of May 31 aboard the M/V Mavi Marmara.

-- We are committed to meeting the humanitarian and development needs of those in Gaza, including rebuilding the private sector that will be the engine of Gaza's recovery.

-- Legitimate mechanisms exist for the transfer of humanitarian assistance to Gaza by states and groups that want to do so.

-- All those wishing to deliver goods should do so through established channels so cargo can be inspected and transferred via land crossings into Gaza.

-- We hope that you will engage the convoy organizers to underscore the need to focus on how best to assist the people of Gaza and to avoid provocative confrontations.

6. (U) Minimize considered.

CLINTON

**Signature:** CLINTON

---

**Classified By:** Ronald Schlicher, A/S, Acting NEA,  
**Declassify on:** 2020/12/20  
**Drafted By:** NEA\_IPA:DOUTRICH, JACK T -- 12/20/10  
**Cleared By:** NEA/FO:WALLES, JACOB SEMEP (NEA/I-POL):KHOURY-KINCANNON, SAHAR  
NEA/IPA:BUZBEE, JOHN R NEA:RIGGS, SUSAN J EA/ELA:ABELL, J ANDREW  
NEA:ROBERTS, KRISTI M DRL/MLGA:JOHNSTON-GARDNER, SARAH R (DRL)  
L/AN:DOLAN, JOANN  
**Approved By:** NEA/FO:SCHLICHER, RONALD L  
**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; CAIRO,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ISLAMABAD, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; NEW DELHI,  
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*  
**Attachments:** metadata.dat

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**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** POL, DAO\_Action2, POL\_INFO, EXEC\_INFO

**CONFIDENTIAL**

I 255

**Bowers, Allyson M** RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D),B6

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Evans, Heidi B  
**Cc:** Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Subject:** RE: FW: INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA DEMARCHE  
**Attachments:** image001.gif

**Categories:** Working



B5

**Jack Doutrich**  
Political Officer  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

This document is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from CONFIDENTIAL attachment(s).

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/18

---

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 11:04 AM  
**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Evans, Heidi B  
**Cc:** Zurcher, Kenneth M  
**Subject:** FW: FW: INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

Jack and Heidi,



Thanks,  
Jim

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/18

---

**From:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 8:51 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; 'Kumar, Prem G.'  
**Cc:** TELAVIV POL; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** FW: INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

FYI...

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
Derived From: DSCG 05-1 b, d  
Declassify On: 2021/04/18

**From:** SMART Core

**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2011 03:44:17

**To:** Grubb, Jason B

USUN, SMARTS; SANAA-SMARTS; KUWAIT, SMARTS; BEIRUT, SMARTS; VATICAN, SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; RABAT-SMARTS; JEDDAH-SMARTS; MOSCOW-SMARTS; AbuDhabi-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; RIYADH, SMARTS; DOHA, SMARTS; TELAVIV-SMARTS; DHAHRAN, SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; TUNIS, SMARTS; CASABLANCA, SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; Damascus, SmartS; Baghdad, SMARTS; ALGIERS, SMARTS; Amman-SMARTS; MUSCAT-SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; OSLO-SMARTS; NOUAKCHOTT, SMARTS; MANAMA, SMARTS; Cairo-SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; MILAN-SMARTS; SMARTS, Reykjavik; Valletta, SMARTS; BAKU-SMARTS; SOFIA-SMARTS; NICOSIA, SMARTS; TBILISI, SMARTS; BARCELONA, SMARTS; Stockholm-SMARTS; BELGRADE-SMARTS; Dushanbe, SMARTS; VILNIUS, SMARTS; THEHAGUE-SMARTS; USNATO, SMARTS; YEREVAN-SMARTS; PODGORICA, SMARTS; ATHENS-SMARTS; SKOPJE, SMARTS; WARSAW-SMARTS; TALLINN, SMARTS; Sarajevo, SMARTS; BERN, SMARTS; UNVIE-SMARTS; LISBON, SMARTS; DUBLIN, SMARTS; Tashkent, SMARTS; BRUSSELS-SMARTS; OSCE-SMARTS; ISTANBUL, SMARTS; BUDAPEST-SMARTS; FRANKFURT, SMARTS; ZAGREB-SMARTS; LJUBLJANA-SMARTS; KYIV-SMARTS; Ottawa-SmartS; STRASBOURG-SMARTS; HELSINKI-SMARTS; ASTANA-SMARTS; TiranaSMARTS; Bishkek, SMARTS; BRATISLAVA-SMARTS; PRAGUE, SMARTS; HAMBURG-SMARTS; Riga, SMARTS; ROME, SMARTS; KRAKOW-SMARTS; LUXEMBOURG-SMARTS; NAPLES, SMARTS; Copenhagen-SMARTS; MUNICH-SMARTS; CHISINAU-SMARTS; Pristina, SMARTS; Ashgabat, SMARTS; BUCHAREST-SMARTS; VIENNA-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team);

**Cc:**

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Aims, Clifford A;  
[Redacted]

B6

**Subject:** INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**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  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG  
**Subject:** INITIAL ISRAELI RESPONSE ON ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA DEMARCHE

1. (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] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] 1.4(D)  
[redacted] B1

2. (C) On April 18, MFA [redacted] welcomed refuel points, and thanked Washington for this "important effort." [redacted]  
[redacted]

3. [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] 1.4(D)  
[redacted] B1

4. [redacted]

5. [redacted]

6. (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

---

**Action Post:**  
**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Tracking:**

**Recipient**

Sindle, James M

Evans, Heidi B

Zurcher, Kenneth M

**Read**

Read: 4/18/2011 12:00 PM



I268

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 5:08 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 M; 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 (Baghdad); Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Giauque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Frelich, Karlene H  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Update & Spreadsheet  
**Attachments:** Free Gaza May 2010.xlsx

RELEASED IN PART B6

All – Many thanks for your help so far, as we have been able to gather a lot of information for our Tel Aviv and Cairo colleagues use as the flotilla moves towards Gaza. Boats may arrive in waters off Gaza sometime between Friday and Sunday (with the MV Rachel Corrie en route from Ireland perhaps as late as Monday). We have gained confirmation from Cypriot authorities that the boats will not be allowed to dock there, so they will gather somewhere south of Cyprus and begin the final leg soon. I have put together a spreadsheet of the vessels as best as we know them. All information with a question mark has not been fully confirmed. We do not know which vessel many of the Amcits are on at this point, nor have we confirmed that some Amcits (such as ) are on a boat at all. As of this time, the Israeli Navy has publically announced that they intend to board all the ships, haul them into port and deport the passengers. They have reported that approved items will then be transferred to Gaza overland.

B6

The spreadsheet linked here should be both viewable and editable by everyone on this email. Please make use of it to update information for our Embassies on the receiving end of this as you gain more information! (I have attached a hard copy for those of you unable to access, but this should work for all on OpenNet.)

<http://nea.p.state.sbu/sites/ipa/Shared%20Documents/Free%20Gaza%20May%202010.xlsx>

Furthermore, as we move into a holiday weekend, I want to make sure that all the appropriate contacts are known, as I understand many key players (myself included) do not have blackberries and may need to be reached via State Ops:

CA/OCS – Kim Richter (Israel & Egypt), Teresa Mendel (Greece, Cyprus, Turkey), Bree Marwaha (OCS Duty Officer)  
 NEA/IPA – Wes Reisser, in Washington on standby are also Jeff Giauque and Karlene Frelich  
 NEA/Duty – Jennifer Danover  
 Ops/CMS – Joe Finnegan  
 Emb Tel Aviv Consular – Andy Parker  
 Emb Tel Aviv DATT –   
 Emb Cairo Consular (if the boats go south to Egypt) – Yolanda Parra

Wes

**Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.**  
 Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
 Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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 B6

I268A

Name of Ship	Point of Departure	Country/Flag	Known Amcits on Board
MV Rachel Corrie	Ireland	Cambodia/Cambodia	Dublin reports no Amcits on board
Challenger 1	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Challenger 2	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Mavi Marmara	Istanbul	Turkey/Turkey	
Gazze	Antalya	Turkey/Turkey	
Defne	Antalya	Turkey/Turkey	
Boat 8000	Athens?	unknown	Ed Peck?,
Eleftri Mesogeios	Athens?	unknown	Ed Peck?,

B6

(Listed Below are possible ones provided by Greece, but are not on the Israeli list of ships)

(unreadable) Ocean?	Athens	Marshall Is.	Ed Peck?,
Novorosysk Star?	Athens	Malta	Ed Peck?,
Kykladdes?	Athens	Panama	Ed Peck?,
Kallavan?	Athens	Marshall Is.	Ed Peck?,
Ocean Star?	Athens	Malta	Ed Peck?,
Shenandoah Highway?	Athens	Panama	Ed Peck?,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

I290

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 10, 2010 9:37 PM  
**To:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Levin, Jan; Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Bass, Warren; Naranjo, Brian R; Anderson, Gerald C; Noble, David A.; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Kalmbach, Heather E; Katz, Jonathan D; Nossel, Suzanne F; Ostermeier, Amy A; NEA-ELA-DL; Struwe, Rebecca L; Kosa, Lauren S  
**Cc:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Grant, William K (USUN); Baily, Jess L; Nardi, Margaret H; Riley, Richard H  
**Subject:** AP: Libyan Aid Ship Plans Run to Gaza  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg; image002.jpg

fyi:

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Published: July 11, 2010

ATHENS (AP) - A ship commissioned by a Libyan charity has left Greece with food and medical supplies for Gaza, but it remains unclear whether it will challenge the Israeli blockade of sea routes to the territory.. Greek authorities said the ship was headed to the Egyptian port of Al Arish, and not for Gaza, as originally planned. But Youssef Sawani, executive director of the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, which has mounted the aid operation, said that the goal remained to unload the supplies in Gaza. Still, Mr. Sawani said that the ship, the Amalthea, would not seek confrontation with the Israelis and that it would seek another "appropriate" destination if the Israelis refused to give it access to Gaza. The Amalthea's trip, which is expected to last several days, comes more than a month after Israeli commandos killed nine Turks in a raid on a flotilla trying to break the Gaza blockade.

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Levin, Jan; Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R; 'Kumar, Prem G.' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Bass, Warren; Naranjo, Brian R; Anderson, Gerald C; Noble, David A.; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Kalmbach, Heather E; Katz, Jonathan D; Nossel, Suzanne F; Ostermeier, Amy A; NEA-ELA-DL; Struwe, Rebecca L; Kosa, Lauren S  
**Cc:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Grant, William K (USUN); Baily, Jess L; Nardi, Margaret H; Riley, Richard H  
**Sent:** Fri Jul 09 20:48:01 2010  
**Subject:** RE: New ship to Gaza? - Israeli letter to Security Council



B5

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 8:42 PM  
**To:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Levin, Jan; Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Bass, Warren; Naranjo, Brian R; Anderson, Gerald C; Noble, David A.; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Kalmbach, Heather E; Katz, Jonathan D; Nossel, Suzanne F; Ostermeier, Amy A  
**Cc:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Grant, William K (USUN); Baily, Jess L; Nardi, Margaret H  
**Subject:** RE: New ship to Gaza? - Israeli letter to Security Council

Looping in the Greece and Libya Desks, IO/HR, and IO/FO Suzanne Nossel and Jon Katz.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN)  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 8:35 PM  
**To:** Morrison, Andrew L; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Levin, Jan; Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Bass, Warren; Naranjo, Brian R; Anderson, Gerald C; Noble, David A.  
**Cc:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Grant, William K (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: New ship to Gaza? - Israeli letter to Security Council

No, the letter was not circulated until late (5:30 p.m.) so nothing yet. Has there been any DC action/reaction?

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Morrison, Andrew L  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 8:17 PM  
**To:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Levin, Jan; Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Bass, Warren; Naranjo, Brian R; Anderson, Gerald C; Noble, David A.  
**Cc:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Grant, William K (USUN)  
**Subject:** RE: New ship to Gaza? - Israeli letter to Security Council

Thanks. Just saw the JPost report. Has there been any reaction to the letter?

Photo by: Associated Press



## Israel asks UN to halt Libyan ship

By [JPOST.COM](http://JPOST.COM) STAFF AND REBECCA ANNA STOIL  
07/10/2010 01:07

Israel on Friday has requested the UN step up efforts in preventing the Gaza-bound Libyan ship from setting sail from Greece Friday.

In an in an official letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gabriela Shalev requested the international community use its power to halt the humanitarian aid ship, funded by an organization headed by the son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

"Israel calls upon the international community to exert its influence on the government of Libya to demonstrate responsibility and prevent the ship from departing to the Gaza Strip," the envoy requested.

"Israel reserves the right under international law to prevent this ship from violating the existing naval blockade on the Gaza Strip," Shalev told Ban Ki Moon.

The Moldova-flagged cargo ship Amalthea will leave no later than Saturday from the port of Lavrio, south of Athens, carrying 2,000 tons of food and medical supplies, officials from the organization told The Associated Press. There will be 27 people on board.

"The declared intentions of this mission are even more questionable and provocative given the recent measures taken by Israel to ensure the increase of humanitarian aid flowing into the Gaza Strip," Shalev stated in the letter.

Amalthea's journey to Gaza is expected to take up to 80 hours. Aid on the Amalthea included sacks of rice and sugar, and corn oil and olive paste mostly donated from Greek companies and charities, organizers said. The ship will also carry pro-Palestinian activists who are interested in breaking the blockade of Gaza.

The Israeli ambassador asked the UN and international community "to discourage their nationals from taking part in such action" and "expects the international community to ensure that this ship does not sail."

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Masilko, Barbara J (USUN)

**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 8:12 PM

**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Levin, Jan; Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R; Morrison, Andrew L; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Bass, Warren; Naranjo, Brian R

**Cc:** Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Grant, William K (USUN)

**Subject:** New ship to Gaza? - Israeli letter to Security Council

Attached is the letter from the Israeli Mission to the Security Council, circulated late this afternoon, expressing concern that a Moldovan ship plans to depart tomorrow from Greece for Gaza.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART B5,B6

I303

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 2:22 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,

**Paul Sutphin**  
Director  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
Room 6251, Department of State

(T) 202-647-3672 (F) 202-736-4461

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 1:48 PM  
**To:** Spera, Vincent D  
**Cc:** Patterson, Coney D; Silverman, Robert J; NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

[Redacted]

---

**From:** Spera, Vincent D  
**To:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Cc:** Patterson, Coney D  
**Sent:** Fri Jul 01 20:41:22 2011  
**Subject:** RE: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

[Redacted]

- Vinny

---

**From:** Eussen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 1:12 PM

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'melissa.h.russell@[redacted]'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah  
**Subject:** Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

B6

[redacted] and Tweets from participants confirm US Audacity of Hope returning to port.

---

**From:** Eussen, Matthew

**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; 'melissa.h.russell@[redacted]' <melissa.h.russell@[redacted]>; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah

**Sent:** Fri Jul 01 19:59:24 2011

**Subject:** Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

US to Gaza organizers post a prepared set of responses to boarding on website. It includes protests at Israeli missions in the U.S.

<http://ustogaza.org/emergency-support-actions/>

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**From:** Eussen, Matthew

**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; 'melissa.h.russell@[redacted]' <melissa.h.russell@[redacted]>; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah

**Sent:** Fri Jul 01 19:54:01 2011

**Subject:** Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

Israeli press report: <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=227498>

Twitter feed from participant says passengers on US Audacity of Hope preparing to resist Hellenic CG boarding [redacted] requesting US contact captain to urge he comply with CG's orders.

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**From:** Eussen, Matthew

**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; 'melissa.h.russell@[redacted]' <melissa.h.russell@[redacted]>; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Goldberger, Thomas H

**Sent:** Fri Jul 01 19:25:55 2011

**Subject:** Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

[redacted] confirmed to us that Greek authorities worked in coord with Israel to prevent departure of flotilla ships.

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T

**To:** Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan;



Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Eussen, Matthew; 'Melissa Russell' <melissa.h.russe[REDACTED]>; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Berns, David B

B6

**Sent:** Fri Jul 01 18:40:19 2011

**Subject:** RE: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

Further to the report AP report below, Embassy Athens POL is reporting that "The Audacity of Hope" is returning to the Port of Athens at the instruction of Greek authorities.

*FYI, I just spoke with Ops concerning the Audacity of Hope, the U.S. Gaza flotilla ship at Piraeus. News reports indicated it left port late this afternoon, and Ops called for a status update. I spoke with Joe Hicks, who tracked down some info, which I conveyed via telephone to Ops.*

The ship did leave port, without the permission of the Hellenic Coast Guard, which had forbidden the ship to depart due to questions of seaworthiness. The Greek authorities had instructed the vessel not to leave port.

At present, the Coast Guard has instructed the vessel to return to port, and "it is being returned to port," according to the info Joe had. It was NOT boarded by Hellenic Coast Guard. Greeks estimate 25 PAX, including media, on board.

JD.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Doutrich, Jack T

**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 11:00 AM

**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)

**Subject:** RE: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

Additional Media reports for July 1, 2011:

CNN Turk and NTV reporting that Greece is not letting Greek ships in the flotilla depart – on the scroll. Permission was not given to depart the port in Athens.

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Gaza flotilla boat departs from Greek port (AP)

ATHENS (AP) - Witnesses say a boat carrying several dozen Americans who seek to break Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip has set sail from a Greek port.

The boat dubbed "The Audacity of Hope" is part of a flotilla of nine vessels and several hundred activists who say they want to deliver aid to the Palestinian territory. The boat left the port of Perama on Friday afternoon. American activists have alleged that the administrative delays in their plans were caused by Israeli pressure on Greece. Israel has said it will thwart any effort to breach the sea blockade of Gaza.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Doutrich, Jack T

**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 10:09 AM

**To:** Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)

**Subject:** Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

### **Another Mysterious Malfunction**

*Yisrael Hayom July 1, 2011 (p.2)* by Shlomo Cezana et al -- [...] [O]n Thursday Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu addressed the issue of the expected flotilla to Gaza and said that "sometimes, we not only need to deflect our enemies' physical attacks, but also deflect the attack on our right to protect ourselves." At the end of the IAF flight school graduation ceremony in Hatzetim, Netanyahu thanked the many world leaders who spoke out and acted against in recent days "against the provocation flotilla," first and foremost the American and European leaders, and the secretary general of the United Nations. The prime minister also commended his Greek counterpart George Papandreou, who is closely cooperating with Israel in coordinating the moves related to the flotilla. "Israel has the full right to act against the attempts to legitimize the smuggling of missiles, rockets and other weaponry for Hamas's terror enclave," Netanyahu said, in what could be understood as a hint to the damage some of the flotilla's vessels experienced.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak predicted on Thursday that the current flotilla would be calmer than the previous one, but stressed that Israel was bracing for any possible scenario. "The Marmara is absent and the IHH is absent, but nobody can predict that there won't be a small group, or that one of the ships will try to resist forcefully, or a more extreme case of somebody who brought weapons and will try to use them," Barak said. He added that the IDF's working premise was that they were liable to face extremely violent resistance, and even use of arms.

Barak threatened that a ship from which shots would be fired at IDF soldiers would be defined as a "terror ship." The implication would be a different attitude of the soldiers, in other words, the exercise of different procedures and other modes of action. "In such a case, things are simpler and more clear-cut. The soldiers will have an easier time dealing with it, since if they are fired at, this is no longer a ship of activists to them," security sources said on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said on Thursday that there is a wall-to-wall coalition in the world against the flotilla, but "there are marginal groups, anarchists and extreme Islamic groups, that will try to harm Israel by the flotilla. There are not coming to help the residents of Gaza, but to confront the State of Israel and create a provocation against it. As a sovereign state we can't allow anyone to harm our sovereignty. No self-respecting state would let that happen."

Information Minister Yuli Edelstein said on Thursday that the fact the flotilla was joined by Amin Abu Rashid, who is in charge of raising money for Hamas's terror activities, "is clear-cut evidence that this is not a humanitarian flotilla, but a covert flotilla for provocation and terror activity."

Edelstein added that in the previous flotilla, Rashid spoke of his intention to confront IDF soldiers, which should be taken into account as his intention for the current flotilla as well.

The US State Department on Thursday addressed the claims of deliberate sabotage to the ships, and the deputy spokesman said that while not justifying sabotage in any way, the flotilla itself is a bad idea that endangers the passengers.

Opposition Chairwoman Tzippi Livni met on Thursday with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York, and called to continue the delegitimization of Hamas. "Whoever wants to help citizens doesn't do so by severe and unnecessary provocations like the planned flotilla. The international community should convey a clear message to this flotilla and those that will come, that such provocations are unacceptable and should be prevented and stopped," Livni said.

### The Activists are Splitting

Yedioth Ahronoth July 1, 2011 (p. 5) by Yossi Yehoshua, Menahem Ganz and Itamar Eichner -- Intelligence information that has reached Israel indicates that a clash is developing between two groups of activists on the planned flotilla. The argument is over the departure date for Gaza and on willingness to promise not to employ violence in an encounter with the IDF.

Peace activists groups say that they worked on organizing the flotilla for a year and that they should wait until all the malfunctions are corrected. In contrast, the extremist group of Arabs, from different countries, is demanding to leave now with the ships that are operational (this is eight out of ten ships). Another argument is over the non-consent of the Arabs to sign forms obligating them not to use weapons and their extremist statements about their wanting to hurt IDF soldiers. [...]

...Yediot reported that Israel has obtained intelligence about Arab extremists who will not commit themselves to renounce violence and who wish for the flotilla to depart now. Yediot quoted a Dutch journalist who was supposed to join the flotilla as saying that he and other journalists and crew were leaving it because they had lost faith in the operation's organizers.

### ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report – July 1, 2011

\* Flotilla: The flotilla to Gaza might be further delayed. Flotilla initiator Greta Berlin estimated it would set sail in five days after the damage to the vessels is repaired. Flotilla organizers claim that Israel sabotaged the ships.

### ISRAEL RADIO July 1, 2011

GRETA BERLIN, FOUNDER OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT AND ONE OF THE PROMINENT ORGANISORS OF THE FLOTILLA TOLD IL RADIO OVERNIGHT THAT SHE IS ON BOARD THE VESSEL "AUDACITY OF HOPE" ANCHORED IN PIRAEUS, "WAITING FOR THE FINAL PAPERWORK TO RELEASE OUR BOAT."

#### BERLIN TOLD IL RADIO:

"PEOPLE KEEP ASSURING US WE HAVE ONE MORE THING TO FILL OUT – ONE MORE THING TO DO. THE GREEK BUREAUCRACY IS DOING ITS BEST TO PREVENT US FROM GOING BUT WE'RE PRETTY DETERMINED. WE'VE SAID WE'RE GOING TO GO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. I THINK THAT OUR DROP-DEAD DEADLINE IS GOING TO BE JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>. I REALISE THAT THAT IS 2 WEEKS LATER THAN WE SAID WE WERE GOING TO GO, BUT I'VE DONE A LOT OF THESE AND WE ARE NEVER ON TIME."

"SOMETIMES WE FEEL THAT WE ARE THE BESIEGED PEOPLE AS WELL AS THE PALESTINIANS OF GAZA. ISRAEL IS DOING ITS VERY VERY BEST TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T GET OUT OF PORT BECAUSE ONCE WE GET OUT OF PORT – AND WE WILL – THEY ARE NOW FACED WITH WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO WITH US. SO THEY WOULD RATHER SABOTAGE OUR BOATS, TIE US UP IN PAPERWORK AND PREVENT US FROM GOING. IT'S DIFFICULT FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THAT IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE OUR DETERMINATION."

**Jerusalem Political-Security Update – July 1, 2011**

PM Netanyahu said Thursday [ June 30] Israel is fully entitled to try to **stop an upcoming flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip in an attempt** to break Israel's naval blockade on the Strip. The Prime Minister said Israel has the full right to operate against efforts to smuggle missiles, rockets and other weapons to Hamas' terror enclave. PM Netanyahu expressed his gratitude to many world leaders who expressed themselves and acted against this provocation flotilla, including the US, Europe, the UN secretary general and Greek Prime Minister. Hamas is a ruthless enemy who maliciously harms the Israeli cities and children and holds Gilad Shalit captive against all humane standards, PM Netanyahu added at a graduating ceremony for Israel Air Force pilots.

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YNET July 1, 2011

**Gazans unimpressed by flotilla (abridged)**

Israeli claims over futility of flotilla receive reinforcement from surprising direction – Gazan businessmen who say it isn't imports that are problem, it's exports. 'Gaza doesn't need any more humanitarian aid,' says Gisha movement director

Israel has been claiming for quite some time that the desire to break through the blockade on the Gaza Strip is devoid of any basis since it is possible to transfer essential goods to Gaza through the monitored crossings. This claim received unexpected reinforcement on Thursday from none other than the Gazans themselves.

**In a conversation with Ynet Palestinian businessmen expressed veiled criticism saying that the flotilla organizers were missing their target since the main problem wasn't getting goods into Gaza – but exporting them outside of the strip.**

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

I314

**Law, Rosemary C**

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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 PART  
B6

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.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

J; Cizek, Michael; Schellhammer, Michael W

**Subject:** DEPARTURE OF THE JULIA: Cyprus Marine Police Say It's Left Lebanon for Cyprus

The Cyprus Marine Police have just informed us that the JULIA has departed Lebanon and declared Cyprus as its next destination. They did not have further info on passengers/crew or follow-on destination. The JULIA did not indicate which port in Cyprus it intended to use. The Cyprus Marine Police are watching for it closely and will let us know if they learn more.

Can Embassy Beirut confirm that it has indeed departed Lebanon?

Thanks,  
Jonathan

---

**From:** Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

**Sent:** Sunday, June 20, 2010 8:58 AM

**To:** 'Shapiro, Daniel B.'; 'Hajjar, Hagar H.'; Sievers, Marc J; Cunningham, James B; Lawson, Christine M; Catalano, Elisa; Connelly, Maura; Champaine, Nicole D; Riley, Richard H; Evans, Jennifer R; Urbancic, Frank C; Cohen, Jonathan R; Walles, Jacob; Schlicher, Ronald L; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Holmstrom, Todd C

**Cc:** Sison, Michele J; Cornforth, Jeremy A; Bauer, Paul (Beirut); Lantz, James V; SES-O; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; Jackson, Mollie J

**Subject:** MORE INFO ON GOL BLOCKING DEPARTURE OF THE JULIA

B6

There are a couple of follow-up pieces of information this morning on the blocking of the JULIA:

[redacted] contacted our DATT again last night with some background. [redacted] reported that the JULIA had been stuck in some kind of legal limbo that had left it floating in Tripoli harbor for an extended period of time. After Hassan Nasrallah's June 4 speech calling for more ships to challenge the blockade on Gaza, someone [redacted] speculates it may have been [redacted] paid the money needed to deliver the ship out of its legal limbo. Since then, the ship has remained outside the port of Tripoli, a few hundred meters off the breakwater. It asked for authorization from the Tripoli port authority to enter the port and go pierside to be loaded with equipment for Gaza. To do so, it must pay an additional \$80,000 in fees, which [redacted] says the promoters of the venture don't appear to have been able to get their hands on yet. [redacted] who was not directly involved in last night's GOL action, reported that the key decision yesterday evening was the blocking of the ship's entry into Tripoli port (this tracks with what [redacted] told the AMB).

[redacted] reported further than he talked to [redacted] [redacted] said that he was dealing with the affair in coordination with the prime minister, defense minister and LAF commander Gen Kahwaji. [redacted] told [redacted] that so far the matter was not a military issue, but a political one (which [redacted] agreed with). [redacted] concluded that as of last night the JULIA was outside the port, had to pay \$80,000 to be granted authorization to enter, was causing embarrassment to everyone, and that "everyone is praying that the ship or [redacted] shall neither have the money nor the will to proceed forward with that stupid enterprise." He also noted that the ship is in bad condition from a technical standpoint. It hasn't been at sea for a number of years because of the pending judicial problem. [redacted] told [redacted] that, among other things, JULIA has problems with its onboard power generators.

-- The AMB also received a text message from [redacted] late last night. It said: "Until now, no sail. We are diluting the issue. I think that it will not sail."

---

Thomas F. Daughton  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy - Beirut, Lebanon  
Tel: [961] 454-2600

I315

Law, Rosemary C

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**From:** Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:21 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: DG Statement to the Media

RELEASED IN PART B6

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**From:** Dan Arbell [mailto:dcm@washington.mfa.gov.il]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 9:07 AM  
**To:** Connelly, Maura  
**Subject:** Fwd: DG Statement to the Media

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Ushpiz Alon <Alon.Ushpiz@mfa.gov.il>  
**Date:** 4 יוני 2010 09:07:20 GMT-04:00  
**To:** Arbell Dan <Dan.Arbell@mfa.gov.il>  
**Cc:** [redacted] "Lior Weintraub" <Emb-mng@washington.mfa.gov.il>  
**Subject:** FW: DG Statement to the Media

B6

---

**From:** Benjamin Eliav  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:04 PM  
**To:** Caspi Yigal; Palmor Yigal; Levy Yossef; Shacham Chaim; Zohar-Zonshine Daniel; Sztulman Ilan; David Andy  
**Cc:** Ushpiz Alon; Cohen Gilad; Weitzman Ilan; Barak Rafael; Miller Brett Jonathan; Kursh Dana  
**Subject:** DG Statement to the Media  
**Importance:** High

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

להלן הצהרת המנכ"ל לתקשורת, מלפני מספר דקות:

I want to once again deliver a message that has been delivered in both public and private channels to the Rachel Corie ship heading toward Gaza:

"We have no desire for a confrontation. We have no desire to board the ship. If the ship decides to sail the port of Ashdod, then we will ensure its safe arrival and will not board it.

Israel is prepared to receive the ship and to offload its contents.

After an inspection to ensure that no weapons and war materials are on board, we are prepared to deliver all of the goods to Gaza.

Representative of the people on board and relevant NGOs are welcome to accompany the goods to the crossings.

We will work with the UN and international organizations to ensure that all the goods are used for the benefit of the people of Gaza."

עד כאן, לשימושכם המייד.

**Eliav Benjamin**

*Advisor to the Director General*

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

*Tel: +972-2-5303968*

*Mobile: +972-50-6203506*

*Mobile: +972-52-2877137*

*Fax: +972-2-5303704*

*Email: [Eliav.Benjamin@mfa.gov.il](mailto:Eliav.Benjamin@mfa.gov.il)*

*[Http://www.mfa.gov.il](http://www.mfa.gov.il)*



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I316

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART NR,B6

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 9:32 AM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Giaouque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Lawson, Christine M  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Latest from Beirut CONS. They have not been able to confirm any Amcit participation yet. They are continuing to press on this issue and are also reporting Sunday as the soonest the boat will sail.

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 9:27 AM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Walker, Carolee B  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Apparently Sunday would be the earliest the ship would sail – if it sails.

**From:** Jackson, Mollie J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Hosking, Erika L  
**Subject:** RE: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Hi Elisa-

We have not been able to obtain any biodata or confirm that there are any Americans on board. We only know what we've seen in the media, which is mention of the four AmCit nuns and possibly an AmCit journalist. Our POL section has been working extensively with the GOL to get the nationalities and any biodata for those on the potential manifest, so far without success. CA was able to confirm that [redacted] who was originally reported as being part of the flotilla, is in the U.S. and is not expected to join the flotilla.

B6

I've gotten permission to share with you on the unclass side that, as far as we are being told, Sunday would be the earliest possible date that the women's ship would sail.

Our latest reporting cable should be going out shortly. I'm sorry I don't have more specific information at this point... Mollie

Privacy/PII  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 4:05 PM  
**To:** Jackson, Mollie J; Hosking, Erika L  
**Subject:** RE: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Is there anything you can share with me not on the high side? Difficult to access classified from here. Specifically, I'm looking for Amcit biodata and date any ships carrying Amcits will set sail from Lebanon (or elsewhere). Thanks, elisa

---

**From:** Jackson, Mollie J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 3:54 PM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** RE: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Elisa-

Erika Hosking, our ACS chief, is forwarding you a message on a high side, with some of the reporting our POL section has been doing on this issue. The latest report is from last night. I think tonight's report will be sent out as an actual cable.

Mollie

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Friday, June 18, 2010 3:09 PM  
**To:** Greene, Alden S; Abouzeid, Wahib G; Jackson, Mollie J; Richter, Kim B; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut); Shampaine, Nicole D; Lawson, Christine M; Sison, Michele J; Cornforth, Jeremy A  
**Cc:** Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Tanus, George; Wetherbee, Amos A; Nobel, Natanya D; Plott, Susan M  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Dear Colleagues:

We have received unconfirmed reports that four Amcit nuns may be on an upcoming ship of women only sailing from Lebanon in an attempt to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza. Are you aware of this? If so, can you provide further information: names, biodata, where they will sail from, when, etc?

Media reports (thus far, Arabic-only, for example <http://daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/153074>) state that the women-only ship, the Mariam, will be comprised of 50 women, of whom 30 are Lebanese and 20 are foreigners. They will be taking medical supplies and plan to sail "as soon as possible."

We look forward to your response,

---

**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: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

---

**From:** Otto, Jeffrey L  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Fri Jun 18 12:52:31 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Andy,

I'm forwarding this email from The Israel Project because of the reference to four AmCits (highlighted) that may be on the Miriam women's flotilla from Lebanon.

Regards,

-Jeff-

Jeffrey L. Otto  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv

---

**From:** Shai Oseran [mailto:shaio@theisraelproject.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 17, 2010 6:21 PM  
**To:** Eli Ovits  
**Subject:** Background information on some of the upcoming flotillas

Please find below some background information (and links to sources) on some of the upcoming flotillas from Lebanon and Iran – prepared by TIP's research team for your reference.

We will be happy to help facilitate interviews with experts on these subjects.

**Eli Ovits**  
Director of Communications  
The Israel Project - Israel Office  
T: +972 (0)2 623 6427  
C: +972 (0)54 807 9093  
F: +972 (0)2 623 6439  
[www.theisraelproject.org](http://www.theisraelproject.org)

## Journalists' flotilla

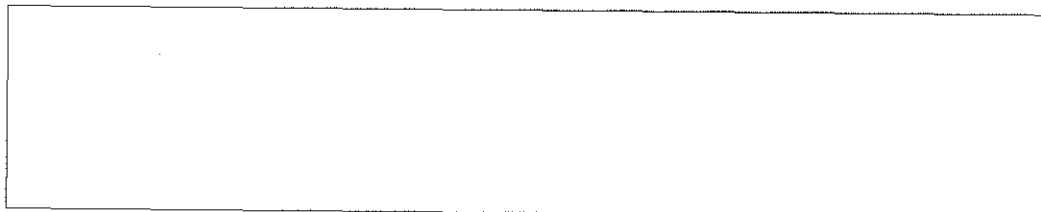
The ship is organized by Free Palestine, an organization headed by Yasser Qoshlok, who is also behind the *Miriam*, and by a Beirut-based group calling themselves "Journalists Without Bounds" and "Reporters Without Bounds" and "Journalists Without Limits" - not to be confused with Reporters Without Borders/Reporters Sans Frontières, the respected international NGO based in Paris. The Beirut-based group has a Facebook page and a blog:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=133472209999269&v=info#!/group.php?gid=133472209999269&v=info>

<http://journaliststogaza.wordpress.com/>

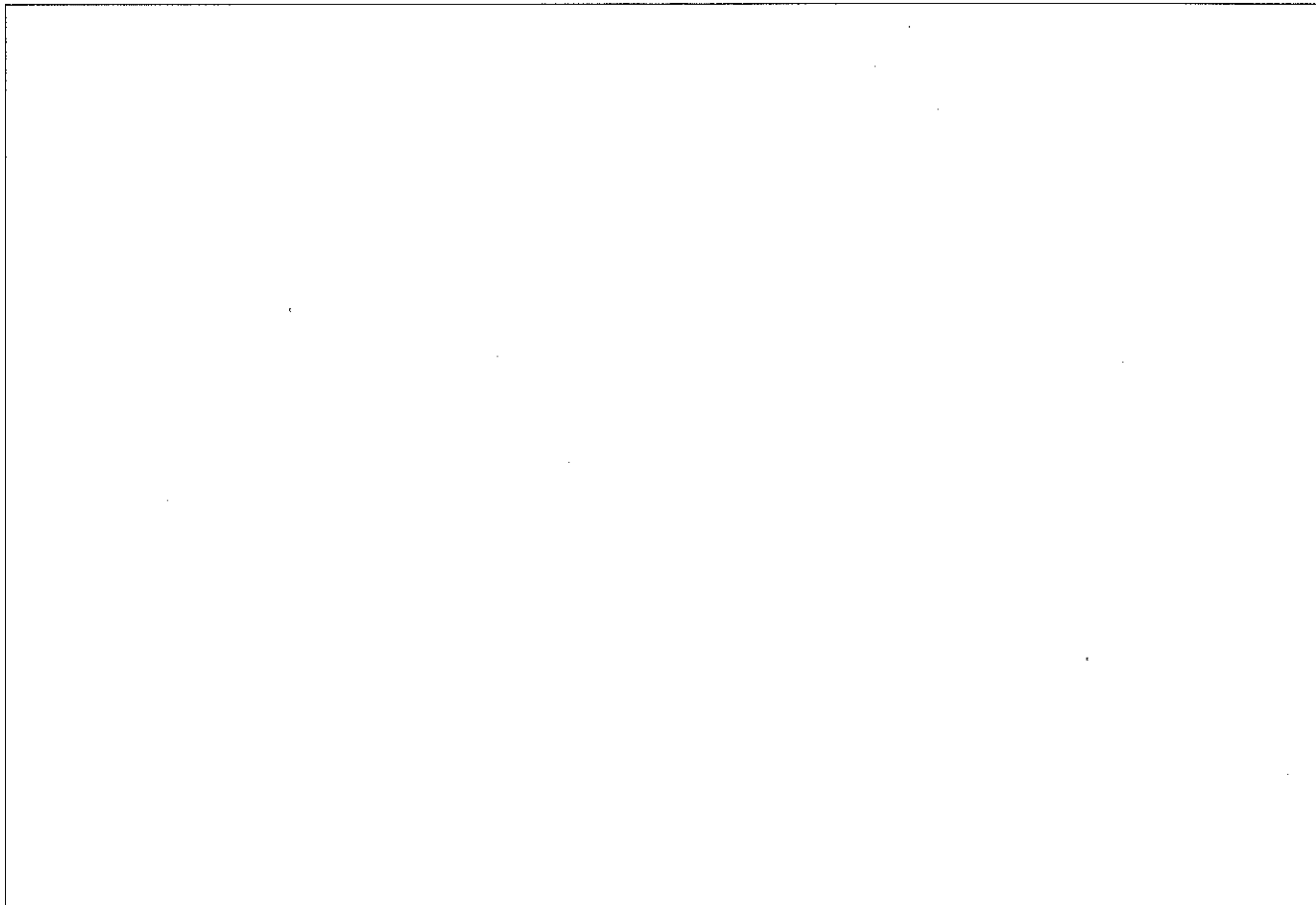
The organizers claim they will have 50 reporters on the ship, out of 225 reporters who applied to come along. The date of departure and the names of the people who will be on the ship remain unclear - apparently this is a policy decision.

With the exception of one reporter who wrote he applied to join, we have not seen any information about the participants.



NR

NR

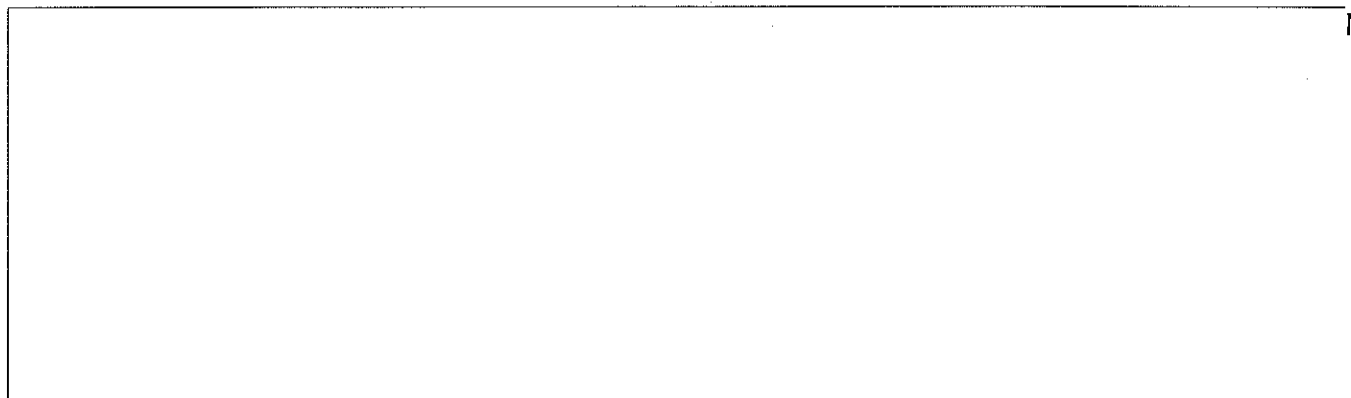


## **Women flotilla**

### **Relations to Hezbollah and Syria:**

Samer al-Hajj will lead the *Miriam*. She is a former journalist and best known for being the wife of Ali al-Hajj, a former general in the Lebanese security forces implicated in the assassination of Rafik al-Hariri. Samer al-Hajj has been the public face of the *Miriam*. She has given many interviews in the past few days, including one that appeared on the Hezbollah website.

<http://www.alintiqad.com/essaydetails.php?eid=33463&cid=76>



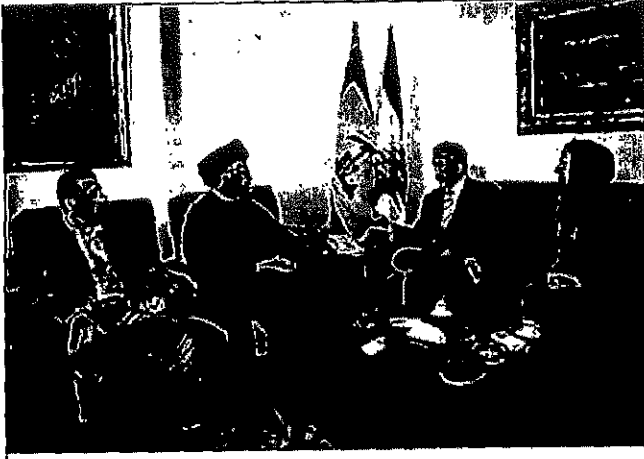
NR

[http://www.assafir.com/Article.aspx?EditionId=1548&ChannelId=36053&ArticleId=2433&Author =](http://www.assafir.com/Article.aspx?EditionId=1548&ChannelId=36053&ArticleId=2433&Author=)

Even though Samer al-Hajj and Yasser Kashiak say the ship has no connection to Hezbollah or Hamas, she said in her last interview that Nasrallah's campaign to lift the siege is "something that is motivating everyone"

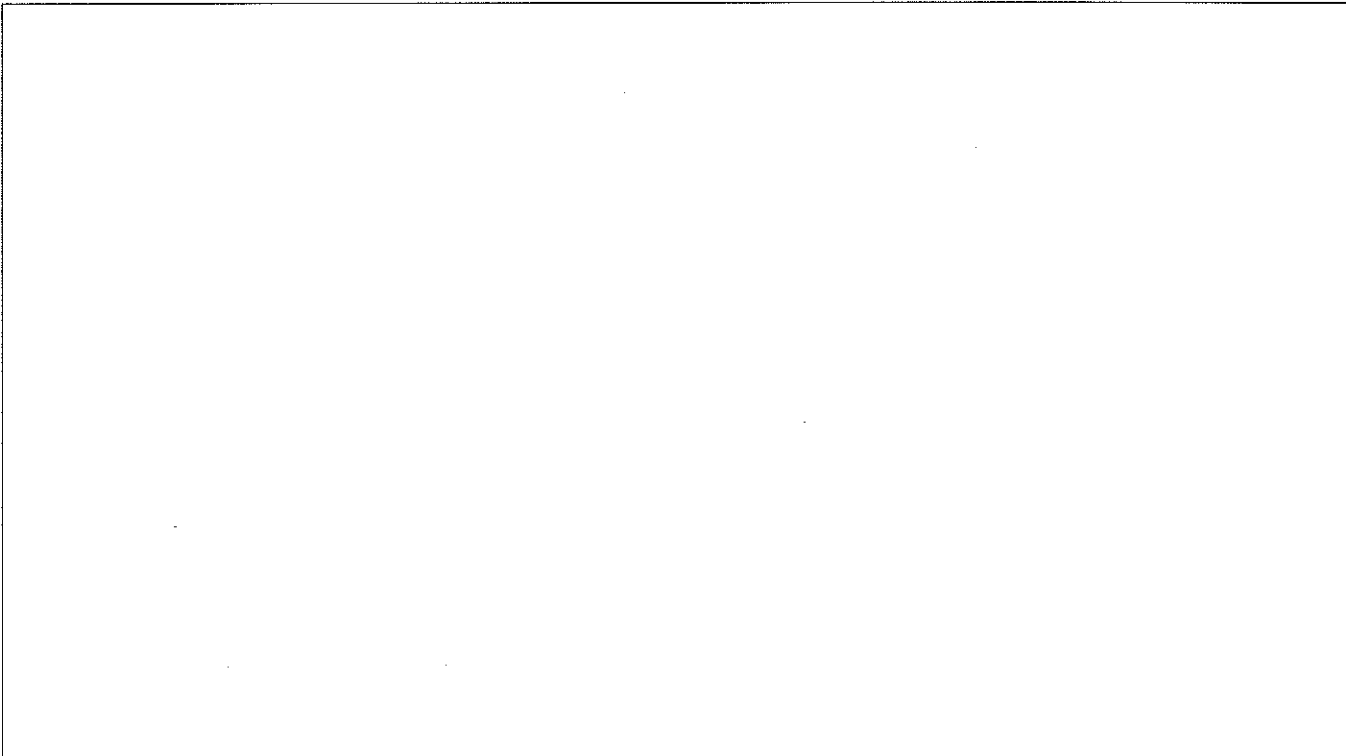
<http://daralhayat.com/portalarticlendam/153074>

The organizers say the ship will also be carrying four American nuns.



*From right to left: Samer al-Hajj; Ali al-Hajj (her husband); Hassan Nasrallah (the Secretary General of Hezbollah);*

*Wafik Safa (head of the Hezbollah coordination and liaison committee, responsible for the negotiations to release murdered Israeli soldiers Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev*



NR

NR



### **The Iranian flotilla:**

One of the Ayatollahs saying it is a privilege to die on the way to Gaza

<http://www.irna.ir/AR/View/FullStory/?NewsId=1173464&IdLanguage=2>

The former head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard saying he is willing to go to Gaza the minute they will need him

<http://arabic.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=8903260150>

Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 5204 (20100617)

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>



I335

RELEASED IN PART B6

Law, Rosemary C

From: Grubb, Jason B  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 5:39 AM  
 To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted]@osd.mil'; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]@js.pentagon.mil'; [redacted]@osd.mil'; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]@eucom.mil'; [redacted]@js.pentagon.mil'; [redacted]@osd.mil'; 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; 'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil'; Rudman, Mara; Waters, John R; Pelton, Erin; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan  
 Subject: FW: News Updates on the Flotilla

B6

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

From: Landau, Avida  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:25 PM  
 To: Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
 Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
 Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Channel 1: new footage from on board the Marmara will be released shortly. Report saying that protesters used molotov cocktails against the soldiers and soldiers being thrown from the upper decks to lower decks in acts of lynch.  
 State of alert raised throughout israel, including in Gaza vicinity, Wadi Ara region, and within prison service for fear of riots.

Avida Landau  
 Media specialist  
 Press section  
 U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
 Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
 Fax: 972-3-5103828  
 Mobile: 972-57-420-6829  
 E-mail: landauax@state.gov

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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

From: Harutunian, Ruben  
 To: Landau, Avida; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
 Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
 Sent: Mon May 31 11:40:01 2010  
 Subject: RE: News Updates on the Flotilla

Just spoke with [redacted] at the IDF:

--confirmed live fire on the Israeli Navy troops as they boarded the Free Gaza vessel; --no way to indicate when the boats will arrive at Ashdod Port, as last night's events have delayed the voyage; --this was a clear act of a pre-planned lynch, committed by those on board the flotilla vessels; --large gap between the stated mission of the voyage and its outcomes; --Israeli Navy forces were under strict orders not to confront passengers; --last night, the vessels were contacted once again with the offer to divert goods to Ashdod, but were met with a refusal and curses

Ruben

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

From: Landau, Avida  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:20 AM  
To: Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

From Ayalon press conference:

We are sorry for any loss of life.

This was not a humanitarian mission

We offered them to help transfer the goods to gaza but they refused.

They said their intent was to break the blockade on gaza and not a humanitarian mission.

Allowing these ships to get to gaza would have opened a channel to gaza for smuggling of weapons and other banned goods and would have caused more bloodshed.

The organizers did not heed the calls to peacefully follow them to port.

No sovereign country would have tolerated such violence.

We are calling all countries involved to do everything in their power to calm the situation and bring to a peaceful end.

The organizing body of this flotilla is well known to have ties with Hamas and they had the interest to provoke violence.

Avida Landau  
Media specialist  
Press section  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
Fax:972-3-5103828  
Mobile:972-57-420-6829  
E-mail:landauax@state.gov

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

From: Harutunian, Ruben  
To: Landau, Avida; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:08:21 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Live on bbc

Ruben Harutunian  
Deputy Press Attche  
Office of Public Affairs  
United States Embassy Tel Aviv

Tel: (057)4206815

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

From: Landau, Avida  
To: Levin, Jan; Harutunian, Ruben; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:06:38 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Ayalon press conference just started

Avida Landau  
Media specialist  
Press section  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
Fax:972-3-5103828  
Mobile:972-57-420-6829  
E-mail:landauax@state.gov

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

From: Levin, Jan  
To: Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:52:12 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

All: I will accompany the Ambassador to the 12 noon MFA briefing and will be out of touch during the briefing. If there are updates after 12, please cc: Jason Grubb and he will update the larger list.

Thanks.

Jan

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

From: Landau, Avida  
To: Harutunian, Ruben; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:30:44 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Avi Bnayahu IDF spokesman said that some of those killed had taken weapons from the soldiers and fired live rounds at the soldiers. He is saying the soldiers were lynched and were in danger for their lives.

Body count: 10 protesters dead  
10 soldiers wounded

Avida Landau  
Media specialist  
Press section  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
Fax:972-3-5103828

Mobile:972-57-420-6829  
E-mail:landauax@state.gov

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

From: Harutunian, Ruben  
To: Landau, Avida; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:24:18 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Mark Regev on BBC insisting that the Israeli Naval Forces came under live fire from on-board the intercepted vessel.

Ruben Harutunian  
Deputy Press Attche  
Office of Public Affairs  
United States Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: (057)4206815

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

From: Landau, Avida  
To: Harutunian, Ruben; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:19:40 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

is saying that the soldiers were met with fierce opposition, including with knives, spikes, pipes, and other blunt and sharp objects.

B6

Avida Landau  
Media specialist  
Press section  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
Fax:972-3-5103828  
Mobile:972-57-420-6829  
E-mail:landauax@state.gov

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

From: Harutunian, Ruben  
To: Landau, Avida; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:16:52 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Mark Regev is on BBC right now as well

Ruben Harutunian  
Deputy Press Attche  
Office of Public Affairs  
United States Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: (057)4206815

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

From: Landau, Avida

To: Feldboy, Yael; Harutunian, Ruben; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:15:48 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Avital is on TV now giving a statement

Avida Landau  
Media specialist  
Press section  
U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
Fax: 972-3-5103828  
Mobile: 972-57-420-6829  
E-mail: landauax@state.gov

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

From: Feldboy, Yael  
To: Harutunian, Ruben; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; Landau, Avida  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:13:44 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

[REDACTED]

B6

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

From: Harutunian, Ruben  
To: Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; Landau, Avida  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:08:13 2010  
Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Yael,

I'd like to speak with the IDF's spokesman, to get her sense of what's happened. Could you please pass me the number for [REDACTED] or whoever else you think is more appropriate. Thanks!  
Ruben

Ruben Harutunian  
Deputy Press Attche  
Office of Public Affairs  
United States Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: (057)4206815

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

From: Feldboy, Yael  
To: Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; Harutunian, Ruben; Landau, Avida  
Cc: Levin, Jan  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:03:39 2010  
Subject: News Updates on the Flotilla

All,

At the request of Jan Levin and the approval of Bonnie Gutman we'll assist POL on updates. As of 1100, Avida has agreed to be on duty.

As of now, Jan has requested to update her by phone. Preferably at her home phone. Her contact no; 0774821574 H; [redacted]  
[redacted] will also update all of us by email on dramatic developments if take place.  
Have a nice day, where ever you are scattered... Y.

B6

RELEASED IN PART B6

I336

Law, Rosemary C

From: Grubb, Jason B  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 6:13 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; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Rudman, Mara; Waters, John R; Pelton, Erin; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv)  
 Subject: FW: News Updates on the Flotilla

Fyi...

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

From: Harutunian, Ruben  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:12 PM  
 To: Landau, Avida; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
 Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
 Subject: RE: News Updates on the Flotilla

BBC just reporting that Turkey is recalling its ambassador to Israel.

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

From: Landau, Avida  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:59 PM  
 To: Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J  
 Cc: Grubb, Jason B; Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J  
 Subject: Re: News Updates on the Flotilla

Channel 10: anti-terror bureau issued a travel warning for Israelis who are in Turkey to stay indoors and keep out of the streets.

Avida Landau  
 Media specialist  
 Press section  
 U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv  
 Tel: 972-3-5103822/6  
 Fax:972-3-5103828  
 Mobile:972-57-420-6829  
 E-mail:landauax@state.gov

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B6

I339

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 9:13 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla Fundraising--Dublin Daily - August 31, 2010  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg  
**Categories:** Working

From Embassy Dublin – still just in a fund raising mode.

**Fundraising for Second Gaza Flotilla**

(U) A coalition of seven pro-Palestinian groups in Ireland has launched a fundraising campaign to purchase an Irish ship to participate in the planned "Second Freedom Flotilla" to Gaza. [redacted] an Irish campaigner who was one of the eight Irish citizens who travelled with the first flotilla in May, is spearheading the project. [redacted] said the coalition is raising funds to buy a boat, fuel, and hire a legal team. Up to 50 Irish citizens are expected to take part in the new flotilla. An Irish-funded vessel, the Rachel Corrie, was among those in the May flotilla.

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Garrigus, Ashley  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2010 8:52 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Fundraising--Dublin Daily - August 31, 2010

Wesley,

I am covering the Ireland desk in Jason Hackworth's absence and he asked that I send today's 'Dublin Daily' to you, highlighting the "Fundraising for Second Gaza Flotilla".

Best,

*Ashley Garrigus*

U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs  
Office of Western Europe, Rm 5218  
Phone: 202-647-5687  
Email: [GarrigusA@state.gov](mailto:GarrigusA@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



RELEASED IN PART B6

I341

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:36 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest  
**Attachments:** CARGO MANIFEST img090.jpg; PASSENGERS ON THE MV RACHEL CORRIE.doc; UN Certification Team request.pdf

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:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:32 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**CC:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: MV Rachel Corrie Manifest

B6

Dear Wesley,

Thank you for calling me back yesterday. As discussed, and with the permission of [redacted] 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, [redacted] weighing the possibility of going.

I am copying [redacted] 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 [redacted] 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 [redacted] by phone at the following numbers:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[Redacted]

Sincerely,  
Donna  
Mobile: 650 440-9667

P.S. I am copying [Redacted] on this message. If you are having difficulty reaching me please give [Redacted] a call at [Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

[Redacted] – 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.

B6

Wes

**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 B6

I362

**Law, Rosemary C**

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

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

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B6

I 363.

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 10:08 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Rachel Corrie -- FYI from Dublin

FYI

---

**From:** Hackworth, Jason K  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 20, 2010 9:42 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** Rachel Corrie -- FYI from Dublin

**Flotilla Boat to Be Released**

(U) An Irish-owned ship that took part in the flotilla attempt to break the blockade of Gaza should be released within the next two weeks. The Rachel Corrie is the only remaining ship held by Israel. The ship's first mate, [redacted] was informed by authorities at the Port of Ashod of the procedures necessary to return the ship. Irish activists aboard the ship during its first attempt to break the blockade are now planning for another try in the next few months. B6

(SBU) Comment: Irish public opinion is strongly in favor of ending the Gaza blockade of Gaza. Many Irish tend to view the Israel/Palestine situation through their own troubled history with the British, siding philosophically with the Palestinians. End comment.

---

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)

AS OUTLINED IN THE PROVISIONS OF E.O. 12958 THIS E-MAIL IS UNCLASSIFIED

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5

I 3lelo

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:41 PM  
**To:** Connelly, Maura  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Below is L/OES's legal views regarding how we might deal with Challenger II. Highlighted portion describes the option we're currently looking at.

Jim

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:24 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Maxwell, Raymond D; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta; Polizzotto, Susan; 'Frederick.J.Kenney@uscg.mil'; Darr, Charles  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

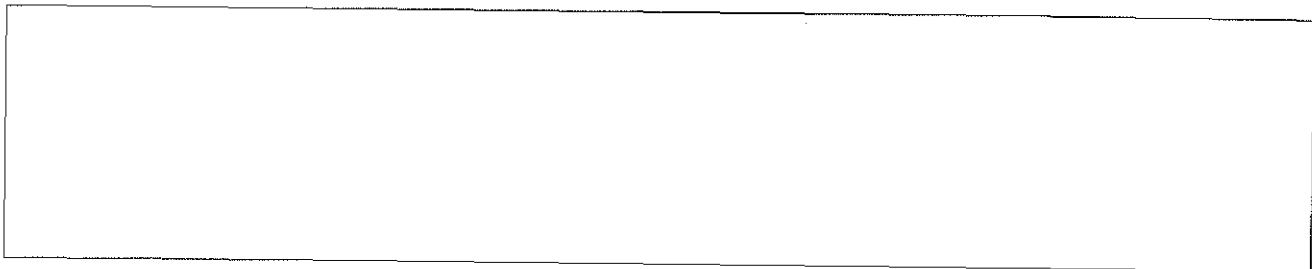
Pasted below are some factual/legal bullets, which L/FO provided informally to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor....some of which respond to questions posed in the email string below. Also, I'm copying USCG colleagues, since some of the legal angles are in their lane (and they are of course invited to correct or amplify, as appropriate).

Thanks,  
Kevin

**Factual Issues**

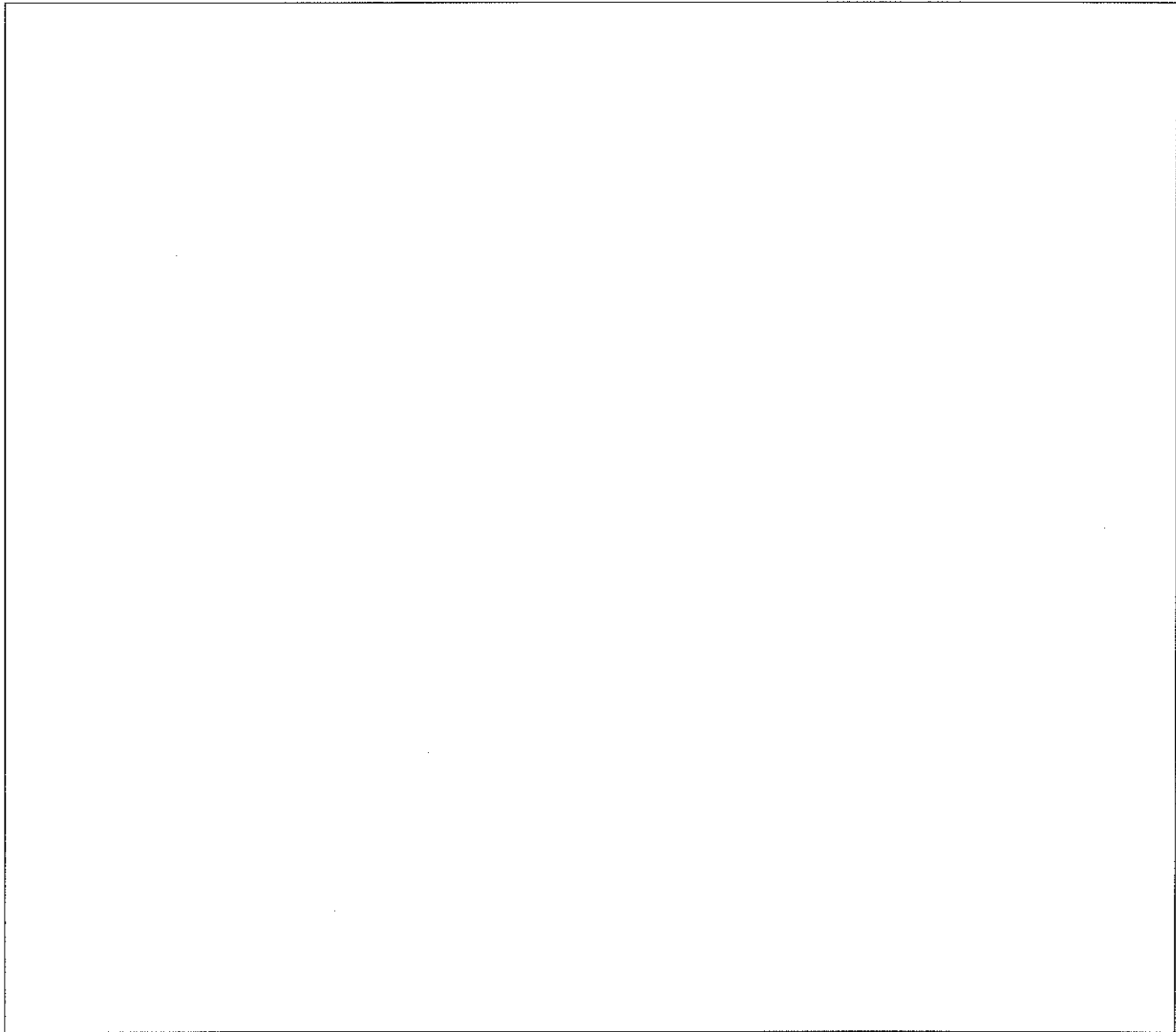
- There are two vessels – Challenger I and Challenger II – that have been involved in this incident and are confirmed as U.S. flagged yachts (Delaware registered). Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel.
- Although the facts are uncertain, Challenger II is believed to be currently in the Cypriot port of Limassol, with the likely intent of breaching the blockade in the coming days. Cypriot authorities have stated that they are not allowing ships to depart for the blockade.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to have any AMCITs on board. As a pleasure craft, it is not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes it harder to track its location.

**Legal issues and possible courses of action**



B5

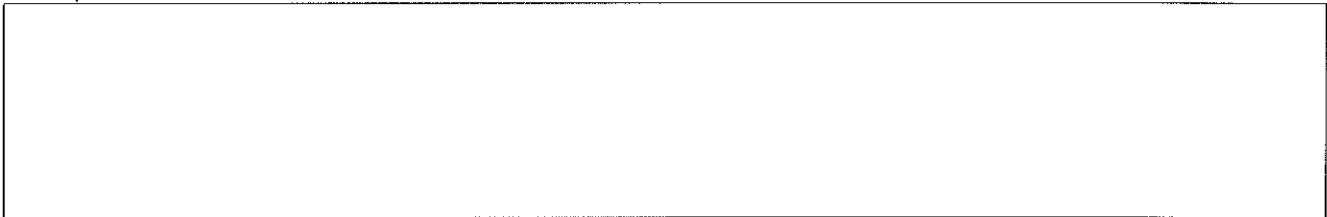
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:12 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Maxwell, Raymond D; 'Cook, Kevin RDML'; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta; Polizzotto, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Kevin,



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)

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Sindle, James M; Maxwell, Raymond D; 'Cook, Kevin RDML'; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

---

**From:** Maggi, Robert W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:49 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Sindle, James M; Maxwell, Raymond D; Cook, Kevin RDML; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Kevin, thanks!

[Redacted]

Best  
turk

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:36 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Polizzotto, Susan; Warner, Trent (OES-OPA); Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

[Redacted]

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

B5



Thanks,



Kevin

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B5,1.4(D)

1367

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 12:03 PM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla

**Categories:** Working

[Redacted]

B5

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2036/06/24

**From:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2011 11:33 AM  
**To:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Cc:** Goodman, Ian A; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
**Subject:** FW: FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Chris -

1)  
2)  
3)  
[Redacted]

Regards,  
Dan L.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Daniel Lawton, Political Counselor, Embassy Athens  
**Reason:** 1.4b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2036/06/24

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

I 369

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 10:58 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla Follow-up Two  
**Attachments:** IIR 6 120 0022 11 - IDENTIFICATION OF SHIPS PARTICIPATING IN THE.doc

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP

**Categories:** Working

The attachment contains the names and locations of the flotilla ships. Chris

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** MS  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/28

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**From:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 10:47 AM  
**To:** Snipes, Christopher K; Goodman, Ilan A  
**Subject:** FW: FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla Follow-up Two

Chris/Ilan – Over to you. Regards, Dan

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** MS  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/28

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** Hicks, Joseph T (Athens)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 4:31 PM  
**To:** Purcell, Alan S (Athens); [redacted]; Brandeis, Charles B3 DOD-CP  
**Cc:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Martin, Lean A (Athens)  
**Subject:** FPD IIR Gaza Freedom Flotilla Follow-up Two

All,  
Attached is another follow-up with additional information.  
R/  
Joe

**Joseph Hicks**  
Force Protection Detachment  
U.S. Embassy Athens, Greece  
Unclass: [HicksJT@State.gov](mailto:HicksJT@State.gov)  
Tel: (30) 210-720-2245  
Mob: (30) 694-498-7883

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** MS  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/28

I373.

**Bowers, Allyson M**

---

**From:** Parsell, Benjamin C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2011 9:49 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Walles, Jacob; Shapiro, Daniel S; 'ssimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov'  
**Cc:** Cunningham, James B; Goldberger, Thomas H; TELAVIV POL; Bijanki, Ashwin  
**Subject:** FW: Israel: Turkish Government Unlikely to Extend Olive Branch Following Election Victory  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif  
  
**Categories:** Working

FYI...

**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/14

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2011 04:45:13  
**To:** Parsell, Benjamin C  
**Cc:** TELAVIV-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; SANAA-SMARTS; KUWAIT, SMARTS; BEIRUT, SMARTS; VATICAN, SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; RABAT-SMARTS; JEDDAH-SMARTS; MOSCOW-SMARTS; AbuDhabi-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; RIYADH, SMARTS; DOHA, SMARTS; DHAHRAN, SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; TUNIS, SMARTS; CASABLANCA, SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; Damascus, SmartS; Baghdad, SMARTS; ALGIERS, SMARTS; Amman-SMARTS; MUSCAT-SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; OSLO-SMARTS; NOUAKCHOTT, SMARTS; MANAMA, SMARTS; Cairo-SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); daria.darnell@incirlik.af.smil.mil  
**Subject:** Israel: Turkish Government Unlikely to Extend Olive Branch Following Election Victory

**CONFIDENTIAL**



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

---

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 699  
**Date/DTG:** Jun 14, 2011 / 141344Z JUN 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, KWBG, KPAL, SY, TU, IS  
**Reference:** A) 11 TEL AVIV 693  
**Subject:** Israel: Turkish Government Unlikely to Extend Olive Branch Following Election Victory

1.4(D)  
B1

1. (C) Summary and comment

[Redacted]

2. (U) MFA officials were skeptical that Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan would use his party's recent election victory to improve relations with Israel. Speaking to the press, Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon appeared to provide Ankara an opportunity to improve relations by publicly pointing out that Israel and Turkey have maintained relations, despite the recent downturn in ties, and that AKP's victory is an opportunity to mend fences. "We don't see Turkey an enemy state," said Ayalon, who also said that Israel is ready to improve relations, but only at Ankara's initiative.

3. (U) According to Israeli media reports, unnamed "diplomatic sources" in the MFA said publicly that Erdogan is unlikely to reach out to Israel. Erdogan likely sees AKP's election victory as a stamp of approval for his tough stance toward Israel in recent years, and will likely continue this position, which has contributed to his domestic and regional popularity. Former MFA Director General Alon Liel said publicly that Turkey's relations with Israel will not change significantly in light of AKP's election victory. Erdogan's and Davotuglu's regional policy of "zero problems with its neighbors," coupled with their criticism of Israel over the sluggish peace process and its blockade of the Gaza Strip, has been a winning strategy that they will likely continue.

4. (C) [Redacted] a think tank in Israel and focuses on Turkish politics, told Post that the election in Turkey will not help improve relations with Israel because it does not resolve the dispute over last year's flotilla incident.

[Redacted]

**Signature:** GOLDBERGER

**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 b, d

**Declassify on:** 2021/06/14

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Parsell, Benjamin C

**Cleared By:** 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

**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

Action Post:

Dissemination Rule: Released Copy

CONFIDENTIAL

RELEASED IN PART B1,B5,1.4(D)

1374

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** Reed, Julia G; Sachar, Alon; Rudman, Mara; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Walles, Jacob; Kaidanow, Tina S; Van Diepen, Vann H; Ganzer, Ann K; Foley, Philip A; Jacobson, Michael N; Anderson, Gerald C; Cunningham, James B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Silverman, Robert J; DiCarlo, Rosemary A (USUN); Germain, Ellen J (USUN); Bass, Warren; [redacted]@osd.smil.mil; [redacted]@osd.smil.mil; [redacted]@osd.smil.mil; [redacted]@js.smil.mil; [redacted]@js.smil.mil; [redacted]@js.smil.mil; Kumar, Prem G.; Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Simon, Steven N.; Desjardins, Marc; Champaine, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Burnett, David R; Silverman, Robert J; Schwartz, Jonathan B (Legal)  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Buzbee, John R; Levinson, Jesse S; Jacoby, Julia I; Doutrich, Jack T  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Update / new GOI Asks  
**Attachments:** 11-STATE-36240.eml.pdf; 11-AMMAN-569.eml.pdf  
**Importance:** High

B6

**Colleagues:**

As a follow up to our discussions regarding [redacted] the prospective Mavi Marmara anniversary flotilla, we wanted to update you the latest information from Israel, immediate next steps, and flag for your attention additional [redacted] issues for consideration in red).

**Update from the GOI**

[Large redacted block]

1.4(D)  
B1

**Next Steps**

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

B5

**Re** [redacted] (per Tel Aviv 613 below):

1.4(D)  
B1

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



1.4(D)  
B1  
B5

**Paul Sutphin**

Director  
NEA/IPA  
tel: 202-647-3672  
Fax: 202-736-4461  
VIPER: 202-647-1686

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/05/26

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

Sensitivity: Sensitive  
Classification: SECRET//NOFORN  
Classified by: Paul R. Sutphin, Director, NEA/IPA, State  
Reason: 1.4b, d  
Declassify On: 2036/05/27

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2011 09:45:34  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Holliday, Gregory E; Neal, Bobbie S; Rax, Dwayne E; Thompson, Peter M; Tyson, Paul H; Hopkins, Donna L  
**Subject:** Israel on Flotillas [redacted]

SECRET//NOFORN

1.4(D)  
B1

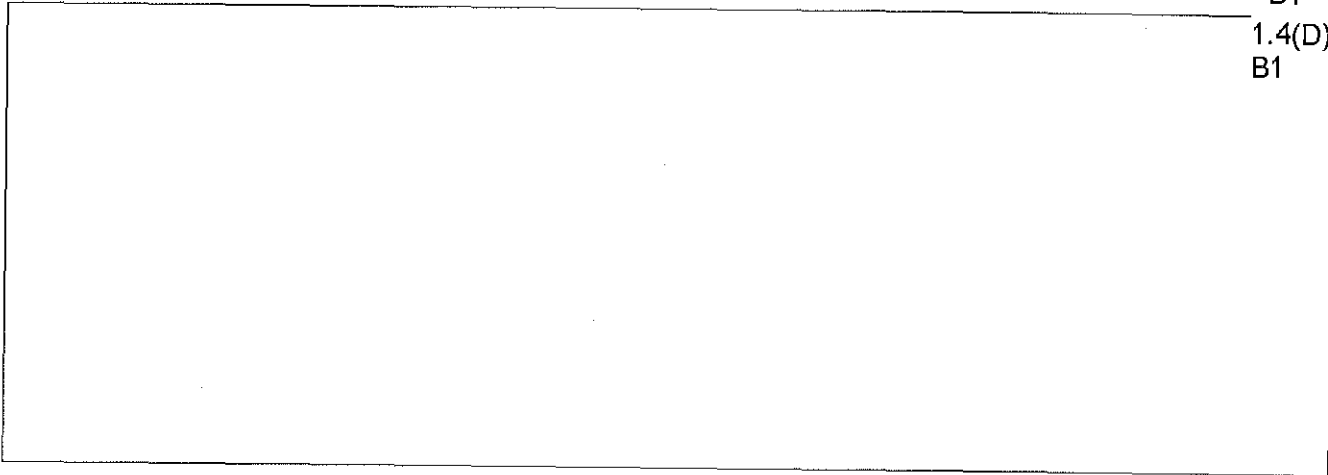


**Info Office:** STAFF, CPO, FAO, DIRECTOR

**MRN:** 11 TEL AVIV 613  
**Date/DTG:** May 24, 2011 / 241344Z MAY 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PGOV, KWBG, IS  
**Captions:** NOFORN  
**Reference:** A) IIR 6 849 0496  
**Subject:** Israel on Flotillas [redacted]

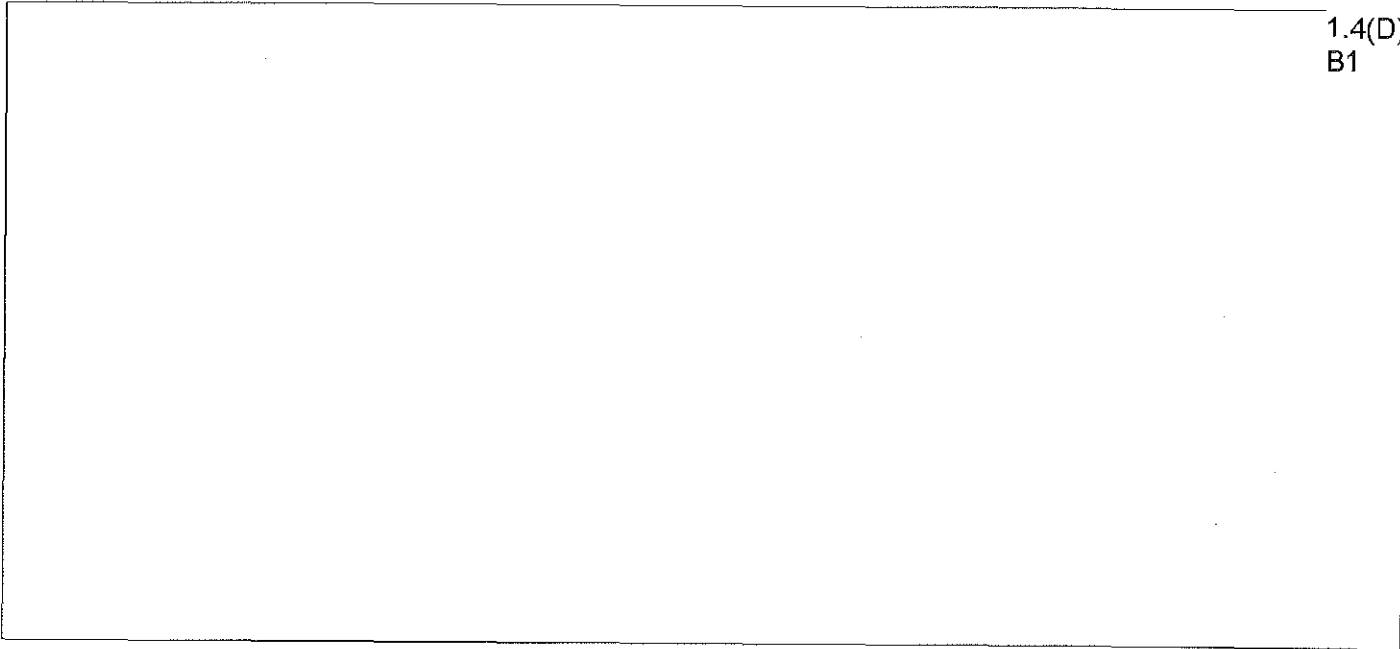
1.4(D)  
B1

1.4(D)  
B1



**Page Denied**

1.4(D)  
B1



**Signature:** BURNETT

---

**Classified By:** Name: David Burnett, Title: Charge d'Affaires  
Office: U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Agency: Dept of State

**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)

**Declassify on:** 2021/05/24

**Drafted By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Cleared By:** POL:Grubb, Jason B  
POL:Silverman, Robert J

**Approved By:** ECON:Burnett, David R

**Released By:** TEL AVIV:Levin, Jan X

**Info:** USUN NEW YORK, USMISSION *ROUTINE*; ANKARA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; KUALA LUMPUR, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

**XMT:** AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

**Attachments:** Metadata.dat

---

**Action Post:**

**Dissemination Rule:** DIS\_STAFF, DIS\_CPO, DIS\_FAO, DIS\_DIRECTOR

**SECRET//NOFORN**

I375

**Bowers, Allyson M**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2011 11:39 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Zurcher, Kenneth M; Eilts, Colin C  
**Cc:** Eussen, Matthew M; '#EU JACIDEM'; '6th Fleet Watch';

B6

[Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Christopher Koenig'; 'Christopher Smith'; 'Clay, Andrea';  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]; 'Friedmann, Chelsey'; Goldberger, Thomas H;  
Holliday, Gregory E; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Jakobson, Nicholas W; 'Joshua Townley'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; 'Kyna  
Simnson'; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Palestine'; 'Mulrov, Kara L.'; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted] Selinger, Thomas B; Silverman, Robert J; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

**Subject:** FW: FW: Greece Bans Departure of Florida vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

**Categories:** Working

**Jack Doutrich**  
Political Officer  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/07/06

---

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2011 06:13:54  
**To:** Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
ATHENS-SMARTS; JERUSALEM-SMARTS; MILAN-SMARTS; SMARTS, Reykjavik; Valletta, SMARTS; GENEVA, SMARTS; BAKU-SMARTS; SOFIA-SMARTS; NICOSIA, SMARTS; TBILISI, SMARTS; BARCELONA, SMARTS; OSLO-SMARTS; Stockholm-SMARTS; BELGRADE-SMARTS; Dushanbe, SMARTS; VILNIUS, SMARTS; VATICAN, SMARTS;  
**Cc:** THEHAGUE-SMARTS; USNATO, SMARTS; YEREVAN-SMARTS; PODGORICA, SMARTS; SKOPJE, SMARTS; MOSCOW-SMARTS; WARSAW-SMARTS; ANKARA-SMARTS; TALLINN, SMARTS; Sarajevo, SMARTS; PARIS-SMARTS; BERN, SMARTS; UNVIE-SMARTS; LISBON, SMARTS; DUBLIN, SMARTS; Tashkent, SMARTS; BRUSSELS-SMARTS; OSCE-SMARTS; ISTANBUL, SMARTS; BUDAPEST-SMARTS; FRANKFURT, SMARTS; ZAGREB-SMARTS;

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

LJUBLJANA-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; KYIV-SMARTS; Ottawa-SmartS; HELSINKI-SMARTS; ASTANA-SMARTS; TiranaSMARTS; Bishkek, SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; BRATISLAVA-SMARTS; PRAGUE, SMARTS; HAMBURG-SMARTS; Riga, SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; ROME, SMARTS; KRAKOW-SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; LUXEMBOURG-SMARTS; NAPLES, SMARTS; Copenhagen-SMARTS; MUNICH-SMARTS; CHISINAU-SMARTS; Pristina, SMARTS; Ashgabat, SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; BUCHAREST-SMARTS; VIENNA-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); cklotter@fbi.sgov.gov;

[redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; [redacted]@dia.smil.mil; [redacted]@dia.smil.mil

B6

Subject: Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 11 ATHENS 407  
Date/DTG: Jul 06, 2011 / 061512Z JUL 11  
From: AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PHSA, PTER, KCSY  
Reference: A) 11 ATHENS 383  
B) 11 ATHENS 349  
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG 1.4(B)  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG 1.4(D)  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG B1  
Subject: Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Greek government's decision on July 1 to prohibit the departure of ships from Greek ports intended for Gaza was a significant shift from Greece's previous, less visibly confrontational, approach towards "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" Gaza vessels and activists. Over the July 4 weekend two boats attempting to depart Greek ports, in violation of the ban, were intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard, resulting in the arrest of the AMCIT captain of one of the boats. Also over the weekend, Gaza flotilla activists protested the Coast Guard action at the American Embassy and the Embassy Mission Residence (EMR). [redacted]

Greek Ban on Departure of Ships to Gaza

2. (SBU) On July 1, the Ministry of Citizen Protection released a notice to flotilla participants that the departure of ships with Greek and foreign flags from Greek ports to the maritime area of Gaza was prohibited, and that the Hellenic Coast Guard would take all appropriate measures to enforce the decision. Despite the departure ban by the Greek government (as well as an order to remain in port due to unresolved questions about the vessel's documentation and seaworthiness), the American-flagged vessel "Audacity of Hope" attempted to depart the Greek port of Perama, near Piraeus on July 1. The Hellenic Coast Guard intercepted the vessel and after a standoff at sea, the ship consented to return to port.
3. (SBU) The American captain was arrested by Greek authorities upon the ship's return to port. Embassy Athens provided regular consular services to AmcIt members of this year's "Flotilla II – Stay Alive" US Boat to Gaza organization both before and after the captain's arrest. On June 24, American Citizens Services (ACS) Chief and Counsel General met with AMCIT flotilla participants to provide a consular briefing and ACS Chief had regular contact with the captain and his attorney, including a meeting on July 5 to verify that he was in good health, understood his arrest, had legal representation, and that authorities were treating him well. The captain was released on July 6 without bail. There will be a trial at some point, but the captain will not have to return to Greece.

4.



1.4(D)  
B1

According to Embassy sources, a total of nine ships intending to participate in the flotilla docked around Greece. Two of those, the "Audacity of Hope" and "Tahrir", defied the departure ban, prompting Coast Guard action. Seven have remained docked.

5. (SBU) On July 1 some 35 demonstrators assembled outside the American Embassy to protest on behalf of the Gaza flotilla. On the evening of July 3, a group of eight people from the US Boat to Gaza organization assembled at the American Embassy and presented a letter calling for U.S. officials to defend their rights to sail out of Greece to Gaza and to request 50 tickets to the Embassy's upcoming Independence Day celebration. On both occasions the protestors dispersed peacefully. On July 4, nine demonstrators assembled outside the EMR. The demonstrators were taken into custody briefly for identification checks after stating they planned to sleep on the sidewalk in front of the EMR. The demonstrators spent under two hours in the station and were released. They were never placed under arrest.
6. (SBU) In addition to the group's regular website updates and Tweets, the Embassy has received roughly 500 calls and emails since July 1 asking the USG to put pressure on Greece to allow the flotilla to proceed to Gaza.

#### Greek Proposal to Deliver Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

7. (SBU) PM Papandreou spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas on July 3. According to reports, Abbas positively viewed a Greek government proposal to facilitate the transport of humanitarian aid to Gaza, in cooperation with the United Nations. The proposal was confirmed later in the day when the MFA

released a statement announcing Greece's intention to undertake the task of transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza through "appropriate channels." The statement also reiterated Greece's ban on departure from Greek ports primarily to protect human life and stressed Greece's concurrent view that the naval blockade should be lifted. The MFA announced plans to liaise with all concerned parties, while flotilla organizers and activists decried both the Greek government's intent and Abbas' alleged backstabbing collusion with the Greeks.

8. (C) [Redacted] [Redacted] 1.4(B)  
[Redacted] 1.4(D)  
B1

COMMENT

9. (C) On June 22, the Greek MFA issued a strongly worded statement discouraging its citizens from participating in the flotilla, [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Signature: SMITH

---

**Classified By:** Name: Daniel B. Smith, Title: Ambassador  
**Reason:** 1.4 (b), (d)  
**Declassify on:** 2021/07/06  
**Drafted By:** ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Cleared By:** POL:Cockrell, John D (Athens)  
POL:Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
Brandeis, Charles D (Athens)  
Smith, Stuart M (Athens)  
Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
Brandeis, Katherine (Athens)  
**Approved By:** EXEC:Smith, Daniel B (Athens)  
**Released By:** ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)



**Info:** JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*;  
ZEN/AMCONSUL ALMATY; ZEN/AMCONSUL ADANA; ZEN/AMCONSUL FLORENCE;  
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:**

**Dissemination Rule:** Released Copy

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D),B6

I378

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 1:40 PM  
**To:** Feltman, Jeffrey D; NEA-JPA-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: (S/NF) FRENCH BOAT HEADING FOR GAZA [redacted] 1.4(B)  
 [redacted] 1.4(D)

**Attachments:** FRENCH BOAT NO LONGER HEADED TO GAZA; FRENCH BOAT HEADED TOWAR B1  
 GAZA; Reuters article - July 18, 2011.pdf; 7-17-11 Communiqué - A French Boat for  
 Gaza.docx; 7-18-11 Gaza ship - passenger list.docx

**Importance:** High

**Categories:** Working

This document is UNCLASSIFIED//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Classified by:** Christopher C Klein, Acting Minister Counselor for Political Affairs, Pol, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/07/18

---

**From:** Miller, James N  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 1:17 PM  
**To:** Champagne, Nicole D; Schedlbauer, Amy W; Cockrell, John D (Athens); Berns, David B; Eussen, Matthew M;  
 Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew M; Doutrich, Jack T; Waters, John R; Harrington, Kimberly D; NEA-Staff-Assistants-  
 DL; Parris, Walter; Blome, Donald A; Tueller, Matthew H; Walles, Jacob  
**Cc:** Klein, Christopher C; Bain, Wallace R; McCawley, David; Bofill, Mariju L; Taplin, Mark A; Klein, Christopher C; Sharma,  
 Sujata; Bain, Wallace R; Bauer, Jen M; Weinrauch, Marissa  
**Subject:** (S/NF) FRENCH BOAT HEADING FOR GAZA [redacted]  
**Importance:** High

+ Jake Walles, Nicole Champagne and Amy Schedlbauer

James N. Miller  
 Political Affairs  
 U.S. Embassy Paris  
 millerjn@state.sgov.gov  
 +33-(0)14-312-2575

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Classified by:** Christopher C Klein, Acting Minister Counselor for Political Affairs, Pol, State  
**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/07/18

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Miller, James N

**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 7:15 PM

**To:** Cockrell, John D (Athens); Berns, David B; Eussen, Matthew M; Silverman, Robert J; Eussen, Matthew M; Doutrich, Jack T; Waters, John R; Harrington, Kimberly D; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Parrs, Walter; Blome, Donald A; Tueller, Matthew H

**Cc:** Klein, Christopher C; Bain, Wallace R; McCawley, David; Bofill, Mariju L; Taplin, Mark A; Klein, Christopher C 1.4(B),  
Sujata; Bain, Wallace R; Bauer, Jen M; Weinrauch, Marissa 1.4(D) a,

**Subject:** (S/NF) FRENCH BOAT HEADING FOR GAZA [redacted] B1

**Importance:** High

(S) A French boat carrying 16 passengers of French, Canadian, Israeli and other nationalities [redacted]

[redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted] 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

[redacted] B1 1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

(SBU) The passenger list provided to the French by the organizers (attached) notably includes two Israeli citizens, including [redacted] Two Al Jazeera journalists are also on board, along with representatives of Flotilla boats from Sweden, Canada and Greece. See attached for a translation of the French boat's official press release. B6

(U) The French MFA spokesman today reiterated the GOF position on the Flotilla, advising French citizens not to take part in the flotilla because of the risks it poses, and because other means exist to transfer humanitarian aid. He also said Israel has to do more to transfer humanitarian aid to Gaza. Here is the full text of his statement:

*We are following closely updates on the progress of the boat, "Dignity Al Karama." We have advised our nationals not to participate in a new flotilla destined for Gaza, in light of the security risks that they take in this enterprise. These initiatives can only reinforce the tensions that currently exist. Humanitarian aide destined for Gaza should transit through land routes, which are the most effective and most responsible means to help the civilian population of Gaza.*

*This call for responsible behavior does not change our position on the Gaza blockade, which must be lifted. It is crucial that Israeli authorities facilitate the delivery of international aid to Gaza. The development and reconstruction projects carried out by the United Nations must equally be able to operate without obstacles. Foreign visitors must have access to the Palestinian territories.*

(U) For background and context, I've attached some of our previous reporting on the "Dignity Al Karama," and an article from Reuters.

James N. Miller

Political Affairs  
U.S. Embassy Paris  
[millerin@state.sgov.gov](mailto:millerin@state.sgov.gov)  
+33-(0)14-312-2575

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN

**Classified by:** Christopher C Klein, Acting Minister Counselor for Political Affairs, Pol, State

**Reason:** 1.4(b), (d)

**Declassify On:** 2021/07/18

---

**From:** Bofill, Mariju L  
**Sent:** Monday, July 18, 2011 2:45 PM  
**To:** Miller, James N; Sharma, Sucheta  
**Cc:** Klein, Christopher C; Bain, Wallace R; McCawley, David  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla Update 1: M/V Dignite location (S/NF)

FYI

---

**From:** Masliyah, Amir P  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2011 3:50 PM  
**To:** Quanrud, Pamela G; Turner, Michael A; Mohamoud, Safia O; Miranda, Anthony; NEA-ELA-DL; Cutrona, Aimee; Austin, Jonathan T; SES\_DutyDeputies; S\_SpecialAssistants; D(S); D(N); P; R\_Special Assistants; PA FO Group; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; ca-staffers-mailbox; Ops\_Targeted\_Alerts\_EUR\_DL  
**Cc:** DS Command Center; SES-O  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Update 1: M/V Dignite location (S/NF)

(S/NF) Media report the French-flag vessel M/V Dignite is en route to Gaza. Embassy Athens receive 1.4(B) confirmation from the [redacted] that M/V Dignite left the island of Kastelorizo (Southeast 1.4(D) Mediterranean near the Greek border with Turkey) July 16 [redacted] B1

Previous update sent 7/16/11 at 1316 EDT:

(SBU) Audacity of Hope organizers have renewed their telephone campaign seeking State Department assistance for American citizens participating in the flotilla to Gaza. Flotilla supporters claim Greek authorities have cut all electricity and power to the Audacity of Hope and are preventing American citizens on board from leaving the docked boat.

(SBU) Embassy Athens reports the Audacity of Hope continues to have generator power. Post is in regular touch with the organizers and has advised the group to seek legal assistance to resolve title and other legal issues concerning the boat.

(SBU) As of 1830 EDT, approximately 99 public callers have contacted the Operations Center July 16 regarding the Gaza flotilla.

RELEASED IN PART B6

I379

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10:46 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL; Goodman, Ilan A  
**Subject:** FW: (C) [redacted] Tomorrow's Flotilla

B6

**Categories:** Working

A little info. on flotilla departure and what they intend to have on the boats, according to one of the participants.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/29

---

**From:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 10:17 AM  
**To:** Snipes, Christopher K; Goodman, Ilan A  
**Cc:** Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
**Subject:** FW: (C) [redacted] Tomorrow's Flotilla

FYI. Regards, Dan L.

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Vaida Vidugiris, Political Officer  
**Reason:** 1.4(d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/29

---

**From:** Vidugiris, Vaida (Athens)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 4:49 PM  
**To:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Cc:** Cockrell, John D (Athens); Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Subject:** (C) [redacted] Tomorrow's Flotilla

[redacted] today shared the following information with us regarding the flotilla:

- The first tranche of ships will depart tomorrow, June 30, from different undisclosed ports to an undisclosed location (the boats will not/not be heading to the Israeli-designated port). [redacted] stated that they will not be handing over the supplies to the Israelis for transfer to the intended recipients, adding that "the waters around Gaza do not belong neither to the Israelis nor to the Palestinians."
- [redacted] will be aboard one of the ships tomorrow (he participated in last year's flotilla as well). According to him, the vessels can hold up to 50 persons/each. He stated that [redacted]

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

and noted that many Jews will be traveling in addition to academics and parliamentarians from other countries (naming a couple of Scandinavian countries), as well as "many Americans."

- According to [redacted] the ships will have medicine, construction material, and ready-assembled houses onboard; he stated that there will be no/no weapons aboard the vessels.

B6

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Classified by:** Vaida Vidugiris, Political Officer  
**Reason:** 1.4(d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/06/29

I382

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 8:19 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-TU-DL  
**Subject:** (SBU) No IHH Participation in Freedom Flotilla 2

FYI from Ankara.

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**From:** Howard, Jeremiah H  
**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

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Citing a meeting he had had last Tuesday at IHH, [redacted] here told me June 30 none of the NGO's members will be participating in Freedom Flotilla 2. IHH representatives plan to hail some flotilla vessels at European departure ports, but they won't board.

[redacted] also told [redacted] the NGO had been instructed not to speak publicly about its disengagement from the flotilla. [redacted] 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

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B), B1, 1.4(D), 1.4(C)

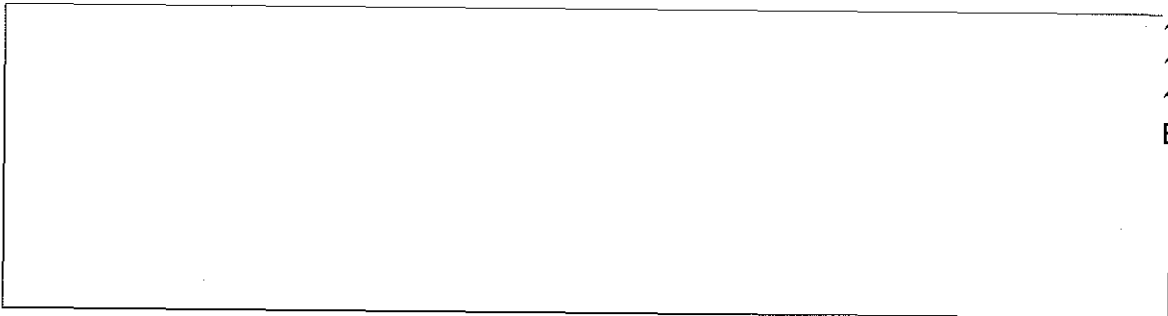
I39612.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Historic FF2 Chronological Timeline

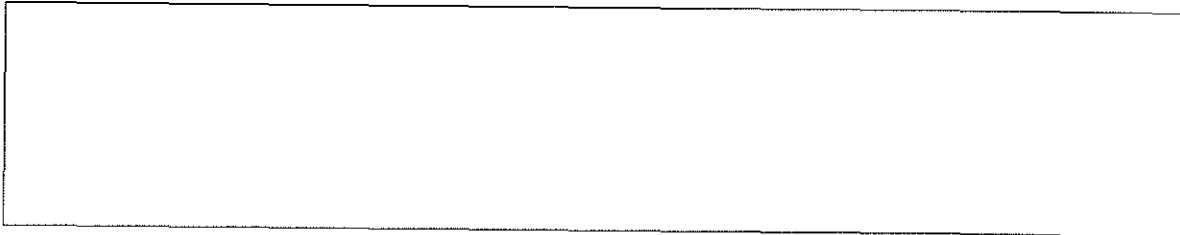
- (U) On 29 Jun, the number of expected participating activists reportedly dropped from 1,500 to 350. The Israeli government was hopeful that a continued delay of the launch would lead to a further drop in the number of vessels and participants. The more the "organizers and participants have to run in place in Athens," the better it is for Israel, one official said. Bureaucratic delays, strikes at Greek ports and damaged ships continue to delay the flotilla. (Source: JPost.com)

- (U) On 29 Jun, Defense Minister Ehud Barak downplayed Israeli worries about the Gaza flotilla. Barak told a local television channel that while he has directed the IDF to stop the flotilla by force, if necessary, he believed that while pockets of resistance were possible, flotilla participants this year would be less violent than last year's. According to the open source, political and military leaders are in fact more worried about the implications of the state comptroller's report on the raid on 2010's Gaza flotilla, a draft of which was recently submitted to senior officials. (Source: Haaretz.com)



1.4(B)  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- (U) On 28 Jun, Israel Defense Ministry proposed confiscating the ships that attempt to break the naval blockade to Gaza, a move aimed at deterring future flotillas. Israeli press reporting indicates IDF claims they have intelligence showing some flotilla participants are planning to use violence and possibly chemical weapons against the troops. Flotilla members claim this is an attempt to justify IDF violence. (Source: Jerusalem Post)



- (U) On 27 Jun, the Israeli "Lawfare" Group took responsibility for lodging the complaint against flotilla ship AUDACITY OF HOPE. Free Gaza Movement (FGM) organizers and AUDACITY OF HOPE passengers believe the complaint was frivolous and are now confident the Greek government will allow them to depart Greece.

- (U) On 27 Jun, the "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) – Stay Human" press conference occurred in Athens but no specific ship names, departure dates, launch times, or rendezvous date, time, or area were revealed. Organizers also withheld the length of time the flotilla would remain at the rendezvous area before heading south. In short, FF2 spokespersons stated the flotilla will press forward with their departure plans despite Israel's warnings.

- (U) On 27 Jun, after two days of closed-doors meetings, the Israeli ministers committee on security affairs voted in favor of the navy plans to stop the FF2 flotilla from breaching the Israeli-imposed naval blockade on the Palestinian territory, giving the army authority to use "all necessary means" during the operation. The Israeli cabinet has ordered Israeli troops to operate with "maximal restraint and avoid clashes with activists on board the vessels."

Classification Extended ~ Class: SECRET ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(C), 1.4(D), B1 ~  
Declassify on: 06/01/2021



[Redacted]

1.4(B)  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[Redacted]

- (U) On 22 Jun, USDOS warned US citizens against taking part in the flotilla and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip, citing threats to themselves as well as US interests. (STATE)

B82

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:12 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Australian comments on the Gaza Flotilla incident [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 100601 Australian FM statement to Parliament on Gaza flotilla incident.pdf; 100602 Australian PM statement to Parliament on Gaza flotilla incident.pdf; 100603 Australian FM comments to media on Gaza flotilla incident.pdf

B6

RELEASED IN PART B6

**From:** [redacted]@dfat.gov.au [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 11:31 AM  
**To:** [redacted] pkuimar@nsc.eop.gov  
**Cc:** [redacted]@dfat.gov.au; [redacted]@dfat.gov.au  
**Subject:** Australian comments on the Gaza Flotilla incident [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Prem/Tom

I attach below, for your reference, statements on the Gaza flotilla incident made to Parliament by Australia's Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Foreign Minister Stephen Smith. Also attached is Mr Smith's most recent media interview on the subject.

Prime Minister Rudd spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu on the evening of 1 June to reiterate the Australian Government's deep concern at the loss of life and injuries that occurred as part of the Israeli Defence Force operation.

Mr Rudd told Mr Netanyahu that Israel needed to mount an independent enquiry into the incident so that all facts could be established and informed judgement made about the events surrounding the incident.

Foreign Minister Smith told Parliament on 1 June that the onus was on Israel to conduct a credible and transparent investigation into the matter, and that the investigation should be subject to the scrutiny of the international community.

Australian leaders have called for an easing of the blockade to enable aid and humanitarian assistance to be delivered to Gaza. They have reiterated Australia's view that the long-term solution must be an enduring peace in the Middle East, where both Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace

Australia continues to strongly support the state of Israel and its security. The Prime Minister reiterated to Prime Minister Netanyahu our strong support for Israel. In Parliament on the 2nd of June, Prime Minister Rudd said that Australia understood the unique security challenges that Israel faced from Iran and the terrorist organisations that Iran supported.

Please let me know if you would like any further information on Australia's position.

Regards

Peter

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

[redacted]  
Embassy of Australia  
1601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20036

Tel:  
Fax:

B6

RELEASED IN PART 1.4(B),B1,1.4(D)

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 7:48 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Baumert, Kevin A; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Subject:** [Redacted]

B1  
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

**From:** Koh, Harold Hongju  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Cleveland, Sarah H; Donoghue, Joan E; Pomper, Stephen E; Joyce, Anne  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 07:21:04 2010  
**Subject:** [Redacted]

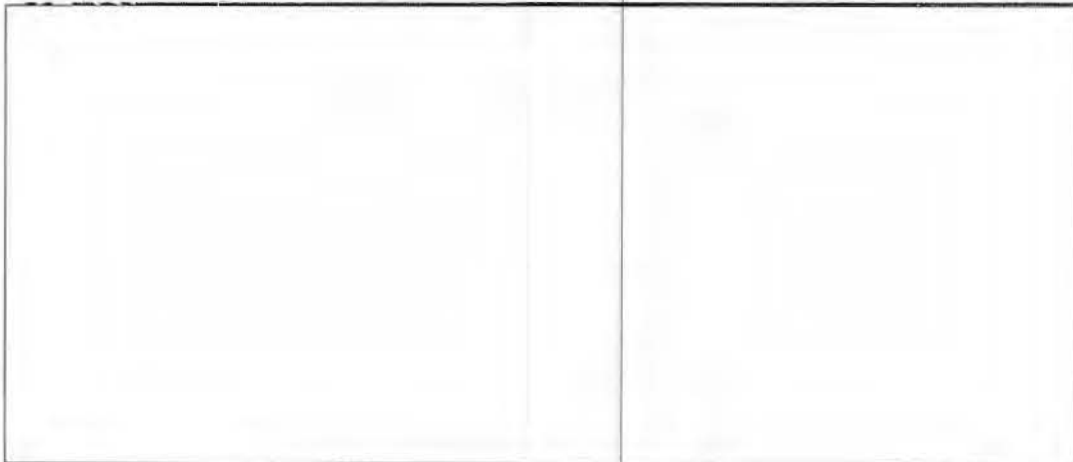
Harold Hongju Koh  
The Legal Adviser  
U.S. Department of State  
Suite 6421  
2201 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20520-6421  
202 647 9598 office  
202 262 8295 mobile  
202 647 7096 fax

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on : 12/11/2012 Class: Confidential ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1  
~ Declassify on: 06-01-2030

**From:** Alan.Kessel@international.gc.ca <Alan.Kessel@international.gc.ca>  
**To:** Koh, Harold Hongju  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 01 04:13:28 2010  
**Subject:** [Redacted]

Alan H. Kessel  
The Legal Adviser/Le Jurisconsulte (JFM)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade/Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international  
125 Sussex Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2 Canada  
Tel: (613) 995-8901  
Fax: (613) 944-0845  
e-mail: alan.kessel@international.gc.ca

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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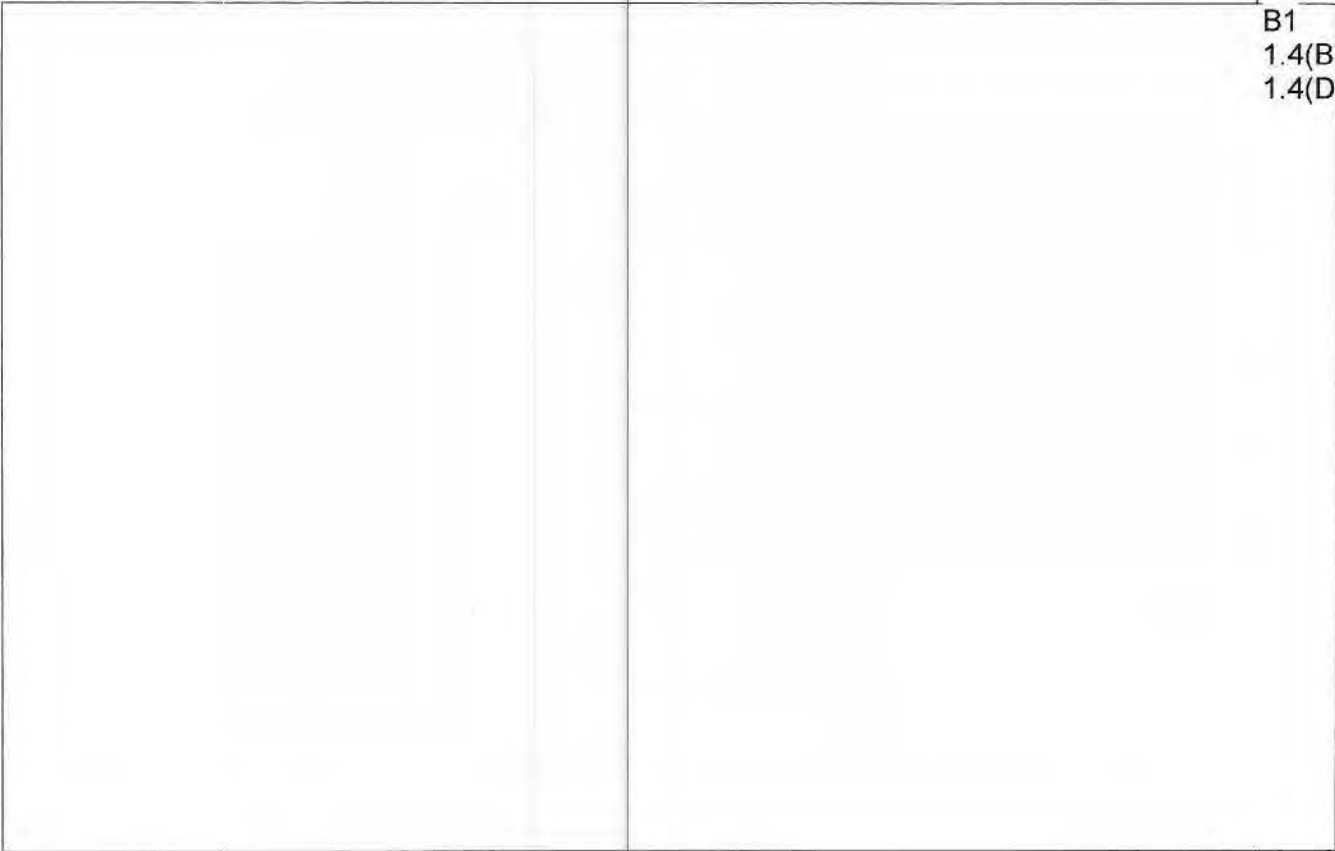
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B1  
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

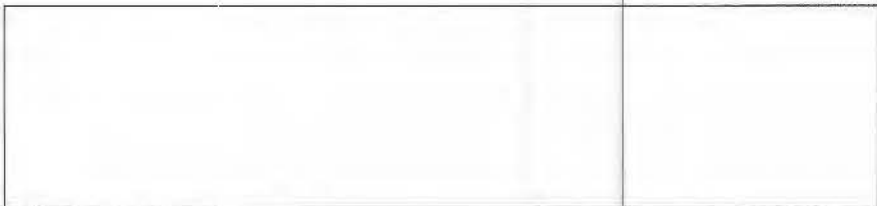


[Alan.Kessel@international.gc.ca [mailto:Alan.Kessel@international.gc.ca :From  
Monday, May 31, 2010 7:56 PM :Sent  
[redacted] To  
[redacted] Subject

[redacted]

Alan

Alan H. Kessel  
The Legal Adviser/Le Jurisconsulte (JFM)  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade/Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international  
125 Sussex Drive/Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2/Canada  
Tel: (613) 995-8901  
Fax: (613) 944-0845  
e-mail: alan.kessel@international.gc.ca



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**BİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLER NEZDİNDE  
TÜRKİYE DAİMİ TEMSİLCİLİĞİ**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

2010/Turkuno DT/23224

**RELEASED IN FULL**

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  
FULL

### TALKING POINTS

- The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) decided to set up an Independent International Fact Finding Mission (IFFM) on June 2, 2010, in order to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the attack carried out by Israel on May 31, 2010, against an international humanitarian aid convoy in the international waters of the Mediterranean which resulted in the killing of eight Turks and one U.S. citizen.
- The IFFM presented its report to the HRC on September 22, 2010. The report was a product of a comprehensive and detailed study.
- During its meeting on September 29, 2010, the HRC welcomed the report of the IFFM and endorsed the conclusions contained in its report.
- The HRC has also decided to follow up the implementation of the IFFM's report at its sixteenth session.
- The sixteenth session of the HRC is currently underway in Geneva.
- On behalf of Turkey, the Organization of the Islamic Conference will present a draft resolution to the HRC on March 23-25, 2011, requesting the follow up of the Fact Finding Mission's report during its seventeenth session in June 2011.
- Turkey holds that report of the IFFM was a result of an objective and independent legal process and that its implementation by the international community is of great importance.
- Turkey expects the members of the HRC to ensure that the principles of accountability and prevention of impunity are regarded as cordial and inviolable, thus remain upheld by all countries.
- Turkey further believes that the United States will be steadfast in supporting these principles.
- Accordingly, Turkey requests the support of the United States towards this resolution, or, should this not be viewed possible, abstention is exercised during the voting to take place on March 23-25, 2011.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B1,B3 CIA-PO,B5,B3 CIA-SM,1.4(D),1.4(C),B6

J57

**Logg, Cristina A**

From:

[Redacted]

B6

Sent:

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 1:16 AM

To:

Ricciardone, Francis J; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A

Subject:

1.4(C)

Attachments:

[Redacted]

1.4(D)

B1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Ambassador, this is the latest I have on the Freedom Flotilla. The fourth ship listed below, the Challenger, [Redacted]

B5

Vr, [Redacted]

B6

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

[Large Redacted Area]

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



B6

Subject:  
(SECRET)

B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)

Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

Good morning J2 -

[redacted] will continue to provide daily updates.

B6

Request all addrees continue to please feed updates to USEUCOM theater all-source fusion analysis center at [redacted] This will help to ensure accuracy, timeliness, relevancy, and dissemination to senior leadership at all levels.

B6

Convention: Blue is new.

[redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(U) The international "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" will include 10 ships, at least two of which are cargo boats carrying aid, while the rest are passenger ships carrying hundreds of people, among them, politicians, MEPs, writers, religious faith representatives, people of arts and culture and activists. Press releases indicates many TV crews will be also on board (CNN, NBC, Al-Jazeera, et al) as well as journalists sent by various world media and newspapers. "Stay Human" was selected in honor of 36-year old Italian pro-Palestinian activist Vittorio Arrigoni, who was killed 14 Apr 2011 after being kidnapped in Gaza City by Salafist radicals.

SITREP follows:

BLUF: As of this writing, the Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) has not formed i.e., ships have NOT commenced southbound transit towards Gaza.

[redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

**Page Denied**

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(U) Political Developments:

- (U) On 28 Jun, Israel Defense Ministry proposed confiscating the ships that attempt to break the naval blockade to Gaza, a move aimed at deterring future flotillas. Israeli press reporting indicates IDF claims they have intelligence showing some flotilla participants are planning to use violence and possibly chemical weapons against the troops. Flotilla members claim this is an attempt to justify IDF violence. (Source: Jerusalem Post)

- (U) On 27 Jun, the Israeli "Lawfare" Group took responsibility for lodging the complaint against flotilla ship AUDACITY OF HOPE. Free Gaza Movement (FGM) organizers and AUDACITY OF HOPE passengers believe the complaint was frivolous and are now confident the Greek government will allow them to depart Greece.

- (U) On 27 Jun, the "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" press conference occurred in Athens but no specific ship names, departure dates, launch times, or rendezvous date, time, or area were revealed. Organizers also withheld the length of time the flotilla would remain at the rendezvous area before heading south. In short, FF2 spokespersons stated the flotilla will press forward with their departure plans despite Israel's warnings.

- (U) On 27 Jun, after two days of closed-doors meetings, the Israeli ministers committee on security affairs voted in favor of the navy plans to stop the FF2 flotilla from breaching the Israeli-imposed naval blockade on the Palestinian territory, giving the army authority to use "all necessary means" during the operation. The Israeli cabinet has ordered Israeli troops to operate with "maximal restraint and avoid clashes with activists on board the vessels."

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

- (U) On 22 Jun, US STATE Dept warned US citizens against taking part in the flotilla and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip, citing threats to themselves as well as US interests.  
(STATE)

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

JAC Molesworth will continue to keep ALCON informed.

B6

B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B3 CIA-PO

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

RELEASED IN PART B1, B3  
CIA-SM, 1.4(D), 1.4(C), B6

J58

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:**

[Redacted]

B6

**Sent:**

Tuesday, July 05, 2011 7:31 AM

**To:**

Ricciardone, Francis J

**Cc:**

Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A

**Subject:**

[Redacted]

1.4(C)

**Attachments:**

1.4(D)

**Categories:**

Working

B1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

1.4(C)

Ambassador, [Redacted]

1.4(D)

B1

B3 CIA-SM

Thanks, [Redacted]

B6

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

[Large Redacted Area]

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Page Denied**



B6

[Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)

Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

Sir,

Please find today's updated FF2 update.

[Redacted]

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

Request all continue to please feed updates to USEUCOM theater all-source fusion analysis center at (jac.watch.swo@jac.eucom.smil.mil). This will help to ensure accuracy, timeliness, relevancy, and dissemination to senior leadership at all levels.

[Redacted]

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(U) The international "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" will include 10 ships, at least two of which are cargo boats carrying aid, while the rest are passenger ships carrying hundreds of people, among them, politicians, MEPs, writers, religious faith representatives, people of arts and culture and activists. Press releases indicates many TV crews will be also on board (CNN, NBC, Al-Jazeera, et al) as well as journalists sent by various world media and newspapers. "Stay Human" was selected in honor of 36-year old Italian pro-Palestinian activist Vittorio Arrigoni, who was killed 14 Apr 2011 after being kidnapped in Gaza City by Salafist radicals.

SITREP follows:

BLUF: As of this writing, Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) has not formed and all vessels are in port. The M/V TAHRIR departed its berth in Crete on the evening of 4 July, but was stopped shortly thereafter by the Hellenic coast guard and forced to return to Crete. After all passengers on the TAHRIR claimed they were the vessel's captain, the Hellenic Coast Guard detained everyone onboard. The Captain of the AUDACITY OF HOPE, which was detained on 1 July after attempting to sail from Greece without permission, is scheduled to appear in Greek court today, charged with endangering the lives of the AUDACITY's passengers. The M/V LOUISE MICHEL staged a symbolic departure on 4 July, revving its engines and honking its horn; however, the vessel did not actually get underway. Open source reporting indicates two unidentified vessels linked with FF2, ostensibly French, are operating in international waters off Greece; the plans and intentions of these vessels are unknown. Additional open source reporting indicates that remaining FF2 participants are tentatively scheduled to set sail around 5-6 July.

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

**Page Denied**

1.4(C)

1.4(D)

B1

B3 CIA-SM

(U) Political Developments:

- (U//FOUO) According to USG publically available maritime databases, the M/V AUDACITY OF HOPE has been confirmed as a US flagged vessel, licensed in Delaware, registration number DL2894AF. The vessel has been assigned SCONUM R33479. The vessel is not US Coast Guard documented, nor has it been inspected by USCG. (ONI, USCG)

- (U) According to open source information, passengers onboard M/V AUDACITY OF HOPE, sponsored by the US Boat to Gaza, followed through on their claim that the vessel could set sail even if it did not receive permission to leave port from Hellenic officials. 01 July the vessel did, in fact, attempt to depart Piraeus, Greece although was stopped by the Hellenic Coast Guard and forced to return to port. Earlier, complaints were lodged against the vessel necessitating proof of seaworthiness. (CBS News, Twitter, A US Boat to Gaza website)

- (U) According to open source information, the Israeli Navy (INF) has established two operating rooms within the mess decks of INF surface combatants to help deal with casualties that could occur while interdicting "Freedom Flotilla 2" vessels. The INF also expects to have military Med-Evac flights available and on stand-by to evacuate any personnel to shore, and the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Medical Corps will deploy onboard ships and to Ashdod port. (Haaretz)



1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

- (U) On 29 Jun number of expected participants reportedly went from 1,500 to 350. The Israeli government was hopeful that a continued delay of the launch of the Gaza-bound flotilla will lead to a further drop in the number of vessels and participants. The more the "organizers and participants have to run in place in Athens," the better is is for Israel, one official said. Bureaucratic delays, strikes at Greek ports and damaged ships continue to delay the flotilla, which was originally scheduled to set sail at mid-week. (Source: JPost.com)

- (U) On 29 Jun Defense Minister Ehud Barak tried downplaying Israeli worries about Gaza flotilla. Barak told a local television channel that while he has directed the IDF to stop the flotilla by force, if necessary, he believed that while pockets of resistance were possible the flotilla participants this year would be less violent than last year's. According to the open source, political and military leaders are in fact more worried about the implications of the state comptroller's report on the raid on 2010's Gaza flotilla, a draft of which was recently submitted to senior officials. (Source: Haaretz.com)

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- (U) On 28 Jun, Israel Defense Ministry proposed confiscating the ships that attempt to break the naval blockade to Gaza, a move aimed at deterring future flotillas. Israeli press reporting indicates IDF claims they have intelligence showing some flotilla participants are planning to use violence and possibly chemical weapons against the troops. Flotilla members claim this is an attempt to justify IDF violence. (Source: Jerusalem Post)

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

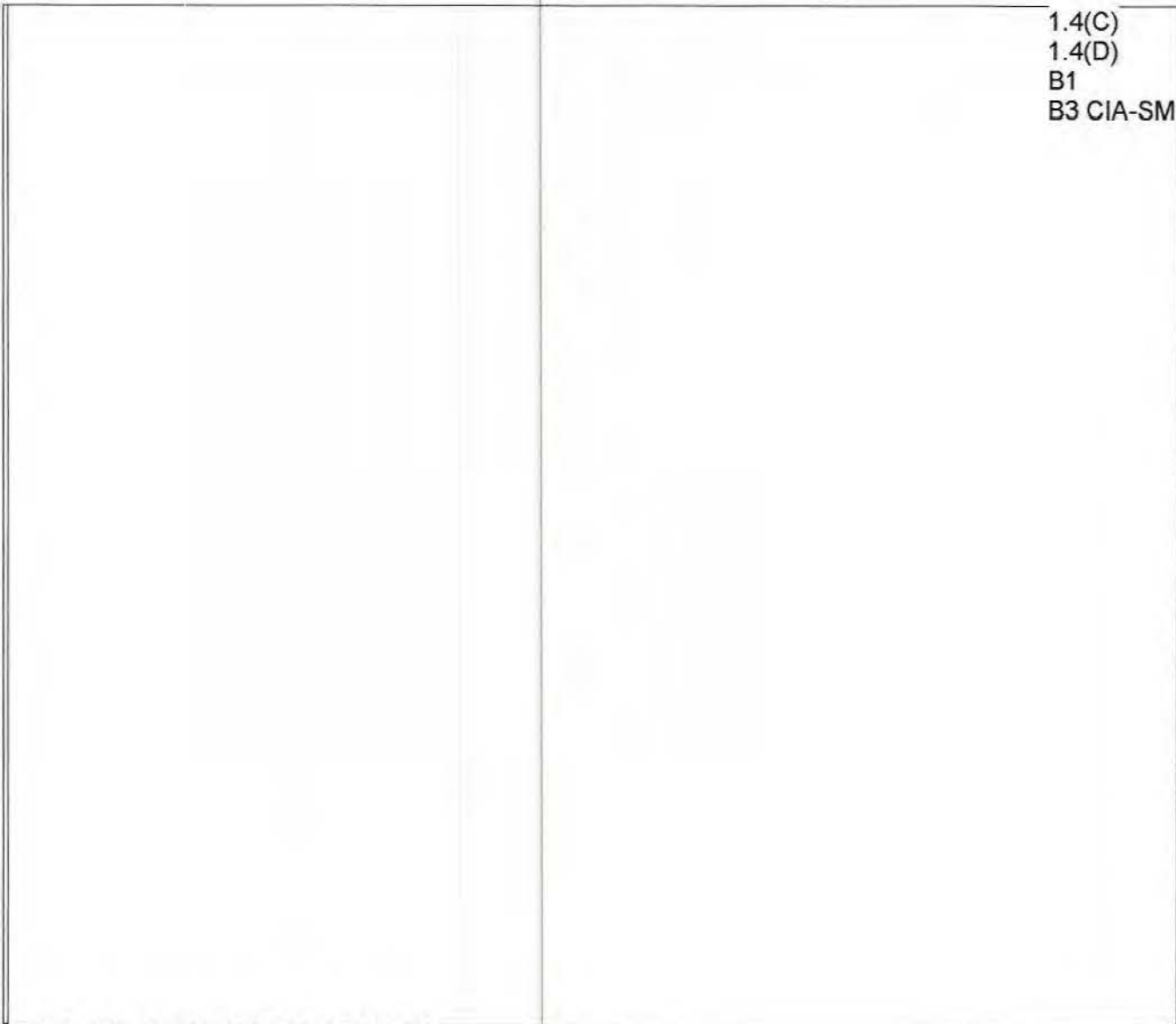
- (U) On 27 Jun, the Israeli "Lawfare" Group took responsibility for lodging the complaint against flotilla ship AUDACITY OF HOPE. Free Gaza Movement (FGM) organizers and AUDACITY OF HOPE passengers believe the complaint was frivolous and are now confident the Greek government will allow them to depart Greece.

- (U) On 27 Jun, the "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" press conference occurred in Athens but no specific ship names, departure dates, launch times, or rendezvous date, time, or area were revealed. Organizers also withheld the length of time the flotilla would remain at the rendezvous area before heading south. In short, FF2 spokespersons stated the flotilla will press forward with their departure plans despite Israel's warnings.

- (U) On 27 Jun, after two days of closed-doors meetings, the Israeli ministers committee on security affairs voted in favor of the navy plans to stop the FF2 flotilla from breaching the Israeli-imposed naval blockade on the Palestinian territory, giving the army authority to use "all necessary means" during the operation. The Israeli cabinet has ordered Israeli troops to operate with "maximal restraint and avoid clashes with activists on board the vessels."

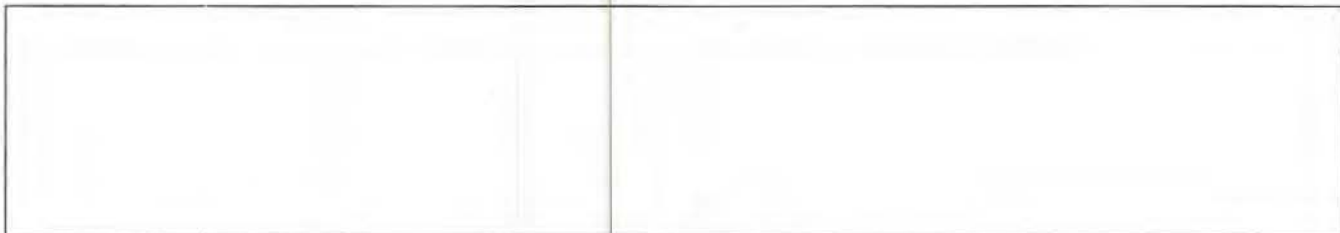
- (U) On 22 Jun, USDOS warned US citizens against taking part in the flotilla and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip, citing threats to themselves as well as US interests. (STATE)

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM



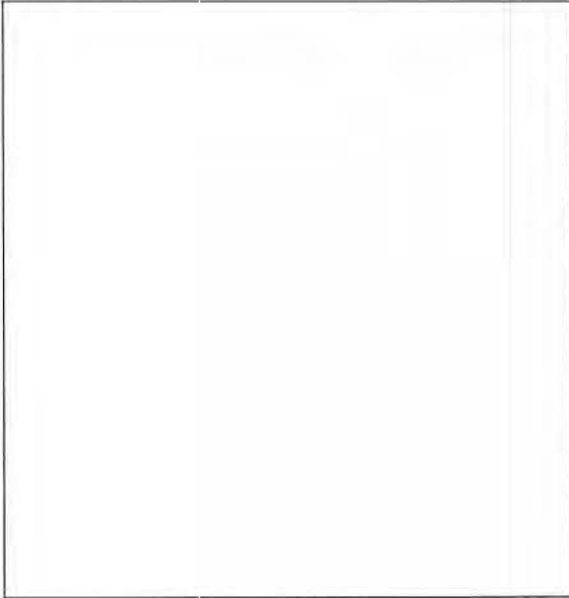
(S) US Navy Forces

- USS MONTEREY (CG-61) remains in port Souda Bay, Greece through 8 Jul.



1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
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B3 CIA-SM

V/r,



B6



1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN



**Law, Rosemary C**

RELEASED IN PART B3

DOD-CP, B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Gutherie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call  
**Attachments:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

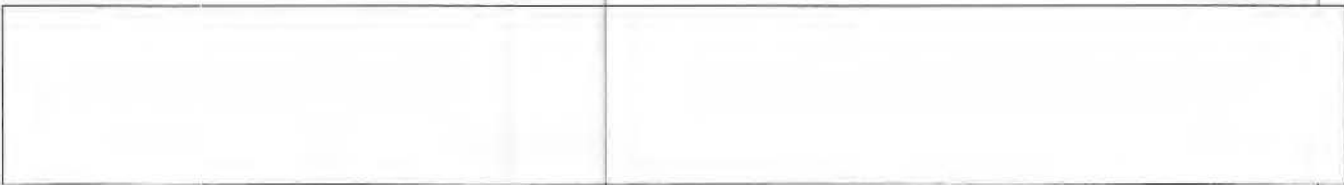
Call in info here, in case anyone else is going to join.  
BRIDGE NUMBER: **202-395-6392**  
CONFEREE PASSCODE: **420 8141**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Gutherie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

NSC is hosting a lawyers call focused on issues related to the US flagged vessel(s). Would others like to join?

**From:** Egan, Brian J. [<mailto:Brian.J.Egan@nss.eop.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** [Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil](mailto:Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil); [david.grimord@dot.gov](mailto:david.grimord@dot.gov); Kenney, Frederick CAPT; Baumert, Kevin A; [Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov](mailto:Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov); [redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

B3 DOD-CP



B5

Brian Egan  
Deputy Legal Adviser  
National Security Staff  
202/456-9116

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A RELEASED IN PART B5,B6  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** Deeks, Ashley S; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Ashley, Marc, Linda -

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin -

Wes

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes -

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 - [redacted]

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 –  
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/

[redacted]  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: [redacted]

B6



**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; 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

**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

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 12:09 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

My phone is 202-341-2074

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B; Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:45:13 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Humanitarian flotilla

Thanks, Steve. I have been unable to reach Alexandra or Kevin by phone. I have left phone messages for both but will try them through op center next. I will go through emails and circulate what I have for benefit of addressees. Conference call may be the way to go. Including Evelyn as she is following HRC angle.

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

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:40 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Joann just reached me. I haven't tracked this beyond this mornong's traffic and the front page of the nyt but can help coordinate this afternoon. If someone could send me any analysis done in the run up last week that would be very helpful. Would it be useful to set up a call so that those folks who have been working the issue can pool info re knowledge/work done to date/etc?

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

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**To:** Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:29:10 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Humanitarian flotilla **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Embassy Tel Aviv has been sending in transcripts of Israeli briefings; JoAnn can forward to anyone who doesn't have. Essentially, Israeli boarding party says it was attacked with lethal force so they responded in kind. They claim to have found evidence on board of a plan to resist with force, unlike the prior flotillas. L is being asked: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] JoAnn is reaching out to L/PM to see if they can coordinate with the Navy. A Quartet statement will be discussed at noon, UNSC meets at 1, and Human Rights Council meets tomorrow. So



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

From: Donoghue, Joan E  
To: Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:21:26 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

On the self- defense rationale, what has GOI said and do we know the facts?

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

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:05:35 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Including others working on this.

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

From: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:57:46 2010  
Subject: Humanitarian flotilla

All--Assume you all are working on this. I know Todd and Harold are in Kampala and bbs aren't working. I am rushing back to NYC to try to make the SC meeting, currently scheduled for 1. Anticipate much interest in legal issues focused on Israeli claims they were acting in self-defense and that the flotilla was violating international law.



**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 6:53 AM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Gutherie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: Readout -- NSC Gaza flotilla conference call

RELEASED IN PART B3

ADOD-CP, B5

Re: Challenger vessels, below is what Emb Nicosia reports based on info provided by "Cypriot Marine Police".

- 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 Amcits potentially aboard. It was then that the Cypriots informed Embassy that there were no Amcits 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.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:19 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Gutherie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** Readout -- NSC Gaza flotilla conference call

Pasted below is Brian Egan's readout of the 4:30 interagency lawyers call. Though it was probably useful for Brian, it was otherwise not so illuminating and mainly a rehashing of conversations we've had with USCG.

It is also worth noting that the factual picture regarding the existence and location of US flagged vessel is murkier than ever – Challenger II has variously been reported to be (1) out of the water in Cyprus for a month of repairs (Cyprus port authorities), (2) in the Cyprus port of Limassol, (GoC, Emb Nicosia), (3) "underway" flying a foreign flag with location unknown (US Navy), and (4) receiving repairs in a port on the Turkish side of Cyprus (press account). Adding to the confusion is the emergence of a possible "Challenger III" that has an unknown flag and location. None of these vessels is equipped with identification/tracking gear, due to their small size and typical recreational usage.

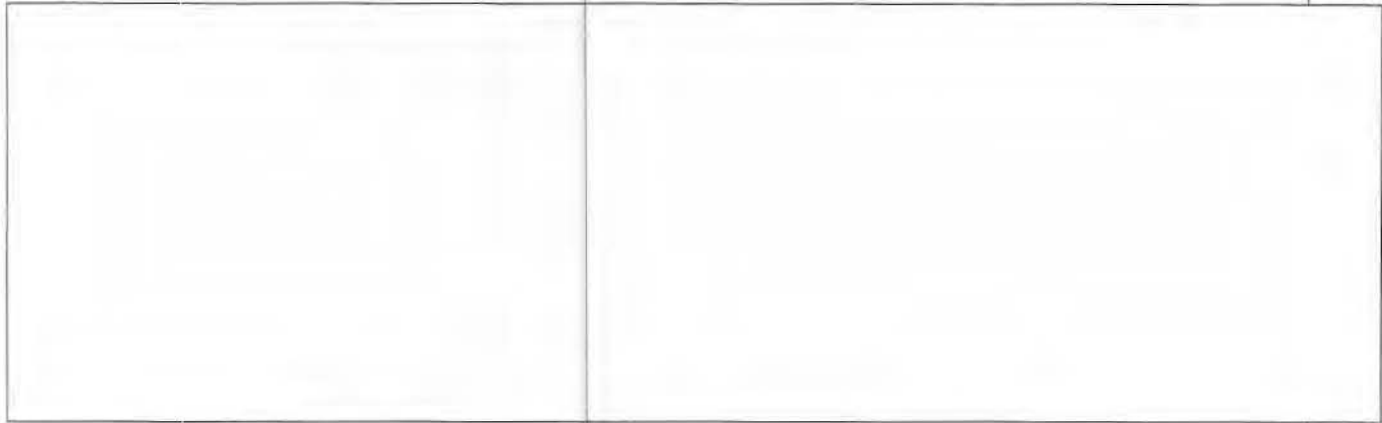
Thanks, Kevin

>>

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B5

B5

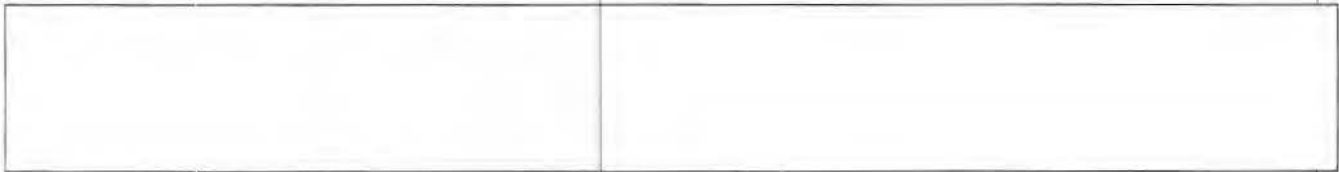


**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Guthrie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

NSC is hosting a lawyers call focused on issues related to the US flagged vessel(s). Would others like to join?

**From:** Egan, Brian J. [mailto:Brian\_J.\_Egan@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil; david.grimord@dot.gov; Kenney, Frederick CAPT; Baumert, Kevin A; Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov; [redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

B3 DOD-CP



B5

Brian Egan  
Deputy Legal Adviser  
National Security Staff  
202/456-9116



RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 10:13 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda; Cleveland, Sarah H; Koh, Harold Hongju; Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** Brancato, Gilda M; Banos, Mariano H; Martin, Julie B; Perina, Alexandra H; Khanna, Melanie J  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla - use this chain

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:41 AM  
**To:** 'Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov'; Martin, Julie B; Cassayre, Mark J; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Perina, Alexandra H; 'Samantha\_J.\_Power@nss.eop.gov'; 'Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Denis\_R.\_McDonough@nss.eop.gov'; 'Benjamin\_J.\_Rhodes@nss.eop.gov'; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G  
**Cc:** 'DL-NSC-Dernocracy@eopds.eop.gov'  
**Subject:** URGENT! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla - use this chain

Putting NSC on same chain with NEA.

**From:** Busby, Scott W. <Scott\_W.\_Busby@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Martin, Julie B; Cassayre, Mark J; Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Perina, Alexandra H; Power, Samantha J. <Samantha\_J.\_Power@nss.eop.gov>; Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; McDonough, Denis R. <Denis\_R.\_McDonough@nss.eop.gov>; Rhodes, Benjamin J. <Benjamin\_J.\_Rhodes@nss.eop.gov>  
**Cc:** DL-NSC-Democracy <DL-NSC-Democracy@eopds.eop.gov>  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:37:05 2010  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

+ Samantha Power, Dan Shapiro, Prem Kumar, Denis McDonoughN Ben Rhodes and others at NSC.

[Redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Martin, Julie B <MartinJB@state.gov>  
**To:** Cassayre, Mark J <CassayreMJ@state.gov>; Nossel, Suzanne F <NosselSF@state.gov>; IO-HR-DL <IO-HR-DL@state.gov>; DRL-MLGA-M <MLGAM@state.gov>; Legal-HRR-DL <Legal-HRR-DL@state.gov>; Geneva HRC <GenevaHRC@state.gov>; Griffiths, Douglas M <GriffithsDM@state.gov>; Busby, Scott W.; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL) <JohnstonGardnerSR@state.gov>; Salih, Lana L <SalihLL@state.gov>; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M <FitzpatrickKM@state.gov>; Perina, Alexandra H <PerinaAH@state.gov>

**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:28:09 2010  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

Looping in L/PM's Alexandra Perina.

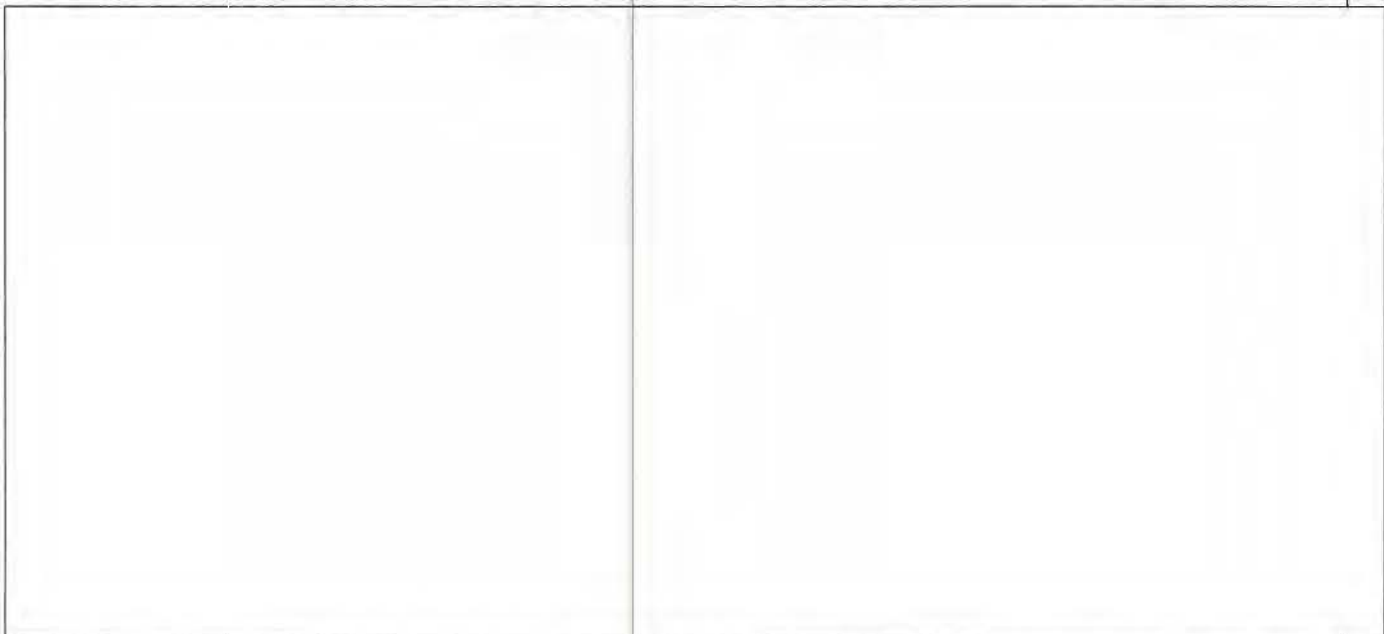
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:21 PM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Busby, Scott W.'; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Subject:** URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

**NEED GUIDANCE:**

**"SPECIAL SITTING" of HRC to occur Tuesday (tomorrow) afternoon on the Israeli boarding of flotilla.**



B5

**WE NEED TALKING POINTS ASAP AND WILL NEED POINTS FOR A STATEMENT, IF WE INTEND TO MAKE ONE DURING THIS "SPECIAL SITTING."**

Mark Cassayre  
Counselor  
Political and Specialized Agencies  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Specialized Agencies  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Direct tel: +41 22 749-4214  
Mobile: +41 79 775-3680  
Fax: +41.22.749.4717  
[cassayremj@state.gov](mailto:cassayremj@state.gov)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 5:43 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J; Mortlock, David JL; Gutherie, Peter A; Martin, Julie B  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** RE: PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

Hi JoAnn -

	Best, EA

B5

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

Israel Desk has just called to alert us that NSC is scheduling a PC for Thursday evening to which S plans to attend. While agenda is still being worked out it apparently includes such items as:

--	--

<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer</b>
--

RELEASED IN PART B3  
DOD-CP,B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Egan, Brian J. [Brian\_J\_Egan@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:19 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; [redacted]@uscg.mil; david.grimord@DOT.GOV; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
CAPT; Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov; [redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL;  
Sullivan, David J; Will.Schisa@do.treas.gov  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

Here is the call-in information:

**BRIDGE NUMBER: 202-395-6392**

**CONFEREE PASSCODE: 420 8141**

Thanks, Brian

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A [mailto:baumertka@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:02 PM  
**To:** [redacted]@uscg.mil; Egan, Brian J.; david.grimord@DOT.GOV; [redacted] CAPT;  
Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov; [redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

As will I.

**From:** Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil [mailto:Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:46 PM  
**To:** Egan, Brian J.; david.grimord@DOT.GOV; [redacted] CAPT; Baumert, Kevin A; Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov;  
[redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

I will be available to participate.

Best Regards,

Bud

Sent with Good ([www.good.com](http://www.good.com))

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

**From:** Egan, Brian J. [mailto:Brian\_J\_Egan@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 02:38 PM Eastern Standard Time  
**To:** Darr, Charles; david.grimord@dot.gov; Kenney, Frederick CAPT; Baumert, Kevin A; Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov; [redacted]  
[redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



B5





B5

Brian Egan

Deputy Legal Adviser

National Security Staff

202/456-9116

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sullivan, David J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:40 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

We have been in contact with Brian to get NSC/Legal involved in teeing up an interagency lawyers call on issues related to bullet 1 (or 1bis) with respect to the [redacted]  
[redacted] This will likely happen tomorrow.

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:17 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:14 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

Israel Desk has just called to alert us that NSC is scheduling a PC for Thursday evening to which S plans to attend. While agenda is still being worked out it apparently includes such items as:

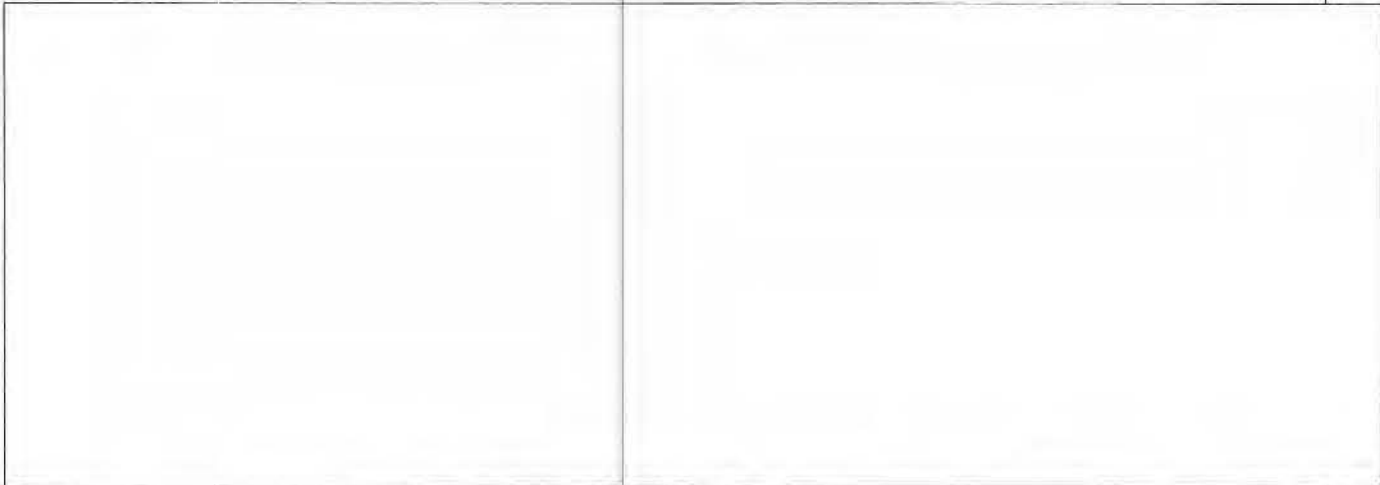
- o [redacted]
- o [redacted]
- o [redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:48 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?



B5

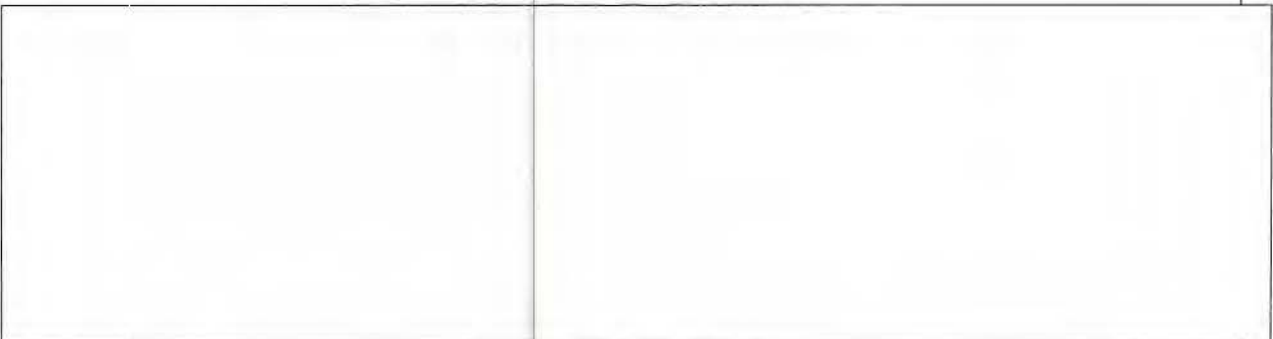
**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:05 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

Kevin, this is an incident allegedly occurring during an armed conflict. Wouldn't that impact your advice?

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 5:03 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Right.





*Article 94  
Duties of the flag State*

\*\*\*

7. Each State shall cause an inquiry to be held by or before a suitably qualified person or persons into every marine casualty or incident of navigation on the high seas involving a ship flying its flag and causing loss of life or serious injury to nationals of another State or serious damage to ships or installations of another State or to the marine environment. The flag State and the other State shall cooperate in the conduct of any inquiry held by that other State into any such marine casualty or incident of navigation.

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:30 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA); Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:12 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:09 PM  
**To:** Joyce, Anne; Gorove, Katherine M; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

Spoke to Baumert – he had EB check the database and it is indeed a Comoros-flagged vessel.

**From:** Joyce, Anne  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:07 PM  
**To:** Gorove, Katherine M; Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H; Newman, David S (L-CA)  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

David Newman knows a lot about the incident b/c of the visa sanctions issue – it's not directly related, but maybe he came across the issue of what flag the vessels were flying. It's the first I've heard of Comoros. aj

**From:** Gorove, Katherine M  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 4:02 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

The HRC reports used the language of war crimes. Although the Turkish report has been given to the Secretary-General, I don't believe that it is public (nor do I think that the USG has seen it).

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:51 PM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** Daley, John D; Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Perina, Alexandra H; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Subject:** RE: flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

[Redacted]

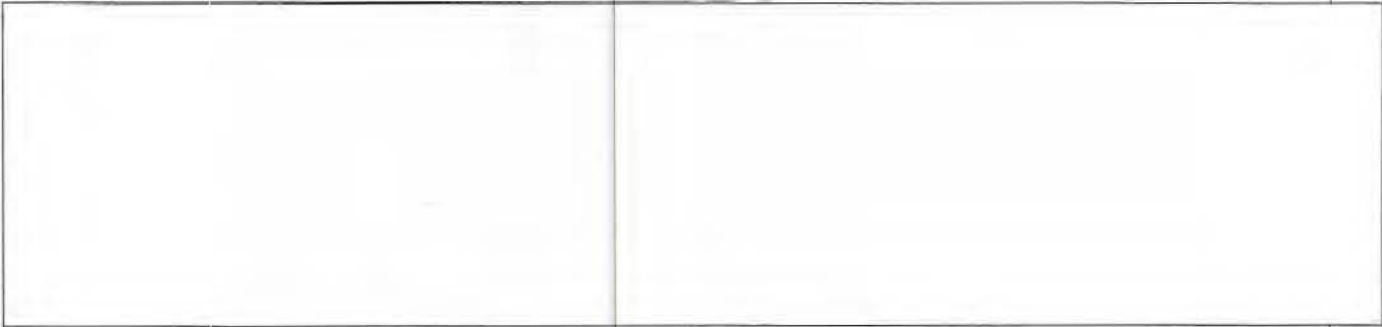
jon

**From:** Daley, John D  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:31 PM  
**To:** Kim, John J (Kimm); Johnson, Karen K; Jacobson, Linda; Joyce, Anne  
**Cc:** Buchwald, Todd F; Simonoff, Mark A (USUN); Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** flotilla incident -- Comoros-flagged vessel ?

John/Karen -

The press is reporting today that lawyers for the families of those killed by Israeli forces in connection with the Flotilla incident this spring have sent a letter to the ICC Prosecutor urging him to take action. Evidently their jurisdictional

theory is based on an allegation that the ship, although Turkish operated, was flying the Comoros flag and apparently was registered there. While neither Turkey or Israel are Rome Statute parties, Comoros is – and Article 12 of the Rome Statute is fairly express that there can be jurisdiction if the crimes occurred on a vessel where the state of registration is a Rome Statute party.



B5



Thanks.



RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 11:47 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M  
**Subject:** RE: Close Hold: Mr. Donilon's Meeting on [redacted] (06/08)

B5

A few additional questions, drawing on discussion this morning, some of which overlap with JoAnn's excellent questions:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)
- (6)
- (7)
- (8)
- (9)
- (10)

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Harris, Robert K; Banos, Mariano H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Pomper, Stephen E; Gorove, Katherine M; Eichensehr, Kristen E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** FW: Close Hold: Mr. Donilon's Meeting on [redacted] (06/08)

Please see JoAnn's excellent comments and work from these to comment or add further thoughts. Thanks.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 10:20 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: Close Hold: Mr. Donilon's Meeting on [redacted] (06/08)

Comments on paper:

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 8:11 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Subject:** FW: Close Hold: Mr. Donilon's Meeting on [redacted] (06/08)

**From:** Townley, Stephen G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 08, 2010 7:45 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Gorove, Katherine M; Banos, Mariano H  
**Cc:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** Close Hold: Mr. Donilon's Meeting on [redacted] (06/08)

See attached for discussion at the WH this afternoon. Let's please try to have thoughts/reactions compiled by late morning. Please keep close hold. Thanks, Stephen

**From:** Zimmerman, Thomas S. <Thomas\_S\_Zimmerman@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** george@george.mitchell.com <george@george.mitchell.com>; Reed, Julia G; Ross, Dennis B.

<Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nss.eop.gov>; Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; McDonough, Denis R. <Denis\_R.\_McDonough@nss.eop.gov>; Alhassani, Mehdi K. <Mehdi\_K.\_Alhassani@nss.eop.gov>; Rhodes, Benjamin J. <Benjamin\_J.\_Rhodes@nss.eop.gov>; Sullivan, Jacob J; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Power, Samantha J. <Samantha\_J.\_Power@nss.eop.gov>; DeRosa, Mary B. <Mary\_B.\_DeRosa@nsc.eop.gov>; Egan, Brian J. <Brian\_J.\_Egan@nss.eop.gov>; Sherwood-Randall, Elizabeth D. <Elizabeth\_D.\_Sherwood-Randall@nss.eop.gov>; Brink, Bridget A. <Bridget\_A.\_Brink@nss.eop.gov>; Alexander, Diane J; Lavy, Brendan L; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Donoghue, Joan E; [redacted]@dodgc.osd.mil <[redacted]@dodgc.osd.mil>; Barks-Ruggles, Erica J; Harris, Grant T; [redacted]@dodgc.osd.mil <[redacted]@dodgc.osd.mil>; [redacted]@js.pentagon.mil <[redacted]@js.pentagon.mil>

B3 DOD-CP

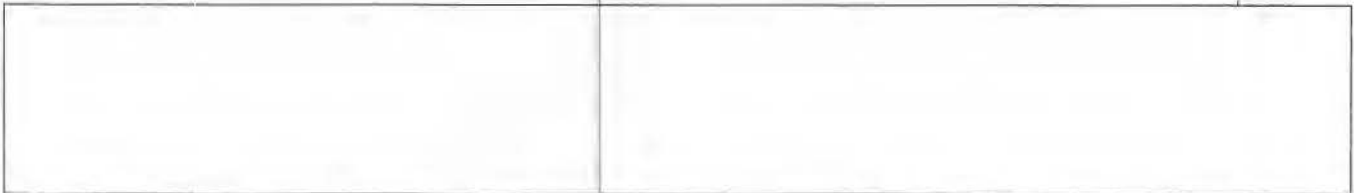
**Cc:** Donilon, Thomas E. <Thomas\_E.\_Donilon@nss.eop.gov>; Lang, Kimberly C. <Kimberly\_C.\_Lang@nss.eop.gov>; Strickler, Adam G. <Adam\_G.\_Strickler@nss.eop.gov>; Phillips, Katherine J. <Katherine\_J.\_Phillips@nss.eop.gov>; Spence, Matthew J. <Matthew\_J.\_Spence@nss.eop.gov>; Fishman, Benjamin I. <Benjamin\_I.\_Fishman@nss.eop.gov>; Pascal, Alexander J. <Alexander\_J.\_Pascal@nss.eop.gov>

**Sent:** Mon Jun 07 22:38:46 2010

**Subject:** Mr. Donilon's Meeting on [redacted] (06/08)

B5

All,



B5

We will provide more specific information tomorrow as soon as we are able. Please direct any further questions to Kate Phillips, at 202-456-9481 or [kphillips@nsc.eop.gov](mailto:kphillips@nsc.eop.gov).

R45

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

---

**From:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 9:20 PM  
**To:** DS Command Center  
**Cc:** Ross, Michael H; Ober, Richard C; Combs, James D; Roundy, Brian A; McCarthy, David T (Istanbul); Kolega, Alen  
**Subject:** Spot Report-Protests in Ankara, Istanbul, Adana.docx  
**Attachments:** Spot Report-Protests in Ankara, Istanbul, Adana.docx

**Categories:** Working  
**AttachmentsClassification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

**RELEASED IN PART B6**

**Brad Gilmore**  
**Assistant Regional Security Officer**  
**U.S. Embassy**  
**Ankara, Turkey**  
**Office: (90) (312) 455-5555 ext. 7024**  
**Cell: [REDACTED]**  
**Fax: (90) (312) 457-7060**  
**IVG: 295-7014**

B6

*This message is unclassified based on E.O. 12958*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



R41

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:09 PM  
**To:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Cc:** McCarthy, David T (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** FW: RSO action: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART  
B7(C),B6

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** McCarthy, David T (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:00 PM  
**To:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** McCarthy, David T (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Roundy, Brian A; Lillis, Amy J (Istanbul); de Otalvaro, Laura H; Appleton, Richard H; Darnell, Daria L; Combs, James D  
**Subject:** RE: RSO action: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

Win,

I've just gotten off the phone with [redacted] He and his family are fine and reports that there have been no incidents or demonstrators in his neighborhood. He and his family have been staying indoors. He will let us know if the situation changes. He did ask if we thought he and his family should consider evacuation, but I told him that at this time there was no recommendation to do so. B6  
B7(C)

Brian received a report from his FSNI that the written cable was supposedly sent from MFA to all security posts in Turkey authorizing any needed additional security for both the Israelis and ourselves. We've determined that the Besiktas Protection Unit has received it. The Besiktas chief stated that he would not be assigning any additional men, at the moment, to the Maya Residence, since they have a police station located there. He will react additional units if the situation changes. [redacted] is still trying to confirm an additional TNP unit to the CGR, but the Besiktas chief stated that if we have an incident there he would dispatch units immediately with a react time of 1-2 minutes. As I stated in another email, we've added another two LGF guards to that location thru tomorrow morning.

[redacted] has yet to receive a call back from the Sariyer police chief, but it's not from lack of trying. We are still attempting to confirm additional police units for the consulate and will advise when we have a definite answer.

Regards,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Dave

---

**From:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:04 PM  
**To:** Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Roundy, Brian A; McCarthy,



David T (Istanbul); Lillis, Amy J (Istanbul); de OtaIvaro, Laura H; Appleton, Richard H; Darnell, Daria L

**Subject:** RSO action: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

Brian/David:

Please reach out (yourself or via [redacted] to [redacted] (who is a US citizen, tel # below) to ascertain his security and concerns and to counsel him on security as appropriate. I understand [redacted] has given him at least one security briefing in the past, and the [redacted] is also known to Amy. Please report back when this is done. B6 B7(C)

Also, please keep this circle informed on latest developments you get from TNP and/or roving patrol regarding the demonstration(s). Also, please advise if/when the TNP supplies additional resources for the CGR and/or ConGen. I understand an Ankara office has sent instructions to that effect but can you (if you haven't) ascertain whether they've received the instructions and will comply?

Also, please be sure to clear with the CG or me whatever is being reported back to DS Command, Ankara or within the Mission. If your information is being exchanged by phone, please send a note to all so we all have the latest information. CG and I will be away from homes this evening but on blackberry.

Thanks, Win

---

**From:** Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 2:32 PM  
**To:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Roundy, Brian A; McCarthy, David T (Istanbul)  
**Subject:** Re: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

I just received a call from the ops center who passed call to me from [redacted] He is concerned about istanbul [redacted] who lives with his family at the Center. I promised to have someone call re security. I'll call win right now. B6

---

**From:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul)  
**To:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Roundy, Brian A; McCarthy, David T (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 14:08:42 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

Fyi, I understood Op Center's next spot report on this would likely be about 1900 our time.

---

**From:** Morgan, Jack A  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 1:56 PM  
**To:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul); de OtaIvaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Leedy, Jean B  
**Subject:** Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

Colleagues,

Cc'd on this email is J.B. Leedy the oncoming editor. She will be the best POC for the Afternoon Sport Report No. 2.

Cheers,

Jack Morgan

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

# ***SPOT REPORT NO. 1***

## ***LATEST SITUATION ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA***

Monday, May 31, 2010  
0615 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

Approved: PSlattery

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSC, HSC, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, FBIS, NCTC, DHS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



R38

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

**From:** de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:22 PM  
**To:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Subject:** FW: RSO action: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)  
**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

RELEASED IN PART B7(C),B6

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 3:04 PM  
**To:** Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Roundy, Brian A; McCarthy, David T (Istanbul); Lillis, Amy J (Istanbul); de Otalvaro, Laura H; Appleton, Richard H; Darnell, Daria L  
**Subject:** RSO action: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

B6  
B7(C)

Brian/David:

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**Subject:** Re: Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

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[redacted] He is concerned about istanbul [redacted] who lives with his family at the Center. I promised to have someone call re security. I'll call Win right now.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**To:** Dayton, Win (Istanbul); de Otalvaro, Laura H  
**Cc:** Leedy, Jean B  
**Subject:** Spot Report No. 1 - Latest Situation on Gaza Aid Flotilla (SBU)

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Jack Morgan

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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- (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

Approved: PSlattery

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSC, HSC, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, FBIS, NCTC, DHS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASED IN FULL

R49

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

---

**From:** Roundy, Brian A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 1:13 PM  
**To:** Gilmore, Bradley T; Combs, James D; Kolega, Alen  
**Subject:** FW: Sunday's Demonstration

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

FYI. According to Rodney's sources, see below, the crowds could be huge.

Brian Roundy  
Deputy Regional Security Officer  
US Embassy Ankara Turkey  
IVG. 295-7010  
Tel. 90-312-457-7010  
FAX. 90-312-457-7060  
Embassy Switchboard. 90-312-455-5555

In accordance with E.O. 12958, this message is UNCLASSIFIED.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Hunter, Rodney M  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 11:36 AM  
**To:** de Otalvaro, Laura H; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Arvey, Jason M  
**Cc:** Roundy, Brian A; Proctor, Tony A  
**Subject:** Sunday's Demonstration

We spoke to Mazlum-Der about the protest planned at 1600 on Sunday, June 6 in Sihhiye, Ankara.

It is being organized by a coalition of NGOs. These include:

- Mazlum-Der (Islamist Human Rights Org.)
- IHH (organizers of the flotilla)
- Hak-Is (Islamist Labor Union)
- Memur Sen
- BBP Youth Group (Turkish Nationalists who are also Islamists)
- Anadolu Genclik Dernegi (Anatolian Youth Association)

Political Parties are not officially involved, but members of some parties can come, and likely will.

When this group organized a similar rally on April 18, 2009, over 80,000 people attended, according to them. They expect a similar turn-out on Sunday -- and hope for more than before.

Thanks,  
RH

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Rodney M. Hunter  
Political Officer  
U.S. Embassy, Ankara  
(90) 312-457-72-96

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



R45A

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**BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY  
SPOT REPORT**

**U.S. Embassy Ankara  
U.S. Consulate General Istanbul  
U.S. Consulate Adana  
May 31, 2010**

**RELEASED IN PART B6**

**SUBJECT:** Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana - Protests against the Israeli military for stopping the Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla

**REFERENCES:** E-mail to Regional Security Officer Jim Combs on 05/31/2010

**SUMMARY:** On May 31, 2010 at approximately 4:30 a.m. the Israeli military landed soldiers on the deck of the Turkish flag ship "Blue Marmara" 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. Reports indicate that shots were fired and between 10 and 16 people were killed.

Protests by Turks against the actions of the Israeli military began the same day in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana. In Ankara and Istanbul, the protesters demonstrated outside Israeli diplomatic facilities. In Adana, protesters demonstrated outside of the U.S. Consulate. The protestors did not attack any U.S. personnel or facilities.

**ANKARA DETAILS:** Throughout the day and evening, protesters demonstrated outside the Israeli Embassy and Israeli Ambassador's Residence. Approximately 1,000 protesters remain outside of the Israeli Ambassador's Residence. The Turkish National Police (TNP) deployed riot police and closed numerous streets in response. No protestors demonstrated outside the U.S. Embassy, Ankara although a large group of approximately 200 protesters passed by at 8:45 p.m. local time. The protestors in Ankara have not threatened the U.S. or Americans living in Turkey.

**ISTANBUL DETAILS:** This morning, approximately 2,000 protesters demonstrated outside the Israeli Consulate. Riot police pushed the protesters away from the Israeli Consulate and used water cannons. The demonstrators then marched to Taksim Square, their numbers swelling to approximately 5,000 people.

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**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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The demonstration in Taksim Square ended at approximately 3:30 p.m. local time. The protestors in Istanbul have not threatened the U.S. or Americans living in Turkey.

**ADANA DETAILS:** At 12:30 p.m., approximately 4,000 protesters demonstrated in front of the U.S. Consulate. The protesters laid a black wreath in front of the U.S. Consulate and said that the U.S. was an invading country. The protesters dispersed at 2:00 p.m., and did not threaten the U.S. or Americans living in Turkey.

**LOCATIONS:**

1. Israeli Embassy, Ankara. Büyükesat Mh. Mahatma Gandhi Cd. 06700, Çankaya.
2. Israeli Ambassador's Residence, Ankara. Ataturk Blvd and Presidential Palace.
3. Israeli Consulate, Istanbul. Buyukudere CAD. Yapi Kredi, Plaza Block C KAT.7, Levent.
4. Taksim Square, Istanbul.
5. U.S. Consulate, Adana. Girne Bulvari No: 212 Guzelevler Mah. Yuregir.

**STEPS TAKEN:**

- RSOs in Ankara and Istanbul confirmed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) sent a cable to TNP authorizing additional security for U.S. installations,
- TNP provided additional police officers to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana, and
- RSOs increased the number of local guards assigned to the Chief of Mission's Residence and Consul General's Residence.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Post will continue to monitor the situation and make a determination regarding whether to convene an Emergency Action Committee.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

POC: Ankara ARSO Brad Gilmore, IVG: 295-7014, Cell:  Email: GilmoreBT@state.gov

POC: Istanbul ARSO David McCarthy, 90 212 335-9338. Email: McCarthyD1@state.gov

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

B6

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**ENCLOSURES:** None

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

R47

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 9:10 AM  
**To:** Gilmore, Bradley T  
**Cc:** Combs, James D; Roundy, Brian A; Kolega, Alen  
**Subject:** Demonstration at Sihhiye Square  
**Attachments:** Demonstration Site - Sihhiye Square.pdf; Israeli Ambassador's Residence.pdf

B6  
B7(C)

**Categories:** Working

RELEASED IN PART B7(C),B6

**AttachmentsClassification:**

UNCLASSIFIED

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

Brad - There are two important things for this weekend,

Firstly, there will be a large scale demonstration at Sihhiye Square (near Kizilay Square) organized by MAZLUMDER (The Association of Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed People) in the name of "Freedom for Palestinians" on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at 16:00.

TNP expects up to 20,000 people to gather for this demonstration and there will be road closures around Sihhiye Square between 12:00 and 18:00.

Secondly, TNP expects demonstrations at Israeli Ambassador's Residence over the weekend.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN PART B7(E),B7(C),B6

R50

**Gilmore, Bradley T**

**From:** [redacted] B6  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 4:21 PM B7(C)  
**To:** Solomon, Robin D; Darnell, Daria L; Lo, Debra; Ones, Leyla L; Combs, James D; Roundy, Brian A; Kolega, Alen; Gilmore, Bradley T; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Funeral ceremony of a killed Humanitarian Relief member/Adana

**Categories:** Working  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

I just talked to an official from the Sabanci Mosque; he says there were 30,000-40,000 people. Sorry I think it was too hot!!!

SBU  
 This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** [redacted] B6  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 3:20 PM B7(C)  
**To:** Solomon, Robin D; Darnell, Daria L; Lo, Debra; Ones, Leyla L; Combs, James D; Roundy, Brian A; Kolega, Alen; Gilmore, Bradley T; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Funeral ceremony of a killed Humanitarian Relief member/Adana

Over 60, 000 people joined in the funeral ceremony of a killed Humanitarian Relief member which held at the Sabanci Mosque of Adana.  
 The provincial TNP Director, Governor of Adana, Adana's MPs, mayors and all other officials attended in the ceremony. The mosque area was full of people, and there was no place inside our outside the mosque. The ceremony was quiet and no violent incident happened, only several times demonstrators chanted anti-Israeli slogans, no anti-American slogans reported.

The common slogan which chanted various times by the crowd was "**Islamic movement can't be stopped.**"

The majority of the crowd were men, but there were thousands of women as well. All women were wearing headscarf, almost half of the women were wearing Islamic black arbaya dresses.  
 There were many flags or headbands written in Arabic words as well.

There were heavy security precautions and the guys from various Islamic foundations controlled the crowd very well and stopped them whenever they wanted to chant anti-Israeli slogan.

**Banners as follows:**

Thousands of salutes from Adana to Gaza  
 Children murderer Israel  
 Cut the relationships with the Zionist gang  
 Gaza will be a graveyard for Israel  
 shut down the Zionist embassy  
 Palestinians are not alone  
 We will beat the Zionism and Islamic resistance will win  
 we are Palestinians  
 Martyrs are our honor  
 long-live our Islamic struggle.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

The ceremony was monitored by [redacted] and [redacted]

B7(E)

Please check the attached pictures for more info.

B6  
B7(C)



SBU  
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