

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2100 Second Street, S.W. STOP 7363
Washington, DC 20593-7363
Staff Symbol: CG-532
Phone: (202) 372-2026
Fax: (202) 372-2911
Michael.r.trotochaud@uscg.mil

5720
FOIA 11-0530
December 7, 2010

Katherine Gallagher
Staff Attorney
Center for Constitutional Rights
666 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10012

Dear Ms. Gallagher:

This letter is in response to your September 13, 2010 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request addressed to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). You requested copies of any and all records, regardless of format, regarding the May 31, 2010 Israeli military operation that occurred in the Mediterranean Sea involving a six-boat flotilla. You requested any and all records since January 1, 2010 that related to and reflect any and all plans, reports, documents, etc. that mention or relate to any vessels or a flotilla of boats destined for Gaza in May 2010. Your request includes, but is not limited to, any and all records reflecting communications in any format with the Israel Defense Forces, or any other division, department or representative of the Government of Israel prior to, on or after May 31, 2010 in relation to the U.S. registered vessel CHALLENGER I or any vessel in the flotilla. Your request was received in this office on December 3, 2010.

We conducted a comprehensive electronic search of files within the Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations (CG-532) for records that would be responsive to your request. The search looked for any references to "block", "blockade", "casualty", "Challenger I", "flotilla", "Gaza", "IDF", "injury", "Israel", "Israeli", "Mavi Marmara", "May 31, 2010", "mayday", "military", and "NATO". This search was conducted on December 6, 2010 by LT Michael Trotochaud, Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations.

While an adequate search was conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination that no records exist within the Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations that would be responsive to your request. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 60 days of the date of this letter, to:

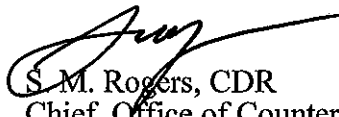
COMMANDANT (CG-611)
US COAST GUARD
ATTN: FOIA/PA OFFICER
2100 2ND ST SW STOP 7101
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7101

Following the procedures outlined in the DHS FOIA regulations at 6 CFR § 5.9. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and DHS regulations are available at www.dhs.gov/foia.

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$14 minimum, there is no charge.

If you need to contact our office concerning this request, please contact LT Michael Trotochaud at the email address or telephone number above.

Sincerely,



S. M. Rogers, CDR
Chief, Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations
U.S. Coast Guard
Acting