

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

CENTCOM JIOC Daily

Briefed by [redacted] ARL

MIFA 4

# Levant: Israel Secures Gaza Flotilla; Violence Ensues

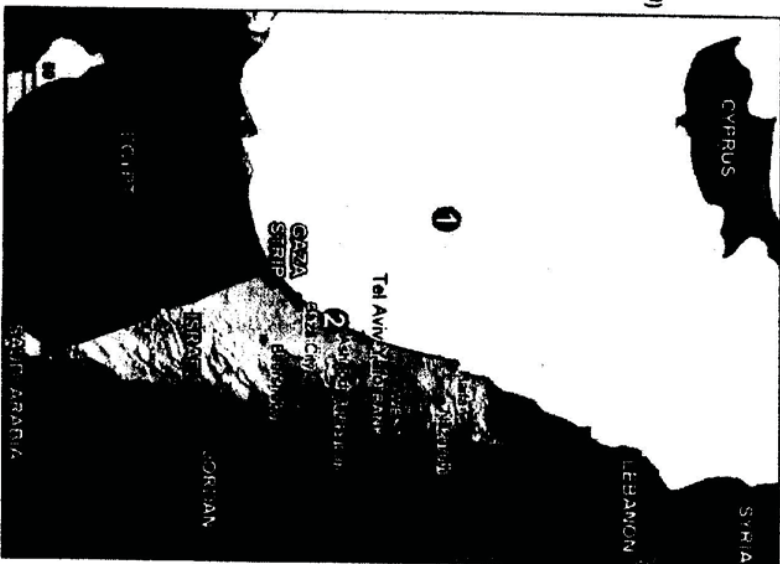
31 MAY 10, Israel Naval Force (INF) forcibly interdicted a civilian flotilla carrying aid for Gaza; ~9-14 activists were killed (u)

"Free Gaza Movement" refused to divert to Ashdod port, Israel: (u)

- Six ships carried ~750 passengers / ~10,000 tons of supplies (u)
- 31 MAY 10, INF commandos boarded MV MARI MARA in international waters; Tel Aviv claimed activists attacked IDF boarders with knives and clubs (u)
- IDF responded with gunfire; 9-14 activists killed, ~30 wounded (u)

**Regional community indignant; criticize Israeli actions:** (u)

- Lebanese PM Hariri and Syrian President Assad issued a joint statement which warned Israel risked a larger Middle East conflict (u)
- Fatah delegation to be sent to Gaza to "complete the reconciliation" (u)
  - PA to call for international commission to investigate "assault" (u)
- Turkey recalled ambassador for consultations; Foreign Ministry warned of "irreparable consequences" for Turkish-Israeli relations (u)
- 31 MAY 10, UNSC held emergency meeting over incident (u)
- 1 JUN 10, Arab League (AL) to hold emergency meeting; AL backing for PA's ongoing indirect talks with Israel may be discussed (u)



ASSESSMENT

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

1 JUN 10

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Declassify on: 25X1-Human

CCR/CENTCOM/000001

**X. 20100602 SIR – Lebanon**

**(U) Lebanese Reaction to Gaza Flotilla Violence.** 31 MAY, Lebanese press: Thousands of Palestinian activists gathered in Beirut, Tripoli, and Sidon to protest Israel's interdiction of an aid ship bound for Gaza. Protestors burned Israeli flags, waved banners, and chanted "death to Israel." Lebanese political leaders firmly denounced the attack, calling it a "criminal act and massacre," and encouraged the international community to call an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. Lebanese political groups planned an additional protest for 1 JUN to show solidarity with the Palestinians. Hizballah also released a public statement following the incident, calling Israeli action against the ships a "terrorist act that deserves international punishment." **Analyst Comment:** Lebanese political leaders and citizens are united in their condemnation of Israel. We expect additional protests to occur in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Minor security incidents are possible.

ICOD: 20100601

SOURCES: CCR 380-14; OSC, REUTERS 31 MAY 10; OSC (GMP20100601966022) 010225ZJUN10; OSC (GMP20100601966028) 010128ZJUN10

DECLASS: 20200601

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**X. 20100602 SIR – Syria**

~~(C)~~ **President Asad Calls on the U.S. to Push Israel to Halt its Brutal Aggressions.** 01 JUN, state-controlled news media: During a meeting with a visiting U.S. Senator in Damascus, Syrian President Asad called on the U.S. to push Israel to halt its brutal aggressions, lift the siege on the Gaza Strip, and move forward with the peace process as the only solution to restore security and stability in the region. Asad's comments come following a series of condemnations from the Syrian government in response to the Israeli interdiction of a fleet of Gaza-bound humanitarian ships. On 31 MAY (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

**Analyst**

**Comment:** (b)(1)

(b)(1)

ICOD: 20100601

SOURCES: CCR 380-14; OSC (GMP20100601966092) 010946Z JUN 10, "Official Source at Syrian Foreign Ministry: The Bloody Heinous Israeli Piracy against Freedom Fleet a Message to International Community, Must Not Keep Silent Over" 31 MAY 2010 (DAMASCUS, SANA ONLINE)

DECLAS: 20200601

# Levant: Israel Plans to Interdict Remaining Flotilla Vessels

(b)(1)

(S) ~~(U)~~

## Israel sticks to Gaza interdiction policy: (U)

• 2 JUN 10, Israeli security cabinet asserted Gaza blockade was an act of self-defense, insisted activists responsible for 31 MAY violence (U)

(S) ~~(U)~~

• 3 JUN 10 press, Turkish forensics, AMEMBASSY TEI AVIV report 8 Turkish citizens, 1 AMCIT of Turkish origin died in 31 MAY Israeli raid; all had bullet wounds (U)

## "Free Gaza" MV RACHEL CORRIE bound for Gaza: (U)

- 03 JUN 10, 1 RACHEL CORRIE ~ 260 NM west of Gaza ~~(U)~~
- 03 JUN 10, RACHEL CORRIE activist requested UN escort into Gaza; 15 passengers aboard (5 Irish, 5 Malaysians, 4 Indonesians, 1 British) (U)
- 03 JUN 10, 2 two "Free Gaza" yachts remained in port at Cyprus ~~(U)~~

## Turkey, Palestinians demand investigation of Israeli actions: (U)

(b)(1)

• 2 JUN 10, PA President Abbas rejected calls to suspend proximity talks with Israel, but demanded UN inquiry into raid, end to blockade (U)

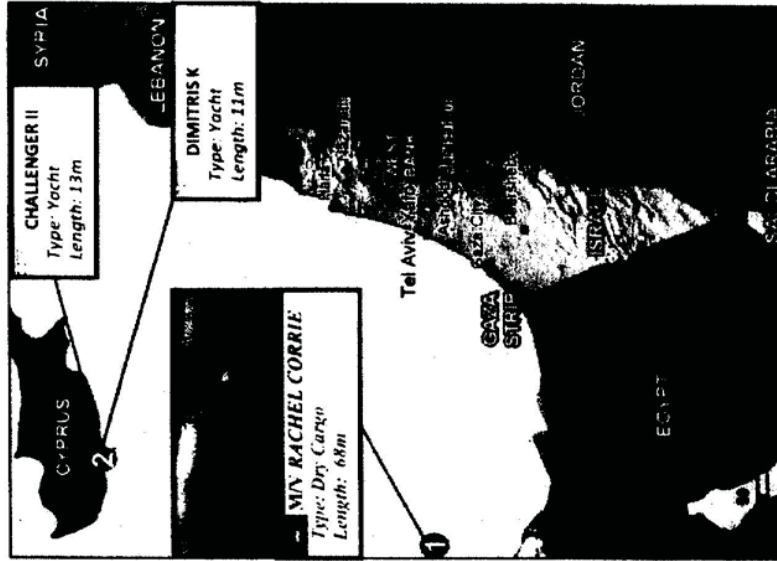
## ASSESSMENT.

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

(S) ~~(U)~~

4 JUN 10





# Lebanon: Implications of Gaza Flotilla Interdiction (U)

## Flotilla Incident Sparks Protests, Officials Condemn Israel: (U)

- 31 MAY, thousands protested in Beirut, Sidon, and Tripoli to express outrage over the Israeli interdiction of the "Freedom Flotilla" (U)
- 31 MAY, Pres Sulayman called the incident "a criminal act and massacre" which added to Israel's record of "organized crimes and terrorism" (U)
- PM Hariri called for an emergency UN Security Council session (U)
- 3 JUN, smaller rallies continued in Beirut and south Lebanon (U)



Protestor jumps over burning tires in Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp (U)

## Detained Lebanese Passengers on Flotilla Return Home: (U)

- 3 JUN, Israeli authorities handed over four of six detained Lebanese men to UNIFIL at the Naqura border crossing in south Lebanon (U)
- The passengers included two Al-Jazeera reporters and two activists (U)
- Israel released the other two men, who held dual citizenships, to their home countries of Belgium and Ireland (U)

## Hizballah Will Use Incident to Justify Retaining its Weapons: (C)

- 31 MAY, Hizballah released a public statement following the incident stating Israel's action against Gaza-bound aid ships was a "terrorist act that deserves international punishment" (U)
- 2 JUN, Hizballah Deputy Sec Gen Qassim said all tension in the region was due to Israel, and the "Resistance" (a reference to Hizballah) was the only solution because Israel only understands "the language of force" (U)

## ASSESSMENT:

(b)(1) (b)(1)

(b)(1)

(S)

**X. 20100604 SIR – Lebanon**

**(U) Hizballah Announces Rally.** 3 JUN, Lebanese press: Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah called for all Lebanese and Palestinian communities to take part in a rally in Beirut on 4 JUN to show solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza and “all the heroes of the Freedom Flotilla.” Nasrallah praised the Flotilla activists for demonstrating patience and steadfastness in the face of Israeli “attacks, piracy, criminality, killing, detention, and torture.” Nasrallah announced plans for the rally while delivering a 3 JUN speech at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the death of Iranian Supreme Leader Khomeini. **Analyst Comment:** The rally will likely occur in the primarily Shia suburbs of south Beirut. While we expect a high turnout of Hizballah followers, the likelihood of violence at the rally is low.

ICOD: 20100603

SOURCES: CCR 380-14; OSC (GMP20100603644003) 3 JUN 10

DECLASS: N/A

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**FYI-- Nasrallah Marks Khomeyni's Death Anniversary, To Address Rally 4 June (U)**

GMP20100603644003 Beirut *Al-Manar Channel Television* in Arabic 1336 GMT 03 Jun 10 (U)

[For assistance with multimedia elements, contact OSC at (800) 205-8615 or [OSCinfo@rccb.osis.gov](mailto:OSCinfo@rccb.osis.gov). (U)]

***Beirut Al-Manar Channel Television in Arabic at 1336 GMT on 3 June begins to carry live relay of a ceremony held at the Al-Risalat Hall in Beirut in commemoration of the 21st death anniversary of late Iranian Imam Khomeyni.***

The ceremony begins by playing the Lebanese and Hizballah's national anthems.

The ceremony is attended by Hizballah officials including Muhammad Ra'd, head of The Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc; and Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, chairman of Hizballah's Shari'ah Commission, as well as Hizballah ministers and deputies. Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Na'im Qasim was not observed to attend the ceremony.

The attendees also include Minister of Agriculture Husayn al-Hajj Hasan, representative of Lebanese President Michel Sulayman; Amal Party member Khalil Hamdan, representative of Speaker Nabih Birri, and Sports and Youth Minister Ali Abdallah, representative of Prime Minister Sa'd al-Hariri, in addition to a number of clerics and military officials.

The master of ceremonies then begins to greet the audience, glorifying late Imam Khomeyni and his personality and traits.

At 1342 GMT, Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Ghadanfar Rokon Abadi takes the floor.

After hailing the late leader and imam, Abadi says that “we in the Islamic Republic of Iran stress our right to the full utilization of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in order to achieve social and economic welfare. This is a legitimate right to all nations recognized by the laws of the IAEA.” He adds that “neither intimidation nor sanctions” will weaken the Iranian resolve, noting that the

world is dealing with Iran in "double standards" due to its adherence to its right to nuclear energy, while turning a blind eye to the nuclear arsenal of "the Zionist enemy," which did not sign the NPT treaty.

Abadi expresses solidarity with the Palestinian people in Gaza and calls on the international community "to adopt a strict stance against the state terrorism, embodied by the Zionist entity in its recurring hostile crimes." Abadi also reiterates Iran's support for Lebanon in the face of "the ongoing threats by the Zionist enemy, its continuous violation of Lebanese sovereignty, and its continuous occupation of parts of southern Lebanon." He stresses "the right of the Lebanese people to defend their honor, sovereignty, and water through their unity and rallying around their national right to assert their sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territories."

At 1352 GMT, Khalil Hamdan, representative of House Speaker Nabih Birri, takes the floor to deliver Birri's speech.

Hamdan hails the late imam and the Islamic Revolution, reminding of what Imam Khomeyni said to the effect that Israel "is a cancerous gland that should be removed."

Hamdan then attacks the Israeli attempts to Judaize Palestinian territories as well as Muslim and Christian holy places.

Hamdan says that such Israeli actions make every Arab person responsible for removing "this cancerous gland and absolute evil;" namely Israel.

Hamdan hails Turkey for dispatching the Freedom Flotilla, which was sent to save, rescue, and offer support for the people of Gaza.

Hamdan calls for lifting the siege on Gaza and fully condemning Israel. He praises the Syrian, Turkish, and Iranian stands toward the Palestinian cause.

Hamdan then hails the resistance in Lebanon, noting that "abandoning the resistance is tantamount to offering a free service to Israel."

At 1410 GMT, Shaykh Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, vice president of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, takes the floor.

Qabalan hails the late imam and the Islamic Revolution, saying that the Islamic Revolution has been "a landmark of Islamic development."

Qabalan then quotes Khomeyni as saying that "Israel is a germ, or a cancerous gland; hence, we should control this gland by injections that prevent it from expanding and spreading."

Qabalan condemns the Israeli act of "piracy" in the international waters, expressing thanks to Turkey and the Islamic Nahdah [development] in Turkey for embodying Islamic ethics and dignity.

At 1419 GMT, Reverend Antoine Daw, secretary general of the Episcopal Council for Islamic-Christian dialogue, takes the floor to deliver Cardinal Butrus Nasrallah Sfayr's speech.

Daw begins by saying that the papal nuncio in Turkey was assassinated in reaction to the Freedom Flotilla, Turkey, and to the Christian-Islamic relations. He adds that "this struggle in the East is a Zionist struggle against Christianity and Islam."

Daw calls for renewing the national and Islamic unity in the whole world, hailing Khomeyni's teachings which called for boosting values, ethics, freedom, just, peace, and love among the peoples of the world.

Daw then condemns the Israeli "act of aggression against the peace activists aboard the Freedom Flotilla," who "braved death to remind the international public opinion of the need to lift the siege on the Palestinian people who have been besieged in Gaza since 2006."

Daw then praises the values of the Islamic Revolution saying that they are "humanitarian, civilized, and institutional values that uplifted the Iranian state to the level of important regional states that compete on the technological, informational, and technical levels."

At 1440 GMT, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah then starts to give a speech via a giant screen.

He begins by greeting the audience and glorifying late Imam Khomeyni and his personality and traits. He also offered condolences over his death anniversary to the supreme Iranian leader Ali Khamene'i, the religious authorities, and the government, president, and people of Iran.

***Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah***

achievements made by him is "the revival of the set of divine, prophetic, Islamic, humane, and ethical values in the lives of human beings, peoples, and nations."

Nasrallah talks about the "achievements" of Imam Khomeyni, saying that the most important

He notes that many people were "inspired" by the revolution, experience, and values of Imam Khomeyni in facing their "challenges, tyrants, and difficult circumstances."

Nasrallah adds that the imam "revived in us and in this ummah the culture of jihad, the culture of facing the tyrants and oppressors" and that he also revived "even the culture of martyrdom-seeking for the sake of the causes of our ummah and our sacred causes."

He notes that the late imam "held the tyrants and haughty powers, the foremost of which is what he truly used to call the great Satan, the US Administration, responsible for all the oppression, tyranny, deprivation, and coercion from which our nations and the oppressed and wronged nations of the world were suffering from."

Commenting on the Israeli attack on Freedom Flotilla, Nasrallah praises "the courage, steadfastness, truthfulness, sacrifice, and the high sense of responsibility expressed by all the participants in the Freedom Flotilla, which was bound to break the inhuman siege imposed on the Gaza Strip."

Nasrallah praised the activists for demonstrating "patience, steadfastness and firm belief in the rightfulness of they are doing" in the face of the Israeli "attacks, piracy, and criminality, killing, detention, and torture."

Nasrallah concludes his speech by extending an invitation to all the Lebanese, Palestinians, and all Arab and Islamic communities in Lebanon to take part in a festival in solidarity with the

Palestinian people in Gaza and "all the heroes of Freedom Flotilla" that will be held on at 1730 GMT 4 June, during which he will give another speech.

OSC/JN plans to text the 29-minute speech by Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah at priority precedence to clear by 1500 GMT on 4 June.

OSC/JN will also be adequately staffed to cover his upcoming 4 June speech and file FYI/s as warranted including processing plans.

[Description of Source: Beirut Al-Manar Channel Television in Arabic – Satellite service of Al-Manar Channel, affiliated with the pro-Iranian Hizballah]

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CCR/CENTCOM/000009

DeptofDefense0009

**X. 20100608 SIR – Lebanon**

~~(S)~~ **Protest Occurs Near US Embassy.** 7 JUN, diplomatic reporting: Several hundred activists held a protest on 6 JUN related to the Gaza Flotilla incident. The demonstration was located ~2 km from the US Embassy, situated north of Beirut. Demonstrators waved Turkish and Palestinian flags, chanted anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans, burned Israeli and American flags, and called for an end to the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. Four protesters attempted to circumvent the wire barrier set up by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), but the LAF quickly detained them. **Analyst Comment:** (b)(1)

(b)(1)

ICOD: 20100607

SOURCES: CCR 380-14; AMEMBASSY BEIRUT (000527) 7 JUN 2010

DECLASS: N2020607

(b)(1)

CCR/CENTCOM/000010

2. (b) **Lebanese** political leaders quickly reacted to the May 31 Israeli boarding of the "Freedom Flotilla" bound for Gaza with statements condemning the act and calling for international action. President Michel Sleiman characterized the Israeli action as "a massacre that can be added to Israel's criminal record and its record of organized terrorism," whereas PM Saad Hariri described it as "dangerous and crazy" and called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council (Lebanon was Council president during the month of May). Nearly all political parties released statements condemning the raid as a violation of international law.

**LEBANESE DETAINEES EXPEDITIOUSLY RETURNED**

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(b)(1)

(b)(1)

6 (U) In response to Nasrallah's call, Hizballah's Al Manar TV reported that two **Lebanese** NGOs launched a campaign to raise funds to buy a ship to sail from Lebanon to Gaza carrying educational supplies and journalists. The NGOs -- the Free Palestine Movement and the Beirut-based Reporters Without Limits --announced at a joint press conference on June 5 that they hoped the boats would set off for Gaza at the end of the week. Free Palestine Movement head Yasser Qoshlok called on "all those who consider themselves free' to participate in this convoy," which he dubbed "the Najj al-Al Fleet to break the siege on the children and the people of Gaza." Qoshlok said the convoy will carry assistance and educational materials for Palestinian children, in addition to journalists who will cover the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Thaer Ghandour, speaking for Reporters Without Limits, said the ship would carry 50 journalists and 25 European activists including European MPs.

**LEBANESE PRAISE TURKISH ASSERTIVENESS**

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

8 ~~(SBU)~~ On the morning of June 6 a group of approximately 300 participants protested the seizure of the flotilla in Awkar Square, below the Embassy. The protest, which was organized by the **Lebanese** Socialist Democratic Party, the **Lebanese** Communist Party, and sympathetic Palestinian political groupings, lasted only about an hour. The protesters, who were relatively peaceful, waved Turkish and Palestinian flags, chanted anti-Israeli and

BEIRUT 00000527 003 OF 003

anti-American slogans, and burned American and Israeli flags. Four protesters managed to circumvent the concertina wire barrier set up by **Lebanese** security forces before being quickly detained. No injuries or damage was reported, and the Embassy received excellent support from the **Lebanese** Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces. A joint delegation from March 8 and March 14 parties has asked to visit the Embassy on June 9 to present a letter condemning the raid on the flotilla.

(b)(1)

**X. 20100608 SIR – Syria**

~~(C)~~ **President Asad in Istanbul; Expresses Solidarity with Turkey Following Flotilla Incident** . 7 JUN, regional press: During a joint press conference in Istanbul with Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan, Syrian President Asad characterized Israel's interdiction of the Freedom Flotilla as a "heinous crime" and accused Israel of premeditating the killing of activists on board. President Asad further stressed Syria's support and solidarity with the people of Turkey and noted Israel's activity revealed it is the party which blocks peace. Finally, Asad added Syria is ready to follow Turkey's lead in responding to the interdiction and preventing further Israeli aggression. **Analyst Comment:** (b)(1)

(b)(1)

ICOD: 20100607

SOURCES: CCR 380-14; "President al-Assad: Israel Killed Freedom Flotilla Supporters with Premeditation and Planning" 7 JUN 2010 (DAMASCUS, SANA ONLINE)

DECLAS: 20200607

CCR/CENTCOM/000014

FG

(b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government

**From:** (b)(6) MAJ  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 3:43 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government  
**Subject:** FW: Press: 1 of 9 Dead Flotilla Activists a US Citizen of Turkish Origin  
**Attachments:** EIGHT OUT OF 9 DEAD IN ISRAELI RAID ON AID FLOTILLA WERE; AMMUN NEWS: EIGHT TURKS, US NATIONAL SHOT DEAD IN ISRAELI

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

(b) Enclosed is an email chain between the JIM and the J2 relating to the flotilla incident. The two attachments are press pieces referred to below. I recommend redacting the names, but the rest of the email should be OK for release.

-(b)(6)

Major (b)(6)  
CENTCOM Levant Analyst  
(U) (b)(6) (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2010 11:09 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government; (b)(6) MAJ  
**Subject:** FW: Press: 1 of 9 Dead Flotilla Activists a US Citizen of Turkish Origin

**From:** (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 10:27 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) AFFILIATE CENTCOM USA Military; (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government; (b)(6) CAPT; (b)(6) CENTCOM USA CTR  
**Cc:** ~J2WATCH\_MAILBOX; #SEMAFB\_EASTERN\_MEDITERRANEAN\_TEAM; (b)(6) LTC; (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government  
**Subject:** FW: Press: 1 of 9 Dead Flotilla Activists a US Citizen of Turkish Origin

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Gentlemen,

FYI, one possible U.S. citizen among the nine who were killed in the flotilla seizure, according to preliminary press out of both Turkey and Jordan. Mr. (b)(6) is tracking with EUCOM and DAO Tel Aviv -- we've been unable to confirm the press reports as yet.

V/R  
(b)(6)  
Syria-Lebanon  
CENTCOM -- Joint Intelligence Center Central  
MacDill AFB Tampa  
VOIP (b)(6)  
Tandberg (b)(6)

1/21/2011

CCR/CENTCOM/000015

**From:** (b)(6) CENTCOM USA CTR [mailto:(b)(6)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) CENTCOM USA Government  
**Cc:** (b)(6) MR; (b)(6) MR  
**Subject:** Press: 1 of 9 Dead Flotilla Activists a US Citizen of Turkish Origin

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

I've called JAC EUCOM and DAO Tel Aviv, and this report remains unconfirmed by the US or Israeli governments.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Palestinian - Israeli AOI Analyst  
ASE, Inc. Contractor  
JICCENT Levant Team (CCJ2-JARL)  
TSVOIP: (b)(6) / SVOIP: (b)(6)  
DSN: (b)(6) / Commercial (b)(6)  
SIPR (b)(6)  
NIPR

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

1/21/2011

CCR/CENTCOM/000016

(b)(1) 1,4a, b, c, d  
FO

~~TOP SECRET//HCS//COMINT-GAMMA//ORCON/NOFORN~~

CENTCOM JIOC Daily  
Intel Update

Briefed by: [redacted] MFA: 4

# Israel: Pressured to Ease Gaza Policy in Wake of Flotilla (U)



(b)(1)

(S)

(S) [redacted]  
03-06 JUN Turkey demanded lifting of blockade, external inquiry into "raid" (U)

(S) [redacted]

(S) [redacted]

(b) (1)

(S) [redacted]

(b) (1)

(S) [redacted]

(S)



(U) President Asad and PM Erdogan met on 7 JUN to discuss reactions

(S) [redacted]

8 JUN, Israel approved 13 USAID projects for Gaza; admitted Turkish "interference" and PA Abbas's 9 JUN

visit to U.S. influenced its decision Gaza policy to "evolve" over next 2-3 months (U//FOUO)

(S)

(S) [redacted]

## ASSESSMENT:

(b)(1)

(S) [redacted]

1 10 JUN 10

~~TOP SECRET//HCS//COMINT-GAMMA//ORCON/NOFORN~~ Declassify on: 25X1-HUMAN

Enclosure (1)

~~SECRET - NOFORN~~

310130ZMAY10, EUCOM/USDAO TEL AVIV, ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES (INF)  
 INTERCEPTED SIX FREE GAZA MOVEMENT (FGM) FLOTILLA SHIPS ATTEMPTING TO  
 BREAK THE NAVAL BLOCKADE OF THE GAZA STRIP, 75NM W OF HAIFA, ISR. INF  
 COMMANDOS CONDUCTED AN OPPOSED BOARDING (VIA FAST-ROPE) OF THE TURKISH-  
 FLAGGED PASSENGER SHIP MAVI MARMARA. FGM SHIPS ARE BEING DIVERTED TO  
 ASHDOD, ISR FOR INSPECTION. CURRENT INFORMATION INDICATES NO US CASUALTIES  
 10 ISR WIA, 14 (4 NK) CIV KILLED, 30 (1 NK) CIV WOUNDED

INCIDENT LEADING TO SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL INTEREST  
 NRIOR S (D) N I R P O R T

~~SECRET - NOFORN~~

CCR/CENTCOM/000018

**X. SIR - Israel**

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 U.S.C. 424,(b)(3):18 U.S.C. 798,(b)(3):50 U.S.C. 403-1(i),(b)(3):P.L. 86-36

**ICOD: 20100531**

**DERIVED FROM: CCR 380-14; USJ-800 (C. 42 05079-10) 281557ZMAY 10; USD-1004**

(b) (3):10 U.S. C. 42 (b) (500050-10) 281022ZMAY10; (b) (26738011) 281450ZMAY10; (b)(3):10 U.S.C. 424

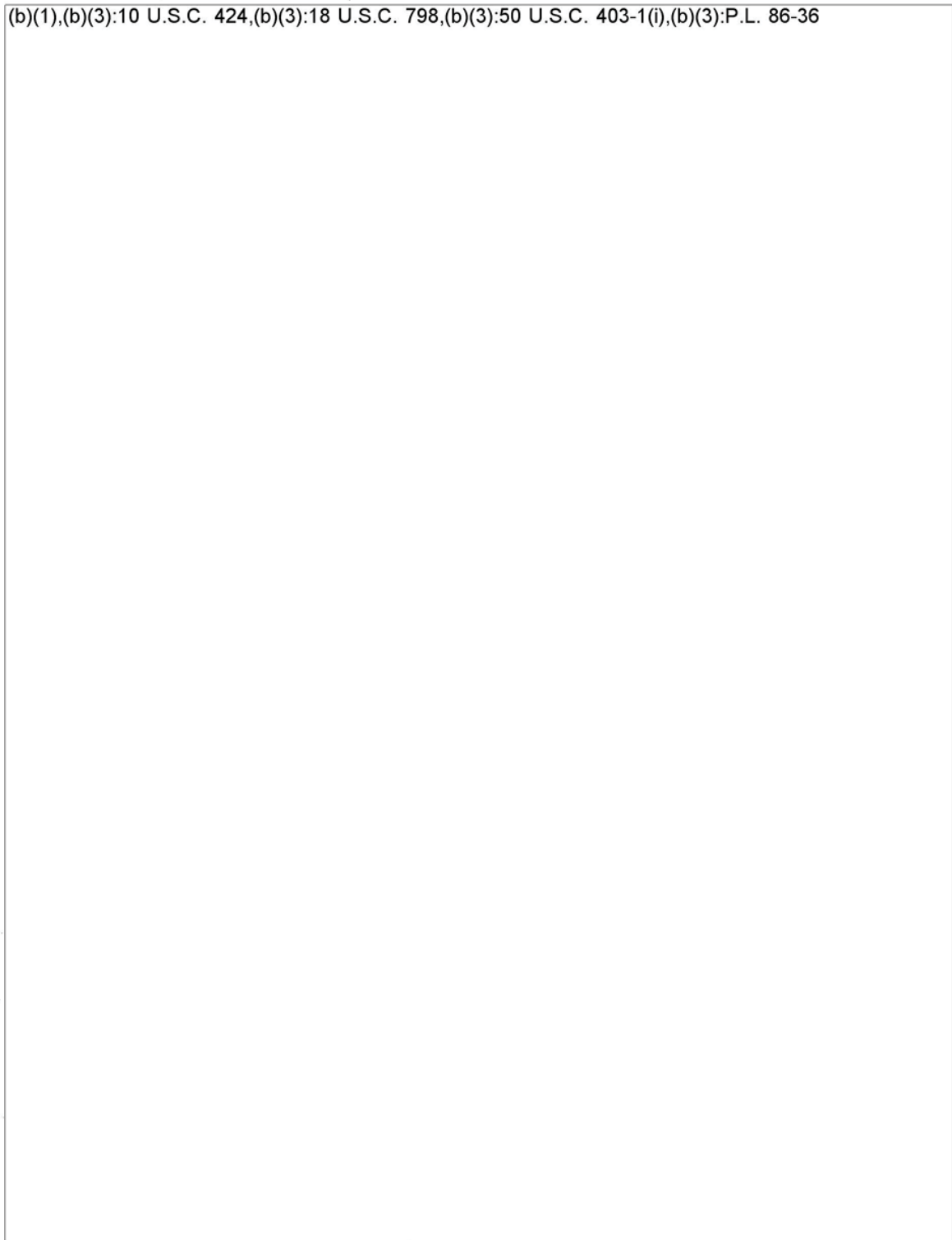
(b)(3):10 U.S.C. 424

(HL1005240) 251305ZMAY10

**DECLASSIFY ON: MR**

(b)(1),(b)(3):18 U.S.C. 798,(b)(3):50 U.S.C. 403-1(i),(b)(3):P.L. 86-36

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 U.S.C. 424,(b)(3):18 U.S.C. 798,(b)(3):50 U.S.C. 403-1(i),(b)(3):P.L. 86-36



(b)(1),(b)(3):18 U.S.C. 798,(b)(3):50 U.S.C. 403-1(i),(b)(3):P.L. 86-36

UNCLAS

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PREC: P DTG: 281450Z MAY 10  
FROM: OSC RESTON VA  
UNCLAS  
SECTION 1 OF 2  
QQQQ  
CITE OSC RESTON VA 403982

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM,  
URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20110426738011

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, CYPRUS, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL: ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT AID FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA  
(U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL INVITES GAZA AID FLOTILLA TO UNLOAD CARGO AT  
ASHDOD PORT GMP20100527738002 ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY ENGLISH  
0000 GMT 27 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

For assistance with multimedia elements, contact OSC at  
(b)(6) or oscinfo(-AT-)(b)(6) (U)

Internet

OSC Summary

This product may contain copyrighted material; authorized use is for national security purposes of the United States Government only. Any reproduction, dissemination, or use is subject to the OSC usage policy and the original copyright. (U)

The Israeli media on 28 May continues to report on Israel's preparations for blocking the IHH flotilla that sailed out from Istanbul en route to break the siege on the Gaza Strip.

Armed Commandos Set To Intercept Flotilla, Cyprus Won't Let Ships Anchor

(Attachment not included: GMP20110426738011001.jpg) Haaretz map shows route of aid flotilla heading for Gaza Strip

Tova Lazaroff reports in right-of-center, independent Jerusalem The Jerusalem Post Online in English: "Navy commandos will board the nine international aid ships sailing toward Gaza City if they don't turn back, and the commandos will be armed in case terrorists are hiding aboard, defense officials said on Thursday.

The ships are scheduled to try to break the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip on Saturday. They are carrying around 750 activists, including diplomats and journalists, as well as about 10,000 tons of supplies. Top IDF officers said on Thursday that the navy will not 'take any chances' if and when it boards the ships, and will immediately inspect them for explosives, including using bomb-sniffing dogs from the IDF's Oketz K9 Unit. The navy plans to board the ships if they refuse to turn around.

"The ships will receive a number of warnings from the navy as they begin to make their approach to the Gaza Strip, starting from a distance of about 65 kilometers. If the ships are commandeered, they will be sailed to the Ashdod Port, where the government has set up tents to hold the activists. The activists will be taken into the tents for identification and medical attention, and asked to leave the country voluntarily. If they refuse, they will be arrested and transferred to the custody of the Prisons Service and the Interior Ministry. Foreign Ministry officials will be present to handle the diplomats who are on board the ships, while representatives of the Government Press Office will be responsible for the journalists."

"IDF sources said the military was planning on not having to use any force during the operation but was prepared for any scenario that could develop, including the possibility that the ships have been rigged with explosives by terrorists. 'Until we are on board, we will not know for sure who and what are on the ships,'

a senior officer said. The operation will involve thousands of IDF and security personnel, including a number of elite units, trained in non-lethal crowd dispersion tactics that will be used, if needed, when boarding the vessels.

"Late Thursday evening, Cypriot officials assured Israel that Cyprus would not let the flotilla anchor near its shores, sail in its territorial waters or use its ports."

IDF Worried About Rioting in Holding Areas After Disembarkation

(Attachment not included: GMP20110426738011002.jpg)

Israeli Navy boats invite flotilla for cake and coffee "at Ma'asiyahu Prison" (Haaretz cartoon by Eran Wolkowitz)

Anshel Pfeffer and Yuval Azulay report in left-of-center, independent Tel Aviv Haaretz.com in English: "Defense sources expressed concerns about rioting in the holding area, so this space will be off limits to the media.

There are also worries that the activists, to make it difficult to expel them, will destroy their passports and refuse to identify themselves."

Israeli Advocacy Group To Greet Flotilla With Own Demonstration

Zoe Fox reports in The Jerusalem Post Online: "The European 'Freedom Flotilla' making its way to Gaza bearing humanitarian aid and activists may have a surprise waiting when it reaches Israel's southern waters on Friday. Israel advocacy group StandWithUs plans to greet the European convoy with its own demonstration at sea. A fleet of privately owned Israeli boats will leave the Ashdod and Herzliyya marinas in hopes of surprising the European activists Friday at 1 p.m.

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"The counter-flotilla ships will be covered in 'Free Gaza From HAMAS' banners and boat owners will wear bloodstained T-shirts, representing HAMAS's terror record. StandWithUs and individual donations will fund the demonstration. 'What the other anti-Israel flotilla is doing is ignoring human rights abuses and focusing on a fake situation,' Michael Dickson StandWithUs's Israel director, told The Jerusalem Post Thursday. Dickson believes the European activists care more about hurting Israel than helping the Palestinians in Gaza."

Complex System of Mideast Alliances Seen Emerging, Turkish Group Involvement Not Coincidental

Amos Har'el and Avi Issacharoff report in left-of-center, independent Tel Aviv Haaretz.com in English: "This will not be the first time the navy has had to take over such ships trying to make their way to the Gaza Strip, but this time the flotilla is larger than before. In previous cases, the government of Ehud Olmert allowed ships to enter the Gaza Strip. A year ago, under Binyamin Netanyahu, a ship was stopped by force and its crew was arrested and deported. This time the confrontation is expected to be larger, louder and will require more careful and professional handling under the guidance of the top military brass.

"In the approaching clash, the complex system of alliances and counter-alliances of the Middle East is beginning to emerge. It does not appear to be coincidental that the Islamist governing party in Turkey is involved behind the scenes, in dispatching the flotilla, in coordination with HAMAS in the Gaza Strip. At the same time it is doubtful that it is coincidental that

the Israel Air Force held this week exercises with Greece, the traditional rival of Turkey, of the sort that two years ago were carried out mostly in Turkey.

"The flotilla is not expected to alter in any substantial way the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. It is mostly a battle of public relations that is meant to strike a blow at Israel. Perhaps if Israel was less eager to confront the activists, some of the media attention would have dissipated. Had the flotilla been allowed in, HAMAS would have its day, and the entire affair would evaporate quickly.

"However, the basic problem faced by Israel goes far beyond this flotilla. The international community blames Israel for all the problems in the Gaza Strip -- more or less. If in the West Bank the occupation is the source of all evil, then in the Gaza Strip the Israeli siege of the territory is considered to be the central problem."

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