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Law, Rosemary C

From: Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 5:05 AM
To: Timothy Nelson
Subject: FW: BBC Panorama - Death in the Medeterranean - can be watched on youtube

From: Walter, Anne S
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 11:57 AM
To: Tel Aviv Americans; Tel Aviv FSNs
Subject: BBC Panorama - Death in the Medeterranean - can be watched on youtube

The BBC Panorama film "Death in the Mediterranean" about the Israeli capture of the Mavi Marmara, was broadcast Saturday night on Israel's First Channel "Seeing the World" program.

The entire film (24 mins.) can be watched on Youtube in 2 parts at the links below.

Panorama: Death in the Med - part 1
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0r18sCicjI>

Panorama: Death in the Med - Part 2
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nfo91FQVr7M&feature=related>

Anne

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012 201004163

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H2

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 3:46 AM
To: Burnett, David R; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; Goldberger, Thomas H; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Parker, Andrew C; Cunningham, James B; Eussen, Matthew; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Lurie, Mike D; Parsell, Benjamin C; Silverman, Robert J; Surowicz, Mireille M; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv); Tel Aviv PD Press Section DL
Subject: FLOTILLA FACES POSSIBLE DELAY -- YNET
Categories: Working

YNET 10:11 , 04:27:11

Report: New Gaza flotilla postponed

IHH claims delay due to Turkish elections in June, but reports cite trouble recruiting activists

Itamar Eichner

Pro-Palestinian activists organizing the next Gaza flotilla said Tuesday they are having a hard time recruiting activists, vessels and crew members.

Apparently many fear a confrontation with the Israeli naval commandoes after eight Turks and one Turkish-American died during an IDF raid last May onboard the Mavi Marmara, according to reports making their way to the political echelon in Jerusalem.

The sea convoy was set to sail to the Gaza Strip in late May, the first anniversary of the raid, but it could be delayed, partly because it clashes with Turkish election campaigning.

IHH officials, an Islamic aid group that operates the Mavi Marmara, announced they plan to postpone the flotilla until after the June 12 parliamentary elections.

IHH, which says it plans to send 100 to 150 people on the flotilla, is inclined to launch its ship after the vote for fear controversy could disrupt the election debate. The group communicates closely with the Turkish government, but says it does not need "permission" to send its boat to Gaza.

However recent reports claimed there is another reason for the delay: Many of the activists who signed up for the mission canceled after learning the flotilla is illegal and might lead to their arrest by Israel.

It also turns out the Turkish organizers have been largely unsuccessful in raising donations to fund the operation. Many ship owners refused to loan their vessels for the cause, fearing they might be confiscated by Israel. Now the activists are forced to buy the ships themselves.

Organizers said they expect at least 1,000 people to participate this year, adding that the new effort includes activists from Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Latin America, Canada and the United States.

AP contributed to the report

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Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 7:03 AM
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Otto, Jeffrey L; Eussen, Matthew; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Lurie, Mike D; Parsell, Benjamin C; Silverman, Robert J; Surowicz, Mireille M; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: FLOTILLA FILE: TURKEY DECLINES DIPLOMATICALLY - YNET & IL TODAY
Categories: Working

YNET 21:19: 04.14.11

Turkey: Future Gaza flotilla not up to us

Jerusalem files official request with Ankara to stop nearing activists' sail to Strip. Turkey says matter a civilian one, 'not Ankara's concern'

Reuters

Turkey said on Thursday it had received a request from Israel to help stop activists sailing to Gaza on the first anniversary of an Israeli raid on a Turkish ship, but it said the flotilla plan was not Ankara's concern.

Turkey, a secular Muslim nation, has been an important regional ally of Israel for more than a decade. Following the deadly raid on the Marmara, it has scaled back ties, demanding Israel apologize and pay damages for last year's raid.

The Free Gaza Movement, a pro-Palestinian activist umbrella group, has said that a flotilla expected in late May would comprise 15 ships with international passengers including Europeans and Americans.

Israel's ambassador to Turkey, Gaby Levy, asked the Turkish government this week to help stop the activists, saying sending humanitarian aide to Gaza outside legal channels was a "provocation," an Israeli diplomatic official told Reuters.

Asked about the request, a Turkish foreign ministry official told Reuters: "We listened to the message given by the Israeli side and told them this is an initiative by civil society." The official did not elaborate.

The IHH, the Turkish Islamist charity that owned the Mavi Marmara ship, which was raided by the Israeli commandos, has said it will join the "Freedom Flotilla II". It also plans to send its own convoy led by the Mavi Marmara after Turkey's general election on June 12.

An IHH official told Reuters the group has not been approached by the Turkish government over its plans to send another flotilla and added: "In Turkey governments don't tell NGOs what to do and what not to do"

Israel has also asked the United Nations to help stop the activists. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that the mission of ships "was being organized by Islamic extremist elements" intent on bringing about "a flare-up."

Turkey Will Not Stop Flotilla to Gaza

Israel Hayom 031511 (p. 7)

by Shlomo Cezana and Lior Yaakobi

Despite Israel's request of the Turkish government to take steps to prevent the departure of another flotilla from Turkey to the Gaza Strip, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official announced that the government did not intend to intervene, "because this is the initiative of a civilian group." A member of the radical Muslim IHH organization said, "the government does not instruct non-governmental organizations how to behave." About 1,000 people are expected to

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take part in the flotilla that will mark one year to the first flotilla, and they will sail on 15 ships leaving from different ports in Europe, including the *Mavi Marmara*.

Three days ago, Israeli Ambassador to Turkey Gabby Levy asked the Turkish government to help stop the flotilla. Levy noted that Israel has "relayed its position on the matter, and transferring humanitarian aid to Gaza in illegal ways constitutes a provocation."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is expected to be absent from Israel when the protest flotilla reaches Gaza, because he will be in Washington and speaking before both houses of Congress on May 24. Netanyahu was in Canada during the last flotilla and was updated on developments from there. At the time Netanyahu canceled the rest of his trip to the US and returned to Israel.

Israel's deputy ambassador to the UN, Meron Reuben, wrote a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asking that he speak out clearly against the flotilla planned for next month.

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 12:06 PM
To: Burnett, David R; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; Goldberger, Thomas H; NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Parker, Andrew C; Cunningham, James B; Eussen, Matthew; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Lurie, Mike D; Parsell, Benjamin C; Silverman, Robert J; Surowicz, Mireille M; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv); Tel Aviv PD Press Section DL
Subject: MAVI MARMARA: THE SEQUEL? -- YNET
Categories: Working

YNET 18:20 05.18.11

IHH: Mavi Marmara ready for next flotilla

Turkish movement says 10,000 people want to board ship for June's Gaza-bound flotilla: 'Israeli attack could benefit Palestinians,' IHH leader says: 'Even if we sacrifice martyrs, we will be on justice's side'

Aviel Magnezi

The Turkish IHH organization announced Wednesday that the Mavi Marmara ship, which was subjected to a deadly IDF raid while attempting to breach Israel's maritime blockade on the Gaza Strip last May, is ready for set sail once more.

"Even if we sacrifice shahids (martyrs) for this cause, we will be on the side of justice," IHH President Bulent Yildirim said in a recent television interview.

According to the Islamic organization, which is recognized by Israel and other nations as a terrorist movement, the Mavi Marmara — upon which nine Turkish activists were killed in a clash with Navy commandos — has suffered severe damage during last May's events. The IHH said the vessel's engine was intentionally destroyed when the ship was towed by the Israeli authorities to the Ashdod Port, and its deck and command bridge were wrecked.

The ship was consequently repaired and renovated in Istanbul, Turkey; its deck and the passenger seating were completely redone. According to the IHH, the vessel is ready to cruise again.

A few weeks ago, the organizers of the upcoming flotilla postponed the departure of the Gaza-bound maritime convoy to the end of June, and Israeli elements speculated that the measure was taken because the event failed to attract participants. But the IHH said that the event was delayed because of the elections in Turkey, and that 10,000 people have already signed up to take part. The movement allows registration through its website, and has been distributing applications across Turkey and abroad.

In an interview with Turkey's Kanal 5 television station, Yildirim said that the turn out for the flotilla is unprecedented, and denied Israel's claim that people are afraid of participating.

"Our goal is to gather a million people who want to board the flotilla ship," he said. "From these applicants we will choose a limited number of people, but each of the applicants will be considered as though he is on the flotilla. We are not afraid, and want to convey the message to Israel that we are coming."

Yildirim added that an "Israeli attack" would actually serve the purpose of the flotilla. "This time, all of the world's nations will stand against (Israel)," he said. "It could benefit the Palestinians."

He said that Arab Israeli MKs and Israeli television channels expressed interest in boarding the flotilla. "There is great opposition to the government's policies," he said.

According to Yildirim, the IHH will hold protests in Turkey and around the world, and will send an aid ship to Gaza through the Egyptian El Arish port in the end of May.

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"With the help of donors, we will send \$100 million-worth of aid this time," he said. "Israel beware, don't you dare to harm Palestine, because when you harm it, the number of people on Palestine's side grows and becomes stronger, and you become smaller."

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B.
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010, 3:35 AM
To: Groeblacher, Julia; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; 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 J; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L (USUN); 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 (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Hönigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: IL SEEKS EU INTERVENTION TO PREVENT FLOTILLA FORMATION — YNET

YNET 08:32, 06.15.10

Israel to EU: Stop your citizens from joining flotillas

At least 10 vessels expected to try to break Gaza blockade by October. Security forces prepare for first vessel expected from Lebanon soon

Roni Sofer

Israel asked EU countries to prevent flotilla vessels from leaving from their ports and to prevent their citizens from taking part, turning its attention to the diplomatic front as the wave of boats aiming for Gaza's shores continues to grow.

The Naji el'All is expected to arrive from Lebanon soon, and two vessels from Iran organized by the local Red Crescent with support from the regime in Tehran.

According to information obtained by the security establishment, Hamas is talking about no less than 10 flotillas by October 2010, the end of Ramadan. All the flotillas aim to take advantage of Israel's diplomatic straits following the lethal raid on the last flotilla on May 31 in which nine activists were killed on the lead vessel. The new initiatives are based in Lebanon, Sudan and Iran as well as Britain, Norway, Turkey and other European countries.

The organizations working to lift the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip cooperate amongst themselves. Some even receive government support, at least in Lebanon, Sudan and Iran, and possibly also in Turkey. The significant funds are obtained mostly via contributions from Muslim communities around Europe and throughout the world.

Among the hundreds — if not thousands — of people signing up to participate are public figures. Their aim is to create an even larger flotilla than the one headed by the Turkish vessel, the Mavi Marmara.

On Monday, Israel told the EU that it should act to prevent the organization of flotillas on its soil and stop its citizens from working against Israeli interests. The message was part of ongoing dialogue between Israel and the EU led by Tony Blair, the Quartet's envoy to the Middle East who is also representing the EU, in an effort to ease the blockade.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, the message was received well by EU leaders who want to avoid confrontations — as long as it is possible to ease the blockade by diplomatic means. However, at this stage no practical steps have been taken by European governments to stop the organization of flotillas.

Meanwhile, the security forces are preparing to receive the three vessels expected to reach Gazan shores soon. Israel's policy, as declared by Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is not to allow the boats access to Gaza, so that Gaza does not become "a vanguard Iranian port."

After the controversial raid on the Marmara, forces are training in preparation for halting the flotilla boats. The Lebanese boat is expected to arrive first, following by the vessel which left Iran Monday, plus a second vessel from Iran which will arrive in the weekend.

The Lebanese boat is expected to carry dozens of journalists and European pro-Palestinian activists including members of parliament. The vessel was organized by two groups: Free Palestine, and Reporters without Borders. The vessel is reportedly carrying humanitarian aid and equipment for schools in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian vessels are carrying contributions from the Iranian people and aid workers. The contributions are being collected by the Iranian Red Crescent.

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These are the forerunners of what appears to be a wave of boats, expected to peak at the end of Ramadan when organizations such as Free Gaza and Viva Palestine hope to organize a flotilla of 10 to 15 craft. This flotilla will be called "Freedom Fleet II".

One of the central activists, Iyad el-Sarj, who lives in Norway and is known to Israel as the founder of the campaign to lift the Gaza blockade, believes that the large flotilla will lead to irreversible change in Israel's sea blockade policy.

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 4:08 AM
To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Doutrich, Jack T; Frelich, Karlene H; Glauque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Goldberger, Thomas H; Groeblicher, Julia; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L (USUN); 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; Levin, Jan; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: FLOTILLA INQUIRY: HEAD OF MILITARY PROBE COMMENTS — YNET

YNET 23:57, 06.28.10

IDF investigator: Preparations for flotilla's arrival insufficient

Response to Turkish Gaza-bound flotilla was hampered by lack of sufficient preparation; head of military probe says; Israel should have prepared months in advance, Major-General Giora Eiland says.

Hanan Greenberg

The IDF did not prepare well enough for the arrival of the Turkish Gaza-bound flotilla, the head of the military committee charged with probing the lethal raid on the Mavi Marmara said Monday.

Speaking at a conference held to discuss the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, Major-General (res.) Giora Eiland revealed for the first time his thoughts on the failures that led to the deaths of nine Turkish citizens on board the vessel.

Eiland, whose committee is working alongside the government-appointed Turkel committee, hinted that the army and government did not take enough time to prepare for the flotilla, leading to the negative outcome.

"When we wait for an incident to happen, the number of responses is limited. However, if we prepare several months in advance, the range of possibilities at our disposal becomes wider," he said.

Eiland also addressed the policies that led to the Second Lebanon War.

"Between 2000 and 2006 the policies on the Lebanese border were not set by the government but rather tactically, by the IDF," he said.

Turning his attention to the Lebanon pullout, he said: "As a major-general I opposed the withdrawal, along with the general staff, but considering there were only two options — unilateral withdrawal or preservation of the status quo — it was the right decision."

Defense Minister Ehud Barak also spoke at the conference. "I am proud of the (pullout) decision, despite the mistakes for which I was responsible. Hezbollah did not get stronger because of our withdrawal, but rather because of our stay in Lebanon," he said.

Barak added that "more unilateral moves will be required" in the future. "Any society that seeks to survive in the Middle East must understand that our moves will never be perfect. Sometimes, when I listen to the public debate, I feel the expectation is that life will simulate reality TV," he said.

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 11:29 AM
To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Doutrich, Jack T; Frelich, Karlene H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Groeblicher, Julia; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L (USUN); 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 (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: EILAND CTTEE: OPERATIONAL & MI MISTAKES -- JPOST

Yediot reported this morning that Eiland submitted the report to the IDF CoS yesterday. However both the JPost and Ynet are now reporting that Ashkenazi received it today...

Ruth

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JPOST 07/12/2010 17:03

IDF probe: Army didn't have 'Plan B' for flotilla op

By YAAKOV KATZ

Maj.-Gen. Eiland presents Ashkenazi 100-page report detailing findings of internal probe into 'Mavi Marmara' interception, says he found "operational mistakes" rather than "failures"

A series of operational and intelligence mistakes led to the botched raid in late May aboard the Mavi Marmara, Turkish passenger ship that was trying to break the Israel-imposed sea blockade on the Gaza Strip, according to an internal military probe into the incident.

As expected, the report refrained from issuing personal recommendations against IDF officers although it did refer to a number of mistakes that were made by the most senior levels in the IDF

In the raid by commandos from the Navy's Flotilla 13 - known as the Shayetet - nine Turkish nationals were killed and 10 commandos were injured.

On Monday, Maj.-Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland, who headed the probe, presented a 100-page report to the IDF General Staff in which he listed a number of "mistakes" that he said were made in the planning stage of the operation.

In a briefing to reporters, Eiland, the former head of the IDF's Planning Division and Israel's National Security Council, said that he did not find negligence in the planning and implementation of the operation. He also made a clear that there was a difference between "operational failures" and "operational mistakes" and that he only found mistakes, not failures.

Eiland slammed the Navy for not preparing a "Plan B" for the operation and should have reconsidered rappelling commandos onto the Mavi Marmara's upper deck after noticing from sea and air that there were several dozen activists on board prepared to violently resist.

Eiland said that once the Navy ships sailed alongside the Mavi Marmara and saw the preparations on board for conflict, the top Navy command should have reconsidered its options and possible even delay the boarding of the ship.

"Once they saw that there were dozens of people on the deck, the rappelling of commandos down to the upper deck could still have been avoided," the report concluded, adding that the Navy should have, as a result, prepared a "Plan B" for how to take command of the ship, which it did not.

'Slug dislodged from soldier's knee didn't come from Navy gun'

Eiland's probe also found that shots were initially fired at the boarding commandos from weapons that the passengers likely had prepared before hand. The slug that was dislodged from the knee of one of the soldiers was of a different caliber than that which is used by the Navy.

He also detailed the events that led to the abduction of three commandos, who were thrown from the upper to the lower deck and were only recovered about 40 minutes later after they were spotted standing wounded on the ship's bow and surrounded by a number of passengers. The Navy commandos opened fire from above, scared off the passengers enabling two of the wounded to jump into the

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water. The third, who was severely wounded, was then rescued by other commandos who jumped down to the bow from the upper deck.

According to Eiland, the Navy did not have technology that would have enabled it to stop the ship ahead of the operation without putting soldiers on board its upper deck to take control of the bridge.

"Such an option did not exist," Eiland concluded in his report. During their work, members of Eiland's panel met with a number of officials who offered ideas how to stop the ship without boarding it. According to the committee, it is possible to develop such a capability but it will take approximately two years.

Since the flotilla, the Navy has met with a number of companies and is pursuing technology that could be used to stop a ship in the future.

"MI should have designated IHH as a target"

Another mistake that Eiland found was that Military Intelligence did not designate Turkey or the Islamic organization IHH, which organized the flotilla, as a target for intelligence gathering. He said that this was justified up until 2010 at the time since Turkey was a friendly country to Israel and IHH, was like a dozen other radical Islamic organizations that provided financial support to Hamas.

In the beginning of the year though, Eiland claimed that MI and Israel's other intelligence agencies should have designated Turkey and IHH as intelligence targets due to the deterioration in ties between the countries. He said that the Israeli intelligence community should have understood that it was dealing with an organization that was supported by the ruling political party in Turkey and prepared accordingly.

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Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 11:22 AM
To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Doutrich, Jack T; Frelch, 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 (USUN); 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 (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: EILAND COMMITTEE FINDINGS: ERRORS NOT NEGLIGENCE - HTZ

HTZ Latest update 17:33 12.07.10

IDF report defends navy decision to drop commandos into Gaza flotilla

First Israeli probe of deadly May 31 raid, led by Maj. Gen. Eiland, cites intelligence failures but does not single out any officers for rebuke.

By Anshel Pfeffer

The Israel Defense Force committee investigating the navy's deadly raid on a Turkish-flagged aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip found the incident to be the consequence of failed intelligence and a lack of proper preparation for the operation, according to its report released on Monday.

Nine Turkish pro-Palestinian activists were killed in the May 31 raid after they used clubs and knives to attack Israel Navy commandos boarding the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara. Israel had previously warned that it would take over the ships to enforce its blockade of the Gaza Strip.

The committee led by Maj. Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland, however, characterized the failures made at the planning level as "mistakes," rather than as negligence or fault. The report also found that the navy would have had no means to stop the ship at sea without endangering the vessel, and thus backed the decision to carry out a commando operation.

The committee said in its report that the navy had failed to sufficiently consider the possibility that the commandos would encounter violent resistance when attempting to keep the ships out of Gaza.

It also criticized the navy for not cooperating sufficiently with the Mossad in gathering information ahead of the flotilla's arrival and to discuss the process by which the raid was approved.

The report did not, however, call for disciplinary action against particular officers.

"To my relief, the investigation found no negligence or failures on any significant matters, and that it was due to mistakes made at the relatively top levels that caused the results to be different from what was planned," Eiland said. He also said that some aspects of the operation could be "praised," particularly the way the Shayetet 13 commandos acted during the operation and the quick and efficient evacuation of casualties.

Eiland's is the first to complete its investigation. The Turkel Committee, appointed by the government to examine whether the raid adhered to international law, has just begun its investigation. A team from the State Comptroller's Office will be beginning its own probe of the flotilla raid shortly.

Meanwhile, the High Court of Justice on Monday opened the door to expanding the authority of the Turkel Commission. The five-member panel was appointed by the cabinet in June to investigate the naval raid - which resulted in the deaths of nine Turkish pro-Palestinian activists aboard the Mavi Marmara - and its adherence to international law.

The panel currently has a limited mandate. It is only supposed to determine whether Israel's efforts to stop the flotilla from reaching Gaza accorded with international law, and whether the soldiers' use of force was proportionate. It has no power to subpoena witnesses, and cannot draw personal conclusions against those involved in the raid.

Turkel, however, wants to turn it into a full-fledged governmental inquiry committee with real teeth. That would allow it to subpoena witnesses and documents, warn those who testify before it that the panel's findings could harm them, and hire outside experts in relevant fields.

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At the hearing Monday to address a petition against the committee's limited authority, the justices said the court would consider widening the panel's mandate if its members seek to probe persons or events outside of their jurisdiction, including Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 4:19 AM
To: Groeblicher, Julia; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Glauque, 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: SUNDAY TIMES REPORT ON FLOTILLA RAID FALL-OUT -- YNET VERSION

YNET 09:06 06.07.10

Report: Turkish-Israeli base for monitoring Iran may close

Sunday Times publishes extensive article on flotilla raid gone wrong, quotes Israeli source as saying if base closes, Israel will lose its eyes and ears in Iran's back garden. Testimonies tell of kidnapped soldier tied to pipes

Ynet

Has the raid of Mavi Marmara damaged Israel's intelligence capabilities against the Iranian threat? According to British newspaper Sunday Times, Israel's defense establishment has expressed serious concern about the deteriorating relations with Turkey and that Turkish government might close down a Turkish-based Israeli intelligence station which is a linchpin in monitoring Iran.

An Israeli source told the newspaper, "If that happens Israel will lose its ears and nose, which watch and sniff the Iranians' back garden."

The said intelligence station is located on Turkish soil not far from the Iranian border.

The article, which lays out the complications encountered in the flotilla raid last week under the headline "Operation calamity," concludes with an estimation that the Israeli operation, intended to maintain the blockade on Gaza, could have weakened Israel's defenses against a much more serious threat of a nuclear Iran.

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 4:15 AM
To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: TURKEY: DISSENTING VOICES – WSJ AND YNET

YNET 08:26 , 06.09.10

Criticism in Turkey: Erdogan knew Gaza sail would be violent

PM dismiss claims, says tried to convince IHH to call off flotilla; columnists warn Turkey aligning itself with Iran, Syria, Hamas and Hezbollah. 'We must be careful,' opposition leader says

Yitzhak Benhorin

Politicians from Turkey's opposition parties and a number of columnists have expressed concern over the fueling of public rage towards Israel by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government in the aftermath of the deadly raid on the Gaza-bound flotilla.

According to the critics, this policy is jeopardizing the delicate balance Turkey has maintained in its ties with the East and West. The public agenda, they say, is being dictated by the formerly obscure Humanitarian Relief Foundation, or IHH, an Islamist charity group believed by many to have links to global terror organizations.

IHH organized the flotilla to Gaza, which was intercepted by Israel. Nine people were killed when Israeli commandos raided the convoy's lead vessel, the MV Mavi Marmara.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, chairman of The Republican People's Party and one of the opposition's leaders, told Turkish television, "The European Union and the United States consider Hamas a terror organization. We must be careful." The politician also demanded that the government release communications with Israel prior to the incident, suggesting it allowed the flotilla to proceed despite knowing that violence was likely.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Erdogan dismissed Kilicdaroglu as an Israeli "advocate" and said his government sought to persuade the IHH against taking the flotilla to Gaza, but was unable to stop an independent organization.

The newspaper said skepticism concerning the IHH version of events on the Mavi Marmara "appears to have accelerated as a result of unexpected criticism of the IHH's actions from influential Turkish spiritual leader Fethullah Gulen."

According to the Wall Street Journal, analysts saw the intervention by a figure respected by many in the Turkish government as a warning that the storm of anti-Israeli feeling risked getting out of hand.

"People will understand very soon that the IHH is harming Turkey," wrote Cuneyt Ulsever, a columnist in the daily Hurriyet, on Sunday, saying the effect of the crisis would be to persuade the West that Turkey is aligning itself with the likes of Iran, Syria, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Two major dailies, Hurriyet and Haberturk have now published on their front pages photographs of the bloodied Israeli soldiers captured during the initial fighting, the Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday.

According to the newspaper, the religious conservative daily Vakit last week published on its front page the names and photographs of eight newspaper columnists who censured the government's handling of the flotilla affair. The headline read, "Spin doctors who shoot bullets at the aid ship."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012 201004163

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Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
 Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 5:00 AM
 To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Giaquè, 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; Knöpf, Payton L (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: BRITISH TELEGRAPH REPORT ON QUID PRO QUO 060810
 Attachments: image001.jpg

Israel 'to accept British plan to ease Gaza blockade'

Israel is poised to accept a British plan to ease its blockade of Gaza in exchange for international acceptance of a watered-down investigation into last week's deadly raid on a Turkish aid ship, sources said on Tuesday.

By Adrian Blomfield in Jerusalem and Alex Spillius in Washington
 Published: 10:00PM BST 08 Jun 2010



Palestinians wait for Hamas police officers to check their passports as they wait to cross to Egypt, at Rafah border crossing, southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday June 8, 2010. Photo: AP

Britain is understood to have taken a leading role in the negotiations and last week circulated a confidential document proposing ways of easing the blockade, according to Western officials familiar with a draft version of the report.

Facing growing international criticism over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Israeli officials said that would agree, in principle, to permit the passage of substantially more aid through Israel's land crossings with the Hamas-controlled territory.

Related Articles

- [International donors pledge more than £3bn to help rebuild Gaza](#)
- [Israeli navy boards Lebanese boat trying to break Gaza blockade](#)

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 DATE/CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012; 201004163

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- Human rights activists 'arrested' off Gaza coast
- Netanyahu defies Barack Obama's calls for halt to West Bank settlements
- Amnesty International urges Barack Obama to suspend military aid to Israel
- Gordon Brown to meet Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas

Since the Islamist group seized control in 2007, Israel has allowed only basic humanitarian supplies into Gaza, while forbidding the importation of most electronic and construction materials that it says could be used by Hamas for military purposes.

While aid agencies will welcome a relaxation of the rules, others, particularly Turkey, will be concerned about the price exacted by Israel. They fear the trade-off will mean that Israel is never held to account for the nine deaths on board the Mavi Marmara, the lead ship in an international flotilla that tried to break the naval blockade of Gaza last week.

Israeli officials denied there was any direct link between their willingness to cooperate over the blockade and the apparent ebbing of Western support for a UN-led international inquiry into the flotilla raid.

But a Western source close to international discussions with Israel said: "A quid pro quo deal is in the offing".

William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, also hinted that pressure for a UN investigation was easing by declaring that "an inquiry with an international presence" might be acceptable.

The Israeli government has proposed conducting its own judicial investigation, possibly in the presence of one or two American observers, but has ruled out questioning soldiers or officers involved in the raid.

According to Western sources, many of the British proposals have been adopted by the Quartet on the Middle East peace, the negotiating body that comprises the UN, the United States, the European Union and Russia.

They include calls for Israel to abandon its official list of 35 items whose entry into Gaza is allowed in favour of a list of specifically outlawed items.

Israel has also been asked to ease access into Gaza at its land crossings, where there are frequent bottlenecks, and to allow the UN to transport construction materials and equipment needed to rebuild 60,000 homes destroyed or damaged during the Gaza war of December, 2008.

The Israeli government is understood to have signalled its acceptance of most of these conditions.

"Israel could be flexible about items reaching the civilian population," an Israeli official said.

He added that some construction materials like cement, which could be used to construct military bunkers, could be allowed in under "third-party" guarantees, meaning that the UN would be responsible for ensuring that such materials did not fall into the hands of Hamas.

But one part of the British proposal - to ease Israel's naval blockade of Gaza - is understood to have failed after encountering Israeli resistance.

Britain had suggested forming an international maritime force that would have seen all ships searched by Israeli and foreign inspectors before being allowed to dock in Gaza.

Israel is insisting that it must be allowed full control of Gaza's waters.

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Whether a deal allowing Israel take charge of its own investigation in exchange for easing land restrictions on Gaza - but not its maritime blockade - will garner sufficient international support is unclear.

Vladimir Putin, the Russian prime minister, on Tuesday threatened to push for an international investigation into the flotilla incident at the UN.

There was also scepticism in the aid community that Israeli concessions on the blockade would substantially ease the suffering in Gaza.

"Let's judge the Israeli authorities by their actions rather than their words because there have been plenty of words in the past," said Christopher Gunness, spokesman for the UN Relief and Works Agency.

The British embassy in Tel Aviv declined to confirm or deny the existence of the British position paper.

"We do not comment on leaked documents," an embassy spokeswoman said.

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H12

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
 Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 3:59 AM
 To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelch, 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: PMO DENIES ACTING PM YAALON WAS NOT BRIEFED IN REAL TIME ON FLOTILLA RAID --YNET

THE DENIAL OF THE REPORTS BY THE PMO REGARDING YA'ALON'S LACK OF REAL-TIME INFORMATION HAS BEEN THE TOP ITEM IN THE IL RADIO HOURLY NEWS LINE-UP SINCE 08:00 THIS MORNING.

Ruth
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YNET 21:28, 06/10/10

Report: Acting PM didn't know of raid

Minister Moshe Ya'alon was unaware Navy raid of flotilla underway until after operation got out of hand. Earlier this week deputy minister criticizes incident, says 'someone failed to prepare standard operating procedure'

Attila Somfalvi

The acting prime minister during the Navy commando raid on the Gaza-bound flotilla did not know the operation was underway, according to a channel 2 report aired on Thursday.

The report claimed Minister for Strategic Affairs Moshe Ya'alon was only updated after the operation got out of hand, resulting in nine fatalities and dozens of injuries on board the Mavi Marmara ship.

Ya'alon substituted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was on a state visit to North America on the day of the operation.

The new information revealed the "chain of command" during such a dramatic operation, and sheds light on Ya'alon's statement from the beginning of the week.

During a closed discussion in the Knesset, Ya'alon said that "in a place where citations should have been given, someone failed to prepare a standard operating procedure.

"The decision was right, but there is room for improvement -- and I am not going to elaborate," he added.

The deputy prime minister's comments angered some in the military, and a senior IDF official said in response that "since Ya'alon was the acting prime minister at the time of the incident, he is responsible.

"If there wasn't a standard operating procedure, why didn't he make sure there was one? Why didn't he hold a consultation several hours after the flotilla incident and send the ministers to give interviews to the press? He was the acting prime minister and it was his responsibility," the source added.

The Prime Minister's Office denied reports that Moshe Ya'alon, acting prime minister at the time of the IDF raid on the Gaza flotilla, knew about the operation only after the fact.

"Contrary to reports in various media channels, acting Prime Minister Moshe Ya'alon was updated on an ongoing basis by the military secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office before the raid on the flotilla, during the raid, and afterwards," the Office said.

Roni Sofer contributed to this report.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E. AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012 291004163

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H13

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 5:21 AM
To: Groebbacher, Julia; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Glaucque, 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: FLOTILLA: MFA RELEASES TESTIMONY; NEW VIDEO FROM FREE GAZA MOVEMENT - YNET

YNET Latest Update:
11:10, 06.11.10

Bloody walls, slingshots seen in new footage of Marmara

Free Gaza Movement releases documentation taken by US director's camera on deck of Marmara during IDF raid. Footage contains graphic images; viewer discretion advised. Foreign Ministry releases testimony of two of ship's crew members who say passengers were determined to confront IDF

Ynet

Nearly two weeks after the Israel Navy commandos commandeered the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, new video documentation of the event was released on Friday that is exceptional in its quality and scope. The video shows the moments in which the clashes between the IDF and the ship's passengers started.

The video, which is 15 minutes long in its full-length version, was taken by American director Lara Lee, who participated in the flotilla.

Brazilian media outlets that published the footage reported that the director, a documentary filmmaker of Korean descent, succeeded in hiding the footage, thus enabling her to prevent its confiscation by the IDF.

Among the images documented in the clip are clearly visible blood stains on the walls of one of the ship's compartments as gunshots are heard in the background. In addition, Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi (Balad) can be seen sitting with her flotilla colleagues on the deck a moment before the first of the commandos reaches the scene.

Those attacking the soldiers can be seen holding slingshots as they await the helicopter's arrival.

While supporters of the Marmara passengers continue to claim that the IDF initiated the violence on the ship's deck, Israel issued additional proof on Friday regarding the true intentions of the "peace activists" on board.

Two testimonies provided by two members of the ship's crew show that preparations for the clash with the IDF were started two hours before the first Navy commandos landed on deck and just a short time after the Navy instructed the ship's captain to stop.

In the testimonies, published by the Foreign Ministry for the first time since the raid, the two crew members said that there was an especially tense atmosphere among the activists who convened on the main deck. They noticed that members of the Turkish group IHH had sawed off the ship's railings in order to make metal clubs. This activity, said the crew members, worried them, and they even tried to oppose the passengers, but to no avail.

"I asked the ship what is happening, and he said they are cutting sticks and chains and collecting them, putting them in the radio room on the bridge," said Mahmut Tuval, the captain of the Marmara, during his testimony of the events.

He then proceeded to describe how the passengers went into the room and took the metal clubs they had fashioned from the bridge as the IDF soldiers were landing on the deck. He said that of the clubs he saw, he threw some into the sea and stored others. He said he was unaware that there was a considerable amount of weaponry there.

When asked whether the activists had made preparations prior to the violent clash with the commandos, he responded in the affirmative. He said that he had warned them, saying that the people on the ship had come to protest, and asked the other captain on the ship to go and collect the sawed off clubs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
DATE/CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012 201004163

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Both the video clips were uploaded to the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center in order to serve media outlets and the Israeli PR efforts of various State delegations abroad. This site is considered highly reliable because it uploads material in its raw form, without any editing.

Recently, the IDF released a video clip captured from the Marmara's video cameras documenting the ship's passengers making their final preparations for the ensuing violent confrontation with the IDF. They can be seen collecting slingshots and shards of broken bottles just moments before the initial contact with the commandos.

Roni Sofer contributed to this report

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H13

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
 Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010 5:21 AM
 To: Groebbacher, Julia; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frellich, Karlene H; Glauque, 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Otto, Jeffrey L; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: FLOTILLA: MFA RELEASES TESTIMONY; NEW VIDEO FROM FREE GAZA MOVEMENT -- YNET

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON LAHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012 201003163

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Roni Sofer contributed to this report

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H14

Law, Rosemary C

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 6:46 AM
To: Groeblacher, Julia; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelch, 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: LIEBERMAN ON INVESTIGATION AND RECEPTION OF THE "RACHEL CORRIE" - YNET

RELEASED IN FULL

YNET 13:16, 06.03.10

Lieberman backs supervised probe of Gaza flotilla

Speaking to Ynet, FM says Israel should 'not fear' any investigation into raid that left nine pro-Palestinian activists dead. Adds: We won't let Irish aid ship reach Gaza

Roni Sofer

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman on Thursday called for the establishment of an Israeli commission of inquiry to investigate the raid on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla, during which nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed.

Lieberman said the investigation must be supervised by impartial foreign officials. Industry, Trade and Labor Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer announced earlier that he supports the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to probe Monday's calamitous raid.

"I have no fear of an investigation committee into the operation against the Gaza-bound flotilla. We should not be afraid of any commission of inquiry. I spoke to the prime minister while he was in Canada. I told him there was nothing to be afraid of and that we should set up a transparent commission of inquiry headed by a senior judge, such as former Supreme Court presidents Aharon Barak or Meir Shamgar," the FM told Ynet. "If they'll ask to include foreign overseers in the probe - we'll include them."

As for the Irish-owned ship Rachel Corrie, which is attempting to reach Gaza, the foreign minister said that "we are in touch with Ireland. In any case, we won't let the boat reach the shores of Gaza. We've explained this to the Irish."

Asked whether he would suggest military action against the Rachel Corrie, Lieberman said once again, "We won't let the Irish ship reach Gaza's shores."

He said the army was drawing the necessary lessons from the raid on the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara, adding "there is no doubt that they (IDF) will be better prepared for the next ship."

The foreign minister criticized the UN Human Rights Council's decision to launch an international investigation into the raid. "We've already seen the term 'human rights' with Judge (Richard) Goldstone, who is responsible for 18 death sentences during the apartheid regime in South Africa," he said.

Lieberman said Washington's response to the flotilla affair was encouraging on the whole. "The latest statements from officials in the US administration were very clear and very objective: There are problems and we don't see eye-to-eye on everything, but I'm not concerned."

US Vice President Joe Biden said in an interview on PBS's "Charlie Rose" show Wednesday that "Israel has an absolute right to deal with its security interest."

"They (Israel) have said, 'Here you go. You're in the Mediterranean. This ship - if you divert slightly north you can unload it and we'll get the stuff into Gaza.' So what's the big deal here?" Biden said, "What's the big deal of insisting it go straight to Gaza?"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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H15

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
 Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:44 AM
 To: Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Greene, Elisa (Amman); Harutunian, Ruben; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: GAZA FLOTTILLA; ANTICIPATING THE "RACHEL CORRIE" - IL RADIO & YNET

IL RADIO aired a soundbite of the captain of the "Rachel Corrie" on its prime-time 7 a.m. newshour this morning saying he has instructed the passengers that if the IDF boards the vessel "they are to sit quietly with their hands visible" so that there can be no repetition of what happened on the "Mavi Marmara".

Ruth
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YNET 00:58, 06.03.10.

'Rachel Corrie' may arrive by Saturday

Activists on board Gaza-bound Irish ship say they will not resist if IDF troops board vessel

Aviel Magnezi

A pro-Palestinian activist on board the Irish vessel 'Rachel Corrie' told Ynet Wednesday that the ship is currently located between Libya and Cyprus, and that it is making its way to Gaza but will not arrive before Saturday morning.

The activist said those on board were coming "in peace", and that they would not resist IDF soldiers if they insisted coming on board. The claim was reminiscent of one made by the activists on board the flotilla that arrived Monday.

He added that before the ship had embarked it had been searched for weapons, and stressed that there were none on board.

The Irish vessel, named after a peace activist killed by an Israeli bulldozer, is reportedly carrying more than 20 people: More than ten Malaysians, five Irish, and eight crew members.

"We are not afraid, despite what happened on the Marmara," said Derrick Graham, who is on board with wife Jeanie. "The violence there was a product of fear, I saw the fear in the eyes of the soldiers. You need to send your veteran soldiers, not the young ones."

He stressed that the violent turn of events on board the Turkish ship Monday would not affect the Rachel Corrie. "We don't plan on resisting. In the event that your men are stupid enough to come and arrest us, we will sit down and not resist," he said. "It would not be wise for the government of Israel to direct its brutal violence towards us."

Graham added that the passengers on board the ship were saddened by the violence on board the Marmara. He said he had participated in a number of voyages to Gaza in the past, and that this was not the general rule.

"There were never such problems on sails to Gaza. We object to violence, which is why, before we left we searched the ship to make sure there were no guns or weapons of any kind on board. The crew members were also checked by officials," he said.

The activist added that the IDF had called to ask him similar questions. When asked whether he knew that the passengers on board the Marmara had firearms, he expressed shock. "These are supposed to be violence-free, weapons-free ships," he said.

On board is also Mairead Maguire, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate well-known to Israeli authorities. She was injured at an anti-fence protest in Billin in 2008, and has taken part in previous Gaza sails. "I'm not afraid; I think it is important to give Gaza freedom and support it," she said.

The 66-year old, who has previously called for Israel's removal from the UN, said her family supported her. "We believe in a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and believe it can be solved through negotiations," she said.

Maguire also stressed that there would be no violence on board the Rachel Corrie. "I have experience with this. If (the soldiers) come on board, I hope and believe it will be in a peaceful manner," she said.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD

DATE/CASE ID: 07 MAR 2012 201004163

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116

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
 Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 4:14 AM
 To: Groeblacher, Julia; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; Frelich, Karlene H; Glauque, 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jani; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: GAZA FLOTILLA: THE NAVAL COMMANDO VERSION OF EVENTS -- HTZ VERSION

Ha'aretz in Hebrew quotes a senior [DF source [unnamed]] as saying that during the boarding of the Mavi Marmara by Naval Commandos, IL was on the brink of a Shalit-style hostage taking incident involving 3 members of the military ...

With the exception of Ha'aretz which gives this aspect of events on the flotilla front page coverage in both its Hebrew and English editions, the IL media has not highlighted the way in which the passengers of the Mavi Marmara dealt with injured Naval Commandos... or with the possible hostage taking intent or its implications.

Yediot Acharonot deals obliquely with the issue in the form of testimony by an Al Jazeera cameraman which confirms the Naval Commando version of events... see email to follow.

Ruth

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HTZ Latest update 02:02 04:06:10

Israel Navy: 3 commandos nearly taken hostage in Gaza flotilla raid

According to preliminary navy investigation, some passengers on the Mavi Marmara boat dragged three unconscious commandos into one of the passenger halls below deck.

By Amos Harel

During Israel's takeover of a Turkish ship in the Gaza-bound aid flotilla this week, some passengers tried to take captive three commandos who lost consciousness as a result of the activists' blows, according to early findings of a navy investigation. The three were dragged into one of the passenger halls below deck and were held there for several minutes.

After dozens of other commandos began searching the ship, the Mavi Marmara, the three soldiers regained consciousness and managed to join their comrades.

Conversations with senior navy officers in the chain of command during the operation present a different view of the events on Monday. In Israel, the raid has been perceived as a failure, while abroad it has been derided as piracy or worse.

The navy rejects the claims that it was poorly prepared. Officials have been commending the commandos' performance in a situation in which they were confronted by dozens of activists who attacked them as they rappelled from helicopters. "They were terrorists - hired killers who came to murder soldiers, not to assist the residents of the Gaza Strip," said a navy officer.

The operation on the Mavi Marmara began at about 4:30 A.M. on Monday. Because of the presence of hard-core activists including members of the IHH, the Turkish group organizing the aid convoy, most attention went to that ship. Navy chief

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Eliazer Merom and the head of the naval commandos, Lt. Col. A., were on vessels next to the ship. Lt. Col. A. climbed on the Mavi Marmara during the takeover.

As seen on a video documenting the takeover, the first four commandos to rappel onto the deck were attacked by activists with bars, axes and knives. The fourth commando, K., saw his team leader on the deck, with a Turkish activist holding the pistol he had grabbed from him and pointing it to his head. K. jumped from the rope and managed to shoot the activist holding the gun. This happened 20 seconds after the first soldier landed on the deck.

The commanders of the first unit were hit by the mob as they landed. One of the soldiers managed to fix another rope after there were problems with the original one, for 10 more soldiers to land. The commandos cared for the wounded and took over part of the upper deck of the ship.

At this stage, six minutes into the operation, another force landed from a second helicopter, led by a major. At that point they realized that three commandos were missing and they began looking for them. A short while later the naval commando chief landed along with dozens more soldiers, some of whom climbed from boats. Others landed from a third helicopter.

The search involved limited shooting, in the bridge and on the lower deck, until the three men were recovered. The head of the naval commandos gave orders by radio to use live fire, two minutes after the incident had begun.

Shots had been fired earlier, but Lt. Col. A. later explained that in his orders he wanted to make sure that the troops realized that "the mood of the incident had changed."

The soldiers reported that the activists had fired on them during the confrontation and that at least two commandos suffered gunshot wounds. After the incident, 9mm bullet casings were found - a kind not used by the naval commandos.

The Israel Defense Forces says that during the operation a number of pistols and an M-4 rifle were taken from soldiers, but they believe that the Turkish activists had other weapons. The captain of the ship told the naval commando chief that the guns were thrown overboard before the ship was completely taken over. The wounded activists were airlifted to Israel for treatment, some seriously hurt whose lives were saved by the evacuation.

The IDF did not question the activists extensively, because of the decision to release them. In conversations after the takeover, activists said they were surprised by the use of helicopters, even though the navy had used this method before. However, nothing else appears to have surprised them because international law requires sufficient warnings before ships are boarded.

Post-operation assessments have the number of hard-core activists involved in the fighting at between 60 and 100. It appears that they were well trained and experienced, especially in view of the arsenal found and code books used to pass on orders from group leaders. Among the rioters, in addition to Turks, were Yemenis, Afghans and one person from Eritrea. All were apparently experienced in hand-to-hand fighting. Some of them did not retreat when shots were fired.

The operation involved a month of training, with dummy takeovers of a ship at sea with 50 soldiers performing the role of activists. The navy admits that it trained mostly for "a Bil'in type of opposition, but there was no feeling that this was going to be a walk in the park." He was referring to a village at the separation fence where demonstrations take place.

The navy says it needs to look into whether the psychological preparations of the force were sufficient, and whether it had emphasized an easier scenario that did not take place.

The navy says it went over "incidents and responses" in preparation; these included opening fire at charging activists with melee weapons. In case of a threat to their lives, the commandos were ordered to shoot to kill even as they were on their way onto the deck.

"The main gap between preparations and intelligence was that we did not know we would face dozens of rioters," a senior officer involved in the operation said. "This was not a disturbance that went awry. It was a planned ambush."

Another officer added that "I still wake up at 3 A.M. and wonder how the hell we did not know more."

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Another officer said that "we became a little spoiled, as a society, expecting perfect performances." According to a senior officer, "Under the circumstances, and I do not like the result, I think we did the best we could. We took care of five ships without injuries. On the sixth ship, we faced a harsh attack and killed nine saboteurs:

"No real peace activist was injured. No soldier was killed, even though it came pretty close. In the end the ships are docked at Ashdod. It was very complicated and the result is near perfect."

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: Blaukopf, Ruth B
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 4:21 AM
To: Groeblacher, Julia; Burnett, David R; Coley, Lea M; 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 (USUN); Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R (Manila); Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G (MichaelsDG@state.gov); Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
Subject: AL JEZEERA CAMERAMAN CONFIRMS NAVAL COMMANDO ACCOUNT - YNET

Yediot Acharonot gives considerable space — albeit on page 2 of its Hebrew print edition to the account given by André Abu Khalil, a Lebanese TV cameraman, on board the Mavi Marmara, specifically in regard to the 4 IL Naval Commandos injured and taken below deck by activists. Attached is a somewhat abbreviated version from YNET.

Ruth
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YNET 08:46 06.04.10

Cameraman: 4 commandos were captured during flotilla raid

Lebanese cameraman for Al Jazeera says pro-Palestinian activists initially wounded, captured four Israeli soldiers from first wave that boarded Gaza-bound ship. Flotilla participant: We thought commandos would stop after seeing the white flag, but they continued killing people

Reuters

Freed after days held incommunicado in Israeli jails, survivors of Monday's storming of an aid ship described a "bloodbath", with people shot before their eyes and desperate efforts to treat the wounded.

Those aboard the flotilla returned home on Thursday after being held in Israeli jail since the raid, at last able to give their own accounts of the incident in which Israeli troops killed nine activists aboard the cruise liner Mavi Marmara.

There were sharp differences in accounts: activists accused Israeli troops of war crimes, while Israel held to its line that they fired in self-defense. In one of the key differences, activists denied Israeli accusations that they fired first, with guns they had seized from Israeli troops in the melee.

All sides described a scene of confusion and mayhem in the botched assault.

"People had been shot in the arms, legs, in the head — everywhere. We had so many injured. It was a bloodbath," said Laura Stuart, a British housewife and first aider.

She described frantic attempts to treat the injured in a makeshift sick room on the ship, and failed attempts to resuscitate some of the dead.

André Abu Khalil, a Lebanese cameraman for Al Jazeera TV, gave an account that backed some of what both sides have said.

In his telling, activists initially wounded and captured four Israelis from a first wave that boarded the ship. A second wave of troops tried to storm the ship after the four were taken below decks.

"Twenty Turkish men formed a human shield to prevent the Israeli soldiers from scaling the ship. They had slingshots, water pipes and sticks," he said. "They were banging the pipes on the side of the ship to warn the Israelis not to get closer."

After a 10-minute standoff the Israelis opened fire.

"One man got a direct hit to the head and another one was shot in the neck," he said. In all he saw some 40 people wounded, some to the legs, eye, stomach and chest.

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One activist used a loudhailer to tell the Israelis the four captive soldiers were well and would be released if they provided medical help for the wounded activists. With an Israeli Arab lawmaker acting as mediator, the Israelis agreed. Wounded were brought to the deck and were airlifted off the ship.

Israel says its troops fired only after some of their weapons had been seized by activists, who fired first. Once the soldiers saw knives, metal rods, chains, broken bottles, and they were shot at, they shot back and killed nine of them," Israeli military spokesman Captain Ayre Shalicar said.

One of the organizers on board who returned on Thursday from an Israeli jail, Bulent Yildirim, chairman of the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), said activists had indeed seized weapons, but never fired them.

"They were trying to land on the boat. So obviously there was this hand-to-hand combat and during that process the people on the boat were basically able to disarm some of the soldiers because they did have guns with them," Burney told Reuters.

Asked if anyone had used the guns against the Israeli commandos, he said: "No, not at all."

Canadian Farooq Burney, director of a Qatari educational initiative, said the commandos waited more than an hour before treating the wounded, even though activists had made a makeshift sign reading: "S.O.S. ... Please provide medical assistance."

The 37-year-old Canadian said he witnessed one elderly man bleed to death before his eyes after being shot.

"He just passed out in front of us and we couldn't see where he was hit so we opened up his lifejacket and we could clearly see that he was hit in the chest," Burney said. "He was losing a lot of blood. It was on ... the right, just close to his chest and there was blood coming out from there. He passed away."

The nine dead activists, who were brought home on Thursday in wooden coffins, were all Turks, including one dual US-Turkish citizen. Yildirim said some activists were still missing, adding that an Indonesian doctor was shot in the stomach as he helped a wounded Israeli soldier.

"I took off my shirt and waved it, as a white flag. We thought they would stop after seeing the white flag, but they continued killing people," Yildirim said. "A friend of ours saw two dead bodies in a toilet."

British activist Sarah Colborne, of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, said she was on deck when commandos approached in boats, "bristling with arms." Others roped down from hovering helicopters and sound and gas bombs were let off.

"It looked like they were capable of killing anyone. They had obviously been fired up," the 43-year-old told reporters.

"I saw one person who had been shot in the head between the eyes," she said. "That made me realize how dangerous it was. That for me made me think they are using live ammunition, people are getting killed."

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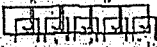
From: Campus Watch [CampusNews@campus-watch.org] **RELEASED IN FULL**
 Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 7:22 AM
 To: Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: Middle East Studies Profs Usurp New Roles to Censure Israel over Gaza Flotilla

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Middle East Studies Profs Usurp New Roles to Censure Israel over Gaza Flotilla

by Brendan Goldman
American Thinker
 June 13, 2010

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/06/middle_east_studies_profs_usur.html
<http://www.campus-watch.org/article/id/9704>

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"The martyrs of the [Gaza flotilla] ships are heroes," writes Mark LeVine, professor of history at the University of California, Irvine. "They are warriors every bit as deserving of our tears and support as the soldiers of American wars past and present."

In the aftermath of the death of nine mercenaries on the deck of the Gaza-bound Turkish vessel, the *Mavi Marmara*, professors of Middle East studies lined up to denounce the Jewish State. Ignoring overwhelming video and documentary evidence of the activists' radical agenda and affinity for violence, these professors asserted that the "Freedom Flotilla" of the six Gaza-bound vessels were on a purely "humanitarian" mission.

"Those ships were just bringing aid to the impoverished Palestinians," said New York University professor of modern Middle Eastern History Zachary Lockman. "It's not [the Palestinians'] fault they are under Hamas rule." Has Lockman already forgotten that Hamas was democratically elected by the Palestinians in January 2006?

Even professors who managed to recall the Palestinian elections were determined to demonstrate that the terrorist group has been falsely maligned. Georgetown University's John Esposito, director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim Christian Understanding, tried to whitewash the terrorist group's reputation by declaring, "Hamas simply does not steal ... thus any aid delivered to the UN will be respected." Yet even traditionally anti-Israel institutions like the U.N. and the left-wing British Guardian have noted that Hamas has illegally seized aid intended for Gaza's poor.

Uninterested in the terrorist connections of the blockade-runners, many professors expressed concern that the U.S. would lose "popular support" in the Islamic world as a result of siding with Israel in the flotilla crisis. Recalling President Barack Obama's controversial Cairo address to the Muslim world last spring, George Washington University's Mark Lynch writes, "If [Obama] tries to ignore the

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issue [of the Gaza flotilla] or simply defend Israel's actions, then the first anniversary of the Cairo speech will also be its epitaph."

Esposito warned that according to a Gallup poll and his "own experience," "[the] window of opportunity in the Muslim world" will close unless the U.S. stops being "in lock-step stride with Israel."

Apparently shilling for terrorists doesn't close the "window of opportunity" to lecture American administrations on foreign policy.

Rashid Khalidi of Columbia University suggested one way the U.S. could follow Esposito's advice: Confront Israel militarily. He told WBEZ Chicago Radio that ideally, he sees "European or American ships physically breaking the blockade or [the U.N. putting] sanctions on Israel."

Some academics who do not fancy themselves pollsters like Esposito or NATO admirals like Khalidi claimed the mantle of the law, arguing that the flotilla ships were "illegally" boarded. Jennifer Loewenstein, associate director of the Middle East studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, told the Islamic Republic of Iran's semi-official Press TV that "[t]he fact is that legally [the Israelis] have no defense. They violated international laws by attacking a non-violent humanitarian aid convoy to the Gaza Strip in International waters."

Fawaz Gerges, professor of Middle Eastern politics and international relations at the London School of Economics and Sarah Lawrence College, also asserted his newly discovered legal expertise: "The killing of those activists, sad though it is, could easily serve as a framework to ... force Israel to abide by international law."

In addition to condemning the Israelis, Stephen Zunes, professor of international relations and the Middle East at the University of San Francisco, attempted to exonerate the militant passengers who attacked them. "Certainly it would have been better if the largely Turkish crew of the ship ... had not fought back. But it was well within their legal right to do so."

Actual scholars of international law tend to reject these pronouncements. Ruth Wedgwood, who teaches international law and diplomacy at Johns Hopkins University, convincingly debunks Zunes's, Gerges's, and Loewenstein's arguments. "We had a blockade around Cuba in the Cuban Missile Crisis," Wedgwood explained, noting that during that period, ships were boarded in international waters. "Under traditional law of the sea, you can visit and search before a boat gets to port."

Reuters released an informative Q&A legal analysis of the incident that supports Wedgwood's position by noting that "[l]egal experts say proportional force does not mean that guns cannot be used by forces when being attacked with knives."

As for examining the region's history in order to better understand its present, Middle East studies scholars were as eager to avoid discussing that subject as they were to heap blame on Israel. For instance, the passengers of the *Mavi Marmara* were recorded on Al-Jazeera chanting in Arabic, "Khaybar, Khaybar, oh Jews! The army of Mohammed will return!" They were referring to the Battle of Khaybar of 629 CE, in which Muslim forces under Mohammed summarily executed, enslaved, and forced into economic servitude the Jews of the Khaybar Oasis. But you needn't bother looking for commentary on such matters from Middle Eastern scholars -- with very few exceptions, they don't exist.

Israeli-Turkish relations were another subject for which many Middle Eastern experts failed to provide context, ascribing the breakdown in the nations' alliance to Israel and the singular event of the Gaza

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flotilla. Middle East scholar Daniel Pipes has warned of Turkey's Islamization for many years, and professor Henri J. Barkey of Lehigh University recently outlined how Israeli-Turkish relations have deteriorated since Turkey's main Islamist party took power. Turkey's current Prime Minister, Recep Erdogan, has consistently expressed sympathy for Hamas and Iran's nuclear program.

Yet such basic background information was missing from many academics' analyses. "Historians may look back on the [Mavi] Marmara raid as the moment a new order began emerging in the Middle East, grouping Turkey with Iran, Syria, Iraq and Palestine rather than with Washington and Tel Aviv," University of Michigan Professor Juan Cole writes.

Among Khalidi's saber-rattling; Zunes's, Loewenstein's and Gerges's claims to judicial authority; and Esposito's and Lynch's popularity contest, it is easy to forget that these individuals are scholars who have spent decades studying the history and politics of the Middle East. The media organizations that invited them to speak did not challenge their unsubstantiated claims. Issues actually relevant to Middle Eastern expertise were either distorted or neglected completely. These scholars' response to the Gaza flotilla incident demonstrates that America cannot expect an objective analysis of major news events from the leaders of this troubled discipline.

Brendan Goldman, a member of New York University's class of 2010, earned a B.A. in Middle Eastern and Islamic studies. This essay was sponsored by Campus Watch, a project of the Middle East Forum.

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From: imra-owner@imra.org.il on behalf of imra@netvision.net.il
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 9:19 AM
To: imra@imra.org.il
Subject: IHH and its leader, Bulent Yildirim, conduct a propoganda campaign to prepare the ground for the flotilla planned for the end of June

The Meir Amit
Intelligence and Terrorism
Information Center
May 31, 2011

http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ipc_e194.htm

IHH and its leader, Bulent Yildirim, conduct a propoganda campaign to prepare the ground for the flotilla planned for the end of June. The campaign's sometimes contradictory themes are aimed at glorifying IHH and its determination, and deterring Israel from acting against it, while presenting a moderate image to the West.

Overview

1. In recent weeks the Turkish IHH has been conducting a propoganda campaign to prepare the ground for the flotilla expected to sail at the end of June 2011. The campaign themes are the glorification of the flotilla and IHH, which plays a central role in its organization. Other "occasionally contradictory" themes are aimed at deterring Israel from stopping the flotilla while allaying the fears of the international community regarding the possible repetition of the violence evinced aboard the Mavi Marmara.
2. Senior IHH figures Bulent Yildirim and Huseyin OruÅ provided statistical data for the upcoming flotilla. They claim that there will be 1500 passengers from more than 100 countries and 22 international organizations. The flotilla will consist of 15 vessels, two of them Turkish (the Mavi Marmara, the flotilla's flagship, and a cargo ship). The Mavi Marmara will carry 500 passengers, 100 of them Turkish, half of those media personnel. In our assessment the data do not accurately reflect the flotilla's present state of preparations but rather the goals IHH and the other organizations seek to reach.
3. IHH is also using the campaign to foster and glamorize the memory of the nine shaheeds, the operatives killed aboard the Mavi Marmara, and instill hatred for Israel. IHH also participated in the Nakba Day events (with its Islamist confederates, a Turkish delegation was sent to Jordan. The delegation carried a banner bearing pictures of the dead operatives and its members were involved in violent confrontations with the Jordanian security forces.1). In addition, IHH and its confederates (the Turkish Islamist organizations participating in the flotilla) carried out a series of demonstrations and media events in Turkey between May 22 and 31 to mark the anniversary of the Mavi Marmara flotilla.
4. The IHH propoganda campaign has the following themes:
 - 1) Deterring Israel: In incendiary speeches, IHH stressed its readiness to sacrifice "shaheeds" to achieve its goals and warned Israel to be prepared for a "surprise" [possibly a hint the organization was planning to send a plane to the Gaza Strip]. By "deterrence," his remark was made in the context of an Israeli attempt to stop the flotilla, in which case it will stay on the high seas for an extended period of time (participants were told to take a trip of at least three weeks into consideration). During that time, according to Bulent Yildirim, the flotilla organizers will be able to put into motion protest demonstrations which will isolate Israel throughout the world. The Turkish foreign minister supported the

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IHH deterrence, saying that Turkey would "give the necessary response to any repeated act of provocation by Israel on the high seas."

2) Allaying the international community's fears of a repetition of the Mavi Marmara violence: The campaign stresses that the passengers will not have weapons ("Not even one penknife," an expression used by Bulent Yildirim when interviewed during preparations for the confrontation aboard the Mavi Marmara). One senior IHH figure said the organization was willing to have the flotilla's cargo inspected by UN or European observers (during the Mavi Marmara flotilla Turkish authorities stressed that the passengers' luggage had been inspected as they boarded the ship in Istanbul, while in reality large quantities of weapons and military equipment were brought aboard).

3) IHH "independence" and the non-involvement of the Turkish government in the flotilla: On May 20 Bulent Yildirim held a press conference where he again claimed IHH was an "independent" organization, and that the Turkish government was not involved in its affairs. Ahmet Davutoglu, the Turkish foreign minister, repeated the claim. In reality, IHH and the flotilla project receive political, propaganda and logistical support from the Turkish government, although it is not publicly acknowledged. That support was made clear in an NTV interview Davutoglu, where he warned Israel that "Turkey will give the necessary response to any repeated act of provocation by Israel on the high seas."

5. Despite the propaganda efforts of the flotilla's organizers in general and IHH in particular, central institutions in the international community, among them the UN, the European Union, and the United States, have called for the flotilla not to be sent, describing it as an unnecessary provocation, and stressing the need to transfer humanitarian assistance through the appropriate channels. In addition, Lloyds of London announced it would not insure the flotilla's ships.

Bulent Yildirim's May 20 press conference

6. On May 20, IHH leader Bulent Yildirim held a press conference at IHH headquarters in the Istanbul suburb of Fatih. He gave a speech about the flotilla expected to set sail during the last week of June, in which IHH would again play an important role. He made the following points (according to the IHH website in Turkish):

1) Regarding the flotilla participants: About 1,500 people are expected to participate in the flotilla from more than 100 countries and 22 international organizations. They will sail aboard 15 vessels. According to Bulent Yildirim; "We are not increasing the number of ships participating because there will be more flotillas in the future."

2) The passengers will not have weapons in their possession: Bulent Yildirim emphasized that the passengers would be unarmed and that "we will not even have a penknife [a statement repeated twice], so that the entire world will support the flotilla."

[Bulent Yildirim during the Mavi Marmara flotilla: "We won't even have little penknives in our pockets." New knives, still in their wrappings, were found aboard the Mavi Marmara, some of the weapons prepared for the violent confrontation.]

3) Response to an Israeli attempt to halt the flotilla: Bulent Yildirim called on the Israeli authorities not to interfere with the flotilla and to allow it to reach the Gaza Strip. He said if Israel halted the flotilla and did not allow it to reach the Gaza Strip the ships would continue sailing on the high seas ("We will remain on the high seas for many days.") with much publicizing and raising of international awareness: "The streets will be filled with demonstrators rising up against Israel if the ships are harmed, lovers of freedom around the world will again fill the squares and hatred for Israel will increase."

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4) A "surprise" is being planned: Bulent Yildirim said that the flotilla is only part of a larger action, and that a surprise is being planned for Israel: "This flotilla is part of a much larger action. We are still at work preparing the surprise."

5) Praise for the Turkish government: Bulent Yildirim said that a representative of the American administration had asked the Turkish government to prevent the flotilla from sailing. However, he claimed, IHH was a civilian organization, which made its decisions independently. He said Israel was exerting pressure on many countries and that Israel's supporters were using force against IHH activists, but that "Turkey has already passed the test on that issue." He thanked the Turkish government for not having acted like certain leaders around the world and had not agreed to interfere with the affairs of a civilian body. He said it showed Turkey was a more advanced country than the United States when it came to the struggle for freedom.

Remarks made by senior IHH figure Huseyin OruÅS

7. Huseyin OruÅS, responsible for IHH's public relations (who was also aboard the Mavi Marmara), was interviewed by the Turkish paper Hurriyet on May 19 about the planned flotilla. He said the Mavi Marmara would carry 500 passengers, 400 of whom would not be Turkish, and 100 Turks, 50 of whom would be media correspondents. He also said IHH was willing to have the ships inspected by UN or European Parliament observers.⁴

About 500 participants are expected.

The significance of the remarks made by Bulent Yildirim and Huseyin OruÅS

Detering Israel and allaying the fears of the international community

8. To deter Israel from interfering with the flotilla, Bulent Yildirim has made various incendiary speeches in which he stressed IHH's determination to proceed with the flotilla, even at the price of additional shaheeds⁵ (a hint at his readiness to confront Israel, even if it means sacrificing lives). In addition, he has warned that should Israel try to stop the flotilla, the organizers intended to keep the ships on the high seas for a long period of time, which they would use to initiate protest actions to isolate Israel throughout the world. He used similar themes in a speech made to supporters in Istanbul two months before the previous flotilla.⁶ An indication of the practical preparations for such a scenario is that volunteers from NGOs around the world who plan to join IHH's upcoming flotilla were asked to allocate at least three weeks to it.

9. On the other hand, Bulent Yildirim and Huseyin OruÅS are trying to allay the international community's fears of a potentially violent confrontation, claiming that the passengers will not be carrying weapons and that IHH is willing to have the cargo inspected by European or UN observers. They also claimed there would be fewer Turks than participated in the previous flotilla, and that half of them would represent the media. In our assessment, based on past experience, skepticism is in order for the following reasons:

1) Before the Mavi Marmara flotilla IHH leader Bulent Yildirim and other spokesmen also made contradictory remarks: On the one hand, they represented themselves as peace and human rights activists throughout, including during the flotilla. For example, Turkish correspondent Åzefik DinÅS, in his book *The Bloodstained Mavi Marmara*, wrote that Bulent Yildirim had declared at a press conference that "we will not even have a penknife, we are a civilian, humane movement" (p. 39) [when in fact aboard the Mavi Marmara there was a wide variety of weapons prepared for fighting the IDF]. On the other hand, speaking before an audience of Islamist supporters two months before the flotilla set sail, Bulent Yildirim emphasized IHH's

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determination to reach the Gaza Strip, no matter how, even if Israel employed force against one of the ships.

2) Regarding IHH's agreement regarding an inspection of the passengers' luggage, for the previous flotilla IHH also claimed that the luggage of the passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara had been inspected by the Turkish authorities as they boarded the ship in Istanbul. In reality, the "inspection," if it was indeed carried out, was meaningless, because many weapons were loaded aboard the ship, as was military equipment and tools for making improvised weapons. In addition, based on familiarity with the violent modus operandi of IHH operatives, as evidenced by their past confrontations with Egyptian and Jordanian security forces, it can be assumed that operatives belonging to IHH and their Islamist confederates, some of whom have experience from previous confrontations, will be able to confront IDF soldiers with improvised weapons or even without previously preparing weapons, if they are instructed to do so.

The "surprise" IHH is preparing for Israel

10. Bulent Yildirim did not specifically mention what the "surprise" would be. In our assessment it may possibly mean sending a plane to the Gaza Strip. In a speech he gave on April 7, 2011, at a memorial service for the operatives killed aboard the Mavi Marmara, he said that the Gaza Strip would also be reached by air. He said the organization was in the process of acquiring a plane, which would also depart for the Gaza Strip. The status of activating the plan is so far unknown.

The Turkish regime's involvement in the flotilla

11. In his May 20 speech, Bulent Yildirim again claimed that IHH was an "independent" organization, and the Turkey did not interfere in its affairs.

A similar claim was made by the organizers of the Mavi Marmara flotilla, who represented it as the fruit of a network of NGOs around the world with no governmental support. However, in reality, the flotilla project has received support from the government of Turkey (as stated in a document found aboard the Mavi Marmara), although the Turks prefer a low media profile. The support is expressed in the logistical and financial support given to IHH, and by the political and propaganda defense it receives.

12. A clear indication of the political-propaganda support given the flotilla by the Turkish government can be found in the NTV interview of Ahmet Davutoglu, the Turkish foreign minister (according to HAArriyet, May 21), which hinted at a threat to Israel. He said "It should be known that Turkey will give the necessary response to any repeated act of provocation by Israel on the high seas. Those who believe Turkey should take certain steps to stop [the new flotilla] must first warn Israel not to repeat the human tragedy it caused last year."

13. He also claimed that the Turkish government did not encourage convoys, but that Turkey could not give orders to civilian organizations. He said the international community should support the internal Palestinian reconciliation, because it would remove the conditions used by Israel to justify the "siege," and there would no longer be a need for assistance convoys to the Gaza Strip. On another occasion he said that "the flotilla is not the root of the problem," but rather "the root of the problem is the embargo [sic] [of the Gaza Strip]." Sending a message to Israel, he said that it had to obey international law in international waters. He also called on Israel to support Palestinian unity and thus make it possible to remove the "embargo" of the Gaza Strip immediately (Today'szaman website, May 20, 2011).

14. As part of the propaganda campaign intended to pave the way for the new flotilla, IHH and its confederates are planning a series of propaganda events leading up to May 31, the anniversary of the Mavi Marmara.⁸ Special emphasis will be put on fostering and glorifying the memory of the nine IHH operatives killed aboard the Mavi Marmara, and inculcating hatred for Israel within the Turkish public. The events culminated in a mass rally in Istanbul's

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Taksim Square on May 30, and a press conference held by IHH and its confederates on May 31. IHH asked the NGOs connected to it to hold similar events around the globe.

As the Freedom Flotilla Family we did not forget our nine brothers who were killed last year by Zionist soldiers. We are going to organize the following programs in Turkey:

- 22 May 2011 -Raising Banners in Football Matches
- 23 May 2011 -Starting the photo exhibitions in schools and public places.
- 23 May 2011 -Starting the memorial programs in schools and public places.
- 25 May 2011 -Starting the memorial programs in the cities of martyrs of Mavi Marmara.
- 26 May 2011 -Memorial program in Blue Mosque, in Istanbul.
- 28 May 2011 -Kite flying program in the point where Mavi Marmara left to Gaza last year.
- 30 May 2011 -Mass rally in Taksim square. We expect tens of thousands.
- 31 May 2011 -Memorial programs in the early morning in the graveyards of the martyrs.
- 31 May 2011 -Press conference by IHH and other NGOs in Turkey.

Events marking the sailing of the Mavi Marmara and the operatives killed

15. The planned events have been attended by radical Islamic networks, which have threatened to settle accounts with Israel because of the nine operatives who were killed. Nur al-Din Shirin, leader of a Turkish Islamist group (which participated in Nakba Day events in Jordan and confronted the Jordanian security forces), told the Islamist newspaper Velfecr on May 20 that "œOn the anniversary of the killing of the shaheeds aboard the Mavi Marmara and the barbaric conduct of the Israelis, we will show them that we have not forgotten the blood spilled there, and we will settle accountsœ."

The Turkish delegation to the Nakba Day events in Jordan leads a Palestinian-Jordanian march to the Allenby Bridge. The banner bears the pictures of the nine operatives killed aboard the Mavi Marmara. When the march met Jordanian security forces at a roadblock a violent confrontation broke out (Velfecr.com website, May 19, 2011). The banner reads "The flag of our shaheeds flies all over the world."

1 A bulletin about the Turkish delegation to Jordan is currently being translated. Readers of Hebrew can find it now at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/Hebrew/heb_n/pdf/ipc_195.pdf.

2 IHH website. The main points were also reported by Agence France-Presse from Istanbul, May 20, 2011.

3 The Jordanian flotilla committee announced there would be 13 ships. According to the announcement, deliberations were being held regarding the purchase of another ship with Arab funds. It also stated that that the Jordanian committee would contribute 20% of the cost of the vessel, estimated at a, -1,600,000 (Al-Sabil, May 23, 2011). An IHH spokesman told Reuters that the ships would depart from European ports during the third week of June and would be joined by IHH during the voyage (Reuters, May 17, quoted from the Jerusalem Post, May 18, 2011).

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4 Huseyin OruÅ's call and the entire flotilla idea were rejected by a senior UN figure. On May 19 Robert Serry, UN special envoy to the Middle East, said that all assistance and legitimate merchandise meant for the Gaza Strip had to enter through official crossings and proper, established channels, in accordance with the International Quartet and the committee for contributors to the Palestinian Authority (the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, AHLC). Serry emphasized the importance of the struggle against the smuggling of weapons into the Gaza Strip, saying that the UN Secretary General was following with concern reports about additional potential flotillas to the Gaza Strip, and that as far as Ban-ki Moon was concerned, another flotilla would be "provocative and unnecessary." He also said that the Secretary General called on all the relevant governments to exert their influence to prevent more flotillas, which had the potential for escalation.

5 For further information, see the May 18, 2011 ITIC bulletin, "IHH, which plays a central role in organizing the upcoming flotilla to the Gaza Strip, joined Turkish Islamist organizations in denouncing Osama bin Laden's killing by America." at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/ipc_e190.pdf.

6 On March 31, 2010, Bulent Yildirim presented three possible scenarios: that the ship would be attacked, that it would be allowed to enter the Gaza Strip and that it would be prevented from proceeding. If it were prevented from proceeding, the passengers would remain aboard for a long period of time (a number of weeks). In such a case, "all the civilian organizations of the countries [involved] will demonstrate and protest. The issue will be raised in the various parliaments. The longer we stay at sea the more time we will gain. All the officials of the countries [involved] will go into action. After that the countries friendly to Israel will separate themselves from it." At the launching of the Mavi Marmara in Istanbul on May 23, 2010, Bulent Yildirim gave another incendiary speech in which he called on Israel to manage the crisis carefully, otherwise, he warned, "you will be isolated in the world and harm yourselves."

7 For further information see the May 18, 2011 ITIC bulletin, "IHH, which plays a central role in organizing the upcoming flotilla to the Gaza Strip, joined Turkish Islamist organizations in denouncing Osama bin Laden's killing by America. IHH leader Bulent Yildirim again expressed readiness to sacrifice shaheads to achieve the flotilla's objective, calling on Israel not to attack the ships." at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/ipc_e190.pdf.

8 The events in Turkey are planned to take place on or about events in other areas, such as the 11th anniversary of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and Nakba Day events, to commemorate the Arab defeat of the Six Day War (June 5-7).

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Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2011 8:16 AM
To: imra@imra.org.il
Subject: NGOs Promote Next Flotilla

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PRESS RELEASE

May 8, 2011

Contact:

Jason Edelstein

NGO Monitor
(02) 566-1020

972-52-861-2129

mail@ngo-monitor.org

NGOs Promote Next Flotilla

in Lobbying Event at European Parliament

European Funding Again Contributes to Campaign Masked as "Humanitarian Mission"
http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=r-fhybieab&v=0018H6J1k2lhM1V4gUFXupmQuZ36u1t-gA-sk9BjQzgIcQ2F-J3qYx1BTvCQ1p9qHhp4jE9iNFn3J2ouG_hICIoipmXV5vX9Tzea91MxEZdJdHe8c28d4CHmg%3D%3D

JERUSALEM - A number of radical non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will hold a May 10 lobbying initiative and press conference at the European Parliament to promote next month's planned flotilla to Gaza, organized in conjunction with the terror organization Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH).
Representatives from the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), Free Gaza Movement, and European Jews for Just Peace are scheduled to meet with European lawmakers in a series of private meetings, as well as speak at a press event afterwards, notes Jerusalem-based NGO Monitor, a research institution that tracks NGOs in the region.

"Many of the same NGOs that funded and organized the violent May 31, 2010 flotilla are organizing this new flotilla," says Prof. Gerald Steinberg, president of NGO Monitor. "They clearly have no interest in delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza - for which there are many options - their main goal is to provoke another violent confrontation."

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NGO Monitor notes that the European Union, individual European governments, and the New Israel Fund (NIF), fund many of the other NGOs that are participating or have endorsed the latest flotilla efforts, including the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, Alternative Information Center (AIC), Sabeel, Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP), Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions, and Zochrot. Full report on NGOs and funding related to the flotilla.

"The flotilla is a continuation of NGO strategy seeking to incite violence and demonize Israel, under the façade of human rights," adds Prof. Steinberg. "These NGOs compare Israeli soldiers to Nazis, call for a 'one state solution,' invoke the rhetoric of 'apartheid,' and promote boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel. Such campaigns, along with the flotilla, do not foster an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding. Rather, they make those goals more difficult to achieve."

The ISM supports "armed struggle" and its co-founders Huwaida Arraf and Adam Shapiro said deaths from Palestinian "resistance" are "no less noble than carrying out a suicide operation." And we are certain that if these men were killed during such an action, they would be considered shaheed Allah."

As mentioned, the IHH, a Turkish group linked to Al Qaeda and Hamas (and recently designated as a terrorist organization by the Dutch government), is a key organizer of the flotilla. Under international law, UN member states, as emphasized in UN Security Council Resolution 1373, must "prohibit their nationals or any persons and entities within their territories from making any funds, financial assets or economic resources or financial or other related services available" for terrorist activities.

"The flotilla highlights the problematic nature of European funding for political advocacy NGOs," Steinberg notes. "Beyond UNSC Resolution 1373, donor states to the Palestinian Authority, many of which are European, condemn such provocative flotillas to Gaza. Yet, their taxpayer euros are funding activities organized by a terrorist organization."

As reconfirmed by Mathilde Redmant, deputy director of the Red Cross in Gaza, on April 21, 2011, "There is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza." Humanitarian aid reaches Gaza through multiple routes, including the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, which has been open since June 2010 and the hundreds of tons of goods that Israel trucks in each week. Additionally, Israel has agreed to deliver any humanitarian aid to Gaza after an inspection at the border.

###

Full report on NGO involvement in the planned flotilla linked here and below:

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Briefing Note

International NGOs and the Second Gaza Flotilla:

Links to Terror, No Humanitarian Purpose

Summary:

On May 31, 2010, in violation of international law, six ships attempted to reach Gaza by sea and were intercepted by Israeli security forces. Flotilla passengers met Israeli forces with violence and several caches of weapons were found on board.

Politicized NGOs with connections to terrorist groups are planning a second flotilla to commemorate the 2010 incident.

Major organizers include Turkey-based IHH, a group linked to Al Qaeda and Hamas; IHH is listed by several Western governments as a terrorist entity. The international community - including the EU and the US - is legally bound by UN Security Council Resolution 1373, [1] which imposes barriers on the movement, organization, and fund-raising activities of terrorist groups. Flotilla coordinators International Solidarity Movement (ISM) and the Free Gaza Movement (FGM) are known for encouraging their activists to confront Israeli security forces and inflammatory anti-Israel rhetoric.

Several EU and NIF-funded NGOs - including the Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions (ICAHN), the Alternative Information Center (AIC), and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) - are organizing and endorsing flotilla efforts.

Organizers are using the pretext of a humanitarian mission to provoke a military confrontation in an already inflamed region.

International Law Background:

The international community - including the EU and the US - is legally bound by UN Security Council Resolution 1373, passed unanimously following the September 11, 2001 attacks. The resolution imposes barriers on the movement, organization, and fund-raising activities of terrorist groups. Member states must "prohibit their nationals or any persons and entities within their territories from making any funds, financial assets or economic resources or financial or other related services available" for terrorist activities, and must also "prevent those who finance, plan, facilitate or commit terrorist acts from using their respective territories for those purposes against other States or their citizens."

In April 2011, the Dutch government added flotilla organizer IHH to its list of terror groups, and the organization is banned in Germany and Israel. IHH is part of the Union for Good umbrella group, which the US Treasury Department designates as a terrorist organization.

IHH has strong connections to Al Qaeda and Hamas, listed as terrorist organizations by the EU, the US, the UK, Canada, and many other countries. In March 2010, Israeli security forces intercepted approximately 50 tons of weapons on a ship bound for Gaza, underscoring Hamas' efforts to receive weapons via sea routes.

Humanitarian aid can reach Gaza through multiple routes. The Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt has been open since June 2010. In late April 2011, the Egyptian foreign minister declared Egypt would permanently open the

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border crossing. Additionally, Israel has agreed to deliver any humanitarian aid to Gaza after an inspection at the border. Therefore, the humanitarian justification for these flotillas is invalid.

Major Organizers of the 2011 Flotilla:

Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH):

Turkey-based Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) is planning a Second Gaza Flotilla as a follow-up to the violence of May 31, 2010. In an April 2011 interview, IHH president Bülent Yildirim said: "We are not afraid to die as shaheeds." [2] He also stated: "... we do have a problem with one place, and we declare it boldly, without fear, and without hesitation: Our problem is Zionism, which has infected all of humanity like a virus."

IHH is a member of the Union of the Good, an umbrella group of 50+ Islamic organizations established as a funding conduit by the Hamas leadership. [3] During heightened terrorist activity in 2002, the Union of the Good transferred money, via Hamas charities, to families of suicide bombers. Turkish authorities investigated IHH in 1997 after receiving information that senior members had purchased weapons from Islamic radicals. A raid on the organization's bureau turned up weapons, explosives, and instructions for making IEDs. [4]

French counter-terrorism magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere testified that IHH maintained contact with Al Qaeda in Milan and Algerian terrorists in Europe, recruited militants for fighting in Bosnia, Chechnya, and Afghanistan, and played a "central role" in the Al Qaeda bomb plot targeting LAX airport. In an interview conducted after the first flotilla (2010), Demet Tezcan of IHH stated: "The [Israelis] are paranoid cowards, who definitely have a sick mentality. That's why we have to put an end to this."

International Solidarity Movement (ISM):

The International Solidarity Movement (ISM) was a leading organizer of the May 2010 flotilla and is continuing its leadership role for the Second Gaza Flotilla.

Describes itself as "a Palestinian-led movement committed to resisting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land using non-violent, direct-action methods and principles."

Encourages activists to take "direct action" that often places them in danger by provoking violent confrontations with Israeli Defense Forces.

In a 2002 article, ISM co-founders Adam Shapiro and Huwaida Arraf wrote: "The Palestinian resistance must take on a variety of characteristics, both non-violent and violent. Yes, people will get killed and injured," but these deaths are "no less noble than carrying out a suicide operation. And we are certain that if these men were killed during such an action, they would be considered shaheed Allah." [5]

ISM has been responsible for endangering the safety of many foreign nationals, including American citizen Rachel Corrie, UK citizen Tom Hurndall, and Italian citizen Vittorio Arrigoni. All were killed while participating in ISM activities.

ISM is recruiting activists for the Second Gaza Flotilla, favoring those activists who already participated in flotillas and were "detained and deported by Israel."

ISM is encouraging "non-violent" activities onboard the ship, however the

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group is known for tactics to provoke the Israeli security forces [6]. They have adopted the following tactics for the Second Gaza Flotilla: "Refusing deportation until a set of conditions is met" and "extreme non-violent, non-cooperation, during captivity." In 2006 and 2007, \$55,856.20 was transferred to ISM through the A.J. Muste Institute. ISM's "fiscal sponsor" Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) is another conduit for the organization to receive 501(c)(3) tax deductible donations in the US.

Free Gaza Movement:

The Free Gaza Movement (founded by ISM activists, including Huwaida Arraf and Adam Shapiro) leads a coalition of groups that has sent nine sea delegations to Gaza since 2008. [7]. Refers to Israel as "Palestine."

Admitted that the first flotilla was not humanitarian, but rather political. Board of Advisors includes M. Cherif Bassiouni, as well as anti-Israel ideologues James Abourezk, Noam Chomsky, Naomi Klein, and Baroness Jenny Tonge.

Co-coordinator Caoimhe Butterly spent 16 days in April 2002 as a "human shield" in Yasser Arafat's compound and encourages "resistance" activities. Board of Directors member Greta Berlin is a Hamas supporter and made false statements alleging Israeli violence to the media in the wake of the May 2010 flotilla.

Mary Hughes Thompson, co-founder of the Free Gaza Movement, wrote: "God bless you Vittorio. Your star will shine long after Zionist Israel is no more."

Free Gaza Movement relies on fundraising efforts from its many affiliate groups. The website and the websites of their affiliates encourage individual supporters to donate via PayPal.

The American Educational Trust (AET), publishers of the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, agreed to serve as Free Gaza's fiscal sponsor in the United States, enabling tax-deductible donations.

EU- and NIF-funded NGO Endorsers of the Second Gaza Flotilla:

Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions (ICAHD), is on the Free Gaza Movement's Board of Advisors and is an organizer of a Canadian boat set to take part in the second flotilla. ICAHD is funded by the EU, Spain, and the governments of the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland via the NGO Development Center.

Eyad Sarraj, Director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme is also on the Free Gaza Movement Board of Advisors. During the June 2009 Goldstone mission hearings in Gaza, Sarraj made antisemitic remarks: "Israeli soldier has the image of absolute superiority . . . and he uses it without thinking of humanity at all . . . inside Israel there is an identification with the aggressor, the Nazis."

The Alternative Information Center (AIC), funders include Diakonia (Sweden), ICCO (the Netherlands).

Sabeel, funded by Diakonia (Sweden). Coalition of Women for Peace (CWP), funded by New Israel Fund (NIF), Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Germany.

Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), funded by the European Union and the governments of Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway; NGO Development Center (NDC) - governments of Switzerland, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark. Private organizations providing funding include: Ford Foundation (USA), International Commission of Jurists (Sweden), Open Society

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Foundations (OSI - ,US), Christian Aid (UK), Grassroots International (US), Kvina Till Kvina (Sweden), Al-Quds Association Malaga (Spain), Oxfam Novib (the Netherlands), Trocaire (Ireland), DanChurchAid (Denmark), and the Welfare Association.

Jewish Voice for Peace is a tax-exempt registered 501(c)(3) organization, though its funding is not transparent.

Pax Christi U.K. (funding not transparent); Yesh Gevul (funding not transparent)

Zochrot, funders in 2009 include ICCO (the Netherlands), Oxfam Great Britain, Oxfam Belgium, and Trocaire (Ireland).

Expressions of Violence and Antisemitism Surrounding May 2010 Flotilla:[8]

An Algerian delegate stated: "I took an oath that if they [Israel] stamped my passport, I would rip it up and leave without a passport. Our hatred for these people is so intense that we wished, at those moments, that we could have been bombs, and blow up among those brothers of apes and pigs."

After refusing calls to divert to the port of Ashdod, passengers onboard the Mavi Marmara violently attacked Israeli soldiers with metal rods, slingshots, knives, live bullets, and stun grenades.

The May 2010 flotilla contained little humanitarian aid. Instead, expired medications, broken medical equipment, camouflage material (intended for Hamas uniforms), and several caches of weapons were found.

Before setting sail in 2010, flotilla organizers declined several requests to unload cargo at the port of Ashdod to be delivered to Gaza; organizers have refused the same request in 2011.

Of the nine operatives who died during the violence, eight belonged to Islamist organizations and seven announced before the event that they desired to be shaheeds.

Hamas refused delivery of 21 truckloads of goods unloaded from the May 2010 flotilla.

International Reactions to 2011 Flotilla:

Donor states to the Palestinian Authority condemned flotillas to Gaza and called on parties to use land terminals to avoid provocation.

US Ambassador Susan Rice stated: "There are distinct mechanisms to deliver goods to Gaza and there are no justifications to sail directly to Gaza."

German Ambassador Peter Witting called on the organizations involved "to find other ways to deliver aid to the people of Gaza."

In a letter to parliament, the Dutch foreign minister called on Dutch NGOs not to join the flotilla.

Mathilde Redmant, the deputy director of the Red Cross in Gaza: "There is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza."

[1] In addition, the EU amended several existing directives to facilitate implementation of the UN Resolution. For more information, see Report by the European Union to the Committee Established Under Paragraph 6 of Resolution 1373 (2001) Adopted by the Security Council at its 4385th Meeting on 28 September 2001.

[2] Martyrs for the sake of Allah.

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[3] The Union of Good has been designated by the United States. As such, any assets the Union of Good holds under US jurisdiction are frozen, and US persons are prohibited from engaging in any transactions with the group.

[4] The Role of Islamic Charities in International Terrorist Recruitment and Financing, Evan F. Kohlmann (Danish Institute for International Studies, 2006/2007).

[5] "Whitewashing ISM," CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America), Sept. 1, 2004.

[6] ISM activists have been documented throwing Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers and hurtling burning tires at the security barrier. Photographs available at Activestills.org flickr feed.

[7] It partners with the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza, the International Committee to End the Siege on Gaza, Ship to Gaza Sweden, and Ship to Gaza Greece.

[8] For images of the first flotilla, see, e.g. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/idfonline/4702461153/in/set-72157624155153089/>

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Sent: Friday, May 27, 2011 6:48 AM
To: imra@imra.org.il
Subject: Lloyds warned over risks of insurance for Hamas aid boats

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Lloyd's warned over risks of insurance for Hamas aid boats
<http://www.israellawcenter.org/page.asp?id=340&show=photo&pn=1148&ref=report>

May 17, 2011, The Times: An Israeli human rights group has warned Lloyd's of London that it may be liable for massive damages if it insures ships that are used by suspected terrorist organisations to sail to the Gaza Strip.

The legal warning, sent to Lloyd's and all the other main maritime insurance companies in the world, asserted that under international law Lloyd's would be open to charges of aiding and abetting terrorism if it contributed in any way to the passage of ships to Gaza, which is controlled by Hamas, an Islamist movement designated by the United States, Israel and the European Union as a terrorist group. Lloyd's is the biggest insurance market in the world.

The announcement, issued by Shurat Din, a legal centre in Tel Aviv, came on the day that the Israeli navy fired warning shots at a Malaysian-chartered ship carrying sewerage pipes to Gaza from the Egyptian port of al-Arish, forcing it to turn back. The Malaysian aid group that organised the delivery said that the ship was a few hundred yards off the Gaza coast when the Israeli naval vessel forced it back.

Nitsana Darshan Leitner, the founder of the Israeli law centre, said that the point of the legal threat was to prevent a flotilla of aid ships from approaching Gaza this month to mark the first anniversary of a raid by Israeli naval commandos on a Turkish ferry heading for the blockaded enclave.

Nine Turkish activists, one of them a dual US citizen, were shot dead when Israel commandos abseiled on to the Mavi Marmara as it sailed through international waters for Gaza on May 31 last year. The troops were armed with paintball guns and pistols, but were beaten with sticks and metal pipes by Turkish activists when they landed one by one on the deck of the ship. The Israeli troops opened fire, causing a huge diplomatic storm with Turkey from which Israel has yet to recover.

Lloyd's said that it would refuse to underwrite a vessel backed by terrorist or related organisations on any trip that would be in breach of sanctions. The insurance market said: "Hamas is subject to UK and EU terrorist financing sanctions. As such, any vessel identified as being owned or controlled by that organisation would not be permitted to be insured by Lloyd's, or any other EU insurer."

It declined to address the veiled legal threat in the letter directly.

Any shipowner planning to send vessels into Gaza would have to notify the Lloyd's of London market in advance, providing details of the cargo, because Israel is designated a war risk for the purposes of providing cover.

Lloyd's indicated that if its members had been deceived about the true purpose of a trip the insurance cover would instantly be invalid.

Darshan Leitner, an Israeli lawyer who specialises in cases involving victims of terrorist attacks, said: "Before Israel gets into another mess with the navy and the flotilla, we don't want bloodshed on the sea again."

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This is a way that the private sector can help the Government prevent terrorism."

She said that under international law no link had to be established between a specific terrorism attack and a particular ship heading into Gaza: "That's the beauty of this. It doesn't have to link directly. The law in the US and Israel and maybe in other countries is that when it comes to terrorism, it is very strict that anyone aiding and abetting a designated terrorist organisation, the liability is on you for any terrorist attack that that organisation carries out," she told The Times.

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From: Tel Aviv PD Press Section
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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES TEL AVIV
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
MORNING MEDIA REVIEW

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

TOP STORIES:

- Nine protestors killed during IDF raid on Gaza-bound flotilla
- International condemnation of the flotilla affair

Nine protestors killed during IDF raid on Gaza-bound flotilla: All Hebrew-language dailies this morning are devoted almost exclusively to yesterday's lethal IDF raid on the international flotilla bound for Gaza, during which nine international protestors were killed and more were wounded, including several Israeli navy soldiers. All of the newspapers are analyzing the tactical actions taken by the naval force, which apparently came ill-prepared to deal with such fierce opposition and violence from the self-proclaimed "peace activists." All of the newspapers show photographic evidence of the violence inflicted on the soldiers as they boarded the "Mavi Marmara," including images of the types of knives and clubs used against the soldiers. The newspapers are also laden with play-by-play graphics of the operation, alluding that the soldiers were walking into "a trap" (which was Yediot's headline). The general consensus in the papers, however, appears to be that the Naval Commandos who carried out the raid were to be commended and not condemned for their conduct under harsh conditions.

Aside from the military aspect of the raid, today's newspapers also attempt to criticize the strategic decision-making process and to ask whether the political echelon had not failed in insisting to stop the flotilla from reaching the Gaza shores. The press is also criticizing Prime Minister Netanyahu for responding publicly only 12 hours after the incident, citing his indecision whether to cut his trip short or continue as planned. Much of the anger in the press from the failure of the mission is directed towards Defense Minister Ehud Barak. Maariv is reporting about unrest within the Labor Party in the aftermath of the dramatic turn of events at sea yesterday. Maariv addresses the potential ramifications of the flotilla raid on the Israeli political scene, citing the potential for a national unity government. In Yediot, a senior columnist enumerates the various reasons he believes it is imperative for Barak to resign as defense minister in the wake of yesterday's events.

International condemnation of the flotilla affair: The newspapers this morning also focused on the international political fallout from the flotilla incident, bringing coverage of international condemnation of Israel and protests around the world. A large part of the coverage in this aspect is focusing on the deterioration of relations with Turkey, with Yediot reporting that the Turks are "promising revenge." Yediot's correspondent, who was dispatched to Istanbul, is quoting an IHH activist who said the flotilla was indeed a pre-planned trap for Israel in order to isolate it internationally. Both Yediot and Maariv focus some of their criticism on Israel's public diplomacy efforts, which were – yet again – completely absent and drowned out by the various anti-Israel speakers who dominated the international media coverage of the incident.

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES

Yediot:

* The Trap

* The Test of the Result

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