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* Barak Resign

Maariv:

* The Flasco and the Heroism

* Turkey Enraged

* Arab Sector Rampages

Ha'aretz:

* Failure of IDF Operation Creates International Predicament

* Fierce Crisis in Relations with Turkey; Tens of Thousands Demonstrate Opposite Israeli Consulate

* Needed: Commission of Inquiry

Makor Rishon-Hatzofer:

* Islamist-Turkish Provocation

* No Hysteria

* Blood on the Hands of the "Peace Activists"

Israel Hayom

* Soldiers Faced a Lynching

* Naval Commando Sent to Stop "Peace Activists" and Found Himself in a Trap

* Severe Crisis with Turkey

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Part 1
Jerusalem
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ISRAEL NEWS TODAY
DAILY SUMMARY OF THE HEBREW MEDIA

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Part 1 of 2
OVERVIEW

The main headlines of both dailies concern tonight's World Cup finals. Alongside them are current events, including the IDF's preparations for the approaching Libyan flotilla and the Eiland Committee report of the takeover of the Mavi Marmara.

Smadar Peri reports in Yedioth Ahronoth that despite Israel's efforts in the diplomatic arena, the Libyan ship Amal remains on course for Gaza. The ship, which was dispatched by the Human Rights Society of which Saef al-Islam Gaddafi, the eldest son of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, is president-set sail yesterday from the Greek port of Lavrio. It is reportedly carrying two thousand tons of food and medicines. "We have no weapons. We have no rifles and not even knives. We are bringing only food, and we come in peace," said Abd el-Raouf Jazeeri, one of the activists aboard the Amal. Although Israeli officials have proposed that the ship dock either at the port of Ashdod in Israel or at the Egyptian port of El-Arish, the ship's captain maintained last night that his course remains set for Gaza. MK Ahmed Tibi, the Libyan flotilla's coordinator in Israel, agreed, saying yesterday, "The vessel will sail for Gaza and nowhere else. We are willing to have the ship inspected at sea."

Ofer Shelah reports in Ma'ariv that tensions are running high in the IDF, as army officials await the publication of the report that was written by a committee headed by Maj. Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland. Although the report is not expected to lay blame or recommend the dismissal of any officer, it is expected to contain severe criticism of the operation's planning and execution.

Yedioth Ahronoth follows up this morning on its weekend exposé about the failure of Haredi schools to teach core curriculum subjects such as arithmetic, English and science, and their over-reporting of the hours in which these subjects were taught in order to receive government funding. A bill that would oblige the study of Education Ministry-mandated core

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curriculum is now on the table and is expected to advance in the legislative process after the Knesset breaks for the summer.

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES

Yedioth Ahronoth:

- * High Alert: Gaddafi's Flotilla on its Way
- * Who'll It Be? Holland or Spain
- * New Bill to Close Schools that Fail to Teach Core Curriculum Gets Wide Support in Knesset

Ma'ariv:

- * IDF Braces for Eiland Report
- * Finance Ministry Accuses: "IDF Making Use of Hizbullah in Budgetary Struggle"
- * A Kick Away: World Cup Final Tonight

Ha'aretz:

- * Netanyahu Examines Ending IDF Activity in Palestinian Cities on West Bank
- * Officials: Flotilla is not Humanitarian; Just a Provocation to Strengthen Hamas
- * Non-Jewish Russians Banned from Buying House in Nokdim

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe:

- * Libyan Ship Leaves for Gaza
- * Thousands Attend Funeral of Rabbi Yehuda Amital
- * Eti Ankri [Israeli Singer] in Special Performance of Religious Songs *Israel Hayom*

- * Israel Warns: Lebanese Flotilla Will Not Be Allowed to Reach Gaza
- * World Awaits World Cup
- * Hot Week Ahead

ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report

* **Flotilla:** The Libyan flotilla has left Greece, though it remains unclear whether it is headed to the Gaza Strip or El-Arish. The ship's journey is expected to last four days. The ship's agent as well as the Greek Foreign Ministry have reported that the ship is destined to El-Arish, however, an Al-Jazeera reporter on board said that the ship was making its way to the Gaza Strip. The captain has reportedly denied that a different course had been agreed with him.

The flotilla's initiator, the Libyan organization linked to Gaddafi's son, has announced that ship is en route to Gaza. The ship is carrying fifteen volunteers and twelve crewmen. The Israeli navy has said that missile boats will escort the Libyan vessel making its way to El-Arish and that they are preparing for the event that it may deviate off course. Security sources have told Israel Radio that this flotilla, like its predecessors, is not of humanitarian nature but, rather, is a provocation that is aimed at strengthening Hamas. They said that the humanitarian problem in Gaza remains the imprisonment of soldier Gilad Shalit. Defense Minister Barak has called the flotilla an unnecessary provocation and proposed that the flotilla's organizers either join the navy ships and head to Ashdod or set a course to El-Arish.

* **Abbas comments:** PA Chairman Abu Mazen is deliberating as to the wisdom in beginning direct talks, so long as the Palestinians have scored no

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achievements, particularly in the matters of security and borders. Abu Mazen reiterated his demand that Israel cease construction in the settlements. He refrained, however, from citing this as a precondition for direct talks.

* **Bishara:** The Ministerial Committee for Legislation will discuss today a bill disqualifying Azmi Bishara from receiving a pension. Bishara is suspected of espionage for Hizbullah. The bill was sponsored by MKs Yisrael Hasson of Kadima and Yariv Levin of Likud.

* **Proximity talks:** Western diplomats told Al-Hayat that special US envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell has stopped proximity talks between Israel and the Palestinian, and has begun discussing with the parties conditions for the beginning of direct negotiations. The paper further reports that Egyptian President Mubarak will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu in two days and hear from him about his meeting with President Obama. On Thursday Mubarak will meet with PA Chairman Abu Mazen.

* **The previous flotilla:** A senior political official has told Israel Radio that he believes Israel must oppose UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's proposal to appoint an international commission of inquiry over the Turkish flotilla incident, and has said that the Turkel committee already includes two foreign observers. Israel's position on this matter was discussed in several of the meetings Prime Minister Netanyahu held in Washington and New York.

* **Olmert:** Former prime minister Ehud Olmert is expected to face questioning for a third time this morning over the Holyland affair.

FLOTILLA

TENSION ON THE HIGH SEAS

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 4) by Smadar Peri et al. -- Despite the diplomatic pressure that Israeli officials applied over the weekend, the captain of the Libyan vessel *Amal* (hope) announced last night: "I haven't received any instructions to change the ship's original course. I am sailing to Gaza."

The question as to whether the *Amal* will be sailing to Gaza or whether it will anchor at the Egyptian port of El-Arish kept high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry busy over the weekend. Yesterday, Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gabriella Shalev tried to apply pressure in order to prevent the *Amal* from sailing to Gaza, and in the end it looked as though their efforts had borne fruit. But the ship's captain announced that despite all the pressure, he intended to sail to Gaza.

The voyage of the *Amal*, which set sail yesterday from the Greek port of Lavrio, was organized by the Human Rights Society, which is led by Saef al-Islam, the eldest son of Libyan president Muammar Gaddafi. According to the reports, together with "peace activists" and crew members, one of Gaddafi's six sons is on board the vessel. The activists say that approximately two thousand tons of food and medicines were loaded onto the ship. "We have no weapons. We have no rifles and not even knives. We are bringing only food, and we come in peace," Abd el-Raouf Jazeeri, one of the activists aboard the vessel, said yesterday.

Yesterday, the defense minister reiterated his position that Israel opposes the entry of ships into the Gaza Strip without an inspection to ensure that they are carrying no arms or combat support items. "The goods

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can be taken through the Ashdod port after inspection," Barak said, "but we will not allow arms to be brought in. We recommend that the flotilla's organizers accompany the navy boats to the Ashdod port or sail directly to the port of El-Arish."

The defense minister contacted his counterparts in Greece and Moldova in order to ask that the vessel not set sail for Gaza. The foreign minister of Moldova was contacted because the vessel is sailing under the Moldovan flag, and the Greek foreign minister was contacted because the vessel is setting sail from a Greek port. At the same time, the defense minister spoke with the Egyptian intelligence minister, General Omar Suleiman, and asked him to act so that the vessel would dock in the port of El-Arish.

The Israeli embassy at the UN wrote an urgent letter to the UN Secretary General, the presidents of the Security Council and to the UN General Assembly, asking them to use the international community's influence on the Libyan government and ask it to show responsibility and prevent the vessel from sailing to the Gaza Strip. Israel reserves the right to prevent the vessel from breaking the maritime blockade of the Gaza Strip, Shalev wrote.

In the end, it seemed that an agreement had been reached: the voyage documents were changed, and the voyage's new destination was the port of El-Arish. But despite the agreements that were reached between Israel, Greece, Moldova and Egypt, the vessel sailed toward Gaza. "This is a private vessel that was chartered in Moldova," Samir el-Hadr, Saef al-Islam Gaddafi's representative, said last night. "We are not involved and are not part of any agreements about changing course or the plan." MK Ahmed Tibi, the Libyan flotilla's coordinator in Israel, said yesterday, "The vessel will sail for Gaza and nowhere else. We are willing to have the ship inspected at sea."

Navy officials are preparing for the possibility of the Libyan flotilla's arrival on the Gaza coast. According to high-ranking security officials, if any such attempt should be made, Israel will prevent it. Navy vessels will track the vessels' course from close up, and Naval Commando troops are on high alert as they await the possibility that they will receive the order to act.

EILAND REPORT

ALL EYES ON EILAND

Ma'ariv (p. 6) by Ofer Shelah -- This evening Maj. Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland will present Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi with the report his committee wrote about the IDF takeover of the Turkish vessel, Mavi Marmara, while it was en route to the Gaza Strip just over a month ago. Tomorrow morning the report will be officially submitted to the IDF General Staff, whereupon its non-classified parts will be released to the public.

The Eiland committee, which was comprised of Operations Branch Director Brig. Gen. Aviv Kochavi, Brig. Gen. (res.) Yuval Halamish and Col. (res.) Ben Zion Daaboul, based its findings on the inquiries that were conducted by the IDF. When clarifications were required, the committee members also questioned officers directly. The findings are not expected to lay

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individual blame explicitly and are not to include recommendations that specific officers be either punished or relieved of duty.

That said, the committee's report is expected to contain severe criticism of various spheres of military activity that were under the command of high-ranking officers. For example, the intelligence-gathering, planning and execution, command and control of the operation that was overseen by Navy Commander Maj. Gen. Eliezer Marom, as well as the instructions that were issued to soldiers. In this respect it is important to stress that the purview of the Eiland committee was restricted to an investigation of the military only. However, the committee's findings on the orders that the chief-of-staff gave to his subordinates as well as the military plans that were approved, will certainly be indicative of the instructions that were handed down by the political echelon, particularly so by Defense Minister Ehud Barak.

Two weeks ago, speaking at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies, Eiland recapitulated arguments that he had presented in an article that was published prior to the takeover. Eiland suggested that Israel's failure to prepare adequately for the flotilla, which it knew about for weeks in advance, ultimately left it facing two bad alternatives—either take over the Mavi Marmara by force or allow it to dock at Gaza. Eiland, a former director of the National Security Council, is quite familiar with the discussions that take place between the political and military echelons in such incidents. Despite the absence of personal recommendations, his terminology is expected to be harsh. The Eiland report is also expected to address with the manner in which the salient failures of this affair served to uncover long-term problems that have plagued the military, mainly with respect to planning.

Amir Bubbut Adds: The IDF is bracing for the report, though a senior officer predicted this week that Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi's pedantic nature could result in a delay in the report's final publication. The officer speculated that Ashkenazi might ask for clarifications and additional information with respect to some of the findings. "This is an operational military inquiry, the main goal of which is to ascertain and learn the necessary lessons," explained the officer to Ma'ariv.

Nevertheless, military sources who were involved in the takeover are concerned that the authors of the report might imply by means of the style criticism about their conduct both prior to the flotilla's arrival and during the takeover itself. One officer who is very familiar with the details of the flotilla incident explained: "we're talking about an incident in which the details are known to almost everybody, and most of which are not disputed. The majority of the committee's findings are thus going to focus on intelligence and planning."

Senior officers have been claiming since the incident that the intelligence available prior to the flotilla's arrival was limited and that responsibility for this rests not only on the IDF's shoulders but also on those of the GSS and Mossad. That said, one officer said: "Israelis citizens would not want the IDF to gather intelligence on every terror organization around the world, because it would eventually lack the time to gather precise and important intelligence on significant threats to the country."

As for the planning of the operation that began with the Naval Commando and received the approval of several generals, including the chief-of-

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staff, the senior officer said that every report suggests that in retrospect things could have been done differently. "After all, that's what reports are for," he added. Naval Commando officers said last week behind closed doors that the planning for the operation was based on the contingencies that were provided by the intelligence they had.

A BATTLE OF TITANS

THE FINANCE MINISTRY: BARAK MOST EXPENSIVE DEFENSE MINISTER EVER.
Ma'ariv (p. 7) by Ben Caspit -- "Ehud Barak is the most expensive defense minister in Israel's history"; "The IDF is impertinently disregarding all of the Brodet Commission's findings, while deceiving the public"; "it's interesting how every time the military budget is on the table, they release from the stocks Hizbullah's missile array and expose sensitive classified material," -- these are just some of the harsh statements that were heard over the weekend among senior Finance Ministry officials and directed against the IDF and the security establishment.

A brutal struggle over the Defense Ministry's budget is expected next week. Finance Ministry officials, headed by the finance minister versus the security establishment headed by the defense minister. A personal dual in which Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to give the final ruling. The cabinet is expected to vote on the Finance Ministry's demand that the Defense Ministry's budget be slashed next year, a cut, the Finance Ministry argues, that will only annul budgetary expansions and not harm the existing budget itself.

In order to promote the cut the Finance Ministry officials are stressing that the Defense Ministry's budget has increased by dozens of percentage points in recent years. The finance minister himself, Yuval Steinitz, said in recent days that the Defense Ministry's budget was soaring sky high like an F-16, whereas the other budgets were barely getting off the ground like a Piper plane.

At the core of the dispute are the different interpretations of the Brodet Report. According to Finance Ministry officials, the Defense Ministry has not been abiding by the cuts as required by the report, and has simply disregarded it. [..]

SCHOOL SCAM FALLOUT

NEW BILL: "TEACH MATH AND ENGLISH OR BE SHUT DOWN"
Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 2) by Amir Shoan and Zvika Brott -- Following an exposé by *Yedioth Ahronoth* that was published over the weekend, the political battle in the Knesset over the core curriculum--basic subjects taught in the public schools--is expected to resume.

The core curriculum allocates several school hours per week to teaching each of the basic subjects. Although the main subjects are arithmetic, English and science, the curriculum also includes many hours of subjects that are taught as part of religious studies in any case, such as Bible, the Mishnah and Talmud, and Hebrew. By order of the attorney general in 2003, the Haredi schools receive budgets commensurate with the number of hours that they teach the core curriculum. For example, a school that teaches only 90 percent of the core curriculum hours should receive only 90 percent of the money. In practice, this is not what happens.

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According to the exposé, state funds were transferred to Haredi schools for the purpose of teaching the core curriculum even though those schools taught far less of it than they reported. A new bill in which both the coalition and the opposition are partners, and which will be brought up in the Knesset this week, seeks to stipulate once more that all schools shall be obligated to teach the subjects of the core curriculum—which will also be redefined in the bill—with no connection to the question of state funding.

This means that the Haredi high-school yeshivas in which the core curriculum subjects are not taught today, and the primary schools in the Haredi sector, which teach only 55 percent of them, will not be allowed to operate if they do not devote at least 75 percent of their time to them. However, the yeshiva principals will be able to choose up to five percent of the general population of pupils who will be defined as "gifted" and will be permitted to study a reduced version of the curriculum, devoting most of their school hours to religious subjects. The new proposal was introduced by MK Tzippi Hotovely (Likud), the chairwoman of the Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women, and MK Einat Wilf (Labor), who have been joined by many other MKs.

The bill is to be introduced following an exposé that was published in Yedioth Ahronoth's weekend supplement. The exposé, which reveals the problem of supervision of Haredi education, shows that for many years, the Education Ministry has been ignoring violations by schools in the sector, estimated at NIS 20 million per year. The exposé also revealed that the inspectors, who belong to the parties whose schools they supervise, reported a higher number of teaching hours of the core curriculum than the number of hours actually taught.

According to the new bill, all schools—public schools and schools that are recognized as unofficial (which include most of the Haredi schools)—will be obligated to devote at least 75 percent of their teaching hours to subjects of the core curriculum to be determined by law. The list of these subjects, which will be expanded, will include arithmetic, science, English, history, civics, Hebrew, Bible and Jewish heritage (or Arabic language and Arab heritage in the Arab sector). In addition, the bill stipulates that the Education Ministry is to establish an inspection agency that will supervise the various schools in order to ensure that the core curriculum subjects are taught for the number of hours required by the ministry's plan. The goal is to increase the number of pupils in the Haredi and Arab sectors who study general subjects and strengthen Jewish studies in secular schools.

Another paragraph in the bill stipulates that national standardized tests are to be administered in both the primary schools and the high schools. Today, the Haredi sector has its own internal tests, which differ from those that are prepared by the Education Ministry.

In addition, the bill mandates that the Education Ministry is to establish a supervisory agency to keep close track of the various schools in order to make sure that the core curriculum subjects are taught for the number of hours that the ministry requires. However, the education minister will be able to empower the yeshiva principals to choose an "elite group" of outstanding pupils in religious subjects who will be able to devote most of their time to these subjects while studying core curriculum subjects for fewer hours. The number of these pupils is to be

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no more than five percent of the number of students in each graduating class.

"This bill expresses a consensus among the Zionist majority in the State of Israel," MK Rotovelevy said. "The core curriculum is the basis for unity in Israeli society. It is inconceivable that a pupil in a secular high school should not be familiar with the Eighteen Blessings [the central prayer in Jewish liturgy-INT], just as it is inconceivable that a Haredi pupil should not know the words to the national anthem. The bill is not anti-Haredi but, rather, is a bill whose purpose is to deal with the comprehensive ignorance in all sectors of the educational system."

MK Wilf added, "Schools that do not allow their graduates to be part of Israeli society have no right to government funding. The bill sends a message that the time has come to wage a political battle over this basic principle." The new bill is expected to have its first hearing in the Knesset plenum after the summer recess.

SHALIT

HALF A MEETING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S BUREAU

Ma'ariv (p. 4) by Eli Levy -- "Nothing new,"--that is how Noam Shalit summed up the meeting he and his wife had held with Prime Minister Netanyahu and his wife Sara, only seconds after the couple had returned from the United States.

The Shalits emerged from the meeting disappointed. "We did not receive any new information from the prime minister," said Noam after leaving the meeting, "We are certainly no calmer than before. There was nothing new told to us."

The only update given to Noam and Aviva was that the prime minister had turned also to President Obama in requesting that he assist Israel in its efforts to release Gilad. But this too was nothing new for the Shalits: hours before this they had heard of this from the media.

Several hours before the meeting, which took place in the afternoon, the Shalit family had still not received any official invitation from the prime minister. They had only learned of it from the Ma'ariv report Friday morning. Before leaving for the meeting, several friends of the family expressed their opinion that it was better that the Shalits not accept the invitation.

"Noam and Aviva ought to go the prime minister only when he has something new to tell him about Gilad," said Yoel Marshak, "so long as he has nothing to report, there's no reason to come to him. These are meetings characterized merely by photo-ops and smiles, but with nothing substantial."

Associate's of the Shalits were also angered by the fact that the Prime Minister's Bureau had defined the meeting as an "follow-up meeting," and sought to term it a "courtesy meeting only." It is possible that another meeting will take place between the parents and the prime minister during the week. Sara Netanyahu told the Shalits that her home was open to them any time they desired and were in Jerusalem.

Zvi Shalit, Gilad's grandfather, also spoke about the meeting of his son and daughter-in-law held with the Netanyahus, and said: "the key is not in the United States, not with Obama or Clinton, the key for Gilad's

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release is in the hands of Netanyahu. We have not yet heard anything new from him. My family is determined to continue to sit in Jerusalem, in front of his house."

The Shalit family is expecting public officials and celebrities to continue their flow to the protest tent in Jerusalem over the next few days. This, however, has failed to impress Noam Shalit: "my family is not in need of symbols but of results," he said.

It is possible that a meeting over the next few days will take place between Noam Shalit and Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who supports the family.

END

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DAILY SUMMARY OF THE HEBREW MEDIA

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Part 1 of 2
OVERVIEW

Topping the headlines in the main Hebrew mass-circulation dailies today is the anticipated extradition of Meir and Yitzhak Abergil, the leaders of one of the most powerful organized crime families in Israel, to the United States. The two men are facing trial in a federal court in Los Angeles for a series of crimes, including extortion, drug trafficking, money laundering and, for Yitzhak Abergil, one count of murder. According to Ma'ariv, a US Marshals Service Boeing 767 will be sequestered in the secure section of Ben-Gurion Airport that is generally reserved for visiting foreign heads of state. The two Israeli criminals are expected to be chaperoned onto the plane at noon today, along with another three members of their crime organization. See Part 2 for this story.

Yedioth Ahronoth reports about an interesting twist in the scandal surrounding the Israeli companies that wish to be party to the construction of the new Palestinian city, Rawabi. According to the report, Teldor Cables, one of the two Israeli companies that allegedly signed an agreement not to use any materials that are manufactured by Israeli companies in the West Bank, East Jerusalem or the Golan Heights, has a factory of its own on the Golan. Oshrat Nagar Levit reports that not only has Teldor had a production line for the past 25 years on Kibbutz Geshur, which is on the southern end of the Golan Heights, but the kibbutz is part owner of the factory. Residents of the kibbutz who were interviewed said they were deeply offended by the company's decision and demanded clarifications. In a related article, Makor Rishon reports about Israeli contractors who have begun to cancel orders that were placed with Ytong, the second Israeli company that allegedly signed the boycott agreement with Bayit, the Palestinian company responsible for the development of Rawabi. The implication is that the decision to cancel orders was a way of punishing Ytong for having signed the agreement with Bayti.

Ma'ariv has a number of articles this morning about signs of left wing revitalization. Representatives from at least six Israeli left wing

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movements met yesterday in Tel Aviv and reached an agreement to join forces to fight against the perceived threat from the right, mainly as embodied by Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and other members of his Yisrael Beiteinu party. The first course of action is going to be a demonstration that they are organizing jointly this coming Saturday night in Tel Aviv. Separately, Ma'ariv reports about a new left wing movement, called the Democratic Camp, which was recently officially formed after months of preparatory work. The founding members of this movement are former Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg, former Meretz MK Mossi Raz and incumbent Hadash MK Dov Hanin. It is not clear whether the members of this new movement will ultimately form a political party that will run in the next general elections, though both Burg and Hanin indicated that that was a distinct possibility.

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES

Yedioth Ahronoth:

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- * Five Days with Mommy's Body in the House
- * Who is Hiding Behind the Mask?

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- * Contractors Cancel Contracts with Ytong
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Israel Hayom

- * Suspect Arrested in Connection to Incitement Clip Against Shai Nitzan
- * New Fine Being Considered for Excessive Water Consumption
- * Australia is Drowning

ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report

* **Gaza strikes:** The IAF bombed three targets in the central Gaza Strip, in response to the rocket fire at Israel. Palestinian sources reported that no one was injured. Yesterday, the IDF killed an Islamic Jihad operative in the Gaza Strip, and security officials said that he had been planning a large-scale terror attack in Israel.

* **Home front defense:** The security cabinet will discuss today the issue of protecting the home front in wartime. Prime Minister Netanyahu said last night that Hamas and the other organizations were making a terrible mistake by firing rockets at Israel. In a talk with foreign correspondents, Netanyahu said that in the coming year it would be revealed that the Palestinians were not interested in peace, and were evading negotiations. On the matter of Iran, the prime minister clarified that the only chance of blocking its nuclear program lay in conveying the

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message that along with intensifying the economic sanctions, there was also a real chance that it would be attacked.

* **Israel-Greece:** The prime minister spoke last night with his Greek counterpart Papandreou, and the two agreed to set up a joint ministerial forum for the two countries. They instructed Foreign Ministers Lieberman and Droutsas to advance the cooperation between the countries in their meeting this week in Athens.

* **Suspected inciter:** The police will request today to extend the remand of a resident of the Sharon area, who is suspected of being involved in distributing the video clip calling to murder Deputy State Attorney Shai Nitzan. The man was arrested last night, and computers and documents were seized in a raid on his home.

* **Abergil brothers:** Israel is expected to extradite today to the US the brothers Meir and Yitzhak Abergil, along with three members of their crime organization. Yitzhak Abergil is wanted by the US for murder, money laundering and drug trafficking. Meir Abergil, Moshe Malul, Yisrael Ozipa and Sasson Barashi are being accused of drug offenses, money laundering and membership in a crime organization.

RAWABI CONSTRUCTION

CONTRACTORS' CANCEL DEALS WITH YTONG

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (p. 3) by Assaf Gabor-- Apparently, the public campaign against Ytong has been effective. Despite letters of clarification, contractors who work in Judea and Samaria have canceled orders for construction materials they placed with Ytong. The protest against Ytong began after it was revealed that Ytong had reached an agreement with Bayti, the company that is building the Palestinian city Rawabi. Construction contractors, many of whom also work with the settlement construction company Amana, canceled orders that had been placed with Ytong.

One contractor told *Makor Rishon-Hatzofe* that he had cancelled a NIS 50,000 order with Ytong in the wake of reports that Ytong had signed an agreement with the developers of the Palestinian city Rawabi in which, according to the Palestinians, the Israeli company had agreed to their demand to boycott products of the settlements in Judea and Samaria, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem.

Ytong responded to those reports and claimed that it "fell victim to cheap manipulation by various groups, and under no circumstances will it cooperate with any boycott of Israel or parts of it, even at the cost of passing up on the construction of Rawabi."

Contractors who are building the city said in an interview with *Makor Rishon-Hatzofe* that they believed that the agreement between Ytong and the Palestinian developers, Bayti, would be canceled because of the intense pressure that has now been applied on it. Sources within Ytong confirmed that this issue was being debated at present.

Contractors explained that the work on Rawabi at this point was still restricted to preparing the ground, and that soon infrastructure would begin to be laid. "At this stage, a lot of Israeli companies are becoming involved by means of, among other things, supplying communications infrastructure, sewage and water systems, and so forth," explained one contractor.

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Spokesmen for a number of companies that Makor Rishon-Hatzofe called said that they were prepared to sell their products to Palestinian companies. The spokesman for Adigal, which supplies metal water pipes, said that there were international companies and aid organizations that bought their products on behalf of the Palestinians, and that it was possible that their products had been purchased for use in the construction of the new Palestinian city. The spokesman underscored that Adigal had not signed any agreement with Bayti, nor had it signed any document in which the company undertook to boycott products of the settlements.

According to information that was obtained by Makor Rishon-Hatzofe, the construction contractors who are working on the new Palestinian city are Bedouins from southern Israel with Israeli ID cards. There are also private Jewish truck-owners who help transport sand and other construction materials into the Palestinian city, and who buy Israeli products that are needed for the construction of Rawabi.

SIGNED A BOYCOTT AGAINST THEMSELVES.

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 4) by Oshrat Nagar Levit --- Yesterday the fact of a secret agreement that was signed by Israeli companies that are taking part in the construction of Rawabi was made public. That agreement includes a clause in which the signatories undertake not to use any materials that are manufactured either on the Golan Heights or in the settlements. However, it turns out that one of the companies in question, Teldor Cables, has a branch on the Golan Heights.

Residents of Kibbutz Geshur on the Golan Heights, which is home to a branch of Teldor Cables, said yesterday that they were angry. "People forget their ideology for another few shekels," said one resident of the kibbutz. A brief investigation that was conducted yesterday by Yedioth Ahronoth found that Teldor Cables has been manufacturing electrical and electronic cables in its factory on the kibbutz for the past 25 years and, moreover, that the kibbutz owns 6% of the company.

This issue immediately became the talk of the day in the area, and Hanan Boravsky, a resident and a member of the kibbutz's board of directors, said: "Signing that agreement contradicts my principles. I was very surprised, stunned. We didn't even think about that. Taking a step of this sort is hurtful and insulting, and I assume that all the kibbutz members feel the same way. This is a very harsh emotional blow. I expect of the CEO to come here and to explain to us the meaning of this and why the decision was made."

The kibbutz members are scheduled to convene within the next number of days to hold a public discussion, at the end of which a decision will be made as to how to proceed. "It is imply absurd that a company that works on the Golan will sign a document of that sort," said yesterday one of the residents of Kibbutz Geshur. "There is a strong sense of discomfort and we're worried about the continued employment of families who earn their living from the company."

Teldor Cables refused to respond to this report.

LEFT WING ACTION

OUTCRY OF THE LEFT

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Ma'ariv (p. 12) by Amihai Attali and Maya Bengal - It is not certain that this is what Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman intended in his attack on the left wing, but this is the outcome in practice: The left wing has decided to fight back.

Last night, representatives of a long line of left wing organizations convened in Tel Aviv, and decided to form what they called the "coalition of the democratic camp."

Among the organizations that decided to band together last night are the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, Meretz, Hadash, Peace Now, Hashomer Hatzair, the Kibbutz Movement and more. Other organizations, including organizations that were blacklisted by Lieberman and his party, are now weighing their steps. Some are deliberating whether to join the protest or to enjoy the backing and support that will be given to them from the outside.

The first step decided upon by the coalition is a mass demonstration that will be held this coming Saturday night in Tel Aviv. Activists from all the organizations are expected to take part in the demonstration, under the heading "Fighting for democracy."

Peace Now Secretary General Yairiv Oppenheimer, one of the leading figures behind setting up the coalition of left wing organizations, said last night to Ma'ariv: "This is a time of emergency not only for left wingers, but for everyone who is concerned about Israeli democracy and the freedom to think and voice opinions. In the face of the inciting wave being led by Lieberman, people cannot sit at home, they must take part in a struggle, in which centrists and right wingers will also take part."

Lieberman was not only criticized yesterday by the left wing, but also by the prime minister. "The Likud is a democratic and pluralistic party, not a dictatorship of one opinion," Binyamin Netanyahu said last night in a conversation with the foreign minister. Netanyahu completely rejected Lieberman's statements with regard to senior Likud figures, after the latter condemned members of the right wing for not supporting the proposal to form a parliamentary commission of inquiry that would examine the funding sources of the left wing organizations, calling them "morally obtuse" and "dainty."

While Netanyahu reprimanded Lieberman, the opposition leader leveled sharp criticism at the prime minister following Lieberman's attack on the left wing organizations. In a speech at a gathering of the Bar Ilan University student union, Tzippi Livni said that Israeli society was filled with animosity and hatred. "Israel is in a corner, the Israeli government is damaging the state's values, the government is turning Israel into a country of suppression and xenophobia," she said. Livni said accusingly that the foreign minister was harming the country, but the main person to blame was the prime minister, because he was the one who decided matters. "He chose this coalition," she said.

BURG'S NEW LEFT WING MOVEMENT: THE DEMOCRATIC CAMP

Ma'ariv (p. 13) by Maya Bengal -- A group of people has been assiduously working for many months towards the establishment of a new left wing movement that is to be called the Democratic Camp. This movement is likely to create a new party that will run in the next elections.

The founders of the new movement--former MK Avraham Burg (formerly of the Labor Party), MK Dov Hanin (Hadash) and former MK Mossi Raz (Meretz)--

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have met a number of times with the goal of "restoring democracy to Israel."

"Our democracy is in danger," said Burg. "There is an attack under way against MKs, left wing and human rights organizations, Arabs and anything that does not speak in a nationalistic voice. At this stage, we are in an outreach program to Jews and Arabs and are creating a political network that will address all of the fronts on which there has been damage to democracy. Any place where there is a political attack, any place where there is injustice or persecution that is damaging to the substance of democracy—we'll be there." Burg said that it would be premature to talk about a party that would run in the next elections, but he admits that that is certainly the goal. "This is the beginning of something that could be a significant force in the next elections," said Burg.

MK Dov Hanin said that they had not discussed the establishment of a new party yet; rather, he said, the focus is "to join forces to work and act together." He said that "cooperation in the future might, perhaps, deepen and turn into something stable and permanent." Hanin said, "it is important that we join hands. We are in a difficult fight against threats that jeopardize the democratic expanse: racism and silencing of Arabs and Jews who think differently, on the one hand, [and] an economic oligarchy that is fed up with democracy and the welfare state, [on the other]. This is a struggle in which more and more stop signs appear on the slope we are slipping down."

IDF OPERATIONS

IDF ARRESTS FORMER PA FINANCE MINISTER

Israel Hayom (p. 5) by Daniel Serioti -- Palestinian media outlets reported yesterday that IDF troops arrested late Monday night a top Hamas figure in Samaria, Dr. Omar Abdel Razeq. Abdel Razeq is a Hamas Member of Parliament and served in the past as the Palestinian finance minister.

ISLAMIC JIHAD OPERATIVE ASSASSINATED FROM THE AIR

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 4) by Yossi Yehoshua and Roni Shaked -- In a combined operation of the IAF and the GSS, Islamic Jihad operative Mohammed Najjar, 24, was assassinated yesterday afternoon from the air. Najjar was riding on his motorcycle and was attacked by an Israeli aircraft. This is the third time in the past months in which Israel has carried out a targeted killing in Gaza in broad daylight.

Najjar was involved in the past in planning a terror attack in Israeli territory, and in rocket fire in the past weeks, and was a key operative in the Al-Quds Brigades, Islamic Jihad's military wing. He was killed on the spot, and four additional passersby were injured. "All the alternatives are open to us, and this crime will not pass without a response," Islamic Jihad stated yesterday in an official response, and hurried to threaten revenge.

Reports say that the wanted man had already been hit by IDF fire in the course of Operation Cast Lead, when a missile was fired at him in the Rafah area, but he sustained serious injuries and ultimately survived. A few months later, he returned to terrorist activity.

Shortly after yesterday's assassination, Defense Minister Ehud Barak said: "Today there was apparently another success. There will be further

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successes in the future. I want to tell the other side, Hamas and the Popular Resistance Committees and all those gangs: I recommend that they not put us to the test. In the end, if the fire at us continues, there will be more people hit on the other side. We intend to continue the battle for the border."

NEW FLOTILLA

THE RETURN OF THE MAVI MARMARA

Ma'ariv (p. 2) by Eli Bardenstein -- The Mavi Marmara is about to return to Israel. The ship that led the Turkish flotilla eight months ago, and which came to have iconic significance after the IDF takeover in which nine terrorist activists were killed, is expected to set sail once again for Gaza in May, one year after the previous flotilla.

The Mavi Marmara will head a 12-ship flotilla that is to set sail from the southern coast of Turkey, charting a course to Gaza. This was confirmed by top officials in Jerusalem. The Turkish IHH organization, which sponsored the previous flotilla, will be organizing the May 2011 flotilla as well. Moreover, many of the activists who took part in the previous flotilla are expected to take part in the upcoming flotilla as well.

Israel's efforts to prevent the planned flotilla from setting sail have met with failure thus far. Israel has suggested to the organizers, among other things, to transport the goods on board the ships into Gaza Strip via the Ashdod port. Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman recently asked EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton to take action to define the IHH as an illegal organization. However, due to the sanctions by the Foreign Ministry workers, a decision has been made to stop the various efforts in the international arena to prevent the flotilla from setting sail.

The Israeli government allowed the Mavi Marmara to return to Turkey a number of weeks ago. Upon its arrival in Turkey, the ship was welcomed by a large crowd that waved Palestinian, Hizbullah and Hamas flags. Some people attending that rally called out "death to Israel." "It is our intention to organize another flotilla to Gaza on May 31, the same date as last year, with a larger crew, so as to draw attention to the siege on Gaza yet again," said a top IHH official, after the ship docked in Istanbul.

IHH activists said at a number of opportunities that the Mavi Marmara had become a symbol for them. "The Mavi Marmara isn't just another ship, it is our life path, Mavi Marmara is our soul," said one of the people who addressed the crowd at the rally. "In order to break the siege on Gaza, this time we will be stronger, larger, with more people and more initiatives," said another activist in the IHH to uproarious applause.

SUSPECT ARRESTED

SUSPECTED OF DISSEMINATING INCITEMENT

Israel Hayom (p. 2) by Itzik Saban and Efrat Porsher -- Police officers from the International Crimes Unit arrested a resident of Raanana yesterday on suspicion of having disseminated a video clip on the Internet calling to murder Deputy State Attorney Shai Nitzan.

The police confiscated the computer belonging to the suspect, who was arrested at home, and also confiscated additional material that appeared

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to strengthen the investigators' suspicions against him. The detainee's opinions can be classified as extreme right wing, but a few years ago he was known as a left wing activist whose opinions had changed. In the past year, the man, who is a resident of Raanana, married and the father of a child, has been associated with right wing circles and identified himself as a member of an organization called "We won and will win." In recent years the man also belonged to the "Our Land of Israel" movement, which is headed by extreme right wing activist Baruch Marzel. In the past he also registered for the Likud and spoke at a rally of the movement against freezing construction in the settlements.

One of his profile pictures on Facebook shows the caption "Kahane was right" and he was active in extreme right wing forums, sites and demonstrations. In the past he defined himself as "a secular Jew, a devout believer in the Holy One Blessed Be He and His Torah."

Sources close to the suspect said last night that in recent weeks he had felt growing frustration with the fact that the authorities, as he put it, did not enforce the law against left wing activists who incited against right wing activists. For example, he was angry at the fact that no investigation on suspicion of incitement was launched against a known left wing activist who lashed out at MK Yaakov Katz (National Union) on his Facebook page, writing: "Who would like to stick a bullet in Ketzale's head just for fun?"

A police source said that it was not yet clear whether the distribution of the clip was a personal initiative of the suspect or whether there were others involved in disseminating the video clip. "We are still at the beginning of the investigation," the senior source said, "and it will become clear in the coming days." Today the suspect will be brought before a judge for an extension of his remand, and he has denied all the allegations against him.

A few hours earlier, anonymous statements reached the media from a "group of people aged 45-50" who said that "someone in the group, a minor, did this of her own volition, and we all disapprove of it. We denounce and oppose violence, even if this statement was made in order to protest against violence." The group members also referred to a similar clip that was distributed yesterday online against Ehud Barak, and said that they wished to apologize for it. The police refused to comment on the matter.

Since the incitement clip was posted on the Internet, security guards were assigned to Attorney Nitzan, and guards were stationed at his house and his surroundings. "The potential is real and dangerous," Police Commissioner Inspector-General Dudi Cohen said on Monday, "we mustn't hesitate where incitement is directed at public servants. We have to take firm action and condemn this sharply and clearly. A quick and intensive investigation will be conducted, in which we will employ all the means at our disposal to try to reach those who are responsible."

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Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 1:27 AM
To: Israel News Today
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Part 1
Jerusalem
Wednesday, April 13, 2011

ISRAEL NEWS TODAY
DAILY SUMMARY OF THE HEBREW MEDIA

Tel: 972-2-624-1174
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Part 1 of 2
OVERVIEW

A report prepared by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry asserts that the Palestinians are ready for statehood, and demonstrates Palestinian achievements in various areas such as health, education, law and infrastructure. Today's news stories describe this report as support for the foreseeable Palestinian effort to obtain widespread recognition from the UN General Assembly for the unilateral declaration of an independent state. Ma'ariv reports today that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is examining several options for bringing the Palestinians back to the negotiating table, including a significant withdrawal from areas in the West Bank, and plans to present the main points of a new foreign policy plan in Washington in May. However, political officials said that Netanyahu "has no foreign policy plan that will be acceptable to the international community as an alternative. Therefore, in any case the Palestinians will continue their race towards unilateral recognition in the UN." Shimon Shiffer, writing in Yedioth Ahronoth, opines that even if 150 states should recognize a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, this will not have a tangible effect on the ground. He adds, however, that the US administration and European states can be expected to apply pressure to the prime minister to publicly declare Israel's willingness to withdraw to the 1967 borders with minor border revisions.

Other front page stories pertain to the status of the Gilad Shalit affair. Yedioth Ahronoth reports this morning, based on a Hamas newspaper, that Hamas is considering giving Israel another sign of life from the kidnapped soldier, in the form of a videotape. Israel would, however, have to pay for such a tape, Hamas sources said. Other stories address Shalit's plight in the context of the upcoming Passover holiday. The Shalit family announced that it would not celebrate the holiday, and had not yet decided how to mark the occasion. Hen Kotts-Bar, writing in Ma'ariv, addresses Gilad Shalit in the following words: "Once again, you

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are not at home. You will not drink the four cups and will not be delivered from slavery into freedom and will not read the Passover Haggadah. No one will ask you; this year too, 'so where are you for the holiday?' We will continue to say, on this holiday too, that you are everyone's child, but heave a sigh of relief for the fact that you are someone else's child. Happy festival of freedom."

FRONT PAGE HEADLINES

Yedioth Ahronoth:

- * Yaakov Kedmi: "We Lied to Russian Immigrants"
- * Mubarak Questioned, Suffers Heart Attack
- * Hamas Prepared to Release Shalit Tape

Ma'ariv:

- * Festival Without Freedom
- * Mubarak in Intensive Care
- * Bieber Furious

Ha'aretz:

- * Herzog to Senior US Official: Amir Peretz Perceived by Public to be Inexperienced, Aggressive and Moroccan
- * Hours After Laying Cornerstone for Netivot Train Station—Another Train Crash
- * Because of Kashrut, Wedding Halls Refuse to Hold Weddings for Single Sex Couples

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe:

- * Jewish Agriculture in Judea and Samaria in Danger
- * Netanyahu Sues Channel 10 for NIS 3.5 Million
- * Sign Caused Ika'a Fire

Israel Hayom

- * Israel to Turkey: Stop the Flotilla
- * Netanyahu: I'll Carry the Lawsuit Through to the End
- * Lawyer Maintains Two Families for Decades

ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 7:00 AM Hebrew Report

- * **Flotilla:** Israel has ramped up efforts to prevent the second Gaza flotilla, scheduled for next month. Israeli Ambassador to Turkey Gabby Levy met with a senior Foreign Ministry official in Ankara and asked Turkey to prevent the flotilla from setting sail. The Foreign Ministry has instructed all ambassadors in countries whose citizens are expected to participate in the flotilla to meet with officials in those countries and to try to persuade them not to participate in the flotilla. Levy told Turkey's Hurriyet newspaper that border crossings to Gaza are open and that there is no shortage of goods in the Gaza Strip. He did not say what Israel's reaction would be if the flotilla set sail, but he stressed that international law permits sovereign countries to act against ships that jeopardize their security. A Turkish diplomat said Israel's request is being considered.
- * **Demjanjuk:** An FBI report that was hidden for 25 years said the KGB falsified John Ivan Demjanjuk's work record in Nazi concentration camps. The document formed the main evidence in all the trials against Demjanjuk. Defense lawyers have claimed for years that the document is a forgery, but this is the first time that claim has been backed by US investigators.

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The FBI report said the legal proceedings against Demjanjuk, at the time, a US citizen, were based not only on evidence that is not usually admissible in a court of law, but also was forged by the Soviet Union in order to blacken the name of anti-Communist émigrés. The document is expected to aid the defense in the final stage of Demjanjuk's trial in Munich. Demjanjuk, 90, has been accused of aiding the murder of 28,000 prisoners when he served as a guard at the Sobibor concentration camp in Poland during World War II. The court is expected to rule on the case within the next month.

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

UN: PALESTINIANS ARE READY FOR A STATE

Ma'ariv (p. 4) by Eli Bardenstein -- A new report issued yesterday by UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Robert Serry proves that the Palestinians are ready to establish a state. The report, which will be presented today to the conference of PA donor countries in Brussels, reviews the progress of the implementation of the Fayyad plan in the two years since August 2009, when the plan for establishing a Palestinian state was presented.

The two years since the submission of the plan are due to end in August 2011, and in September the Palestinians intend to receive unilateral recognition for an independent Palestinian state from as many states as possible in the UN General Assembly. Therefore, the current UN report serves as another stimulating factor for the Palestinians. Serry wrote: in six areas in which the UN is involved, the government's functioning is efficient enough to operate a state. However, Serry made it clear that only cooperation with Israel would lead to a real improvement in the abilities of the Palestinian authorities. He added: the continuation of the occupation and the failure to resolve issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are the main dangers to the Palestinian government institutions.

Serry's report joins Salam Fayyad's foreseeable statements; Fayyad is expected to declare this week to the Palestinian Authority's donor countries that there is readiness to establish a state in the immediate future. Fayyad will emphasize to the countries that the only element preventing the PA's economic development is the Israeli occupation.

Fayyad is also expected to present figures and graphs showing how the Palestinian Authority has used hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid over the past two years in order to develop health and education services, and energy, water, security and law systems. This week, the US blocked a European attempt to present a new framework for talks between Israel and the Palestinians--an attempt to which Israel was completely opposed.

This refers to an initiative of Britain, France and Germany, based on the determination that the Palestinian state will be established within the 1967 borders with a land swap as a basis for resuming negotiations with the Palestinians. However, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was opposed to this initiative, as were the Americans, who postponed the meeting of the Quartet that was slated for the weekend to discuss the issue.

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The Quartet is made up of the United States, the European Union, the UN and Russia. Officials in Jerusalem and in Washington believed that had the initiative been passed, it would have provided a further tailwind for the Palestinians, who prefer to receive unilateral recognition through the UN rather than through negotiations with Israel.

In the meantime, Netanyahu is examining a number of options for returning the Palestinians to the negotiating table. One of the options is a large withdrawal in the West Bank that includes converting areas under complete Israeli control (Area C) to partial Israeli control (Area B) or turning over areas to full Palestinian control (Area A). Along with this, Netanyahu plans to appear before the two houses of Congress in Washington in May and give a foreign policy speech. He may do this beforehand in another forum.

For now, it is not clear which foreign policy principles Netanyahu will reveal. Political sources said yesterday that "Netanyahu faces a difficult problem. He has succeeded in securing another postponement of the Quartet [meeting] and he is perhaps considering another withdrawal in the territories, but he has no foreign policy plan that will be acceptable to the international community as an alternative. Therefore, in any case the Palestinians will continue their race towards unilateral recognition in the UN."

The sources said that if Netanyahu did not consent at least to the 1967 borders as a basis for negotiations and apparently also to a further construction freeze in the settlements, "the Palestinians will not return to the talks and the diplomatic tsunami against Israel in September is assured."

UN? NEGOTIATIONS!

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 10) by Shimon Shiffer (news analysis) -- The report authored by UN envoy to the Middle East Robert Serry provides the Palestinians with an "Iron Dome" that ensures them UN assistance for establishing an independent state. But if I were Abu Mazen, I would not cover myself with this blanket given to the Palestinians by the UN coordinator.

No sovereign state will arise from the UN "Iron Dome." Moreover, contrary to conventional wisdom, nothing tangible will take place on the ground even if 150 states recognize Palestine within the 1967 borders. But even if the process does not end in a Palestinian state, one thing is clear: in the course of the process, the world will make Netanyahu's life miserable and bleed him.

Yesterday, the Quartet yielded to American pressure and backed down from the desire to announce its support for establishing a Palestinian state, but Netanyahu will not be able to bank on the American veto. On the contrary: the Obama administration has declared open season on him. The Americans are encouraging Europe and other states to push him to the wall. The prime minister is portrayed as a rejectionist who is unwilling to act to promote the arrangement with the Palestinians. Presumably, all the proposals he will raise in the coming months in order to fend off international pressure, will receive a cold shoulder on the part of the Europeans. The explicit expectation that the Europeans will express, with the encouragement of Obama and Clinton, will pertain to the demand that he publicly declare Israeli willingness to withdraw to the 1967 borders with

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minor border revisions. After two years of futile talks, Obama-informed sources say is no longer willing to buy a used car from Netanyahu.

ANOTHER HOLIDAY WITHOUT GILAD

HAMAS CONSIDERING RELEASING SHALIT TAPE
Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 2) by Roni Shaked -- Hamas is considering releasing a videotape showing that hostage IDF soldier Gilad Shalit is still alive. According to a report published in the organization's official newspaper, *Al-Risala*, quoted sources inside Hamas that said the request for a new sign of life from Shalit had reached the organization's leadership via the Red Cross. The request was made by Shalit's parents, Noam and Aviva, ahead of the Passover holiday.

Yesterday, the top headline in *Al-Risala* said "Will there be another video of Shalit?" The article quoted Hamas sources who said they would "favorably consider releasing a new video of Shalit, like we have done in the past, but Israel will have to pay for it." In October 2009, Israel released 19 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the last video of Shalit.

"A video showing Gilad Shalit will create pressure on Netanyahu from Israeli society," said a senior Hamas official. The article also said the request is currently under consideration by Hamas Political Bureau Director Khaled Mashal. In contrast to previous requests, Mashal did not reject the request out-of-hand.

The article also quoted senior Hamas officials, who stressed "We reject any compromise in the demands we have made for the soldier Shalit's release. The Israeli government is wholly responsible for the failure of negotiations."

Hamas follows Israeli reports about the Shalit case diligently. The last item to receive prominent coverage about the case was the open call by former General Security Service and Mossad leaders Yaakov Perry, Ami Ayalon and Danny Yatom and other members of Israel's security establishment to push a prisoner exchange with Hamas in order to win Shalit's release. "The greatest danger here is that we have started to become accustomed [to the current situation]," said Ayalon at a press conference Monday. [...]

NO SEDER WITHOUT HIM

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 3) by Goel Beno -- Noam and Aviva Shalit refused to celebrate the first Passover that Gilad was in captivity, in 2007. They hoped he would be home to celebrate the following one with the family.

The last sign of life from Gilad the family received was a year and a half ago. Since then, silence. Yesterday, Noam Shalit responded to reports pointing to Hamas's supposed readiness to release a second video of the soldier ahead of Passover, in response to a request by the family delivered by the Red Cross.

"We have not received any official information [about the request]. Until I receive or see official statements, I cannot respond to rumors," said Shalit. "If Hamas wants to give a sign of life from Gilad, let them give one. No one is stopping them."

Tzvi Shalit, Gilad's grandfather, added that the family does not have great hopes. "I would be very happy for Hamas to keep its promise and to

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get a real sign that Gilad is still alive," said the grandfather. "But my sources seem to indicate that the other side is not willing to give any sign of life. I cannot understand how, when we are conducting serious negotiations, no one has any idea what sort of a shape Gilad is in. My demand of the prime minister is simple and clear: You must save my grandson. You have no right to kill him."

The Shalit family will not celebrate the Seder this year. "We certainly will not celebrate the holiday like other Jews, but we haven't yet decided just how to mark the occasion," said Noam Shalit.

FESTIVAL WITHOUT FREEDOM

Ma'ariv (p. 1) by Hen Kotts-Bar (commentary) -- Next week we will celebrate the Seder night. This year, the people of Israel are concentrating on the competition between the supermarkets. Where is the cheapest shopping basket. Zvika Hadar competes with Smadi Bomba, who takes on Viki Knafo of Mitzpe Ramon. Not a word about you.

Your parents are still sitting in the protest tent in Jerusalem. It has been ten months already. Passover is a good opportunity to make another pilgrimage to them. Bibi (you weren't here when he was elected prime minister) doesn't say no, but he also doesn't say yes. That is the reason you are still not home.

As time passes, the debate about you becomes less substantive and more philosophical. Ron Arad, does that sound familiar to you? Former senior security officials say that you can be freed. "We have no cause to worry," they say, on the issue of the price.

Others say that the terrorists who will be released do not only have blood on their hands, but also blood on their minds. They will continue to carry out terror attacks. The official State of Israel has still not decided whether it is willing to pay the price. You are the one who will continue to pay for the time being, Gilad. After all, you're a soldier. And that is an order.

Your parents are pressing to receive a sign of life from you. Something. The thought that you are located a short drive away from them, somewhere, and they, who gave birth to you, raised you and sent you to school and then to the army, cannot do anything, neither hear your voice, see or touch—is painful.

Don't be offended. It looks like we have gotten used to it. "We have gotten used to the debate. We have gotten used to the fact that "there is no solution." We have gotten used to the fact that "Gilad Shalit cannot be freed," but also to the fact that "we must free you." We have gotten used to the fact that "Gilad is still alive." We don't understand that, perhaps, soon, one day, it will no longer be relevant. We have gotten used to the fact that "a deal on the Shalit matter is imminent," and to the fact that "there is no deal."

Monday is the Seder night. Perhaps there will be people who will set, like last year on the holiday eve, another plate, or a cup, for you. Because it sounds nice and photographs well and one can tell the children about it at the Seder. One soldier, distant, a captive, for whom no one is willing to split the sea. Sometimes it seems that it is the same with you as with Elijah the Prophet. We are in love with this thing, leaving a cup and waiting for him to arrive.

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Another year and another year, and you have not arrived. Countless journalistic pieces. Opinions in favor and against. In favor of the against and against being in favor. Politicians, security officials, bereaved families. Your families. Your brother. Your grandfather. Your sister. How is this year different from the previous year, and the year before, and the year before that? In no way, Gilad.

Once again, you are not at home. You will not drink the four cups and will not be delivered from slavery into freedom and will not read the Passover Haggadah. No one will ask you, this year too, "so where are you for the holiday?" We will continue to say, on this holiday too, that you are everyone's child, but heave a sigh of relief for the fact that you are someone else's child. Happy festival of freedom.

FLOTILLA, AHOY!

TALKS WITH TURKEY TO STOP A NEW FLOTILLA

Ma'ariv (p. 4) by Ahikam Moshe David and Eli Bardenstein -- Israel wants to be prepared for the next flotilla that leaves Turkey for the Gaza Strip in a month's time: the IDF is already training and preparing for it, and the operation has even been given a name: Operation Green Pastures. The goal is to deal with stopping the ships as far as possible from the Gaza shore. Army officials were surprised yesterday to hear about a diplomatic plan to permit the flotilla ships to pass to Gaza after examination. IDF sources said last night that they would adamantly oppose this.

On the diplomatic level as well, Israel is already working to cancel the flotilla: Israeli Ambassador in Ankara Gabby Levy met yesterday with the director general of the Turkish Foreign Ministry and notified him that Israel views the flotilla as a provocation and that international law enables Israel to intervene if, to the best of its understanding, the ships pose a security threat. Ambassador Levy asked Turkey to prevent the flotilla from departing.

The army's working assumption is that the flotilla ships must not be permitted to pass and dock at the shore, and this could cause the naval blockade to be breached. IDF officials estimate that the flotilla will consist of 20 commercial and cargo ships. New methods have recently been developed to deal with the personnel of the ships that will attempt to breach the blockade, but IDF sources said that there is a high probability that despite the preparations, there could be casualties in this flotilla as well.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ASKS PM TO LET FLOTILLA REACH GAZA

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 2) by Itamar Eichner -- Israel is considering allowing the Freedom Flotilla 2 to reach Gaza, in order to prevent an additional clash between flotilla participants and IDF soldiers, according to a document prepared by the Foreign Ministry and presented to the prime minister.

According to reports, Turkey's IHH organization is planning a large flotilla to mark the one-year anniversary of the previous flotilla. The lead ship on the mission is expected to be the Mavi Marmara, which will be accompanied by 15 ships and nearly 1000 activists, including members of the Irish Republican Army.

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Last night, reports in Turkey indicated that the flotilla would be postponed until after Turkey's elections in mid-June, but at the moment it appears that organizers will set sail as planned in mid-May.

Several senior sources in the Foreign Ministry support allowing the flotilla to pass unfettered into Gaza. They said that from a legal standpoint this would not violate the naval blockade. As proof, they say that during the Olmert administration several ships were permitted to reach Gaza.

Another alternative presented to Netanyahu is to have Cypriot forces carry out security checks on the flotilla. If the boats are not carrying arms or weapons, they would be allowed to proceed to Gaza.

LITIGIOUS AFFAIR

NETANYAHU SUES CHANNEL 10

Yedioth Ahronoth (p. 10) by Danny Adino Ababa -- Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu filed NIS 3.5 million libel suit against Channel 10 and journalist Raviv Drucker for his role in the BibiTours investigation.

The investigation claimed that Netanyahu received double funding for travel to the United States during which he raised funds for a medical center in Ashdod. Netanyahu's attorney, David Shimron, said yesterday that the receipts that formed the basis of the investigative report were cancelled and that the two groups that supposedly funded the trip -- are the same body under two different names. Shimron showed evidence yesterday that apparently refutes Raviv Drucker's claims.

The current lawsuit joins another libel suit filed last month against *Ma'ariv* and Channel 10 following the publication about donors to Netanyahu's primaries campaign in 2005. At the same time, no libel suit was filed regarding the main subject of the BibiTours scandal which touches on the prime minister's travel abroad with his wife, Sara, paid for by private donors.

It should be noted that in the past the Prime Minister's Bureau has sued Drucker and Channel 10 for libel, in relation to a 2008 investigation into the same issue. Two years after filing the suit, the prime minister withdrew it.

Channel 10 officials said "We stand by the investigation as it was reported"

END

Israel News Today isrlnews@netvision.net.il Apr 13, 2011

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: imra-owner@imra.org.il on behalf of imra@netvision.net.il
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 5:33 PM
To: imra@imra.org.il
Subject: IHH leader Bulent Yildirim said the upcoming flotilla to the Gaza Strip might be delayed

Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center

April 8, 2011

http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam/multimedia/English/eng_n/html/ipc_e181.htm

IHH leader Bulent Yildirim said the upcoming flotilla to the Gaza Strip might be delayed. He added that in addition to the flotilla the purchase of an aircraft was in progress. He said only one problem remained: "The virus called Zionism." At this point the status of the plan/plans is unknown.

1. Preparations continue for "Freedom Fleet 2," the updated flotilla to the Gaza Strip organized by the anti-Israeli coalition. The flotilla is expected to be launched on, or about May 31, the anniversary of the events of the Mavi Marmara. One of the most prominent organizations behind it is the Turkish IHH, the motivating force behind in the previous flotilla.

2. On April 7, at the monthly ceremony held in Alanya in southern Turkey in honor of the operatives who died aboard the Mavi Marmara, IHH leader Bulent Yildirim gave a strongly anti-Israeli anti-Semitic speech (for example, he said "We have only one problem, the virus called Zionism").¹ Of the upcoming flotilla he said that although it was meant to commemorate the confrontation aboard the Mavi Marmara, it would set sail only in the middle of June. He said a ship would sail from every country, "so that Israel understands it does not control the Mediterranean Sea." He said the Mavi Marmara would also participate, sailing from "a European country" [Note: He did not say which one]. "We are not afraid to die as shaheeds," he stated, "...[and] will not retreat until the siege on the Gaza Strip is broken and we complete our journey to Al-Aqsa mosque."

3. Bulent Yildirim said that the road to the Gaza Strip would be taken by air as well as by sea and land, and that the IHH was currently in the process of purchasing a plane (haberler.com website, April 7, 2011).

4. The initiative to send a plane to the Gaza Strip was authored by the Free Palestine Movement (FPM), which operates from the West Coast of the United States and participates in flotillas to the Gaza Strip. This past summer (2010) Paul Larudee, the FPM leader, said they were zealously implementing a concrete plan in coordination with the "authorities in Gaza" [i.e., the de facto Hamas administration]. The remarks made by Bulent Yildirim indicate that the Turkish IHH, which plays a key role in the upgraded flotilla, is also dealing with a plane to the Gaza Strip, either independently or in conjunction with other organizations. However, at this point the status of the preparations for sending a plane or planes to the Gaza Strip is unknown to us.

1 For further information about Bulent Yildirim's anti-Semitic remarks, see the December 6, 2010 ITIC bulletin, IHH leader Bulent Yildirim gave an interview focusing on the U.S. intention to designate the IHH as a terrorist organization and on the Mavi Marmara incident

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
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Law, Rosemary C

From: Tel Aviv PD Press Section
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 2:33 AM
Subject: MORNING MEDIA REVIEW, Friday, June 4, 2010

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**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES TEL AVIV
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
MORNING MEDIA REVIEW**

Friday, June 4, 2010

TOP STORIES:

- PM Netanyahu hints that he will alleviate Israel's blockade of Gaza – allegedly responding to President Obama's demand; the President emphasizes Israel's "legitimate security concerns" and economic predicament caused by the blockade of Gaza
- The "bravery" of the Israeli commandoes and malicious intent by activists on board the Free Gaza Flotilla are cited

PM Netanyahu hints that he will alleviate Israel's blockade of Gaza – allegedly responding to President Obama's demand; the President emphasizes Israel's "legitimate security concerns" and economic predicament caused by the blockade of Gaza. The media reported that yesterday, apparently acceding to President Obama's entreaty, PM Benjamin Netanyahu hinted that Israel will alleviate its blockade of Gaza. Israel Radio quoted Obama as saying in an interview with CNN's Larry King that Israel "has legitimate security concerns" about Hamas-ruled Gaza, such as rockets being regularly fired from there into the Jewish state. But the President also said that Israel's blockade of Gaza "is preventing people" from pursuing economic opportunities. "I think what's important right now is that we break out of the current impasse, use this tragedy as an opportunity," to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Obama was quoted as saying.

The "bravery" of the Israeli commandoes and malicious intent by activists on board the Free Gaza Flotilla are cited. The media reported on the "bravery" of the Israeli Special Forces on the commandeered Free Gaza Flotilla. Ha'aretz reported that three unconscious Navy Seals were dragged into the hull of the ship Mavi Marmara during the raid. Israel Radio quoted an Israeli military source as saying that there is evidence that militants had thrown firearms overboard, leaving "foreign ammunition" behind. The activists reportedly wrote coded instructions to abduct a soldier. Media reported that activists aboard the Mavi Marmara had signaled their intention to become martyrs ("shahids"). Israel Hayom reported that Israel intends to bring the ship Rachel Corrie to Ashdod Port. The radio later quoted senior Israeli sources as saying that, due to technical problems, the ship will not reach the Israeli or Gaza coast. Israel Radio later cited denial by the Irish state radio (RTE) of this report, saying that the ship is on the way to Gaza.

OTHER STORIES:

The media reported that yesterday a mass anti-Israel demonstration took place in Istanbul, where senior Turkish officials delivered strident speeches and P.A. and Hamas flags were bannered.

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Turkey and South Africa recalled their ambassadors from Israel. Last night, also, around 2,000 Israelis participated in an anti-Turkish Government protest in front of the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv. Beitar Jerusalem, a group of sports fans associated with hard-line Likud militants, organized the rally.

The Jerusalem Post reported that Turkey's Deputy Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy Selim Yeni told that newspaper yesterday that the U.S. leaned on Israel "quite a lot" and helped facilitate the speedy release of over 400 Turkish citizens whom the IDF had taken into custody on the Gaza-bound protest ships.

Leading media reported that yesterday four Qassam rockets were launched from Gaza into southern Israel.

Ha'aretz and other media reported that yesterday an Israeli court released to house arrest Raed Salah, the leader of the northern branch of Israel's Islamic Movement, and three other Israeli Arab figures who participated in the flotilla. Salah accused Israeli commandos of trying to kill him and blasted Israel's leaders for committing a "war crime." He was quoted as saying that Zionism began in Turkey and that it will end there. Israel Radio and other media reported that yesterday Interior Minister Eli Yishai told Attorney General Yehuda Weinstein that he demands the revocation of the citizenship of Israeli Arab Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi (National Democratic Assembly - Balad). She was on board the Gaza-bound flotilla when it was raided by Israeli forces and allegedly "spearheaded" an attempt to harm IDF soldiers.

Israel Hayom quoted former Republican presidential candidate Arizona Senator John McCain as saying in an interview with Fox News that the IDF troops who commandeered the ships acted in self-defense.

Yediot cited a secret document drafted by Muhammad Araman, a senior Hamas activist detained in Israel, which purportedly describes the Islamist group's plans to initiate a "third Intifada" through abductions, the launching of rockets deep into Israel, and the disruption of Israeli cellular and GPS networks.

The Jerusalem Post reported that on Monday and Tuesday Hamas's security forces raided the offices of several NGOs in Gaza, drawing sharp condemnations from local and international human rights groups.

All media reported that yesterday Noble Energy, Inc. of Houston, and Israeli tycoon Yitzhak Teshuva, who is associated with the "Leviathan" drilling, announced that there is a 50 percent chance that huge quantities of natural gas -- to the tune of 16 trillion cubic feet -- may be found off the Haifa coast.

EDITORIAL PAGES:

In a joint article, Nahum Barnea and Shimon Shiffer of Yediot argue that Israel, which wished to isolate Hamas, instead finds itself almost a pariah.

The Jerusalem Post claims that the only way to end the blockade of Gaza is by convincing its residents that Hamas' way is a dead end.

Ha'aretz maintains that "Turkey is not an enemy."

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Amir Oren of Ha'aretz believes that the way PM Benjamin Netanyahu and DM Ehud Barak performed during the botched naval operation calls into question their ability to function in much more dangerous scenarios – such as the fight against the Iranian nuclear project.

Dan Margalit of Israel Hayom says that a commission of inquiry into the naval incident is not needed but that Israel must assuage global public opinion.

Ben-Dror Yemini of Maariv warns about the formation of a new pro-Islamist, anti-Israel "empire."
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Law, Rosemary C

From: OSCINFO@rccb.osis.gov
 Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 10:49 AM
 Subject: OSC: Israeli Intel Center: Marmara Casualties Members of Turkish Islamist Organizations
 Attachments: GMP20100623739007001.pdf

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Israeli Intel Center: Marmara Casualties Members of Turkish Islamist Organizations

GMP20100623739007 Ramat Hasharon *Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center* in English 20 Jun 10

The *ITIC* website carries a paper on 20 June saying: "Almost All of the Casualties on board the Mavi Marmara Were Fully Identified as Members of Turkish Islamist Organizations, Most of Them of a Radical and Anti-Western Nature. About Half of Those Killed Had Declared Their Wish To Die as Martyrs (shaheeds)."

The article's introduction says:

"1. Since the violent confrontation aboard the ship Mavi Marmara, a great deal of information accumulated making it possible to identify the nine Turkish nationals killed in the confrontation, as well as to analyze their affiliation and political and ideological views. The analysis leads to the conclusion that almost all of those killed (8 out of 9) belonged to the IHH or those affiliated with it (mainly the Felicity Party, Saadet Partisi). About half of those killed had told their relatives of their wish to die as martyrs (shaheeds).

"2. On the other hand, human rights activists from Western countries or the Arab/Muslim world were not among those killed. That is to say, those who joined the Flotilla to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinians found themselves in a violent confrontation initiated by the IHH. One of those killed, a youngster who was a citizen of both Turkey and the US, is not known to us as affiliated with any Islamist organization, and his involvement in the events is still unclear.

"3. Those conclusions are supported by a great deal of information collected since the IDF's takeover of the Mavi Marmara. It turned out that hard core radical Islamist operatives prepared themselves well in advance for hard violence against IDF soldiers. That violence was preceded by speeches of incitement and indoctrination during the ship's voyage. The information includes statements taken from passengers questioned in Israel, security camera footage and footage shot by journalists on the Mavi Marmara, documents seized aboard the ship, voyage and statements made on the media (including Turkish media) before and after the flotilla incident."

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(See attached file GMP20100623739007001.pdf) Click here to view the 6-page English-language paper in pdf format.

Speaker(s)

[Description of Source: Ramat Hasharon Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center in English -- Website of think tank set up by veterans of Israel's intelligence community "to highlight the contribution of Israeli Intelligence to the state's security," focuses on anti-Israeli incitement in PA and Arab world and on Islamic terrorism; URL: www.intelligence.org.il]

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Intelligence and Terrorism
Information Center

June 20, 2010

Almost all of the casualties on board the Mavi Marmara were fully identified as members of Turkish Islamist organizations, most of them of a radical and anti-Western nature. About half of those killed had declared their wish to die as martyrs (shaheeds).

Overview

1. Since the violent confrontation aboard the ship Mavi Marmara, a great deal of information accumulated making it possible to identify the nine Turkish nationals killed in the confrontation, as well as to analyze their affiliation and political and ideological views. The analysis leads to the conclusion that almost all of those killed (8 out of 9) belonged to the IHH or those affiliated with it (mainly the Felicity Party, Saadet Partisi). About half of those killed had told their relatives of their wish to die as martyrs (shaheeds).
2. On the other hand, human rights activists from Western countries or the Arab/Muslim world were not among those killed. That is to say, those who joined the Flotilla to deliver humanitarian aid to the Palestinians found themselves in a violent confrontation initiated by the IHH. One of those killed, a youngster who was a citizen of both Turkey and the US, is not known to us as affiliated with any Islamist organization, and his involvement in the events is still unclear.
3. Those conclusions are supported by a great deal of information collected since the IDF's takeover of the Mavi Marmara. It turned out that hard core radical Islamist operatives prepared themselves well in advance for hard violence against IDF soldiers. That violence was preceded by speeches of incitement and indoctrination during the ship's voyage.

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The information includes statements taken from passengers questioned in Israel, security camera footage and footage shot by journalists on the Mavi Marmara, documents seized aboard the ship, and statements made on the media (including Turkish media) before and after the flotilla incident.

Conclusions drawn from analysis of identity and affiliation of the Turkish nationals killed aboard the Mavi Marmara

4. The following conclusions arise from analyzing the identity and affiliation of the nine Turkish nationals killed aboard the Mavi Marmara:

a. **The major role played by the Islamic organization IHH:** out of the nine people killed, **four were identified as IHH operatives or activists.** Four others were members of Turkish Islamic organizations or parties affiliated with the IHH. The remaining victim is an ordinary Turkish volunteer who was caught in the event for unclear reasons.

b. **Operatives from the Turkish Felicity Party (Saadet Partisi):** at least two of the people killed belong to the Felicity Party, an Islamic party established in 2001 with the support of ex-politician Necmettin Erbakan (after his Welfare Party, Refah Partisi, was banned from politics). **The party espouses cooperation between Muslim countries, war on Zionism, and confrontation with the West. In April 2010, the party announced it would take part in the flotilla together with the IHH and the Free Gaza movement.**

c. **Thugs among those killed:** one of the people killed is a former Taekwondo champion; another worked at an Istanbul sports association; **still another worked as a security guard at IHH conferences in the city where he lived.** It should be noted that one of the Mavi Marmara passengers related during questioning in Israel that he had seen several IHH thugs carrying clubs. Statements taken from Israeli navy commandos show that **there were thugs among the operatives who fought them.** The presence of those thugs among the hard core of IHH operatives was part of the preparations for the confrontation.

d. **Statements made by relatives of those killed about their desire to become shaheeds and preparation of wills:** relatives of four killed operatives testified that they wanted to die as shaheeds. It was reported that two of the killed operatives had left a letter or a last will before setting sail. **"I pray that Allah will give us a happy**

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endings, just like those shaheeds", says one of the killed operatives on a video tape found aboard the Mavi Marmara.

e. **No human rights activists among the victims:** conspicuously absent are human rights activists from Western countries and from the Arab/Muslim world, some of whom came on board the Mavi Marmara out of a genuine desire to deliver humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. **Those activists avoided joining the organized fighting against the IDF, stayed inside the ship, and did not go to the upper deck where the fighting took place.** One of the Turkish nationals killed was a high school student. We have no information that he was connected with any Islamic organization.

5. **Place of boarding the Mavi Marmara:** according to the passenger list, **two of the people killed, identified as IHH operatives, boarded the Mavi Marmara at the port of Istanbul** (where they were not screened). They were **part of a group of 38 operatives who played a key role in preparing for battle with the IDF and in the fighting itself.** Seven other operatives who were later killed **boarded the ship at the port of Antalya,** where additional IHH operatives came on board (including the organization's leader and other senior figures). At the port of Antalya, operatives and activists from other Turkish Islamic parties and organizations boarded the ship as well, some of them took part in the fighting.

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Appendix

Interim summary of information on Turkish nationals killed in the incident

1. Following are the names and details of the Turkish nationals killed based on the information accumulated so far:

a. **Ibrahim Bilgen**, 61, electronics engineer from Siirt, member of the association of electronics engineers in Turkey, originally from Mosul, Iraq. He ran in the 2007 elections on behalf of the **Felicity Party**, and also ran for mayor of Siirt in 2009. He was married and father of six. A relative of his noted that he wanted to die as a shaheed. He joined the flotilla as an IHH volunteer.

b. **Ali Haydar Bengi**, 39, owner of a telephone repair store in Diyarbakir, southeastern Turkey (a city known as a stronghold of radical Islamic parties). He graduated from Al-Azhar University in Cairo (Arabic literature). He was married and father of four. **Member of the Felicity Party**. Was active in Islamic organizations and was chairman of an Islamic charitable society in Diyarbakir named **Özgürlükler Eğitim Kültür ve Dayanışma Demeği (Ayder**, the brotherhood association for a bright future, rights, and liberty). His wife said in an interview that he had wanted to reach Palestine for many years, and constantly prayed to Allah to grant him martyrdom. His friends said that he wanted to be a shaheed and that he "had an intense desire to die as a shaheed". The association he headed was affiliated with the IHH and its operatives collected equipment and food for the organization prior to setting sail.

c. **Cevdet Kiliçlar**, 38, from Kayseri. Graduate of the media faculty in the University of Marmara, formerly employed as a journalist for the National Gazette and the Anatolia Times. In the past year, he worked as a reporter and website manager for the IHH. He is married and father of two. A recorded statement by Kiliçlar was found aboard the Mavi Marmara: "While our friends were praying at the [Istanbul] Fatih Mosque in memory of the brothers killed in battle in Afghanistan, we boarded this ship [Mavi Marmara] and were therefore unable to take part in the prayer. May the souls [of those killed in Afghanistan] be in paradise. We, too, prayed on our

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way to our brothers in Gaza, and I pray that Allah will grant us a happy ending, just like those shaheeds".¹

d. **Çetin Topçuoğlu, 54**, from Adana. Amateur soccer player and former Taekwondo champion. Trained the Turkish Taekwondo team. Married and father of one. His wife, Çiğdem Topçuoğlu, was also on the Mavi Marmara with friends and family. Member of AYDER, a humanitarian aid organization affiliated with IHH. Took part in the previous aid convoy to the Gaza Strip which arrived in El-Arish (and confronted Egyptian security forces). Before departing, he left a letter hinting that he expected to die as a shaheed and called on others to aspire to a similar death.

e. **Necdet Yıldırım, 32**, from Malatya. IHH operative in Istanbul. Worked at a sports association in Istanbul (malatyaguncel.com). Married and father of one. There is a possibility (although we don't have any information on that) that he may be related to IHH leader Bulent Yıldırım.

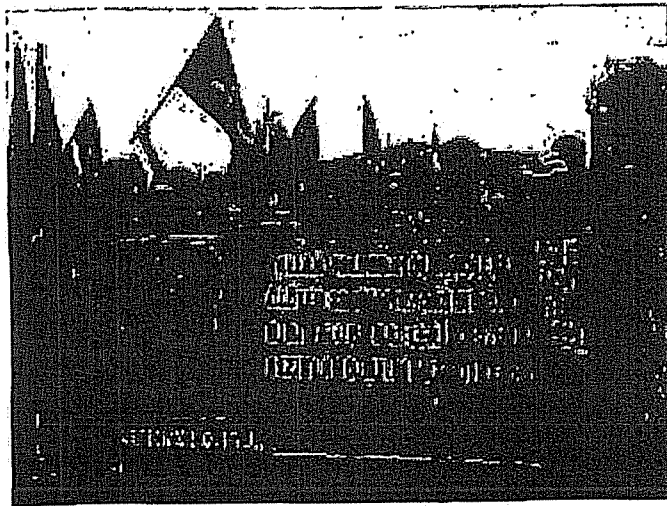
f. **Fahri Yıldız, 43**, fireman in the town of Adiyaman (eastern Antalya). Married and father of four. Worked as a security guard at IHH conferences. IHH operative in the town where he lived. During the municipal elections he worked as a bodyguard for the mayor on behalf of Refah, Erbakan's Islamist party. In 2007, he made extensive preparations for taking part in the flotilla and had a passport issued (haberdemeti.com). Prior to his departure, he announced that he was going to be a shaheed and said goodbye to his wife and children.

g. **Cengiz Songür, 47**, from Konya. Came on board the ship in Antalya. Married and father of seven. Worked as a textile salesman for living. Activist in the Islamic association Izmir Özgür-Der, which espouses a radical Islamic ideology similar to that of IHH. The association provides aid to Muslims worldwide, including in Afghanistan, Egypt, and Lebanon (similarly to IHH).

¹ <http://www.intemethaber.com/cevdet-killidarin-son-duasi-video-galerisi-2116.htm>.

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Poster with an image of Cengiz Songür. The poster reads: "Those killed for the sake of Allah are not considered dead, but rather living alongside their Lord [in paradise]" (haksozhaber.net). During the second Intifada, that verse was used to grant religious-Islamic legitimacy to shaheeds who perpetrated suicide bombing attacks, and it appeared numerous times on posters commemorating the suicide bombers. The verse was also used in eulogies for those sent to dangerous missions and killed in conflict with the enemies of Islam.



A poster that reads: "Warriors of Gaza, glorified men of resistance, welcome" (on the left, one of the people carries a photograph of Songür) (bighaber.com)

h. **Cengiz Akyüz**, 41, from Iskenderun. Married and father of three. **IHH operative**. Joined the flotilla with Zakariya Kanat, the director of the Hatay branch (Alexandretta) of IHH. Left a will prior to his departure (islamigundem.com).

i. **Furkan Dogan**, 19, senior high school student in Kayseri. The son of Dr. Ahmet Dogan from the University of Erclyes. **Citizen of both Turkey and the US**. We have no information about his links to any Islamic organizations.

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: OSCINFO@rccb.osis.gov
 Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 10:25 AM
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Israeli Intel Center: Marmara Captain's Testimony Proves IHH Prepared in Advance

GMP20100613739003 Ramat Hasharon Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center in English 09 Jun 10

A 9 June *ITIC* report carries "Video Recordings of Statements from Mavi Marmara Crew Members about Preparations Made by IHH Operatives for the Violent Confrontation with IDF Soldiers." The report's overview states:

"1. The videotaped statements of two Mavi Marmara crew members show that preparations for a violent confrontation with IDF forces were put in motion about two hours before the boarding began; when the Israeli Navy hailed the ship and told it to halt.

"2. According to the statements, the atmosphere aboard the Mavi Marmara was tense and the crew noticed a gathering on the main deck. When they checked the upper deck they discovered that IHH operatives were cutting the ship's railings with metal disks they had brought with them into lengths suitable to be used as clubs. The crew members said the activities worried them and that they tried to stop the operatives but were unsuccessful."

(See attached file GMP20100613739003001.pdf) Click here to view the 4-page English-language report in pdf format:

[Description of Source: Ramat Hasharon Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center in English -- Website of think tank set up by veterans of Israel's intelligence community "to highlight the contribution of Israeli intelligence to the state's security," focuses on anti-Israeli incitement in PA and Arab world and on Islamic terrorism; URL: www.intelligence.org.il]

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Speaker(s)

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Intelligence and Terrorism
Information Center

June 9, 2010

Video Recordings of Statements from Mavi Marmara Crew Members about Preparations Made by IHH Operatives for the Violent Confrontation with IDF Soldiers¹

Overview

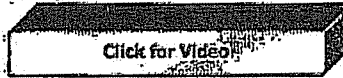
1. The videotaped statements of two Mavi Marmara crew members show that preparations for a violent confrontation with IDF forces were put in motion about two hours before the boarding began, when the Israeli Navy hailed the ship and told it to halt.
2. According to the statements, the atmosphere aboard the Mavi Marmara was tense and the crew noticed a gathering on the main deck. When they checked the upper deck they discovered that IHH operatives were cutting the ship's railings with metal disks they had brought with them into lengths suitable to be used as clubs. The crew members said the activities worried them and that they tried to stop the operatives but were unsuccessful.
3. The following are the statements of the one of the ship's captains and an officer. This bulletin contains the text of the statements and the videotaped interviews:

¹ Follow-up of the June 7, 2010 bulletin IHH Preparations for a Violent Confrontation with IDF Soldiers Aboard the Turkish Ship Mavi Marmara Initial conclusions from questioning passengers and examining equipment on board the ship at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/Englist/eng_n/pdf/hamas_e110.pdf.

Appendix

The Statements

Mehmut Tuval, Captain, Mavi Marmara



Chief Officer Gokkiran Gokhan



Statement: I was on the bridge after dark, before anything happened, the third captain and I were sent in the direction of the life boats, where there were a lot of people and a lot of noise. The captain told me something was happening down there, there are noises, go see what's going on. There were a lot of people. I told the third captain, you are more senior than I, come with me."

Q: When did that happen?

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A: Around eight o'clock, I don't know exactly when, but around eight. I went down the stairs with the third captain. We saw a senior person [from IHH].

Q: Who?

A: That guy.

Q: What guy?

A: That guy. Maybe the third captain knows his name.

Q: The guy from IHH?

A: Yes, from IHH.

Q: Whose name does he know? The name of the guy from IHH who cut the railings?

A: No, the third captain knows him from IHH. We [the third captain and I] went together, we saw a lot of people milling around and we asked what was going on.

Q: Did you see them cutting [the railings]?

A: They [the iron rods] were already cut. It was all over.

Q: Who did the cutting?

A: I didn't see.

Q: Who was holding the disk?

A: The disks were lying in a corner of the stairs and the senior guy [apparently a reference to Bülent Yildirim] was next to them.

Q: The senior guy from IHH?

A: Yes.

Q: Who did the disks belong to?

A: I don't know, they didn't belong to the ship. We don't have equipment like that on board. On deck there were metal poles with clips for cables, when I got there they had been cut.

Q: When did this happen?

A: When it was getting dark. I asked one of them who cut the poles, and he said he didn't know.

Q: Was the man you asked a crew member?

A: No.

Q: Did he belong to IHH?

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A: Of course.

Q: You seem to be saying that the people from IHH were in control of the ship. Did the crew need their permission to move around the ship?

A: Definitely, they [i.e. IHH operatives] didn't let people they didn't know move around.

Q: Did they prevent anyone they didn't know from moving freely around the ship?

A: Yes, definitely.

Q: And was that from the first moment they went up on deck?

A: Yes, definitely.

Q: How did the IHH operatives communicate with one another?

A: When they [the IHH operatives] got on board in Istanbul they brought walkie-talkies with them. They were handed out to the IHH operatives and the crew.

Q: Did you [the crew] get them as well?

A: Yes, each one worked on a different frequency.

Q: I don't understand, they didn't let the passengers and crew go from one deck to another?

A: They could go anywhere except to the control center they set up on the bridge.

Q: How many IHH operatives were there on the upper deck?

A: Forty.

Q: The same forty all the time or did they change?

A: More or less the same forty.

Q: You're referring to the group that joined the ship in Istanbul?

A: yes.



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Israeli Intel Center: Flotilla Part of Implementation of 'Istanbul Declaration'

GMP20100708739001 Ramat Hasharon *Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center* in English 07 Jul 10

A 7 July ITIC paper elaborates on the "radical Islamic flotilla participants" aboard the Mavi Marmara, where nine activists were killed by the Israeli Army on 31 May.

(See attached file GMP20100708739001001.pdf) Click here to view the 11-page paper in pdf format.

[Description of Source: Ramat Hasharon Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center in English. - Website of think-tank set up by veterans of Israel's intelligence community "to highlight the contribution of Israeli intelligence to the state's security," focuses on anti-Israeli incitement in PA and Arab world and on Islamic terrorism; URL: www.intelligence.org.il]

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Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center

7.7.2010

The Jihadist "Istanbul Declaration" and the Gaza Flotilla

Jonathan Fighe¹

1. The violent nature of the flotilla and the events on board the Turkish ship Mavi Marmara would not have been a surprise if someone had connected the dots before the takeover of the ship by the Israeli Navy.
2. The Gaza flotilla initiative was a step in implementing the jihadist "Istanbul Declaration," issued at a conference called "Gaza Victory" and held in Istanbul on February 14-15, 2009. The conference was attended by 200 Arab and European Sunni sheikhs and clerics as well as members of Hamas, and bore the signatures of 90 participants (See Appendix). According to a BBC reporter who attended the event, "speaker after speaker called for jihad against Israel in support of Hamas."² The Istanbul Declaration provided the ideological background for the future violent implementation of its decisions, as demonstrated by the flotilla to Gaza. The events have to be understood within a radical pan-Islamic context and the mindset of their proponents, and in light of the Istanbul Declaration and the 90 radical Muslim scholars and clerics who publicly sanctioned the legitimacy of Hamas and their support for its military actions.

¹ Col. (Ret) Jonathan Fighe is a senior researcher at the International Counter Terrorism Institute (ICT), specialized in radical Islam movements and global jihad terror organizations. The study was originally published on ICT website.

² http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7895485.stm. See also posting of the declaration in Arabic on a Hamas forum, dated February 15 2009 <http://paldj.net/forum/showthread.php?p=5470014>.

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3. The Istanbul Declaration affirmed "the obligation of the Islamic Nation to find a just reconciliation formula for the Palestinian people, who will be responsible for forming a legitimate authority that will fix norms and attend to legitimate and national rights, and will continue with jihad and resistance against the occupation until the liberation of all Palestine." It also affirmed "the obligation of the Islamic Nation to open permanently the crossings—all crossings—in and out of Palestine to allow all the Palestinians to satisfy their needs for money, clothing, food, medicine, weapons and other essentials, so that they can live and carry out jihad in the path of Almighty Allah." The Declaration also noted that "We affirm that the victory Allah accomplished by means of our brothers the Mujahidin, our defiant and steadfast kinsfolk in Gaza, was indeed achieved through His favor and help -- exalted be He! It was also achieved through fulfilling the religious obligation of jihad in His path."

4. According to the Istanbul Declaration, there is an obligation for "the Islamic Nation to regard sending foreign warships into Muslim waters, claiming to control the borders and preventing the smuggling of arms to Gaza as a declaration of war, a new occupation, sinful aggression and a clear violation of the sovereignty of the Nation." It continues, "This must be rejected and fought by all means and ways."³

The Istanbul Declaration Signers and Their Involvement in the Flotilla

5. The list of passengers on board the Mavi Marmara revealed the names of two conference participants who had signed the Istanbul Declaration. Their personal involvement in the flotilla demonstrated their commitment to the jihadist cause and their desire to represent themselves as models.

6. **Muhammad Kazem Sawalha** -- a fugitive, high-ranking former Hamas Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades commander in Judea and Samaria, currently residing and active in the UK (signature number 72);⁴ He was involved in launching the previous aid flotilla (Lifeline 3). At the time he noted that the next aid convoy would avoid an "unwanted confrontation" with the Egyptian authorities and that "the confrontation will be directly with the Zionist enemy itself on the high seas" (Al-Intiqad, Hezbollah's website, January 17, 2010). Sawalha, one of the prominent organizers of the flotilla, did not board the ship. Known to Israeli security services and wanted for his notorious Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades

³ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/mar/08/daud-abdullah-gaza-middle-east>

⁴ One of the signatories of the Jihadi Istanbul Declaration.

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activities in Judea and Samaria in the past, it can be assumed he feared being arrested and tried in Israel.

A. Walid Al-Tabtabai -- a prominent Kuwaiti activist who is known to support armed resistance in Palestine and Iraq (signature number 88). At a press conference in Antalya the flotilla organizers asked all the participants to "write their wills." Following the press conference, Walid Al-Tabtabai reportedly "did not hesitate to write his will, in defiance of Israeli threats."⁵

B. Sheikh Muhammad al-Hazimi -- a member of the Yemeni Parliament and Al-Islah (the Yemeni reform bloc) was photographed on the deck of the Mavi Marmara brandishing his large curved dagger (signature number 66).

Other prominent radical Islamic flotilla participants

7. The Arab-Israeli Sheikh Ra'ed Salah, head of the northern branch of the Islamic Movement in Israel, is a radical Islamist whose presence on board the Mavi Marmara was not coincidental, as he is one of the founders and a board member of the Union of Good. He also maintains close ties with the Hamas leadership and provides material support for its activities and funding for Hamas' "charitable societies" in Judea and Samaria.⁶

8. The Yemeni Al-Islah party sent three members as passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara. The party runs the radical Islamic Al-Islah charitable society which belongs to the Union of Good and is known to be committed to the Hamas jihad struggle, and has been designated as a terrorist organization by Israel and the United States. Al-Islah is led by Sheikh Abd Al-Majid Zindani, a radical Islamist with ties to Al-Qaeda and Bin Laden, designated in 1995 by the United States as a terrorist. In 2004 he was accused of supplying arms to Al-Qaeda, and was known to be involved in the preparations made by Omar Farouk Abdulmutallab for the unsuccessful bombing attempt of a Detroit-bound plane, Christmas 2009.

Possible Involvement of the Union of Good

9. An analysis of open source materials, some of which were published before the flotilla events, shows that the Union of Good, a global coalition of radical Islamic charities, was assigned to implement the Istanbul Declaration's decision to break the so-called Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. The Union of Good is run by the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual leader, Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who in 2002 sanctioned the legitimacy of suicide bombing attacks against Israeli civilians and

⁵ Al-Rai (Kuwait), May 30, 2010.

⁶ Sentenced by Israeli court to 3.5 years in prison.

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