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issued numerous anti-Semitic, anti-Israeli *fatwas*. The Union of Good was outlawed by Israel and was designated as a terrorism-supporting entity by the U.S. Treasury Department, a result of its fund-raising activities on behalf of Hamas and its "charitable societies" in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria.

10. The Union of Good has a network of international connections in the Arab-Muslim world and in Muslim communities in the West, enabling it to set up a logistic infrastructure and procure funds and recruits in a relatively short time. The Turkish IHH, which is part of the Union of Good, was the leading organization in the coalition participating in the Gaza aid flotilla. IHH (*Insani Yardım Vakfı*, "humanitarian relief fund") is a radical Islamic organization established in 1992 and formally registered in Istanbul in 1995. Outlawed by Israel in 2008, it is part of the Union of Good, and seems to have been chosen to lead the jihadist flotilla to Gaza.

11. Organizing the flotilla to Gaza required lengthy preparations and a vast mobilization network which maintained contact with hundreds of organizations and operatives around the globe, most of them affiliated with radical Islam and the Muslim Brotherhood, and some of them from pro-Palestinian Western relief organizations. It is possible that as a pan-Islamic organization, some of the Union of Good members who participated in the Istanbul conference were commissioned to make logistic preparations and mobilize recruits.

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Appendix

Text of the Istanbul Declaration and Names of Signers⁷

In the name of Allah the Most-merciful, the All-merciful

A statement by the religious scholars and proselytizers (*du'a*) of the Islamic Nation (*ummah*) to all rulers and peoples concerning events in Gaza

Praise to Allah who strengthened His troops, aided His servants and alone routed the Zionist Jews, who says,

"It was incumbent on Us to aid the believers." [Qur'an 30:47]

And blessing and peace be on the Imam of the mujahidin who says,

"There will remain a group of my Ummah adhering to the truth, and those who oppose them will not harm them until Allah's command comes." [Hadith]

(And now to our topic)

This statement is addressed to the Islamic Nation, its religious scholars, its rulers and its peoples. In it we congratulate the whole family of Islam on the manifest victory which Allah has granted us in the land of Gaza, a land of pride and dignity, over the Zionist Jewish occupiers. Allah has appointed it as the first step in the complete victory for all of Palestine and the holy places of the Muslims. Furthermore, we herein emphatically affirm various resolutions and judgments.

I. Affirmation of the following unequivocal resolutions:

1. We affirm that the victory that 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 way. This is a confirmation of His statement -- sublime is He! -- "How often a small party overcame a large party, by Allah's leave." [Qur'an, 2:249]

⁷ http://www.standcampaign.org/wiki/index.php?title=Istanbul_Declaration

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2. We affirm that this manifest victory has clearly disclosed the volume of international and local military and political conspiracy against the jihad and the *mujahidin* in Gaza, as represented by the following:

- Military co-operation in tightening the blockade and closing the crossings to the people of Gaza, especially the Rafah crossing.
- Public or quasi-public support for the enemy.
- The prevention of demonstrations and popular events held in support of the *mujahidin*; the arrest, trial and severe punishments of those who instigate them.
- The aggressive pressure put on the *mujahidin* to break their will and force them to agree to their [the conspirators] terms and the stipulations of the Zionist enemy.
- The attempt to present the Hamas government as the cause of this malicious Jewish-Zionist war over Gaza.
- The absence of any official and effective Arab and Islamic stance and its weakness in reflecting the will of the Arab and Islamic peoples to help our brothers in Gaza win. This indicates the width of the gap between the Nation and those rulers who lead it.
- The use of funds for reconstruction and aid to those hurt as a negative pressure card on the *mujahidin* to abandon their legitimate demands, or some of them.
- The prevention of delivery of aid and reconstruction funds to the Hamas government and the reliable authorities in Gaza; deeming the Palestinian Authority, represented by the presidency of Abbas and the Fayyad government, the sole representative of the Palestinian people, without the Hamas government; and the delivery of such funds and aid to increase their grip on the legitimate elected government of Hamas. This redoubles the suffering of the people of Gaza at the time they mostly need those funds and aid.

3. We affirm in full conviction that the Palestinian Authority, whose mandate is coming to an end, is not eligible to represent the Palestinian people. It stands outside the will of its people, and has given up the choice of jihad in the way of Allah Almighty as an effective means in defeating the occupation and the liberation of the Islamic holy places. It adopts the wishes of the Nation's enemies in exchange for the illusions of false peace.

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4. We affirm in full conviction that the so-called Arab peace initiative is a proven betrayal of the Islamic Nation and the Palestinian cause, and a blatant betrayal of the Palestinian people. It aims to criminalize the Resistance [*muqawama*] against the Zionist occupying entity in perpetuity through its de facto recognition of it, as well as the confiscation of the right of refugees to return to their homes and their property.

II. Affirmation of the following legal judgments:

1. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to rush to the aid of the people in Gaza; to rebuild what the Zionist aggression destroyed; to compensate the injured and support the widows, orphans, those suffering permanent disabilities, and the old and infirm.

2. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to restrict itself to dealing only with the legitimate elected Palestinian government (Hamas) in the delivery of aid and reconstruction of dwellings. It is the sole government authorized to do that by reason of its official legitimacy as well as its maintaining the Resistance against the Jewish Zionist occupation, its integrity, and its solidarity with the people in all circumstances.

3. The obligation of the Islamic Nation not to recognize the Palestinian Authority, whose mandate is ending, as representative of the Palestinian people. It must not elect it again, in view of its proven financial and administrative corruption as well as its squandering of time and assets behind the false peace process. It is also necessary to work seriously to choose a new authority that will guard the Palestinian ranks, respect their will and their right to resist the occupation, and work for the complete liberation of its land and holy places.

4. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to circulate a declaration to withhold aid funds from the undeserving or placing them in the hands of those who are not trustworthy. It must regard this as a legal betrayal that should be prosecuted, and punish those who cause mayhem, negligence and waste of these moneys.

5. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to find a fair formula of reconciliation between the sons of the Palestinian people, under whose responsibility a legitimate authority will be formed that will attend to the fixed norms and the legitimate and national rights; and will carry on with the jihad and Resistance against the occupier until the liberation of all Palestine.

6. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to open the crossings -- all crossings -- in and out of Palestine permanently; in order to allow access to all the needs of the Palestinians -- money, clothing, food, medicine, weapons and other essentials,

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so that they are able to live and perform the jihad in the way of Allah Almighty. The closure of the crossings or the prevention of the entry of weapons through them should be regarded as high treason in the Islamic Nation, and clear support for the Zionist enemy.

7. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to regard everyone standing with the Zionist entity, whether countries, institutions or individuals, as providing a substantial contribution to the crimes and brutality of this entity; the position towards him is the same as towards this usurping entity.

8. The obligation of the Islamic Nation to regard the sending of foreign warships into Muslim waters, claiming to control the borders and prevent 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. This must be rejected and fought by all means and ways. To conclude: the Nation's scholars and proselytizers remind the Islamic Nation, rulers and ruled alike, of the necessity of returning to its religion, adhering to the book of its Lord and the sunna of his Prophet, working for its unity, and seizing control of the instruments of power that will make possible its supremacy and the preservation of its holy places and provisions.

'Allah prevails in his purpose, but most people know not.' [Quran, 12: 21]].

The Signatories

As presented in the Declaration:

- 1) Sheikh Ahmad Sulaiman Ahif, Yemen
- 2) Dr. Ahmad al-Ghamidi, Saudi Arabia
- 3) Dr. Ahmad al-Misbahl, Yemen
- 4) Sheikh Ahmad Abdul Razzaq al-Raqihi, Yemen
- 5) Proselytizer [da'iyah] Ahmad Muhammad Abdullah, Egypt
- 6) Sheikh Isma'il Abdul Bari, Yemen
- 7) Sheikh Isma'il Uthman Muhammad, Sudan
- 8) Dr. Amin Ali Muqbil, Yemen
- 9) Proselytizer Al-Amin Karkush, Algeria
- 10) Sheikh Bilal Baroudi, Lebanon
- 11) Proselytizer Tawarim Kishlakci, Turkey

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- 12) Dr. Harith Sulaiman al-Dhari [Iraq]
- 13) Dr. Hakim al-Matiri, Kuwait
- 14) Proselytizer Hasan Salem, Qatar
- 15) Proselytizer Khalid al-Dhahir, Lebanon
- 16) Proselytizer Khalil Asi, Denmark
- 17) Proselytizer Daud Abdullah, Britain
- 18) Sheikh Raed al-Jabouri, Iraq
- 19) Sheikh Rachid al-Ghannouchi, Tunisia [resides in Britain]
- 20) Proselytizer Ribhi Subhi al-Atiwi, Jordan
- 21) Proselytizer Rabi Haddad, Lebanon
- 22) Dr. Sami Muhammad Saleh
- 23) Proselytizer Sami Najid Sa'Id, Jordan
- 24) Dr. Shafi al-Hajiri, Qatar
- 25) Dr. Shaker Tawfiq al-Adouri, Jordan
- 26) Proselytizer Shah Jahan Abdul Qayyum, Britain
- 27) Dr. Shawkat Karashji, Kosovo
- 28) Sheikh Safwan Murshid, Yemen
- 29) Sheikh Salah Nasr al-Bahr, Yemen
- 30) Dr. Adel Hasan Yusuf al-Hamad, Bahrain
- 31) Sheikh Arif bin Ahmad al-Sabri, Yemen
- 32) Sheikh Abbas Ahmad al-Nahari
- 33) Sheikh Abdul Hai Yusuf, Sudan
- 34) Sheikh Abdul Rahman al-Khamisi, Yemen
- 35) Proselytizer Abdul Rahman Abdullah Jami'an, Kuwait
- 36) Dr. Abdul Salam Daud al-Kubaisi, Iraq
- 37) Dr. Abdul Samid al-Radhi, Morocco
- 38) Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel, Egypt
- 39) Dr. Abdul Ali Masul, Morocco
- 40) Proselytizer Abdul Fattah Hamdash, Algeria

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- 41) Dr. Abdul Karim al-Sheikh, Sudan
- 42) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad al-Adini, Yemen
- 43) Sheikh Abdullah Hasan Khayrat, Yemen
- 44) Sheikh Abdullah Faysal al-Ahdal, Yemen
- 45) Sheikh Abdul Majid bin Muhammad al-Rimi, Yemen
- 46) Sheikh Abdul Malik al-Wazir, Yemen
- 47) Sheikh Abdil Wahid al-Khamisi, Yemen
- 48) Sheikh Abdul Wahhab al-Hamiqani, Yemen
- 49) Dr. Abdul Wahhab bin Lutf al-Dulaimi, Yemen
- 50) Proselytizer Izz al-Din Jarafa bin Muhammad, Algeria
- 51) Proselytizer Azzam al-Ayyubi, Lebanon
- 52) Dr. Ali Muhammad Maqboul al-Ahdal
- 53) Proselytizer Imad al-Din Bakri, Sudan
- 54) Proselytizer Imad Sa'ad, Iraq
- 55) Sheikh Omar Sulaiman al-Ashqar, Palestine
- 56) Proselytizer Faris Muhammad, Denmark
- 57) Sheikh Latif al-Sa'idi, Britain
- 58) Dr. Muhsin al-Awaji, Saudi Arabia
- 59) Proselytizer Muhammad al-Khalid, Denmark
- 60) Sheikh Muhammad al-Sadiq Mughlas, Yemen
- 61) Prof. Muhammad al-Ani, Britain
- 62) Proselytizer Muhammad al-Ghanim, Saudi Arabia
- 63) Proselytizer Muhammad al-Mufrih, Saudi Arabia
- 64) Sheikh Muhammad Ahmad al-Wazir, Yemen
- 65) Sheikh Muhammad bin Musa al-Amiri, Yemen
- 66) Sheikh Muhammad bin Nasr al-Hazmi, Yemen
- 67) Dr. Muhammad Juhaid Bu Aynain
- 68) Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Abdullah, Bahrain
- 69) Proselytizer Muhammad Khalid Muwasi, Palestine

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- 70) Proselytizer Muhammad Salem al-Ali
- 71) Sheikh Muhammad Sa'ad al-Hatami, Yemen
- 72) Proselytizer Muhammad Sawalha, Palestine [resides in Britain]
- 73) Sheikh Muhammad Abdul Karim al-Da'is, Yemen
- 74) Sheikh Muhammad Abdul Karim Abu-Faris
- 75) Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah al-Ghubaisi, Yemen
- 76) Sheikh Muhammad Ali al-Anasi, Yemen
- 77) Sheikh Muhammad Ali Mir'i, Yemen
- 78) Dr. Muhammad Magdi Krekar, Egypt
- 79) Sheikh Mudashir Ahmad Isma'il, Sudan
- 80) Sheikh Murad Ahmad al-Qudsi, Yemen
- 81) Dr. Mustafa al-Rif, Morocco
- 82) Proselytizer Nasser al-Fadhala, Bahrain
- 83) Dr. Nasser Jasim al-Sani, Kuwait
- 84) Proselytizer Nasif Nasser, Palestine
- 85) Proselytizer Nakhir Alan, Turkey
- 86) Sheikh Huzâ bin Sa'ad al-Asouri, Yemen
- 87) Dr. Hamam Sa'id, Jordan
- 88) Dr. Walid Musa'id al-Tabatibai, Kuwait
- 89) Proselytizer Yusuf al-Jababli, Tunisia
- 90) Proselytizer Yusuf Muhammad al-Barahimi

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Law, Rosemary C

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From: OSCINFO@rccb.osis.gov
 Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 8:17 AM
 Subject: OSC: Israeli Intel Center: Most of Marmara Casualties 'Positively IDd' as IHH Members
 Attachments: GMP20100712739001001.pdf

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Israeli Intel Center: Most of Marmara Casualties 'Positively IDd' as IHH Members

GMP20100712739001 Ramat Hasharon *Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center* in English 06 Jul 10

The *ITIC* paper's introduction states: "Most of the injured in the confrontation on board the Mavi Marmara have been positively identified as activists of IHH and Turkish organizations collaborating with it, most probably Islamist by nature. The findings are consistent with our inquiry into the identity of the nine people killed on board the Mavi Marmara."

(See attached file GMP20100712739001001.pdf) Click here to view the 16-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]

Related Items:

1. [Israeli Intel Center: Flotilla Part of Implementation of 'Istanbul Declaration'](#)

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 Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 6:29 AM
 Subject: OSC: Israeli Intel Center Provides More Information on IHH Goals, Weapons on Marmara
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Israeli Intel Center Provides More Information on IHH Goals, Weapons on Marmara

GMP20100615739012 Ramat Hasharon *Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center* in English 15 Jun 10

A 10 June *ITIC* paper provides "additional information about the violent intentions of the IHH operatives during the voyage of the Mavi Marmara and the weapons found in their possession."

(See attached file GMP20100615739012001.pdf) Click here to view the 16-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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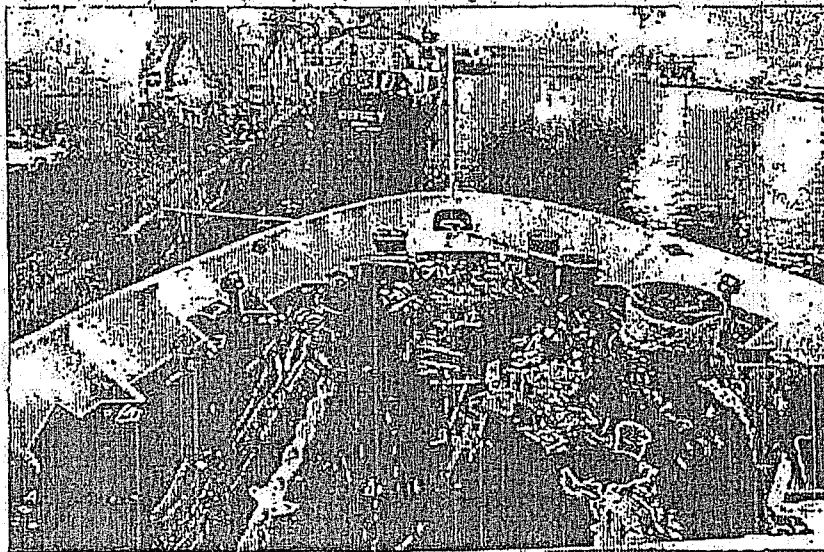
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Intelligence and Terrorism
Information Center

June 10, 2010

Additional information about the violent intentions of the IHH operatives during the voyage of the Mavi Marmara and the weapons found in their possession¹



The prow of the Mavi Marmara, the flagship of the IHH flotilla, with some of the weapons found on board the ship.

¹ Follow-up of June 7, 2010 ITIC bulletin "IHH Preparations for a Violent Confrontation with IDF Soldiers Aboard the Turkish Ship Mavi Marmara" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/hamas_e110.pdf.

Overview

1. Statements made by IDF soldiers, pictures taken aboard the Mavi Marmara, statements from passengers, information found in files on laptops seized from the ship and statements made by passengers to the media after their release, all prove that the violence employed against the IDF on board the ship was not spontaneous but rather a premeditated operation. The operation was organized beforehand by IHH and implemented by a hard core of 40 violent operatives who were taken on board specifically for the purpose. This bulletin provides an updated picture based on recently acquired information.

2. The hard core of 40 IHH operatives boarded the ship in Istanbul. They remained on the upper deck while the other passengers (of whom there were about 500 on board) received orders to remain below decks (The IHH leader ordered "Turks, upper deck, Arabs, below decks").

3. The 40 IHH operatives joined the ship in Istanbul without a security check. Most of them wore stickers reading "Security Protection" (*khares amni*). They also prepared in advance designated equipment and cold weapons for a possible IDF takeover of the boat (for example, they brought metal cutting disks to cut the ship's railings). The IHH operatives were commanded by organization's leader, **Bülent Yildirim**, who organized the fighters, briefed them before the confrontation with the IDF forces and instructed them to use violence. The media reported that some operatives specifically stated that they wanted or were willing to die as martyrs (*shaheds*).

4. According to the minutes of a meeting of the flotilla leadership which took place on May 16, in which IHH played a major role, the possible scenarios in which the flotilla passengers participated did not include a violent confrontation with the IDF (an analysis of the minutes will be published separately). Moreover, other organizations participating in the flotilla, such as Free Gaza, had their activists sign pledges that they would not engage in physical or verbal violence against IDF soldiers. All of the above create the impression that IHH fooled some of the other organizations, hiding its true intentions to employ severe violence.

Advance Preparations

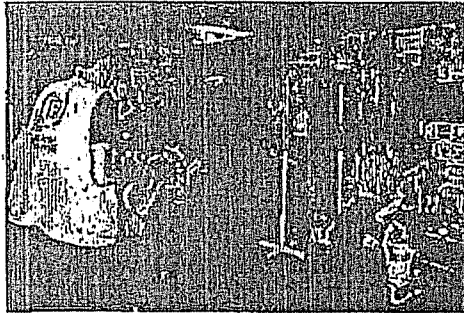
5. On May 16, before the flotilla set sail, the IHH leaders and crew members held a meeting to discuss coordination. They spoke about setting up two command groups, one on land and the other apparently on board the Mavi Marmara. **IHH was dominant in both groups.**

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6. IHH's hard core operatives boarded the Mavi Marmara in Istanbul without a security check, while the other passengers, 20 of whom were also IHH operatives, boarded in Antalya. During the voyage from Istanbul to Antalya IHH members received a detailed briefing. Boarding separately gave them time to get organized and make preparations for a violent confrontation with the IDF. According to photographs taken during the voyage, the passengers boarding in Antalya used two separate gangways. The main gangway, close to which the official ceremony was held, was used, in our assessment, by most of the passengers, those who had undergone the Turkish Customs' security check. The side gangway was used by other passengers; possibly other IHH operatives (according to our information, there were about 60 IHH operatives on board; 40 of them belonged to the hard core which boarded in Istanbul.)

7. The passengers who boarded in Istanbul brought equipment in preparation for the confrontation with the IDF. Some of the equipment was for defensive purposes (gas masks, ceramic vests), some was cold weaponry which was easily camouflaged (wooden clubs, slingshots, ball bearings, stones, etc.), and some of the equipment consisted of tools for improvising weapons during the voyage (metal cutting disks for cutting iron bars and chains). A field hospital was also loaded on board for the wounded of the "battlefield."



Field hospital set up on board the ship

8. Before the ship set sail IHH leader Bülent Yildirim held a well-attended press conference. Pro-Palestinian activists from many countries were also present. The representatives each spoke to the media in turn. Bülent Yildirim said that the IHH flotilla would set sail with nine ships [only six arrived] and that they were determined to reach the Gaza Strip, "regardless of what happened" [quote from a passenger's diary].

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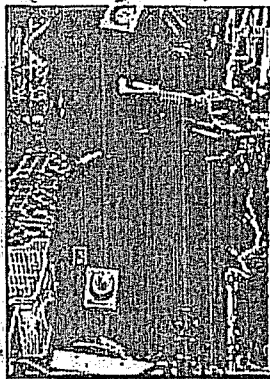
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The Equipment and Cold Weapons Loaded on Board the Ship

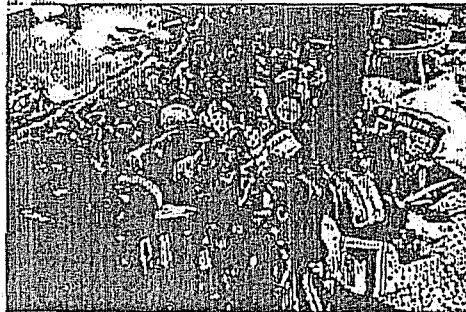
9. The equipment and cold weapons loaded on board:

A. **150 ceramic bullet-proof vests** marked with a red crescent: Some of them were apparently for use by the correspondents covering the confrontation in real time, and some were for activists of other organizations.



Ceramic bullet-proof vests worn by the hard core of IHH operatives (IDF Spokesman, June 3, 2010). (The Turkish red crescent is visible.)

B. **200 gas masks:** They were apparently prepared in case the IDF used gas or smoke grenades.



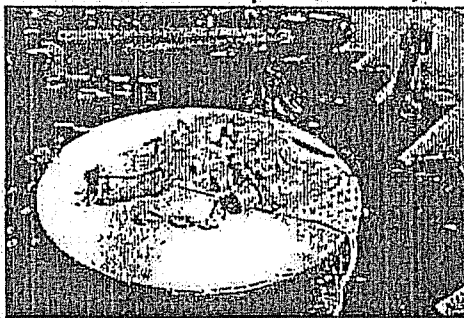
Gas masks found on board the ship.

C. **Diving equipment and spear guns:** They were brought on board in case the IDF attempted to damage the boat below the water line.

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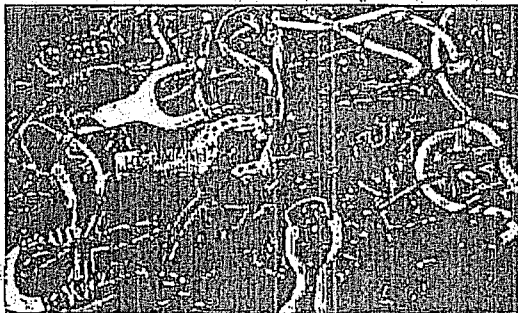
D. **Communications devices:** Many such devices were brought on board in Istanbul. Photographs indicate that every member of IHH's hard core was equipped with a communications device used throughout the voyage. According to a statement from one of the ship's officers, devices were also distributed to the ship's crew but they operated on a frequency different from the one used by the IHH operatives.

E. **Optical equipment:** A number of night-vision goggles and binoculars were found on board.



Optical equipment found on board the ship

F. **50 slingshots:** Various types of slingshots were found, some of them inscribed "Hizbullah." Thousands of ball bearings and stones of various sizes were also found.

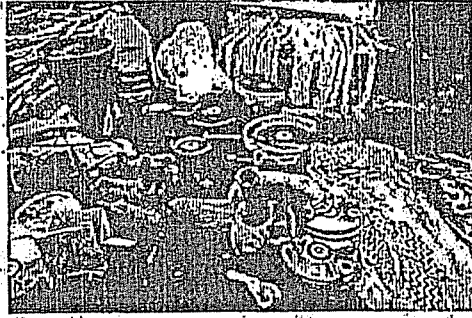
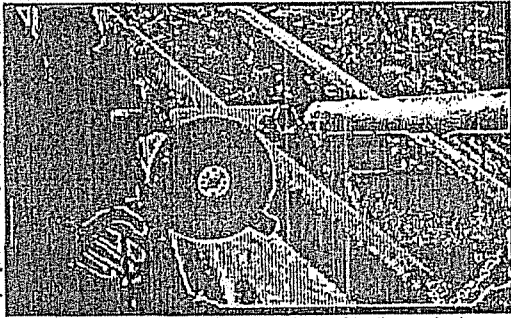


Left: Some of the slingshots found on board the ship. The one in the middle is inscribed "Hizbullah." Right: Ball bearings for use as slingshot ammunition, paint rollers with sponge rollers removed for use as weapons (IDF Spokesman, June 3, 2010).

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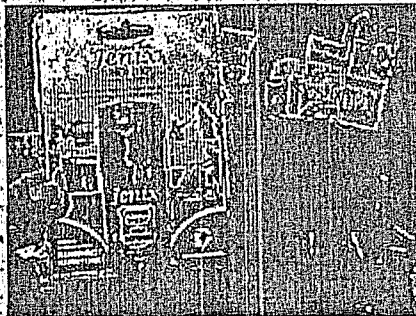
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G. **Metal-cutting disks:** The IHH operatives brought metal-cutting disks with them to cut chains and metal bars from the railings to be used as weapons during fighting. According to the statement given by Chief Officer Gokkiran Gokhan, such disks are not part of the ship's equipment.



Disks used to cut chains and iron railings

H. **Pepper spray and smoke flares**



Smoke flares and pepper spray found on board the ship. Despite the "U.S." to the upper right of the word "Janix" and the English-language packaging, the company is Turkish, with head offices in Istanbul.

10. **Firearms:** A telescopic sight and rifle bullets were found on board but no firearms, which may possibly have been thrown overboard. It is unclear as to whether the IHH operatives had firearms beyond what they grabbed from IDF soldiers and used against them.

Conduct of the IHH operatives during the voyage

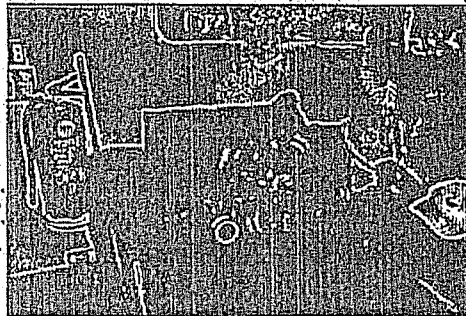
11. Photographs which documented the voyage show that the hard core of IHH operatives, commanded by their leader Bulent Yildirim, were dominant and controlled events aboard the ship. The operatives were easily recognizable because they

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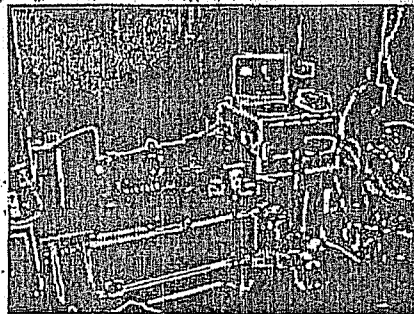
all wore vests with stickers in various colors marking them as "crew." Some of the stickers were red and read "Security Guard." They were apparently means of identification which enabled the IHH operatives to move freely throughout the ship (the movements of the "ordinary" passengers were limited). Most of the time the operatives were on the upper deck.



IHH operative wearing an identification vest sits next to gas masks

12. The daily lives of the IHH operatives were different from those of the other passengers. Most of the time they were together, eating and praying separately from the others and holding meetings where they received lessons in religion and were indoctrinated with ideology, sometimes from Israeli sheikh Ra'ed Salah, head of the northern faction of the Israeli Islamic Movement.

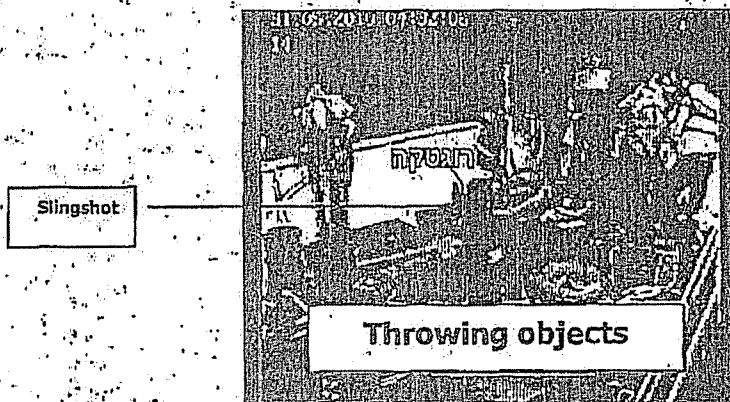
13. A designated area was set up inside the press room secured by IHH guards, where Bülent Yildirim and operatives were located. Within the area were an editing room and the computers connected to the ship's security cameras. When the IDF soldiers reached the area they found large sums of money scattered around.



Secured editing and control room

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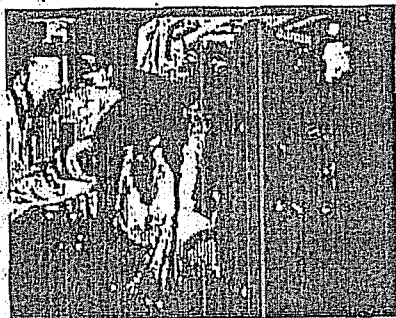
Conduct of IHH operatives before and during the confrontation with the IDF



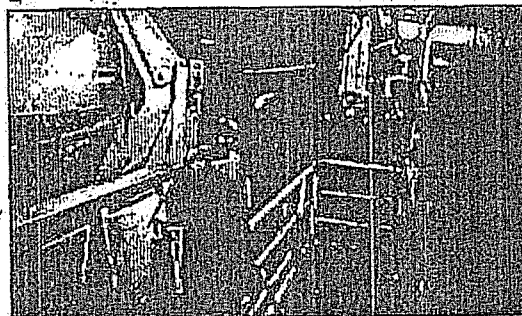
Preparing for the confrontation
(Picture taken by a security camera before IHH operatives disabled them).

14. The Israeli Navy hailed the ships and asked them to return to their home ports or to sail to the port of Ashdod, where the cargoes for the Gaza Strip would be unloaded (May 30, 2200 hours). The request was met with curses and shouts of foul language, and denied. All the passengers who were not Turkish were ordered to the hall on the lower deck, while the hard core of IHH operatives was ordered to the upper deck. The ship's horn was blown and the operatives were instructed to put on gas masks and rescue suits. At that point IHH operatives began cutting the ship's iron railings into metal bars, and cut lengths of chain as well. At the same time, knives and axes were collected from the ship. In addition, code words were determined for use during the confrontation, for example, to report a soldier on deck or captured.

15. The Turkish passengers who belonged to the IHH hard core (some of them masked) were divided into teams and given missions. Every team had a commander. They were all given ceramic vests and gas masks. They armed themselves with iron bars, chains and other cold weapons, and dispersed throughout the upper deck on the roof and close to the sides of the ship to prevent anyone from boarding. Some operatives secured the stairs. IHH lead Bülent Yıldırım briefed his operatives, saying "Make a human chain and throw the fighters back into the sea with chair and [iron] bars."



Sawing iron bars
(From a video found on board the ship).



Preparations for the confrontation: wearing ceramic vests and equipping themselves with clubs



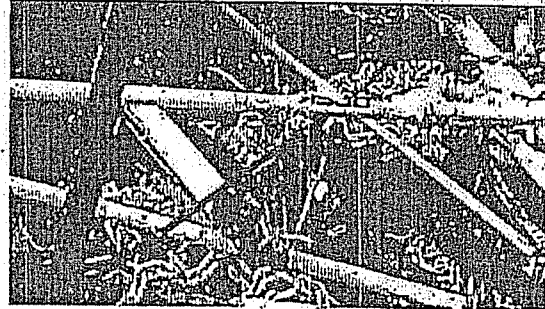
A selection of the weapons found on board the ship

16. One of the passengers described the events as follows: "At 1930 hours there was a meeting to give [final] orders to the security teams for urgent intervention. Orders were given about how to put on life belts, how to put on gas masks and most important, how to act if there was Israeli intervention or an attack. After the meeting the heads of the teams along with their operatives went to secure the sectors. We were responsible for the upper aft sector of the second deck on the starboard side. We were supposed to deploy for defense. How? Only with sticks and bottles, apparently this is how glass bottles should be used. And life belts, [but] there weren't enough for everyone..." (See additional statements in the Appendix).

Weapons Improvised during the Voyage, Especially before the IDF Took Control of the Boat

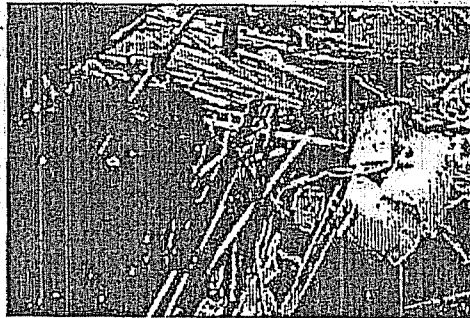
17. Much of the cold weaponry of the hard core of IHH operatives was prepared during the voyage, especially during the last hours when the ships were halted and the boarding began. The weapons were prepared from objects available on board the ship, including:

A. **Iron bars:** Iron bars were sawn off the ship's railings with the disks brought on board. About 100 were prepared.



Iron bars sawn off the ship's railings

B. **Wooden clubs:** Clubs were prepared from available items. About 50 clubs were improvised, in addition to standard clubs which were brought on board, hidden in rolled-up blankets.



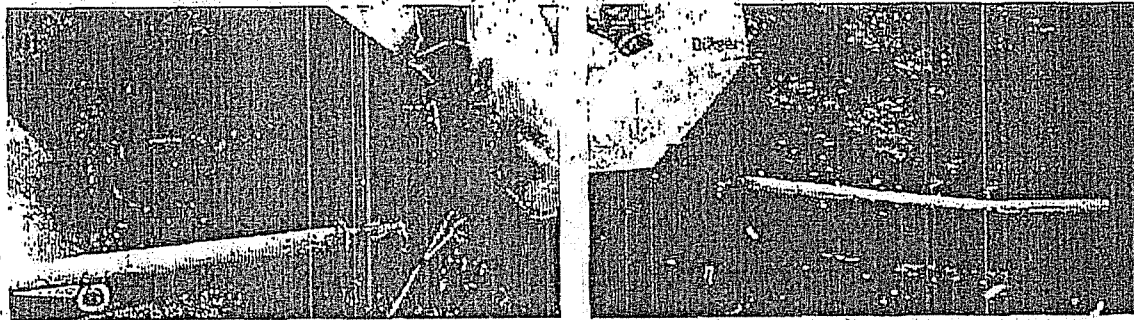
Standard and improvised wooden clubs

C. **Metal chains:** The cutting disks were also used to prepare lengths of chains from deck equipment.

D. **Axes:** Axes were taken from fire extinguishing stations around the ship. About 20 axes were found.

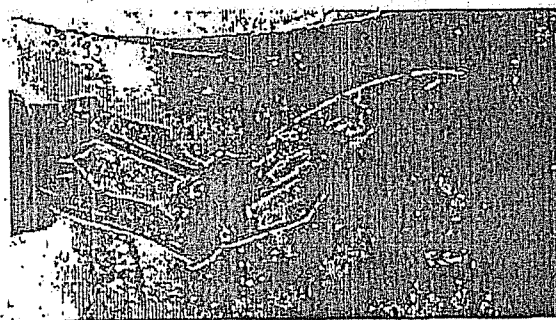
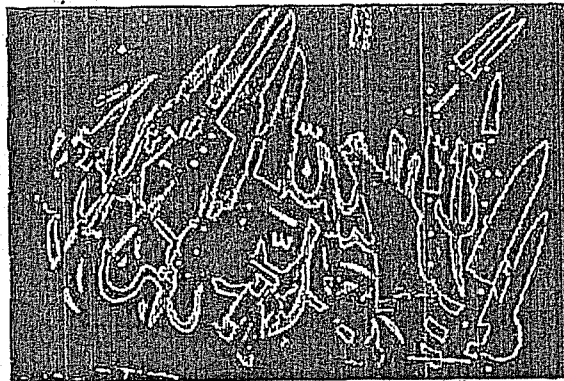
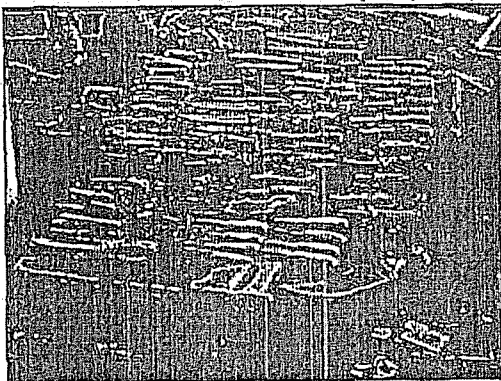
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גרזנים ששימשו ככלי נשק

E. Knives: 200 knives of various lengths were collected from around the ship. Most of them were taken from the kitchen and cafeterias, in addition to knives brought on board.



Some of the knives prepared for the confrontation with the IDF (IDF Spokesman, June 3, 2010).

F. Hammers and other tools: Tools belonging to the ship were also taken. Anything that could be a weapon was used. Sponges were removed from paint rollers, which were used as improvised clubs.

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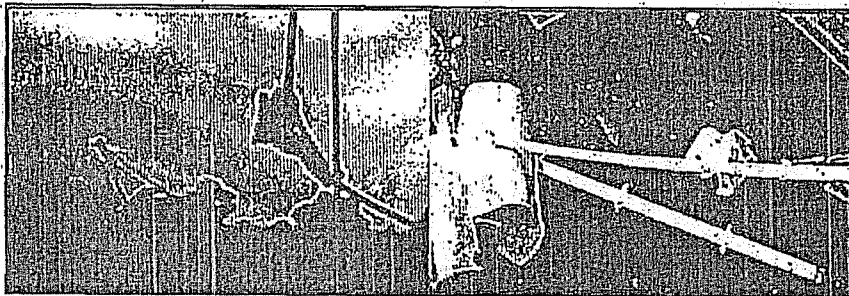
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12

G. **Screw nuts:** IHH operatives scattered hundreds of screw nuts on deck to impede IDF progress.

H. **Broken bottles:** According to the statements of passengers, bottles were broken to be used as weapons.

I. **Other improvised weapons**



Improvised weapons and their use (IDF Spokesman, June 3, 2010).

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Appendix

Statements regarding the violence employed against IDF forces on the Mavi Marmara

Computer Files

1. An article in Turkish was found by Adham Özkaze from the Turkish newspaper The World Bulletin (*Dünya Fayfah*) entitled "Mavi Marmara is ready to resist (*Mavi Marmara direnise hazır*)." It stated that the operatives aboard the ship were planning "civil resistance" for the IDF and that their spirits were good, they were singing resistance songs, reading from the Qur'an and praying. It also stated that the operatives had taken it upon themselves "to defend the ship." They were not willing to divulge their defense strategy but only said that "We will teach the Israelis a lesson they won't forget and the Israeli army will be humiliated before the eyes of the entire world."

Passengers' diaries

2. The following are excerpts from passengers' diaries:

A. **An anonymous journal:** "We will not allow [the Israeli forces] to board...I do not have weapons to confront them but we have surprises. The ship has been divided into teams and fronts. In the west there are two fronts. Provocation is forbidden and the resistance must be peaceful. We will resist within the ship. We have been making preparations since this evening...[Advance] notice and direction come from the Turks. The medical staff is prepared for first aid should anyone be wounded..."

B. **From an anonymous diary about Israel's possible responses to the flotilla:** The writer says that "the Turks have options which will surprise the Israelis."

C. **From a diary written in Arabic:** The writer reports a discussion held before the Israeli boarding. At the meeting people were divided into new squads, "including large-bodied men [i.e., thugs]." Those who participated in the discussion were briefed about how to behave if passengers were detained by the IDF: "There is no place among us for the Zionist entity...If we are detained they are to be treated as enemies, we will refuse to sign anything, to admit to anything in a court of law [or to recognize that] entity or a trial held by that entity..."

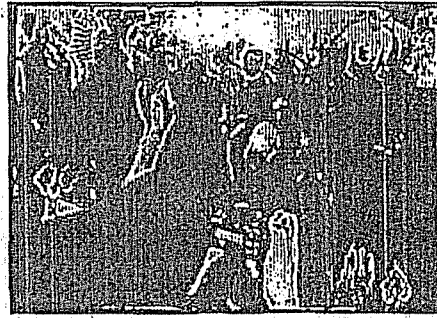
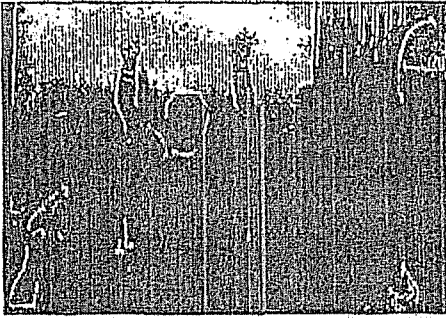
D. A personal diary in Turkish entitled "Gaza diary," handwritten and dated May 31, 2010 [the night of the boarding]: "At 1930 hours there was a meeting to give [final] orders to the security teams for urgent intervention. Orders were given about how to put on life belts, how to put on gas masks and most important, how to act if there was Israeli intervention or an attack. After the meeting the heads of the teams along with their operatives went to secure the sectors. We were responsible for the upper aft sector of the second deck on the starboard side. **We were supposed to deploy for defense. How? Only with sticks and bottles, apparently this is how glass bottles should be used.** And life belts, [but] there weren't enough for everyone.. And with the help of Allah we are planning to reach the waters of the Gaza Strip at around 0700 hours. We were ready, and at around 2300 hours we began to see unidentified lights around the ship.."

E. A diary entry from a passenger about preparations for a violent confrontation: "The Israeli gunboats are approaching..All passengers have been given rescue suits in case the ship is attacked. Everyone has gone to the locations determined beforehand. A press conference was held and broadcast live. **IHH leader Bülent Yıldırım** said that it will be a war of nerves until tomorrow morning. There are people here from more than 50 countries. If people are detained, it will sully the honor of more than 50 countries. We want the entry to the Israeli embassies in Istanbul and Ankara to be locked. **We will defend ourselves from here. We know there will be a price and we are willing to pay it. We will not retreat one step. Israel is behaving like a pirate in international waters. [Will] the world watch from the side?"**

A video found on board

3. A short video in Arabic showed passengers singing songs praising the intifada and anti-Semitic songs. Shouts of "Khaybar Khaybar ya Yahoud" [Note: A reference to Muhammad's slaughter of Jewish men residing in Khaybar in the Arabian Peninsula.²

² Khaybar was a settlement in the Arabian Peninsula conquered by Muhammad and his supporters in 628 AD. It was accompanied by the slaughter of hundred of Jews and those who surrenders were forced to pay a high tax to the Muslims. The battle of Khaybar became a symbol of Muslim conquest and especially of the defeat of the Jews at the hands of Muslims, and is used as a militant slogan against the Jews by Islamic elements, among them Hamas.



Passengers aboard the ship sing militant songs and shouting anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish slogans (Al-Jazeera TV, June 2010).

Statements from Passengers Aboard the Mavi Marmara

4. Adil Yuksal, one of the passengers, said he had received orders to throw IDF soldiers into the sea if they tried to board the ship. He said that IHH operatives were responsible for organizing the ship and events on board. The operatives and other passengers carried clubs and iron bars.

5. According to the videotaped statements of two Mavi Marmara crew members, preparations for a violent confrontation with the IDF began two hours before the soldiers took control of the ship, when it was hailed by the Israeli Navy and ordered to stop. 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

Statements to the Turkish media

6. Interviewed by the Turkish media at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul upon arrival in Turkey, IHH leader Bülent Yildirim said that the Israeli investigators [who questioned him] asked him if the IHH operatives had attacked the IDF soldiers with iron bars and axes. He said he answered that "What I did was in self defense," adding that "at first our comrades neutralized ten soldiers. Then we took their rifles. You are considered legally innocent if you take the weapon of a person attacking you." He also said that they threw the weapons [they took from the soldiers] into the sea (Zaman, June 4, 2010).

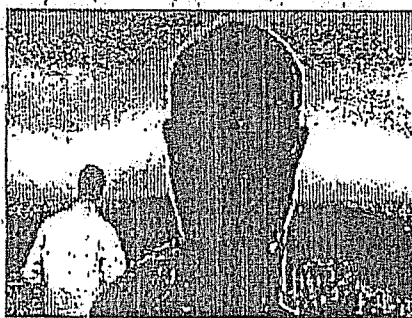
³ For further information and the videotaped statements of the crew members, see the June 9, 2010 bulletin, "Video Recordings of Statements from Mavi Marmara Crew Members about Preparations Made by IHH Operatives for the Violent Confrontation with IDF Soldiers" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam/multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/hamas_e112.pdf.



Bülent Yıldırım, IHH leader, describes the confrontation with IDF soldiers (Zaman website, June 4, 2010).

7. The wife of Ali Haydar Bengi, a 39-year old Turk killed aboard the ship, said in a interview that for years her husband had wanted to reach Palestine and had prayed consistently for Allah to grant him a martyr's death. A friend said that Ali Bengi wanted to die as a *shaheed*. Bengi studied at Al-Azhar University in Cairo and worked at a store in the eastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir fixing telephones (*Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda*, June 3, 2010).

8. Cevdet Kiliçlar was formerly a journalist. He was an IHH operative and edited the organization's website. On a videotape photographed on board the ship he said that "while our comrades were praying in the Fatih mosque [in Istanbul] in memory of our brothers killed in battle in Afghanistan, we boarded the ship [the Mavi Marmara], and therefore could not participate in the prayers. May their souls be in paradise. We also prayed on our way to our brothers in Gaza, and I pray that Allah will grant us the same auspicious ending he granted those shaheeds."⁵



Cevdet Kiliçlar (<http://kanan48.wordpress.com>, June 4, 2010).

⁵ The mosque is named for the conqueror of Istanbul, Mehmet the Second. It is identified with radical Islam. <http://www.infemethaber.com/cevdet-kiliclarin-son-duasi-vido-galerisi-2116.htm>.

H36

Law, Rosemary C

From: OSCINFO@rccb.osis.gov
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 10:02 AM
Subject: OSC: Israeli Intel Center Profiles 'Anti-Western,' Pro-HAMAS Turkish Felicity Party
Attachments: GMP20100625739010001.pdf

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Israeli Intel Center Profiles 'Anti-Western,' Pro-HAMAS Turkish Felicity Party

GMP20100625739010 Ramat Hasharon *Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center* in English 17 Jun 10

A 17 June *ITIC* paper offers a "profile of the Turkish Felicity Party: an anti-Western, anti-Israeli Islamic party whose activists took part in the latest flotilla together with the IHH. At least two of them died during the IDF takeover of the ship Mavi Marmara."

(See attached file GMP20100625739010001.pdf) Click here to view the 7-page English-language 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

June 17, 2010

**Profile of the Turkish Felicity Party:
an anti-Western, anti-Israeli Islamic
party whose activists took part in the
latest flotilla together with the IHH.
At least two of them died during the
IDF takeover of the ship Mavi
Marmara.**



Felicity Party secretary-general Numan Kurtulmus (second from the left) with IHH leader Bulent-Yildirim (left) (Felicity Party website, April 20, 2010). On April 20, the Felicity Party announced its support of the planned flotilla to the Gaza Strip.

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Overview

1. Among the Turkish Islamic activists who came on board the Mavi Marmara were members of the Turkish Felicity Party (Saadet Partisi), which announced its support of the flotilla on April 20.
2. The Felicity Party is an Islamic party with an anti-Western and anti-Israeli agenda, which supports Hamas. Two of the party activists were killed while taking part in fighting against the IDF alongside the hard-core operatives of IHH (an organization that played a central role in planning and organizing the violent confrontation with the IDF).
3. See Appendix for a profile of the Turkish Felicity Party.

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Appendix

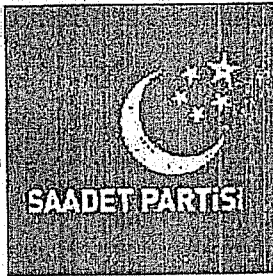
The Turkish Felicity Party—profile

Names:

Turkish: Saadet Partisi

Arabic: حزب السعادة

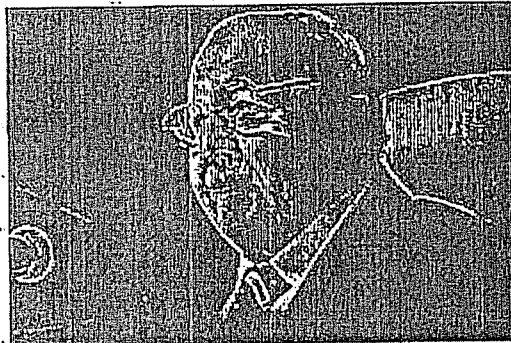
Symbol:



Website: <http://www.saadet.org.tr/english/biography-of-Kurtulmus/706>

Background

1. There are now several Islamic parties operating in Turkey, even though they avoid defining themselves as such out of fear of legal action. The major Islamic parties are the ruling party—the Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the Felicity Party (FP).



Professor Necmettin Erbakan, the founder of the Welfare Party, from which the Felicity Party originated (Wikipedia)

2. Both parties originated in the Welfare Party (Refah Partisi), the traditional Islamic party of Islamist ex-politician Necmettin Erbakan, the father of the National View movement (Millî Görüş). When the party was banned for the fourth time (June 2001) for having allegedly violated secular clauses of the constitution, the conservative and reformist factions inside the party split and established the SP and AKP parties, respectively.

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3. The conservative **Felicity Party**, headed by Kutan, who accompanied Erbakan from the very start, sought to focus most of its activities on **state-religion relations and use education, propaganda, and political involvement to strengthen political Islam** and shape Turkey's domestic and foreign policy in its spirit. All the while, the party adhered (albeit not publicly) to traditional Islamic values.

Leadership change

4. Since October 2008, the party has been headed by **Prof. Numan Kurtulmus**, born in 1959 and considered to be Erbakan's successor. He has a Ph.D. from the prestigious University of Cornell and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Istanbul. He emphasizes in his public statements the significance of "spiritual values in society", engaging with the so-called problematic nature of secularism in Turkey.



Felicity Party leader Kurtulmus (center)
with IHH president Bulent Yildirim (left) (IHH website)

FP's election failures and strengthening thereafter

5. In the general elections held on November 3, 2002, the party gained only 2.5 percent of votes and did not pass the election threshold (10 percent) for the parliament. In the local elections held on March 29, 2004, the party won only 4.1 percent of votes, which was still enough for it to be able to appoint several mayors on its behalf (none of them particularly important). In the 2007 elections, the party won less than 3 percent of votes. **Its lack of success in elections apparently resulted from the success of Erdogan's AKP, the ruling party, which competes with it for the same voters.**

6. Despite the Felicity Party's failures in elections, it is considered an important party due to its **strong organizational apparatus**, which operates outside of political power structures. It appears that the party grows steadily stronger, and if a recent poll held in February

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2010 is to be believed, it will win no less than 5.5 percent of votes in the next elections.

Ideology

7. The platform of the party is clearly based on the views of Erbakan, espousing close cooperation and unity among Muslim countries and struggle against Zionism. He detailed that ideology in 1969 in a manifest called "The National View" (Millî Görüş). The manifest goes into great detail about religious education and Islamic morals, but also discusses industrialization, development, and economic independence. In the sphere of foreign relations, Erbakan warned against further rapprochement with Europe, claiming that the European market is "Zionist and Catholic" and intends to bring about Turkey's de-Islamization and its assimilation into the West. Instead, he called for closer economic cooperation with Muslim countries and even established the G-8 organization (which includes the eight developed Muslim countries).

8. Even though the current leader of the Felicity Party admits that it's been many years since the publication of The National View and some of the views portrayed therein (mainly when it comes to economy) are in need of revision, the party still considers the manifest a defining document based on which it formulates its current views: the party condemns what it sees as the government's self-effacing attitude towards the European Union and its desire to join it at any cost; it calls to make Turkey a permanent member of the Security Council; condemns the military relations with Israel and the US; and claims that Turkey must adopt a confrontational foreign and military policy towards what it considers to be growing threats posed by the West to all Muslim countries. The call for such a policy is the main difference from Erbakan's views.

9. At a conference held days after the flotilla, the Felicity Party presented its economic, social, and national-religious vision for the third decade of the 21st century. Kurtulmus gives Turkey the role of the leader of the Third World. In his vision, the West will stop being attractive, and Turkey will be the one to defend "Muslim brothers" all over the world suffering from poverty, discrimination, occupation, and exploitation.

Attitude towards Israel and support of Hamas and Hezbollah

10. It appears that the party also supports an active "resistance" (*mukavemet - muqawama*) against Israel. For example, on September 18, 2006, Felicity Party senior official Recai Kutan said at a conference held in Konya about the second Lebanon war that

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Hezbollah and Hamas were heroes defending their homelands. He added that the UN was running a deceitful agenda, with its real intent being to disarm Hezbollah. At that time, the Felicity Party organized conferences to support Hamas and Hezbollah under the title "Israel be cursed" or "Israel be damned" (Kahrolsun Israil, a slogan heard since 2006 at anti-Israeli demonstrations in Turkey) (Almoltaka.ps).



Convention in Turkey of IHH members and the Viva Palestina movement of the British George Galloway. On the third seat from the right is Felicity Party leader Kurtulmus; the first from the right is IHH president Bulent Yildirim. Photographs of Arafat and Abu Mazen appear in the background (Hurryupharry.org; January 5, 2010)

11. Members of the Felicity Party sympathize with the IHH, with many IHH operatives being members and supporters of the Felicity Party. On April 20, 2010, Felicity Party leader Numan Kurtulmus called a press conference in which he expressed support of the IHH and the flotilla, calling it a "bold, historic move". He also condemned the arrest of IHH operative Izzet Shahin in the West Bank and threatened a diplomatic crisis if Israel did not release him. He also stated that Israel was the "only entity" that had no formal borders with any of its neighbors, since it was still expanding and gradually invading Palestinian territories. He further added that Israel sought to conduct an oppressive siege on the Gaza Strip without taking international condemnations into consideration. He warned Israel against any attempt to attack the flotilla ships; and called on the Turkish administration to confront Israel's "policy of expansion" at international conferences.

12. The Felicity Party supports Hamas and has contacts with it. In January 2010, Isma'il Haniyah, the Hamas de-facto administration chief in the Gaza Strip, met with Felicity Party representative Temel Karamollaoglu. During the meeting, Isma'il Haniyah thanked Felicity Party leader Prof. Numan Kurtulmus "for his support and the Turkish people's support of Palestine" (Felicity Party website, January 11, 2010).

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Modus operandi

13. As a classic Islamic party, the Felicity Party operates both as a political party and a social organization. Since its establishment, the party has deployed an extensive network of Islamic charitable societies and organizational-political branches. The party has branches almost in every province, city, or village, and it demonstrates considerable presence. The party's well-developed social apparatus allows it to recruit many supporters, particularly from the popular sectors of society. It is therefore able to organize demonstrations and protest rallies attended by thousands of supporters. Its branches in southeastern Turkey, far away from the eyes of the central government, are thriving.

14. Notable examples of the party's activity and anti-Western or anti-Israeli statements made by its leaders:

a. 2004: Demonstration against the US attack on Fallujah

b. 2005: Demonstration against offending Islam due to the Prophet Muhammad cartoons affair.

c. 2006: Mass demonstration in Istanbul in protest of the Pope's expected visit to Turkey. The party claimed that the Pope had not sufficiently apologized to Muslims for offending the Prophet and Islam.

d. 2007: Statement expressing "disgust" with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert's visit to Turkey, held on the backdrop of tension on Temple Mount, noting that he was a persona non grata. The party claimed that Israel was an aggressive country engaged in "state-sponsored terrorism" and destabilizing the region. It expressed concern that the purpose of the visit was to resume military cooperation and resurrect the idea of selling water to Israel.

e. 2008-2009: Demonstrations against Operation Cast Lead.

f. 2010: Exposure of a report written by the American consulate in Istanbul, allegedly confirming that religious minorities receive defense courses inside the consulate. The exposure stirred a controversy and party leader Kurtulmus claimed that the US was obviously meddling in Turkey's internal affairs.

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Law, Rosemary C

From: newsletter@israelbehindthenews.com
 Sent: Wednesday, August 04, 2010 11:02 PM
 To: Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)
 Subject: Israel Resource Review: Issue of August 04, 2010

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Israel Resource Review Issue of August 04, 2010

INTERVIEWING THE ISRAELI NAVAL COMMANDOS WHO STORMED THE FLOTILLA - THE MAVI MARMARA

By: Rhonda Spivak, attorney, writer, and member of Canadian & Israel Bar Associations, now edits Winnipeg Jewish Review at <http://www.winnipegjewishreview.com/>

Netanya, Israel. I never expected to meet several of the Israeli naval commandos who stormed the Gaza flotilla, the "Mavi Marmara", an event that has consumed the world's attention since the day it occurred on May 31, 2010. It just so happened that my neighbor here, Orti Avior, the only Israeli to have served in the U.S. army in Afghanistan, happened to invite me to the inauguration ceremony of a new neighborhood synagogue in Ramat Poleg, a nearby suburb of Netanya. The...



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UN Experts Fault Iran on Discrimination; Iran Cites Durban II Participation



Read Complete Article

Today's Example of Ridiculous Media Bias Against Israel

By: Barry Rubin

August 4, 2010. Along some bushes were pushing in on the border fence. The fence is set in slightly from the border precisely so that Israeli soldiers can work on it. The IDF called UNIFIL and informed the UN that this work was going to be done today so that they could tell the Lebanese army that there was no aggression going on but just routine maintenance. Soldiers from UNIFIL came to observe and can be seen standing next to Israeli soldiers in the photos. Photographers were also...



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UN admits Israel was attacked without provocation

By: Tom Gross, journalist

This dispatch can also be read online at: There has been a significant increase in attacks on Israel in recent days. Yesterday, a senior Israeli officer was killed and another seriously wounded by a sniper unit of the Lebanese army after an IDF engineering team was trimming trees along Israel's side of the border. The evidence suggests that the attack on Israel was pre-planned and pre-meditated on the basis of information provided by Israel to UNIFIL and then passed on to the Lebanese...



Read Complete Article

Reports which distort Israeli reality...About Israel's "Peace Partners"

By: David Bedein

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

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1 Fatah's Intentions. The standard reports in the media portray Machmud Abbas and the Fatah as peace partners for Israel in the current middle east negotiations. Rarely do we find any news reports which quote a senior Israeli government minister, Benjamin Begin, who tries to remind the public that the Fatah reiterated its commitment to the armed struggle against Israel at the seminal Fatah conference that took place last August in Bethlehem and that the Fatah never changed its covenant.



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Israel Resource Review Issue of July 02, 2010

EAST JERUSALEM ARABS TELL ME THEY PREFER ISRAEL OVER THE PA

By: Rhonda Spivak, attorney, writer, and member of Canadian & Israel Bar Associations, now edits Winnipeg Jewish Review at <http://www.winnipegjewishreview.com/>

June 29, 2010 JERUSALEM, ISRAEL-- Although few would say so publicly, every one of the handful of East Jerusalem Arabs I spoke with in the last two weeks said that he would rather live under Israeli sovereignty than under Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority. In the Arab market in the Old City of Jerusalem, I met Asem, who sells soccer jerseys and sports wear. In his shop, there is a soccer jersey with the name PALESTINE in big letters on a blue background. Asem tells me...



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A Professional Perspective on Terrorism

By: Baruch Margolioth-Trapler M.D.

In my book "Modern Political Terrorism", I attempt to explain that there are usually three parties involved in domestic or political abuse. (Published by Richard Altschuler & Associates 2007). A model posing the triad of predator, victim, and caretaker, applies both at the individual or community level. Since Israel was established as a sovereign State in 1948, despite continuous boycotts and sanctions from the U.N., Europe and many of the African and Muslim States, it was...



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What the Lubavitcher Rebbe Thought of the Holocaust

By: <http://www.chabadmineola.com/>

The Lubavitcher Rebbe is widely recognized as one who played a singular role in defining post-Holocaust Jewry. But what did the Rebbe say and teach about that event itself? Like millions of his generation, the Lubavitcher Rebbe was personally touched by the Holocaust. His younger brother, DovBer, was shot to death and thrown into a mass grave. A beloved grandmother and other family members were also killed. The Rebbe's wife lost her younger sister Sheina, who perished in Treblinka...



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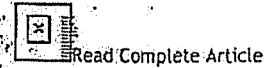
THE MAVI MARMARA INCIDENT, RAFAH, AND EGYPT'S STEEL WALL

By: Tally Helfont

July 1, 2010 Tally Helfont is an FPRI research fellow. Her research focuses on Middle East-related issues and radical Islamic movements. She also instructs training courses on behalf of K3 Enterprises in Civil Information Management to U.S. Military Civil Affairs Units and Human Terrain Teams assigned to Iraq and Afghanistan. THE MAVI MARMARA INCIDENT, RAFAH, AND EGYPT'S STEEL WALL by Tally Helfont. The Gaza Strip has represented a potentially strategic threat on...

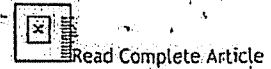
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Washington Institute for Near East Policy : Gap Between U.S., Saudis Widens Over Iran

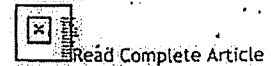
517 WASHINGTON [MENA] -- The gap between Saudi Arabia and the United States has been widening over policy toward a nuclear Iran, a report said. 517 The Washington Institute for Near East Policy asserted that the Saudis appear far more alarmed over an Iran with nuclear weapons than the United States. The report, by Simon Henderson, a leading analyst on the Gulf, said Riyadh was signaling its readiness to even form an alliance with Israel against Teheran. "On Iran, there is



CIA Chief Says Al-Qaida is Weaker. True. But So Is U.S., While Revolutionary Islamist Groups Are Stronger!

By: Barry Rubin

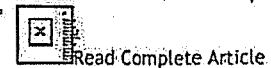
July 1, 2010 CIA chief Leon Panetta al-Qaida is at its weakest point since before the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. He's probably right, though the amount of decline in the last three years or so has probably not been large. Most of the damage to al-Qaida was done during the preceding administration and that's a statement of fact, not of political viewpoint. After all, depriving al-Qaida of its base in Afghanistan and Taliban ally-the most important actions...



King Abdallah Compliments President Obama, Sort Of?

By: Barry Rubin

July 2, 2010 According to the press pool reporter for the meeting between King Abdallah of Saudi Arabia and President Barack H. Obama of the United States, who wrote it just after stepping out of the meeting room, the king: "Began his remarks saying he wanted to tell Obama what was spoken of him around the world: That you are an honorable and good man." Is it just me or is there a gigantic unspoken, "But..." at the end of that sentence? It is true that Obama...



HOLD THE PRESS ACCOUNTABLE

By: Nadav Haetzhi, Jerusalem Attorney

The march to capitulate at any price to Hamas is making its way to Jerusalem, and on the way it has changed the face of the Israeli media. A majority of the media outlets abandoned their commonly-accepted role in the course of their past week and enlisted with all their might on behalf of the campaign being staged by the Shalit family, which is demanding that the government and people surrender unconditionally. By so doing, the Israeli media overwhelmingly turned itself into the fourth branch...



ISRAELI ARAB SOUL SEARCHING: BEARDED AND DANGEROUS

By: Dr. Mohammed Wattad

Dr. Mohammed Wattad is a Lecturer in Law at Zefat Law School in Israel. He is 29 years of age. Dr. Wattad is known as an Israeli Arab citizen who acts as a legal advocates for human dignity and free speech. Dr. Wattad is a graduate of Haifa University School of Law (LL.B, 2003), and holds a Masters in Law from the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (LL.M, 2004). He served as a Legal Clerk at the Supreme Court of Israel, under the supervision of Justice Dalia Dorner...



Tom Friedman's Blood Libel of IDF Tactics against Palestinian Terrorists

By: Leo Rennert

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Columnist, in the June 27 edition of the New York Times, updates a medieval blood libel against Jews by comparing the tactics of Israel's defense forces in counter-terrorism operations to Syrian dictator Hafez Assad's massacre of tens of thousands of civilians in putting down a fundamentalist uprising in the town of Hama in 1982. The father of today's Syrian leader indiscriminately and deliberately used the full brutal force of his army -- tanks, warplanes, mass executions -- to obliterate...



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How quiet has it really been? A 6 month terror summary

By: David Wilder, Spokesman, Hebron Jewish Community

Arab 'policeman' in Hebron One of the questions I frequently hear, is: What's the security situation? As Obama continues to pressure Israel into further concessions, in order to prepare 'direct talks' with our enemy, a.k.a. continued Israeli abandonment of Eretz Yisrael, a decrease in security and more dead Jews, it is important to know exactly: How quiet has it really been? This is a summary of terror activity in Israel for the first six months of 2010, as prepared by You judge for...



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A Perspective on UNRWA: Ending the West's Proxy War Against Israel ;Stop funding a Palestinian youth bulge, and the fighting will stop too.

By: GUNNAR HEINSOHN

As the world decries Israel's attempt to defend itself from the rocket attacks coming from Gaza, consider this: When Hamas routed Fatah in Gaza in 2007, it cost nearly 350 lives and 1,000 wounded. Fatah's surrender brought only a temporary stop to the type of violence and bloodshed that are commonly seen in lands where least 30% of the male population is in the 15-to-29 age bracket. In such "youth bulge" countries, young men tend to eliminate each other or get killed in aggressive...



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Gates: U.S. Sees Massive Iranian Attack On Europe

Published: TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010 JERUSALEM - The U.S. intelligence community has determined that Iran could launch a major missile strike on Europe. Iran is building an arsenal designed to conduct long-range missile strikes on Western Europe. They said the arsenal contained both liquid- and solid-fuel intermediate-range ballistic missiles. "It would more likely be a salvo kind of attack, where you would be dealing potentially with scores or even hundreds of missiles,"...



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Persecution Of Christianity In Egypt: Egypt Confronts Coptic Church

Published: TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 2010 JERUSALEM - The Middle East Newsline has revealed that the regime of President Hosni Mubarak has decided to confront the Coptic Church, the largest in Egypt. An Egyptian court, in a move supported by the Mubarak regime, has sought to force the church to enable congregants to divorce in violation of the Coptic faith. The court said the Coptic Church must ensure that congregants can divorce and remarry at will. "The recent ruling is not...



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Israel Resource Review Issue of June 24, 2010

CANADA AND UNWRA: THE FALLOUT - WHAT HAS THE PALESTINIAN AND JORDANIAN MEDIA BEEN SAYING SINCE MY ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE JERUSALEM POST?

By: Rhonda Spivak, attorney, writer, and member of Canadian & Israel Bar Associations, now edits Winnipeg Jewish Review
at <http://www.winnipegjewishreview.com/>

On January 13, 2010, I wrote an article published in the Jerusalem Post in which Vic Toews, then president of Canada's Treasury Board, (now Canada's Minister of Public Security) announced that Canada was not going to give untagged core funding to the general operating account of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) in 2009 for such items as education, but was going to fund food aid only. Toews clarified that Canada did not reduce its overall amount of aid to UNWRA but allocated...



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HELD TO A DIFFERENT STANDARD

By: Ben-Dror Yemini Senior Writer, Maariv Daily Newspaper Translated from Maariv, June 18 2010



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Plenty of blame to go around in Gaza

By: Prof. Joel Brinkley

When Israel boarded another ship bound for Gaza last weekend and escorted it to an Israeli port without incident, it demonstrated to me that both sides, Israel and the activists, hold blame for the aid-ship melee the week before. But you can't tell that from the continuing accusations and debate - exposing rank hypocrisy of a scale seldom seen in modern world affairs. Consider a co-incident on May 31, the day activists assaulted Israeli troops as they boarded the Mavi Marmara, prompting the...



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Israeli Intel Center Notes Turkish Gov't's 'Extensive Involvement' in Flotilla

GMP20100927739004 Ramat Hasharon: *Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center* in English 26 Sep 10

The "Executive Summary" of the *ITIC* report states:

"1. The objective of this report is to examine the 561 passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara, their identity and the ideology, nature and goals of the organizations behind them, based on the large amount of evidence accumulated since the flotilla. Even if our information is not complete, it clearly provides a picture of their most prominent common characteristics.

"2. The Mavi Marmara, the flagship of the last flotilla, was launched, along with two cargo ships, by an extremist Turkish Islamist organization called IHH, which played a key role in the extensive preparations for the voyage. The IHH operatives, some of whom boarded the ship in Istanbul without undergoing a security check, were those who were the most active assailants in the violent, premeditated confrontation with the IDF (while the IDF took control of five other ships -- as well as the Rachel Corrie -- without exceptional incident).

"3. An examination of the Mavi Marmara passengers and organizations sheds light on the coalition the flotilla's activists and organizations belonged to. They came from many countries and differed in nature and ideology, from extreme Islamic to the extreme left. Most, but not all, were united by a common hostility to Israel (and sometimes to the Jewish people), support for Hamas and its ideology, and hostility to their perception of the liberal West, as it is today.

"4. The analysis contained in this report is based on the Mavi Marmara's passenger list seized aboard the ship, categorized according to national affiliation and port of embarkation (See Appendix I). The analysis of the passengers' identity and the dozens of participating organizations is based on a great amount of varied information: statements made by Mavi Marmara passengers during questioning, documents found on the Mavi Marmara and other ships in the flotilla, open source media information (including the Turkish media), open source information from the participating organizations and information from Israeli security sources."

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(See attached file GMP20100927739004001.pdf) Click here to view the 10-page paper in pdf format.

Program Title(s)
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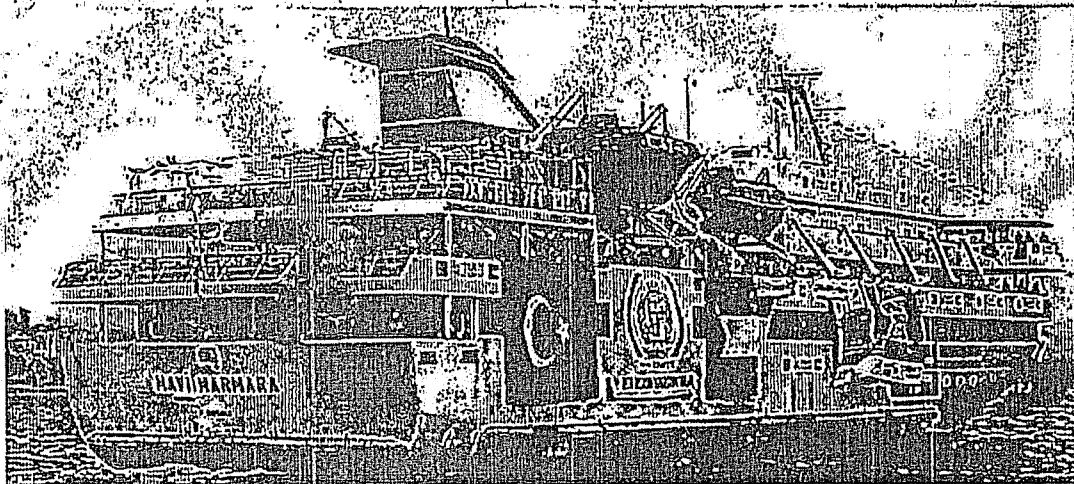
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The Meir Amit Intelligence
and Terrorism Information Center

September 26, 2010

Conspicuous among the passengers and organizations aboard the Mavi Marmara were Turkish and Arab Islamic extremists led by IHH. They were joined by extremist European left activists and volunteers who answered the call to help the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and were not partners in IHH's violent plans.¹



The Turkish passenger ship Mavi Marmara, the flagship of the flotilla. It is decorated with the Turkish flag and the logo of the Turkish Islamist organization IHH, the moving spirit behind the flotilla (next to the Turkish flag) (Photo from mycatbirdseat.com, May 22, 2010).

¹ This is an executive summary of a detailed report analyzing the human, ideological and organizational components of the passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara. The document itself shortly will be issued separately.

157-10 57

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Executive Summary

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2. The Mavi Marmara, the flagship of the last flotilla, was launched, along with two cargo ships, by an extremist Turkish Islamist organization called IHH, which played a key role in the extensive preparations for the voyage. The IHH operatives, some of whom boarded the ship in Istanbul without undergoing a security check, were those who were the most active assailants in the violent, premeditated confrontation with the IDF (while the IDF took control of five other ships – as well as the *Rachel Corrie* – without exceptional incident).

3. An examination of the Mavi Marmara passengers and organizations sheds light on the coalition the flotilla's activists and organizations belonged to. They came from many countries and differed in nature and ideology, from extreme Islamic to the extreme left. Most, but not all, were united by a common hostility to Israel (and sometimes to the Jewish people), support for Hamas and its ideology, and hostility to their perception of the liberal West, as it is today.

4. The analysis contained in this report is based on the Mavi Marmara's passenger list seized aboard the ship, categorized according to national affiliation and port of embarkation (See Appendix I). The analysis of the passengers' identity and the dozens of participating organizations is based on a great amount of varied information: statements made by Mavi Marmara passengers during questioning; documents found on the Mavi Marmara and other ships in the flotilla, open source media information (including the Turkish media); open source information from the participating organizations and information from Israeli security sources.

5. Of the 561 Mavi Marmara passengers, 380 were from non-Arab Islamic countries (mostly Turkey), 107 from Arab-Islamic countries and 74 from the West. Examination provided the following insights:

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A. The flotilla was basically a Turkish project. More than 60% of the passengers, 353, were Turkish. There were Turkish passengers, including IHH activists, aboard two other ships, the *Gazze* and the *Defney*, as well.

B. The largest Arab delegations were from Algeria (32 participants) and Jordan (31 participants).

C. Only 13% of the passengers were from Western countries. The largest delegation was British (28 participants). Conspicuous among the Western passengers were activists of Arab-Muslim origin. Some had previously participated in the land and sea convoys to the Gaza Strip and some were involved in anti-Israel activity in their home countries.

6. Ideologically, many Mavi Marmara passengers belonged to extremist Islamist organizations, especially the Turkish IHH and other Islamist organizations operating in Turkey. There were also Arab and Western activists affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. There were Western radical left activists, who were in the minority. There were also volunteers, motivated by an authentic desire to help the Gazans. This melting-pot coalition was led by IHH and united by their common hostility to Israel (and sometimes to the Jewish people), support for Hamas (not for the Palestinian Authority), and hostility to the West and its values.

7. The flotilla had the following goals:

A. It was the showpiece of a broad international coalition whose main political objectives were to isolate Israel, wage a smear campaign against it, increase international pressure and finally to turn it into a pariah state and delegitimize its existence.

B. An examination of the documents and statements issued by IHH and the Free Gaza Movement (FGM), the two most prominent organizations participating in the flotilla, shows unequivocally that the objective of the flotilla was not to bring humanitarian assistance to the residents of the Gaza Strip, but rather entirely political.² An internal FGM document, the IHH website and a statement made by Bülent Yildirim two months before the flotilla to an audience of Islamist supporters give witness to a series of political-propaganda goals: to show support for Hamas; to force Israel to change unilaterally its policy of closure of the Gaza Strip (while completely

² Hamas also admitted that the objectives of the flotilla were not only humanitarian. Ismail Hanilya, when asked about the fact that after the flotilla incident Israel had eased the closure of the Gaza Strip, said that "The basic problem is not the aid itself, despite its great importance and the Palestinians' need for it, but the subject is the siege, which we demand be fully lifted. We refuse to separate the two and turn the problem into only a humanitarian one" (Interview with the Al-Islam Al-Youm website, June 26, 2010) (ITIC emphasis).

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ignoring the security considerations which led to it), to create a media circus regarding the so-called "siege" and to isolate Israel.

C. The FGM and IHH had their own particular motives. There are indications that IHH also intended to further complicate the troubled relations between Israel and Turkey, which have been problematical in any case since Prime Minister Erdogan rose to power, by violently opposing the IDF while emphasizing the Turkish aspect of the flotilla. The FGM also had its own motive for wanting the flotilla to succeed (according to an internal document), to improve its ability to raise funds for its activities in view of its financial difficulties.

8. The organized violence aboard the Mavi Marmara:

A. From the beginning, IHH prepared to employ extreme violence against the IDF and implement a plan which included preparing battle positions, equipping the operatives with and offensive and defensive weapons, and briefing them before the battle. To that end weapons and equipment were loaded aboard the Mavi Marmara and improvised weapons were made during the voyage. The latter included lengths of iron pipe, wooden clubs, axes, knives, Molotov cocktails and slingshots. Information in our possession indicates that there were one or two guns aboard the Mavi Marmara and that at least one was fired at the IDF soldiers as soon as they descended from the helicopter. In addition, IHH operatives took three guns from IDF soldiers and turned them against the forces. Eight IDF soldiers were wounded; two of them were shot (one with ammunition not in IDF use - i.e., which belonged to IHH - and the other with a weapon taken from a soldier).

B. An examination of the names of the Turks killed indicates that almost all of them (eight of the nine) belonged to IHH or were from political parties or other organizations affiliated with it. Most of them (seven of the nine) had announced in one way or another before the violent confrontation that they intended to die as shaheeds. It is difficult to assess the degree of enthusiasm and authentic commitment of each of those who sought to fulfill his aspiration to become a shaheed, but their stated intention provides a clear indication of the nature of the hard core of the operatives who confronted the IDF forces aboard the Mavi Marmara.

C. An examination of the names of the 53 wounded in the confrontation whose names appear on the list issued by IHH, show that all except one were Turks. Most belonged to IHH or Turkish Islamic organizations collaborating with it. None of them belonged to pro-Palestinian or Western or Arab

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Muslim human rights organizations with the exception of one man (who was not seriously wounded) from Indonesia.

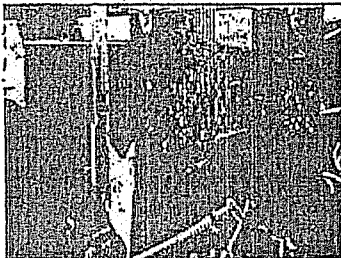
9. Employing extreme violence while paying lip-service to non-violence:

A. The flotilla's organizers often made a point of representing themselves as pro-peace and human rights activists (the flotilla was called the "Freedom Flotilla") whose activities were non-violent. In reality, there is a great deal of information illustrating the fact that IHH planned and prepared for a violent confrontation with the IDF soldiers. IHH has a history of violent behavior, which was made evident during its confrontation during the previous overland convoy, in which the organization's leader Bülent Yildirim participated, with the Egyptian security forces in January 2010.

B. Apparently most of the human rights activists aboard the Mavi Marmara, including those who had joined the IHH coalition, were not aware of the high level of violence IHH intended to employ during the voyage.³ However, we have proof from an internal FGM document attesting to the fact that the organization considered that "the only way for Israel to stop [the flotilla] is to use force."⁴ The organization proposed various scenarios for possible tactical responses, such as surrounding the ship with iron bars, strewing the decks with sharp obstacles and having activists barricade themselves in the wheel house and engine room. The level of FGM violence was far below that of the organized violence prepared and implemented by IHH (which included the use of guns). However, it was contrary to the instructions the FGM gave its activists, which unequivocally forbid the use of any form of violence, physical or verbal. The expression *non-violent resistance*, as used by human rights organizations, is apparently open to wide interpretation.

³ From public statements made, there were some activists who did have an idea of what would happen. Kenneth O'Keefe, a former Marine who sailed aboard the Mavi Marmara and participated in the confrontation, told an Israeli correspondent that from the beginning it was clear that the Turkish operatives intended to fight the IDF and that there was no question of passive resistance: "I knew before we set out that the Turks are not like the other Westerners, that there would be no passive resistance in this case. The Turks are a tough people. They are people you don't mess with too much. In the United States or Britain people are asleep, there is no danger of rebellion. The Turks are different. I knew that if the Israelis boarded that ship, it would be a disaster. Not only from the aspect of the people who would be killed; but that it would also be a disaster for the Israelis." When asked if he saw them sawing beams, he said, "I knew we would defend the ship. That was stated publicly a great many times. You have to be an idiot to board that ship and think it will be a ship of passive resistance." (ITIC emphasis) Noam Sheizaf, *Haaretz* weekend magazine, September 24, 2010, <http://www.haaretz.com/weekend/magazine/rough-passage-1>.

⁴ For further information and the full text of the document, see the June 27, 2010 bulletin, "Inside documents of the Free Gaza movement seized in the recent flotilla expose considerable discrepancies between its strategy and tactics and its public stance. The documents prove, among other things, the attempts to conceal the aid to the Hamas administration since Hamas is designated as a terrorist organization in the US" at http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/lpc_e0101.htm.



The placard reads, "To Gaza never mind the price" (Picture seized by IDF soldiers aboard one of the ships). Bülent Yildirim, speaking to supporters two months before the flotilla set sail, said that in every scenario, including an Israeli attempt to take over the ship, the IHH was determined to protect the flotilla and to continue to the Gaza Strip to "break the siege."

10. In effect, during its preparations for the flotilla, IHH's approach was pragmatic while the organization indulged in doublespeak.

A. When speaking to its supporters in Turkey, the IHH leader did not conceal its extremist Islamist ideology and presented the flotilla as part the struggle waged by Islam against the so-called combined "attack" carried out by the countries and powers around the world (the United States, NATO, Russia and China). In the same breath IHH praised Hamas and used belligerent, extremist Islamist terminology.

B. However, on its website and in several statements to the press and interviews given by its senior members (primarily in English), IHH stressed it was providing "humanitarian assistance," using the terminology publicly employed by NGOs and pro-Palestinian Western organizations.

11. Involvement in global terrorism of the organizations and activists participating in the flotilla:

A: The Turkish IHH, which organized the flotilla in close cooperation with the Turkish government and played a major role in attacking the IDF aboard the ship, supported the global jihad in the past. Reliable information indicates that alongside its extensive humanitarian activity, in the past IHH had ongoing relations with Al-Qaeda and global jihad networks in the Middle East and beyond, and for that reason was in the crosshairs of previous Turkish regimes. Its ties to terrorism were manifested chiefly through the provision of logistic support for transferring weapons and funds to terrorist operatives, including terrorists planning a terrorist attack in the United States, which was prevented (the "millennium attack" in Los Angeles, January 2000).