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both politically and at the level of the public opinion, and this requires reining in all forms of one-upmanship.

Egypt is currently in the forefront, and it is extremely necessary for it to take measures towards Gaza that are adequately responsible. Egypt is the key to Gaza, in addition to benefit of Egypt's bid, on par with Turkey, to pressure the Palestinians in Gaza in earnest to give both impetus and opportunity to Barack Obama to put pressure on the Israelis.

Meanwhile, the Turkish leadership led by Erdogan is playing the Islamic card and rallying behind it the Arab Sunni public opinion in order to tell Iran and the Arabs: there can be no solutions in the region without Turkey, and I am the leader.

In this round, Turkey perhaps has managed to dwarf the Iranian role and its proxies within 24 hours, when it seized the Islamic and Arab public opinion and told Israel: do not test Turkey's patience.

But patience is basically an Iranian language, and the battles of patience are raging within Turkey between the Islamists and the military and within Iran between the government and the opposition. As for the Arabs, their 'Jacobean' patience is of another kind. For this reason, the battle for the leadership of the Palestinian cause remains between Turkey and Iran, until the day comes when the Arabs will awaken from their deep slumber.

Turkish-Iranian Competition
Thu, 03 June 2010 Hassan Haidar

Summary: Turkey and Iran are acting as if the withdrawal of the US from Iraq means the end of the US role in the region, and consider the chance prevailing to fill the space and arrange the inheritance order. But the only obstacle facing both is Israel, i.e. if we excluded some Arab objection. This is why everyone of them is trying to make Israel bow but using a different method from the other. The Turkish policy which is based on calm diplomacy and political and religious moderateness and playing with the Western feels for human rights, began to yield. Iran and Turkey are competing for influence in the Middle East by using many ways like forming excellent relations with Syria and entering into the Egyptian social structure and consolidating their presence in Iraq and other Arab Middle East countries.

Full Article: Turkey, just like Iran, is acting as though the American withdrawal from Iraq will mean the end of the United States' role in the region. Therefore, both of them believe that the time is right to fill the vacuum and set up the inheritance, while the only main obstacle facing them is Israel, if we were to disregard the slight Arab opposition with which they may be confronted. Consequently, they are trying to "subjugate" the Hebrew state, but each in its own way.

In reality, the "attack" the Turkish way has entailed better results so far. This is due to the fact that despite the fiery aspect prevailing over the rhetoric of the Turkish leaders nowadays - Turkey is relying on diplomacy, international relations, the economic role, political and religious moderation,

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the containment of emotions, the ticking of Europe's slogans on human rights and the humoring of the Americans' wish to "take a break" through a truce in the region. Hence, the Turks are closing up on Israel from all sides, are blockading it peacefully, and embarrassing it internationally. By doing so, they are hoping it will recognize the Turkish "command" which is offering guarantees to see its acceptance in the region through promises to turn the Middle East into a "heaven" based on mutual recognition and wide economic exchange - provided that it responds to their demands and commits to the limits of the role they are drawing for it, which would call for the retreat of the basic principle on which it was founded, i.e. that of military power.

As for the Iranians, they are relying on a different approach based on gradual "ironing" through the sponsorship of violence fronts around Israel, whether in Lebanon, Palestine, or maybe even in other locations prone to follow in their footsteps. Through these fronts, it is waging limited confrontations. But each time, it is taking these confrontations to the next level in terms of armament and threats to "convince" Israel of the seriousness of its ongoing rejection of the leading Iranian role in the region. So far, the Iranian style has suited the mentality and doctrine of the Israelis who are responding by raising the level of violence and threats and using this as a pretext to earn the support of the world, which is already disconcerted by the Iranian rebellion against its standards.

Turkey and Iran are competing over influence in the countries surrounding Israel. Indeed, they are both weaving exceptional relations with Syria while in Lebanon, the first is offering political sponsorship to the Sunnis and the second perceives the Shiites in it as being part of its security. In that same context, they are both attempting to infiltrate the social and political fabric in Egypt through the opposition in general and the Muslim Brotherhood in particular, while at the same time trying to enhance their influence in Iraq, even if in a different way. Nonetheless, the most heated arena of the competition for the time being is Gaza, with Iran providing rockets, funding and training to the "Jihadist" movements and instigating the continuation of the military confrontations and with Ankara sending aid and political support and seeking to lift the blockade to move Hamas to the political square.

However, between the Turkish and Iranian momentums in the region, most of the Arabs seem to be in a state of defeat and settling for the role of bystanders, while some are cheering in favor of this or that camp without truly being able to affect the situation. In this context, the "battle" waged by Tehran to consecrate the name of "Persian Gulf" and Erdogan's statement during his last speech regarding the fact that Turkey "is not like the other states in the region and is not a tribal state" probably summarize the way the Arabs and their role are perceived by the two latter countries.

In the end, although its new national security strategy is calling for "the drafting of a new world order that would reflect reality in the 21st century" and for the "opening of channels and working with new rising powers" - which was understood as being an American relinquishing of foreign interference - the United States has not yet reached the level of giving up on Israel or leaving it alone in the face of the ambitions of Ankara and Tehran.

Bin Laden, Nasrallah, Ahmadinejad and Now Erdogan!
07/06/2010 By Abdul Rahman Al-Rashid

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It goes without saying that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan aimed to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza, however – and perhaps without meaning to – he managed to break Iran's blockade of the Arabs.

Before jumping to conclusions, let us try and read the situation today. Following the traditional proclamation "The King is dead. Long live the King!" posters of Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad were covered over and replaced with posters of Erdogan. Since every party has a star, the Turkish leader has become the Arab's favorite star for this political season. Posters are the most revealing means of gauging the public mood in the region, and so in the past posters of Bin Laden could be found everywhere when Al Qaeda was mounting deadly attacks on the West in the name of Palestine and Islam. However following crushing defeats suffered by Al Qaeda, posters of Bin Laden were replaced by posters of Hassan Nasrallah. Nasrallah enjoyed immense popularity in the wake of Hezbollah's war on Israel, and posters of him could be found everywhere, from on the walls of coffeehouses to plastering the windows of buses.

However Erdogan has taken over from Bin Laden and Nasrallah today, while the Turks have replaced the Iranians, and this is by creating an uproar over the Freedom Flotilla [which was raided by Israel] and by making fiery speeches. This has allowed the Arabs to vent their suppressed feelings of bitterness and resentment, especially as the region had been experiencing a period of dull calm after Hezbollah's guns fell silent, and after Hamas gave up on its principles when it announced last week that it consents to finding a solution through peaceful negotiations, and that it would be willing to accept a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders.

For his part, Erdogan has been escalating the conflict with Israel since the infamous incident at the World Economics Forum in Davos when he clashed with Shimon Peres and walked out of the Forum. The latest example of this conflict can be seen in the Israeli assault on the Gaza-bound [Turkish] aid ship.

However the hot-blooded Turkish rhetoric is different to the Iranian shouting. Turkey did not sever its ties with Israel, and it did not halt its security, military, and political cooperation with Tel Aviv. Israel is also continuing to use Turkish territory and air space for its war games in preparation for a possible war with Iran. The Arabs, however, are not concerned by this, for they are well-accustomed to duplicity.

Erdogan, who wanted to break Israel's blockade of Gaza, broke the Iranian blockade on the Arabs instead, and this is an important event if it truly comes as part of a political project, for this has caused Ahmadinejad's image to fade, and Nasrallah's presence to wane. More than this, the Arab regimes have welcomed the Turkish competition [with Iran]. Are there those who are encouraging Ankara's emergence with the aim of diminishing Iran's presence?

The Arab's problem with Iran playing a leading role is their fear of Tehran, for they believe that Iran is hiding a political agenda that is hostile to their interests. By supporting the Palestinian cause, Tehran is strengthening its staunch ally Hezbollah, and this is with the aim of imposing Iranian hegemony on the entire Arab region. As for Turkey, the most that Ankara could benefit from by raising the Palestinian flag would be by advancing its political status, particularly in the face of deliberate European reluctance [to deal with Turkey]. This does not contract or marginalize Arab interests, unlike the Iranian goal which directly undermines the Arab position.

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Some argue that Turkey's appearance on the Arab political scene, despite the fact that this embarrasses Arab regimes, also serves them by keeping Iran's political and propaganda onslaught at bay. It might have occurred to some Arabs, who are being politically besieged by Iran, to attempt to bring in Turkey to counterbalance Tehran. This is in line with the specifications of the new conflict in the region, the most prominent of which is sectarian.

However an opposite point of view sees Turkey as an alarming and additional power in the region that is not a substitute for Iran. They believe that Syria, Tehran's strategic ally, invited Turkey to have a role in the Middle East when it suggested Ankara as mediator for its negotiations with Israel. Without Damascus, Turkey would never have gained a foothold in the Arab world today. So the question is, is Turkey a part of the Iranian axis, or is it part of a plan to exclude the Iranians?

Why Activate the Arab Peace Initiative Today? Mon, 07 June 2010 Abdullah Iskandar

Every time Israel perpetrates a new aggression or commits a violation, the Arabs call on each other to engage in meetings. They put forth the same analyses and the same statements. They confirm and re-endorse old decisions they have taken. And it seems that no one, not even those engaging in the meetings themselves, believes that such a method could any longer affect the developments of the confrontation with Israel.

These meetings are also the opportunity for calls from here and there to withdraw the Arab peace initiative or to threaten to withdraw it. In fact, analyses are heard signifying that the reason for such Arab powerlessness and inertness in confronting Israeli aggressiveness, which has become completely unrestrained under Benjamin Netanyahu's government, resides in the Arab peace initiative, and thus that it must be gotten rid of – such that domestic considerations and outbidding have driven some Kuwaiti MPs, on the occasion of Israel's arrest of Islamist activists from Kuwait aboard the Freedom Flotilla, to put forward a formal recommendation to the government asking for the withdrawal of the initiative or for Kuwait to withdraw from it.

Yet all such formal Arab calls made in this regard, as in the case of Kuwait, are devoid of any alternatives to the Arab peace initiative. In fact, such calls contradict official declared stances on resolving the conflict with Israel. In other words, those who display greater objection to the initiative stress that peace is a strategic choice and that Israel should fulfill the requirements of such peace – which are the requirements included in the Arab peace initiative: the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab lands, establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and resolving the issue of the refugees according to UN resolutions.

In this sense, official defiance is equated with official moderation in terms of considering the formula of Land for Peace to still be that of a possible solution to the conflict. This would make formal demands to abandon the initiative a kind of political tactic intended to embarrass other Arab parties, more than they are an alternative method to arrive at peace. It would also make them a kind of management of inter-Arab conflicts, more than they are a desire for armed confrontation with Israel, as non-official Arab "resistance" movements call for.

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In light of the complete absence of any Arab alternatives to diplomacy, as represented by the Arab peace initiative, Arab governments are now subjected to the pressure of two opposing poles, pulling each of them in a different direction. On the one hand, there is Iran, which calls for the elimination of Israel, expressing such a direction through Hezbollah in Lebanon and an Arab popular base spread out in many Arab countries. On the other, there is Turkey, which has since this week strongly entered the arena of the conflict and stolen the spotlight of the confrontation, seizing the right to participate in the solution, after it had for a while played the role of mediator.

In other words, Arab governments which face the burdens of confrontation with Israel, regardless of their performance there, are also facing the challenge of the regional order arising from the desire of both Iran and Turkey to expand their role, an expansion which would necessarily take place at the expense of Arab diplomacy.

Abandoning the only diplomatic tool available to Arab governments would therefore be tantamount to abandoning every role they might play, subsequently joining an emerging regional pole – the results of which will not be less harmful for the Arabs, regardless of which pole they join.

And if there are some efforts to make use of the new dynamic arising from Turkey entering the arena of the conflict, then activating the Arab peace initiative today is more important than ever before, regardless of the Israeli government's response to it. Perhaps the obstinacy and arrogance of this government could be an additional reason for a broad Arab diplomatic campaign with the world capitals that have witnessed the gravity of the crime committed against the Freedom Flotilla, and have concluded that such Israeli policies are the source of the threat to peace in the region and could possibly lead to slipping into new wars. Indeed, the world today will listen more carefully to the Arabs if they activate their initiative, which has come to be taken into account in any international move towards peace.

In the independent Egyptian Al-Sherouq Al-Jadid newspaper, Fahmi al-Huwaidi defends the Turkish position vis-à-vis the Palestinian cause and the managing the crisis of "Freedom Flotilla" against "some writers who lambast Ankara and try to use the recent events to drive a wedge between Egypt and Turkey". Howaidi says: "It is true that there is an obvious and rising Turkish role in the region unlike the deteriorating Egyptian role. But the Turkish rise has its objective reasons which are not necessarily coming at the expense of the Egyptian role." "The Egyptian-Turkish relations do not depend on competition, but rather on understanding and parallelism," he adds.

In the independent Egyptian Al-Dustour newspaper, Khalid al-Sirjani says that the Turkish government drives its strength from being "democratically elected" unlike "our Arab rulers". Al-Sirjani further supports the project of the Arab League chief, Amr Musa, to form a regional alliance. He asserted that we have to "eye Turkey through founding joint projects and pump investments in Turkey instead of cooperating with companies that deal with Israel". "The Arab countries have to be transformed to democratic states that give more freedom to the civil society so as not to waste more opportunities to liberate Sinai," he adds.

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In the independent Al-Misri al-Yawm, Ahmad al-Sawi criticizes some official newspapers which "attacks Turkey and its leaders instead of Israel" after the attack on the sea convoy. Al-Sawi says that this makes Egypt look more "fragile and incapable". "Turkey has never posed any challenge to Egypt during the last 30 years... Turkey moved on its own and impressed Arab peoples. Maybe this move embarrassed some parties, but it is not the responsibility of Turkey so that the official media lash out at Ankara," he concludes.

In his article entitled: "Cairo-Ankara and the missed role" in the independent Nahdat Misr newspaper, Muhammad al-Shabah says that no country "could make Israel backtrack on its arrogance, criminal behaviour or boldness". "Egypt, Turkey or even the USA cannot exert any pressure on Israel to accept one Palestinian demand in peace talks," he adds. "The only means is to have a drastic change in the balance of military power between the Arabs and Israel. As for the role of the hero that Turkey is playing now on the theatre of events, it aims to attract audience and viewers because there are no other players," he concludes.

Sakr: Erdogans Remark Offensive To Arabs Beirut *NOW Lebanon* 05 Jun 10

Lebanon First bloc MP Okab Sakr told the Voice of Lebanon (VOL) radio station on Saturday that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan "offended us as Arabs when he said (in a recent statement) that Israel must know that Turkey is not like other countries... and added that Turkey is not a tribe." Erdogan made the remarks after Israel raided an aid flotilla headed for Gaza on Monday. The attack left nine Turkish nationals dead. "What (Erdogan) is saying is that he is not an Arab, but Turkish," Sakr said. Sakr said that countries and groups are now trying to make political gains off the flotilla raid incident, including "Turkey, Iran and the resisting forces." He also criticized Telecommunications Minister Charbel Nahhas, who according to reports suggested during Fridays cabinet session to include additional figures, such as independent funds and loans, in the states budget plan. Finance Minister Rayya al-Hassan told Nahhas the proposal is being reviewed, reports said. Prime Minister Saad Hariri and Speaker Nabih Berri have a good relationship, according to Sakr. With regard to Berris request earlier in the week to account for \$11 billion in past government spending, Sakr said the issue must be followed up on.

Hittites With Ipods: Why Turkey Matters Beirut *The Daily Star Online* 05 Jun 10

Just as Iran has emerged as a more significant regional power after the Iraq war of 2003, Turkey in the past two years has emerged as a more dynamic, respected and powerful regional player, and the events of the past week off the Gaza coast have only accelerated this process.

The third non-Arab power in the Middle East - Israel - seems to be moving in the opposite direction, generating increasingly vocal international

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criticisms and demands for investigations into its behavior, while many of its leaders are cancelling trips abroad for fear of being indicted for war crimes.

Of these three countries, Turkey strikes me as the most interesting and important, because its growing prominence includes a combination of respect, credibility and democratic legitimacy that Iran and Israel do not fully share. Much international media and political analysis speaks incorrectly of Turkey and Iran as either hegemon or role models for the rest of the Middle East. They are neither, because non-Arab states, even Muslim-majority ones, cannot expect to define how power is exercised, relations configured, interests determined, or identity expressed in the Arab world.

Turkey, though, now enjoys greater respect and appreciation around the region, because it approaches most closely that cherished goal that has eluded every Arab country and Iran since the age of independence dawned nearly a century ago: genuine nationalism, combined with democratic governance and Islamic values, in a context of clear modernity and secularism. Turkey is Hittites with iPods – a strong national identity anchored in ancient traditions in the land, yet combined with modern values and behavior that accentuate its power, efficacy and impact on others in the neighborhood.

The Israeli attack last Monday on a Turkish ship in the humanitarian aid convoy heading for Gaza, which resulted in the killing of eight Turks and one Turkish American, heightened the strains between Israel and Turkey that had been building during the past year – largely due to Turkey's disapproval of Israel's war and then siege of Gaza. Turkey criticized Israel's policies toward the Palestinians while also mediating seriously between Israel and Syria. In other words, it conducted a mature, nuanced foreign policy that avoided simplistic, black-and-white, "you're with us or against us" attitudes. Rather, it patiently maneuvered itself into situations where it could serve its own national interests while also playing a constructive role in the region.

The latest example of this was the recent Turkish-Brazilian mediation with Iran over the latter's nuclear industry. The two states succeeded where the United States, the Europeans and relevant United Nations agencies had not been able to, by convincing Iran to agree to send low-grade enriched uranium abroad for conversion into fuel for a nuclear research reactor.

The development of a stronger regional diplomatic role for Turkey, allowing it to operate with credibility and integrity among Israelis, Arabs, Iranians and Western powers, has reflected a brand of self-confident national assertion that in turn is anchored in that combination of attributes that Turkey alone enjoys

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in the entire Middle East: genuine nationalism, stable and strong statehood, economic and military power, democratic and constitutional governance, public secularism and private Islamism.

Turkey has also operated regionally in a manner that seeks to protect its own legitimate national strategic interests, without appearing to be aggressive or predatory to its neighbors. This is significant because of the historical mixed feelings in the Arab world about the four centuries of Ottoman control of key parts of this region.

A remarkable feat of the current Justice and Development Party that rules Turkey has been its successful repositioning of Turkey among its skeptical and suspicious Arab neighbors. As my colleague and friend Tarek Yousef, the dean of the Dubai School of Government, noted the other day: "(T)his government in Turkey in the past three years has erased hundreds of years of Arab suspicion of the Turks, an amazing achievement that should not be overlooked."

Turkey's strong and repeated public criticism of Israeli policies reached a new peak after this week's Israeli attack against Turkish ships and nationals in international waters. Turkey's government will now enjoy greater respect and accolades from Arab public opinion, but like the stronger Iran of recent years it will not be able to translate this heightened appreciation into any kind of greater direct impact on the region – which is not one of its stated goals, in any case.

Many international analysts or commentators are wrongly looking to Iran and Turkey as potential new hegemon or role models in the Arab-majority Middle East region, but these are the wrong attributes or roles to look for. No Arab country shows the inclination to adopt Turkish-style secular, republican and democratic constitutionalism, or the ability to adopt Iranian-style technological prowess and political defiance of the West.

Turkey and Iran, in their different ways, are noteworthy because they practice genuinely sovereign decision- and policymaking – something that eludes, but should entice, the Arab world.

Rami G. Khouri is published twice weekly by THE DAILY STAR.

Saudi Editorial on Turkish Pursuit of Role as Major Regional Power
Abha Al-Watan Online in Arabic 06 Jun 10

[Editorial: "The Destiny of Turkey and Palestine"]

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In his speech in Konya after the funeral of a number of the martyrs of the Freedom Flotilla, Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan said: "The destinies of Turkey and Palestine are not separate from each other, and the destinies of Ankara and Gaza are not separate from each other."

We ought to look into the depth of the indications included in this speech, which stems from Turkish national vision of which Erdogan says: "Disregarding the bloodshed is worthy of neither the Turkish nation nor the Turkish people." Therefore, if we look at the Turkish policy as a whole, starting from the Davos Forum and the famous incident after which Erdogan left the hall, going through the incident of the Turkish ambassador to Tel Aviv, until we reach the incident of the Freedom Flotilla, the analysis will reveal that Turkey is trying to use Israel as a launching pad to redefine its regional status, and hence to turn into the largest power in the region rather than merely catching up with the EU convoy as a member of its extensive group.

There is not much objection to the Turkish wishes, especially as Turkey is a balanced country, especially in its foreign policy, contrary to - for instance - Iran. Therefore, the Turkish role in the region is still acceptable and welcomed. However this should not cancel out a number of facts related to the political realism of the Turkish role in the region. Turkey is pursuing a regional role that is stronger and more polarizing. In this pursuit Turkey places itself in the same category as the major countries in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Egypt.

The destiny of Turkey and Palestine about which Erdogan spoke places Turkey in the same boat as the Arabs. The Arabs, particularly Saudi Arabia, ought to deal with Turkey urgently and more in depth. This is because Turkey at this moment might be more useful for the Kingdom. On the other hand, the daily dealings will make it possible to build the relations with Turkey in a balanced way that distributes the roles and weight in a coordinated way before the sphere of the Turkish policy gets too wide and reflects itself in an expansionist regional vision. Turkey is rational today, and hastening to deepen the relations with rational countries is more beneficial.

Writer Discusses Lessons, Repercussions from 'Gaza Fleet Raid'
Dubai *Gulf News Online* in English 06 Jun 10

[Column by Mish'al al-Jirjawi: "Lessons From the Gaza Fleet Raid. 'On Israel's Flotilla-Gate, Turkey's Flotilla-Day and the Arabs' Flotilla-Shame'"]

I've been an Arab all my life but today I declare myself a proud Turk" tweeted a friend of mine. As I retweeted her statement I thought to myself, so am I, and as soon as I saw my statement on the live feed I realised why I was jealous of every Turk. I realised that I wasn't particularly proud or jealous of Turkey's position per se, and I knew that every Arab nation felt that way.

And so I am not interested in why Turkey conducted itself in the manner that it did during the Flotilla crisis; that is a mediocre question. However, I find the endeavour to accurately understand the source of Turkey's capacity to conduct itself in the manner that it did very illuminating for a region plagued with proxies and puppets. I want to really understand what Turkey did from 1983 when then prime minister Turgut Oezal instituted reforms that allowed the country to transform from an authoritarian, state-controlled economy to a market economy.

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Sure, the world is changing. The economic crisis has put America's patronage of the world to the test, and China's capacity to refinance what the US would discontinue to support is the greatest proof of that. Turkey too has changed and has witnessed a democratic reform that could easily become reminiscent of the Ottoman Tanzimat movement. Some find irony in that it is Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Justice and Development Party (AKP), that has initiated these reforms. But democratic reform and further leanings towards market economics are not only good for Turkey, but also for the AKP -- which, though not outlawed, is clearly viewed as a fundamentalist party, in a Turkish context of course. AKP won 46 per cent of all votes in 2007, up from 32 per cent in the previous election that got them into office. Of the 46 per cent who voted for AKP, it is estimated that less than half are strong supporters of the party. So why is AKP in power? It is due to the lack of an alternative. In other words, AKP works. AKP also wants Turkey to become a soft power with a multi-directional foreign policy -- you'd be hardpressed to find a Turk that disagreed with that policy.

The search for Turkey's capacity and will to take such a vocal position against Israel becomes more complicated when analysing its strong military ties to Israel. Beyond the elementary irritations that Turkey has with Israeli involvement in northern/Kurdish Iraq, Turkey and Israel have an iron-clad industrial-military pact. It is said that Turkey now uses more military technology from Israel than from America. These ties are unbreakable and relate to Turkish security concerns. Proof of this was a hasty Turkish statement at the outset of Flotilla-gate stating that a military trade deal would still go through despite this attack. Hence it is very much expected that while there won't be many Turko-Israeli war games in the Mediterranean with media aboard anytime soon, the technological cooperation will continue. Beyond that there isn't much to ponder in that relationship; over 65 per cent of trade between the two nations is military-based and the rest is negligible. It is said that of Turkey's exports in general, Israel accounts for just two per cent. Turkey's business partners are Germany, Russia, the US and fast-rising China. Recent meetings with Kuwait indicate an interest in catering to weary, post-crisis sovereign wealth funds in the GCC.

Repercussions unclear

Many have said that the price for restoring Turkey's relationship with Israel is removing the blockade of Gaza; I don't necessarily believe that to be accurate. One only needs to read Turkish statements, which have stressed that they address the current government and not the Israeli people who currently have one of the most out-of-sync governments in recent history. This coalition government, including the 'who's who' of Israeli politics Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, Yisrael Beiteinu's Avigdor Lieberman and Labour's Ehud Barak is hardly a stable one. Expect some Cabinet reshuffles even an early election is possible. Once there's a change in the government perhaps a realistic scenario would see Israel ending the blockade with guarantees from the international community that no weapons would be smuggled in. But one thing is for sure, Turkey and Israel won't be swapping visits of senior officials anytime soon.

The American angle is also very interesting. Obama for more reasons than being a Democrat of

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Muslim descent isn't able to openly criticise Israel for this and can at best call for 'restraint'. Think Biden and the Occupied Jerusalem colonies incident etc. And so it is very likely that the current administration is quite pleased with Turkey's stance on the Flotilla crisis. In fact, Turkey is probably emerging as the only candidate to serve as a custodian of the Middle East balancing Israel and Iran

I still find myself wondering why not a single state in the Arab world has been able to be as effectively critical of Israel as Turkey is. I also find the contrast between Turkey's success and what I consider to be Qatar's mixed result in executing a multi-directional foreign policy curious to say the least. Where do the Arabs go from here, and what can they learn from Turkey? Three things: diversify your economy so that you can discover your strengths; acquire multiple trade partners so that no single partner can dictate your foreign policy; and don't be rushed into building relations with other nations -- good ones take time.

This incident will be remembered as Israel's Flotilla-gate, Turkey's Flotilla-day and Arab's Flotilla-shame. It is up to each nation to decide whether it wishes to live in shameful weakness or realize its ambitions, should it have any.

Column Views 'Reasons' Behind Israel's 'Harsh Reaction' to Turkish Relief Ship

Istanbul Sunday's Zaman Online in English 06 Jun 10

[Column by Dogu Ergil: Tremors]

The tremors concerning the Israeli military attack on a relief convoy on its way to the Gaza Strip to ease the unbearable grip of Israel on the needy and battered Palestinians, who are virtually imprisoned on a narrow piece of land, are continuing.

The debate is mainly focused on the precarious relationship between "security" and "justice." Justice is not merely a legal term. As a universal psychological scale, it is closely related to equity, fairness and conscience. This can all be translated into one statement: "Do unto others what you yourself are worthy of."

In the long history of the creation and evolution of Israel, the West has lost the balance between justice and legality derived from reality. Through the weight of the sin of or remorse over the Holocaust, Israel was allowed to emerge without much consideration of the loss and suffering of the Arabs living on the very lands upon which the Jewish state was created. But the continuation of injustice and Israeli callousness to everything thereafter came following the 1967 War. Winning against insufficient Arab armies and sustaining its military superiority, Israel continued its aggression with impunity, expanding its territory with newly annexed lands and ousting local peoples. Under Western tolerance and US protection, Israelis' sense of victory and unaccountability grew into a morbid sense of self-confidence.

They failed to see the making of three things: One, becoming a national security state where a sense of security has replaced feelings of empathy, justice and equity; two, increased isolation from the international community and a dependence upon US protection that makes it impossible to build

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peace in the Middle East without US support and containment of Israeli aggression; and three, total detachment from other countries in the region and Israel's survival becoming a matter of military reality alone. The latter fact contributes to the continuation of a military state driven by constant fear of annihilation, or to Israel's projecting its power to threaten or to suppress neighboring nations. Needless to say, this state of being has thwarted the Israeli consciousness and made it harder for them to come to terms with the reality of others.

Security gained a superior meaning, one above and beyond human values, human relations, justice and international law. It is otherwise very hard to explain how the Israeli navy could intercept unarmed ships on the open sea and kill unarmed people despite possessing the capability to demobilize unarmed groups without resorting to firearms. The answer is simple: They feel threatened. But then this makes Israeli security a threatening fact for the lives, welfare and existence of the "others." The only way Israel can be pulled out of this psychological malady is to have it respect international law and internationally accepted human values. Only international organizations with sanctioning power can do this, as well as the United States, through curbing Israel's aggression by letting her know that she might be on her own next time. However the US administration has yet to produce any clue to this effect.

Why did the Israeli government show such a harsh reaction to the Turkish ship and the Turks in the relief convoy? There seem to be two reasons.

1: The Turkish organizers of the relief convoy are labeled as "over religious" and linked to Hamas, the managing body in Gaza that is on the list of radical religious organizations that condone the use of violence. It sees Israel as an unlawful invading force and denies the state's very existence. So for the Israelis, any organization or state that has a relationship with Hamas is an accessory to terrorism. There is a government in Turkey run by a party with Islamic roots, so Turkish relief organization the Humanitarian Aid Association (IHH) is the link between Hamas and a like-minded government. Both have to be treated as terrorists.

2: As Turkey reconciles with its one-time enemy neighbors -- like Syria, Iraq and Iran -- Israel feels threatened because all of these countries are at odds with Israel in some way. Hence Turkey and Israel are drifting away from each other. What makes this drifting dangerous is the way Israel perceives and reacts to it. Israel sees this as a threat to its security (and thus its existence). However its unacceptable reaction makes it even more impossible to be a part of the family of nations in the Middle East and to be a party to a much-needed peace. Instead, its aggression galvanizes nations and feeds the military apparatus on each side of the divide.

Jordanian Writer: Ahmadinejad, Islamists Should 'Learn From' Erdogan's Reaction
Amman *Al-Ghad* in Arabic 06 Jun 10 p 40

[Article by Yasser Abu-Hilalah: "The Jews and the Holocaust Between Ahmadinejad and Erdogan"]

There is no doubt that the Turkish-Iranian rapprochement constitutes a strong shock for Turkey's historical alliances with the NATO and Israel. The rulers in Turkey are not selling people an illusion. They have inherited a network of relations that they cannot abandon overnight.

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Erdogan is not like Khomeini, whose students occupied the US embassy, removed the Israeli embassy, and established the PLO's embassy in its place. Erdogan is untying the bonds of the old alliance quietly, patiently, and gradually, and is establishing the bonds of a new alliance in its place.

Through rapprochement, Turkey, under Erdogan, benefits as much as Iran, under Ahmadinejad, benefits. The outcome is in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nation in facing the aggression of the Zionists. Iran greatly needs Turkey's moderation and its ability to address the world in a language that it understands. At the peak of Erdogan's emotional reaction, when he gave a speech and was staring in the faces of the dearest people to his heart who were killed by the bullets of the Zionists, he made a distinction between the Jews and the Zionists.

In his speech, which was mixed with tears, he said: "We have always been against anti-Semitism, and we opposed the attacks that targeted the Jews." In order not to exploit the tense emotions in a wrong way, he warned of targeting the Turkish Jews, "and we do not accept that any individual should change his view of the Jewish minority in our country."

He has previously warned that the Ottoman ships saved the Jews from the Inquisition in Spain, exactly as the Turks helped in saving some Jews from the Holocaust in World War II. All this lends credibility to his talk about the crimes of the Zionists. No ruler of any country that is allied with the West has previously spoken in this strong language, "Today is a new day. Today marks a new birth. From now on, nothing will remain as it was. Attacking a civilian ship, arresting the passengers onboard it, and attacking innocent humans constitute state terrorism. They say that those who were onboard the ship opened fire on us. We are fed up with these lies of yours. You should learn to tell the truth. The rulers of Israel have demonstrated how skillful they are in killing and committing massacres..."

There is a difference between this language and Ahmadinejad's language, which denies the occurrence of the Holocaust, although any freshman who reads history knows that the Holocaust and what preceded it, including the racist ideas and feelings against Semitism and the Jews, were the main reason behind the establishment of the occupation state on the land of Palestine. Under the civilization of the Arabs and Muslims, that land embraced all communities, including the Jews.

We and the Jews were expelled from Andalusia. The Spanish and Arab Muslims faced massacres and displacement that left none of them. The Jews of Andalusia, like its Muslims, found refuge in the Ottoman State. This is the image of our civilization. Erdogan did well by preserving that image amid his emotional reaction and enthusiasm. It is hoped that Ahmadinejad, and the leaders of Islamic action in the Arab world, who think that their duty, like Hitler, is to annihilate the Jews of the world, will learn from him. This [annihilating Jews] contravenes the true nature of Islam and the historical reality of the Arab and Islamic civilization.

Michelle Noufal, political analyst specializing in Turkish affairs said increasing Turkish commitment to Palestinian rights and escalation of Erdogan's role to the conflict with Israel makes the Arab street look at him like a new Abdel Nasser. Noufal issued his book "Turkey's return to the East", and added in Al Khaleej newspaper that Turkey is no more looked at in the Arab world as the Trojan horse of the west in the region. He was referring to the strong Turkey alliance with the US

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and EU and recognizing Israel before any other Islamic country has done. He added that Turkey's role is balanced and balancing, meaning that it compensates the Arab system's impotency and limits Israel from one side and carries a positive balance against Iran on the other side.

Al-Jazeera Program Views Flotilla Attack, Media Role in Exposing Israeli 'Crimes'

Arabic 1830 GMT 03 Jun 10

["Behind the News" program, moderated by Khadijah Bin-Qinnah with Knesset member Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, via satellite from Jerusalem; and David Chemla, president of the Peace Now Movement and a signatory of the document issued by Jewish intellectuals in Europe, via satellite from Paris, speaking in French with superimposed translation into Arabic.]

Bin-Qinnah asks: To what extent has the "massacre at sea" exposed Israel and revealed the truth about it to the world? Al-Tibi says that although Israel has always manipulated the media, its image has been greatly harmed. He argues that Israel can no longer portray itself as the victim, and that its "criminal and sanguinary attack on the Freedom Flotilla has confirmed to the world that there is a bully in the area who acts in a barbaric manner" simply because it believes that no one will deter it given the West's sympathy and solidarity with it. He stresses that Israel's image was shattered in the wake of the attack on Gaza. He notes that this time "the victim was not Palestinian," referring to the killing of Turks, and says that the "international dimension" of the Freedom Flotilla has embarrassed Israel. He argues: "Here lies the importance of the media, to which Israel gives a big weight but the Arabs do not. The Palestinian side in all its factions does not give it such weight, or at least it comprehends the importance of the media dimension but does not dedicate sufficient capabilities to explaining [the situation] of the victim of the victim."

Al-Tibi stresses the need to hold accountable the person who gave orders to open fire, and to carry out an investigation. He adds that Turkey's anger puts Israel in a corner, and notes Israel's loss of its very important "strategic geopolitical relationship" with Turkey. Once again, he stresses the need to hold Israel accountable.

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Nasrallah Pays Homage to Flotilla 'Martyrs,' Hails Turkish Leadership's 'Wisdom'

Al-Manar Channel Television in Arabic 1815 GMT 04 Jun 10

[Speech by Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah, via a large screen, at the Al-Rayah Stadium in the Sfiyr District of Beirut's Southern Suburb "in solidarity with the Freedom Flotilla and in honor of the Turkish martyrs" -- live]

I seek refuge in God from Satan, the accursed. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds; may the peace and blessings of God be upon our Lord and prophet, the last of the Apostles, Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad Ibn-Abdallah, and his good and chaste family members, righteous companions, and all the Apostles and messengers. Esteemed scholars, deputies, esteemed ministers, brothers and sisters, honorable audience, God's peace and blessings be upon you all.

At the outset, I would like to express to you all my immense gratitude for your quick response to the invitation for this meeting of solidarity and homage, which is part of our duties. This great and quick attendance is not surprising at all. Are you not the most honorable, the chastest, and the most generous? [Applause]

Brothers and sisters, on this blessed and great day I would like to mention some notable occasions -- Islamic and national -- and then we will speak of the flotilla of freedom, dignity, pride, and honor. At the beginning, I would like to congratulate you on the dear occasion of the auspicious birthday of the daughter of the seal of the Prophets, God's peace and blessings be upon him, his fragrant flower, which is close to his heart, the pious and chaste lady of the women of mankind, Fatimah al-Zahra, peace be upon her.

On this day, which also coincides with the anniversary of the departure of the imam of the oppressed and the leader of the rebellious, the mujahidin, and the resistant; the one who revives the values of the prophets and the originator of progress and awakening and the feeling of dignity, His Eminence Imam Ruhullah al-Musawi al-Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with him. I would like to extend to His Eminence, Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God prolong his life, and to the mujahid Iranian people, and to all those who respect, support, and love this Imam the warmest and highest forms of condolences.

On the national level, it is also a duty on us, on the anniversary of the martyrdom of former prime minister, Martyr Rashid Karami, to greet his family, kinfolk, and lovers and the Lebanese people on this national occasion, which marks the martyrdom of a great man from the men of this homeland, the men of unity, resistance, patriotism, and pride.

Our minds, hearts, and eyes go to those for whom the Flotilla Freedom headed; to our patient, steadfast, resisting, and honorable people who are firm on the Gaza Strip and who face all sorts of siege, aggression, killing, and starvation. We send our greetings to them and to all our beloved and oppressed mujahid Palestinian people in the 1948 territories [Israel proper] who are firm in demanding their rights. We not only salute the Arabs of 1948 but we hail our people in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and to

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all our Palestinian people in the diaspora. We also send our greetings to those whose flotilla, pride, courage, and sacrifices inspired us. Greetings to all those who participated in the freedom-making flotilla of freedom; and to their wounded and martyrs. We thank them for their vigilance, for their apprehension and courage, for their firmness, and for their blood, tears, moans, and cries.

Naturally, I should send special greetings to the Lebanese mission and all the beloved Lebanese brothers who participated in this flotilla, making them the messengers of the Lebanese resistance with all its colors and parties, making them the messengers of the Lebanese will and the messengers of determination, firmness, sacrifices, and martyrdom, which made victory in Lebanon. Today we express our great pride in the martyrs for whom we are paying homage today; the martyrs who Almighty God wanted to be from one nationality. This is no coincidence, no chance happening. It is the will of God. God will choose martyrs from among the people, and he has chosen them all from this nationality based on a purpose and based on God's wisdom.

In your names, I congratulate our brother Turks and send to them my condolences, as we always do. We congratulate them because their loved ones have won this honor and this divine and high medal, and we send to them our condolences because they lost their loved ones. Through them I would like to send my greetings to the Turkish people who were united behind the Flotilla Freedom and the martyrs of this Flotilla, and to the Turkish leadership, which has been able to prove its presence, courage, and wisdom in managing this confrontation.

Brothers and sisters, today we have experienced a great event within the struggle between our peoples and ummah [Muslim community worldwide] and this occupying enemy, which is usurping Palestine and which is attacking our ummah's peoples, territories, sacred places, and region. We understand what happened within this context. Allow me in the time I am given to speak on the major headlines of my speech. They are all connected with this event and with what will follow it. The first is the description of what happened, the second its lessons and its significance, the third its results, and the fourth is what we must do and what we should continue doing.

As for the description of the event, I will be brief because you have watched and seen everything. A flotilla composed of a number of ships, some of which carrying individuals and some foodstuffs, headed for the Gaza Strip for a specific and basic purpose; namely, break the blockade imposed on the people of Gaza. Hundreds of people were on this flotilla. They included figures from dozens of nationalities, Muslim and Christian clerics, and members of parliament, both men and women. Among them also — and we will discuss this further when we talk about the significance and the results — were those who belonged to states with which Israel has diplomatic relations. The greatest number, or the vast majority of these, belonged to Turkey, the state with which Israel has for a long time been having diplomatic, military, security, and economic relations.

The Flotilla Freedom was attacked in international waters in an obvious, open, and flagrant act of piracy. The crime, the massacre, was committed, resulting in the martyrdom of nine Turks and the injury of dozens of Gaza sympathizers. All the participants were detained and were taken to prison. The foodstuffs and the ships were confiscated. Later on, and with relative speed — I am describing this

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because this has to do with the significance -- all those detained and kidnapped were released. These are the details in brief, and you now what happened, but I wanted to describe the details to help me point at the significance.

Secondly, the lessons and the significance. This crime, this massacre, is an additional testimony of the aggressive nature of this entity, this enemy. This massacre is an additional testimony of the brutal nature of this [Zionist] entity since its establishment, which was founded on committing massacres and crimes. It is a new testimony that it kills unarmed civilians, men and women, and without any distinction. This is a new testimony to the state-sponsored terrorism carried out by Israel. This proves that Israel does not respect any humanitarian or ethical value or any international laws, norms, agreements, or diplomatic relations. This is a testimony that Israel considers itself above the law. Israel is above the law, above morals, above divine laws, and above religions. Everything is permissible as long as it serves Israel and promotes Israeli considerations. This is also a new testimony that this enemy acts as though it is above punishment, accountability, and answerability to this world. It is a new testimony that the Israelis kill people, whether they are armed or unarmed.

This is a lesson to those who say that arms are a pretext for aggression. Were the sympathizers in the Flotilla Freedom carrying up arms to justify their killing, the spilling of their blood, and throwing the bodies of some of them into the sea? This is a testimony that this enemy holds everyone in contempt -- states, peoples, international community, and the entire world. It does not take anything into consideration, even the states with which it has diplomatic relations or those with whom it reaches military, security, economic, and other agreements. This is a message to all those who theorize or look forward to a day in which they think that peace with this murderous enemy and establishing diplomatic relations with it could protect their citizens or peoples.

Among the significant lessons is that what took place in the Mediterranean aboard the Freedom Flotilla and the subsequent reactions are a new testimony that the incumbent US Administration is still completely committed to the line of defending Israel, its crimes and massacres, preventing its condemnation, and helping it escape punishment, and even watering down the demands for an investigation. Moreover the US Administration has gone so far as to consider that what the enemy did was its natural right, as US Vice President Joe Biden said.

Here we pose a question to America's friends and those who wager on it and on the change of its Middle East policy. They should once again be convinced that everything can change in the US policy in the Middle East except for one thing, which remains constant; namely, Israel, its interests, security, and protection, in a way that allows it to commit as many massacres as it wants, even against those who belong to states that are militarily allied with the United States.

Another significant lesson is the exposure of the deception of governments and states in the world that claim that they protect and defend human rights and the freedom of man. Many of these states remained silent because this crime was committed by Israel.

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Had a similar act been done in one of the arenas of resistance, all these governments would have condemned it in defense of human rights. As for others, they issued a timid condemnation and considered that the case was at an end.

What happened also exposes the Arab impotence in facing serious and serious developments. I do not have to dwell on the Arab foreign ministers resolution because only the Arab street knows how to make such comments.

One of the significant lessons is the quickness with which the detainees and prisoners were released. There is a big lesson with a great significance. Why? This was done -- and I regret to say that -- because the detainees were not all Arabs. Had they been all Arabs, the Israelis would have humiliated us as much as they want.

Of course, they would have made certain calculations concerning the resistance movements but they would not have given a damn for what the official Arab regimes would do, because Israel is certain that the official Arab stand is powerless even if hundreds of Arab supporters were in the Flotilla Freedom. This is because this Arab stand has been and continues to be powerless in defending thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children in Israeli prisons.

What is new in this matter? I think that the new thing is the presence of hundreds of Turkish citizens. Here, Israel miscalculated. It had imagined that it could attack, kill, and detain, and practice terrorism against the Flotilla Freedom; that the Turkish leadership would retreat, become confused and afraid, and look for any possible settlement. Regrettably, that has always been Israel's experience with [Arab] governments. I can assert that the Zionist leadership was surprised by the Turkish reaction, whether on the level of the leadership or on popular level, and even on the level of organizations and the various parties, as well as those that oppose the Justice and Development Party.

When the Turkish leadership stood up and told Israel -- it has exploited its relations with Israel, but of course we do not support any relations between any Islamic state and Israel, even though relations started before the Justice and Development Party came to power -- the Turkish leadership told the Israelis that if they kept any of the Turkish supporters we would sever our relations with you. I heard the Israelis on the first and second day. They demonstrated arrogance and said that the participants attacked the soldiers, hit the soldiers, and that everyone who attacked an Israeli soldier would be tried. Thus, the Turkish leadership responded by saying: If you try a single one, we will hold a trial for the leaders of Israel. [Applause] Do you want to know why they released them? It is because it is Turkey, a strong state, a strong people behind their leadership. Here is a strong leadership that knows how to use the elements of strength that it has. If Turkey severs its diplomatic relations with Israel, there will be an upheaval. It is a very big and serious issue on the strategic level. Therefore, there were accusations and counteraccusations inside the Zionist entity.

If Turkey severs its military, security, and economic relations with Israel this would be a strong move. It is a weapon. In the previous crises and wars, in the latest war on Gaza, in the war on Lebanon, in 1982 invasion, during the invasion of the West Bank and the Janin massacre, many Arab peoples want to the

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street to address some Arab states that had relations with Israel and tell them: Use this weapon. Yet they did not use it.

However, Turkey used this weapon. Turkey did not only demand the release of its citizens; it considered that it was responsible for the entire flotilla. Therefore, it was possible for the brothers to be freed and some of them are sitting with you now.

Some talk about diplomacy and this is a lesson for them. The diplomacy of submission, begging, illusion, weakness, wishful thinking, and the admission of impotency, will bring only humiliation and loss. Yes, the diplomacy that is based on strength -- the strength of people, leadership, state, logic, and weapon -- can act and accomplish.

That is about the lessons, and now let us go to the results. This Flotilla Freedom event has had repercussions in the world and results have been realized. I will mention these results and say that this has been an effective development that the blood of the martyrs realized. I will tell all those who were hurt and injured and all those who participated in the Flotilla Freedom that what you have done has not been in vain. You have realized very great results by your presence, blood, steadfastness, and patience. So let us enumerate the results to reach the point of what we must do.

1. The most important thing that the Flotilla Freedom has realized, with the blood of the martyrs, is that it has drawn the world attention once again to the issue of the brutal and inhuman siege which has been imposed on Gaza for years. The world and the Arabs have forgotten this blockade, which has become an ordinary thing that is not even mentioned at the end of the newscasts. This blood and these fists and these shouts were able to impose this issue again on the agendas of all the governments of the world and place it at the top of the news in world media and among the concerns of peoples.
2. This leads to an opportunity, which I will talk about when I mention things that we must do. The Flotilla Freedom has been able to force the world into issuing calls -- we have heard for the first time the UN secretary general, who had been silent for a long time, issuing a call for an immediate lifting of the siege on Gaza. We have heard calls by European nations -- Russia and states that are participating in the Quartet Committee, which had been providing a cover for the blockade on Gaza. We did not hear this before the Flotilla Freedom and before the Flotilla participants were martyred.
3. One of the direct results has been the Egyptian government's move -- and we are grateful for it -- to open the Rafah Crossing until further notice. Regardless of any explanation, background, or circumstances, this has been a good outcome of the Flotilla Freedom and its repercussions.
4. What happened created an appropriate and helping atmosphere for a Palestinian movement toward reconciliation and ending Palestinian division.
5. What happened will complicate or make it hard -- to some extent; I do not want overstress this -- for the Zionist enemy to think or plan any new attack on Gaza. Attacks against Lebanon, Syria, or Iran are subjected to different calculations. Our concern is about Gaza. No doubt the sacrifices of the Flotilla Freedom will further make this climate complicated for the enemy.

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6. Further exposure of Israeli scandals in the eyes of the world public opinion.
7. Further awareness by our Arab and Islamic peoples who are the most concerned with this struggle and with confronting this enemy.
8. Further exposure of the scandals of the US policies in our region and the scandals of those waging on them.
9. A new proof of the Israeli failure and confusion and the helplessness of the Israeli leadership — the political, military, and security leaderships. It is not I who says this; the Israelis today say this. Look at any Israeli paper and listen to what the average Israelis say. Words are used about failure, confusion, loss, disarray, and scandals, and the fall in the trap. These are the expressions that are being used in the Israeli press. Some Israeli officials are also saying this. There are calls for forming an inquiry commission.

Now in Israel they are assessing the political and moral losses. Certainly what the Israeli enemy did was foolish; it was a wrong calculation, a deviant behavior expressing its arrogance. It could have confiscated this Flotilla and forced it to proceed toward Ashdod Port by various means; it could have done what it did without carrying out any act of piracy, a massacre, or crimes and bloodshed as it did.

10. The Israeli feeling of the burden. I am not the one who says this. The head of the Mosad or security apparatus that works mostly abroad and that is better able to assess and report to the Israeli leadership on the international and foreign situation says that Israel has started to change from an asset, ammunition, and aid to the United States to a burden on the United States because after every failure, crime, and massacre the United States will come to protect, defend, help, and pay the price. This, too, is what [General David] Petraeus, commander of the US Central Command, said. He said: We are sacrificing the blood of our soldiers as a result of our support for Israel, which has turned into a burden on the United States of America. Later, of course, he was censured for saying that and, therefore, he made another statement correcting a bit what he had earlier said. This is Israel after the accident. It is a leadership that did not behave well in handling political, military, media, security, or field issues when it intercepted an unarmed fleet that had no weapons or missiles or anything else at all. These are some of the results that will increase the confusion and weakness of this entity.

11. The development of the Turkish stance. There is no doubt that this is one of the important results. Today the Turkish position is different. This Turkish position was, of course, present during the aggression of 2006 and it developed during the aggression against Gaza. But there is no doubt that the Turkish position has developed a great deal during the Freedom Flotilla incident. We have heard the positions expressed by the Turkish leaders and officials. Turkish President Abdullah Gul said yesterday that relations with Israel will not in any case return the way they were. This in all cases is a good, large, and important progress in the Turkish position. As I noted in my talk about the implications, one of the results now is that Israel has started to lose Turkey — and I do not say that it has lost Turkey because I do not want to give an exaggerated assessment. Israel began to lose Turkey. This is a great strategic change

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in the region. Israel had very important international and regional relationships in the region. Iran at the time of the Shah was a supportive and strategic force and a strategic depth for Israel. Israel lost this strategic depth when the blessed Islamic revolution in Iran triumphed under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeyni, may God keep his secret sacred. [Applause] Iran then began to adopt, support, and to be fully committed to the central Palestinian cause. I can say that Israel has started to lose Turkey especially after the Freedom Flotilla incident. Is it going to lose it completely? This depends on the circumstances, conditions, events, and developments, but this is one of the significant results.

12. One of the important results is the Kuwaiti stance. The Kuwaiti National Assembly asked and the Kuwaiti Government agreed to withdraw from the Arab initiative as a first step. Did any other Arab parliament or government follow suit and take a similar step? On behalf of you all, we salute the Kuwaiti National Assembly and the Kuwaiti Government for taking this big step. [Applause] Some used to ask about the significance or value of withdrawing the Arab initiative. Yes, it has a political and moral value. Now we do not want to create a rift with the Arabs, but the Arab initiative makes large concessions to the Israeli enemy. When we say the initiative has been withdrawn, we will then be telling them that all the concessions we made in the initiative have ended and we are back to square one. This has a very large political and strategic value.

In discussing the results, let us finally move on to the last part and say that what happened embarrasses and confuses all advocates of settlement, normalization, and surrender, and all those who wager on direct or indirect negotiations with the Israeli enemy. Their conditions are very difficult. On 25 May, I had to quote Mrs Clinton, who said the Israeli actions embarrass the axis of Arab moderation. I add that what Israel did to the Freedom Flotilla embarrasses and confuses the moderate Arab countries and all advocates of normalization in the Arab world. These continue to be present and some continue to rudely call for this. I read some articles in Gulf newspapers yesterday -- I do not want to say which country. The articles said the Freedom Flotilla was a pure folly and they defended what the Israeli soldiers did. Rarely would one find an Israeli newspaper defending what the Israeli soldiers did, but there are articles in Gulf newspapers defending what the Israeli soldiers did and holding participants in the Freedom Flotilla responsible for what happened. After all, these are few and rare, but days, truth, honor, chivalry, and the honorable people of this nation will sweep them out of this nation, God willing. [Applause]

As for what must be done, I want to say the following:

First, we must take advantage of the present opportunity. There is an excellent opportunity today to achieve the goal of the Freedom Flotilla and all previous Lifeline and other convoys. The goal is lifting the siege imposed on our people in the Gaza Strip. As my dear brother Dr Hanani said a short while ago, this requires the organization of more freedom flotillas to Gaza. [Applause] A second, third, fourth, and fifth flotilla should be organized from various nationalities. Here, in fact, will the Israeli goal behind state terrorism and the killing of people in the flotilla fail because the goal Netanyahu announced and spoke about was deterring and preventing anyone in this world from thinking again of undertaking a similar trip. Taking similar steps will tell the Israelis you could not achieve any of your goals through your

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terrorism, scandal, and crime.

On board the Freedom Flotilla there were some dear Lebanese brothers. The head of the Lebanese team is present here. I call for greater diversified Lebanese participation in Freedom flotilla II. [Applause] Today the European committee organizing another Freedom Flotilla announced that it has started sending invitations to join Freedom Flotilla II and that so far it has received hundreds of applications from Europe. Where are the Arabs? Where are the Muslims? Where are the Arab and Islamic peoples? Some may wonder where I want to send them. The brothers are here in front of you with their heads held high. They went and came back. Also those who go will return. Israel, which seriously views Turkey and its red flag, also seriously views the yellow flag [Hizballah's flag]. [Applause and chants] The Lebanese who participate in Freedom Flotilla II know very well that they belong to a country, people, and resistance that cannot leave its prisoners in jail. [Applause and chants] None should say I want to start a new problem. No, we do not want to start a new problem, but we the Lebanese must be part of this humanitarian, ethical, national, patriotic, and faithful contribution. We should not leave this responsibility only to those who come from overseas.

Second, and within the same context, we all hope and call for keeping the Rafah Crossing open. We, of course, call on the Egyptian leadership to keep the Rafah Crossing open. Here I would like to comment on the Arab foreign ministers' decisions and say that the Arabs, the Arab foreign ministers, and Arab governments do not need to go to the UN Security Council to lift the siege imposed on Gaza. Let us see how. We are now talking calmly. What problem will Egypt have if it opens the crossing? If there are international pressures, international conventions, certain embarrassments, or specific economic disadvantages, let us then act in solidarity with each other. Let the Arab League countries, the OIC countries, and the peoples of the Arab and Islamic world stand by the side of the Egyptian leadership and government. When the Arab and Islamic governments and peoples stand by the side of the Egyptian leadership, none will be able to embarrass it or force it to close the Rafah Crossing. This is a practical thing. Hold a meeting in Cairo or hold an OIC meeting to know what the problem is and see if there are pressures or difficult circumstances. I am speaking logic. Let us all cooperate to keep this crossing open. We do not need the help of anyone in this world. We do not need a Security Council, United Nations, US Administration, EU, or anyone else. We the Arabs and Muslims can lift the blockade imposed on Gaza in this well-studied, calculated, calm, and reasonable manner.

Third, supporting and embracing the Turkish position that will be subjected to many pressures. Look how the strong ones are respected. Obama was forced to call Tayyip Erdogan or rather the Tayyip [meaning good in Arabic] Erdogan. [Applause] Had the killed ones belonged to a certain Arab country, would Obama have called that country? In any case, a great pressure will be put on Turkey to bypass what happened, avoid an escalation against Israel, not allow a deterioration of relations with Israel, and prevent Turkey from playing a leading role in the Arab and Islamic region with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In view of the pressures to which Turkey and Turkish leadership might be exposed, Turkey certainly needs all possible official and popular support from the Arab and Islamic world,

Fourth, keeping the issue of Gaza and the siege of Gaza in the circle of global humanitarian attention

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and not only Arab and Muslim attention. As His Eminence Imam Khamene'i, may God protect him, said, the Palestinian issue should become an international and humanitarian one. In the past, when the Palestinian cause was the cause of the Islamic world, some tried to say this is the cause of only the Arab world and not the cause of the Islamic world and other countries like Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, or the cause of Muslims in India, Indonesia, and Malaysia who had nothing to do with it because this is an Arab issue. They said the Persians, Turks, Afghans, and Indians had nothing to do with it. In our Arab world, and under the slogan of the independent Palestinian decision, the issue also became a Palestinian cause that does not concern the world. The cause of Palestine became the cause of Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and refugees, but two thirds of Palestine were lost. His Eminence Imam Khamene'i said we should again say the cause of Palestine is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and world humanitarian cause. Chavez described Israel in a recent statement as a condemned and outcast state. Can you tell him this is not your business because this is an Arab issue? Nicaragua took the initiative and withdrew its ambassador and froze relations with Israel. Can you tell Nicaragua this is not your business because this is an Arab issue? The Freedom Flotilla has brought the Palestinian issue back to global attention to become a global issue. This is what we must continue to work for. Scientists, writers, the media, the internet people, satellite channels, political parties, the living forces, and parliamentarians can do that.

Fifth, continuing to demand an international investigation although we know that international investigation will not lead to results and will be diluted. We have a long experience in the field of international investigation, but this investigation will embarrass Israel, which will certainly reject any international investigation although it committed its massacre in international waters in an open and clear act of piracy.

Sixth, suing the Israeli political, military, and security leaders and soldiers wherever possible all over the world for what they have done to the Freedom Flotilla. Also let us open the files of previous incidents. I admit that we in Hizballah did not have much clarity about this issue but experience has convinced us that we can sue those who killed us in Qana and those who committed massacres and destroyed our homes in Lebanon and Palestine. Let us file lawsuits wherever possible in the world. In return, they would file lawsuits against us. Let them do so. We will stop going to Europe and let them seize the money we have in European banks. There is no problem. There is no doubt that filing lawsuits against the Israeli crimes will trap and confuse the Israeli leaders in the world.

Seventh, we all should use all available means to remind and enlighten the world about the false, deceptive, and hypocritical reality of Israel. Israel presented itself to world public opinion as an oasis of democracy in the Middle East and as the only country that is committed to laws and norms in the middle of a wild environment. We must take advantage of the Freedom Flotilla incident to talk to the world about all the massacres Israel perpetrated in the past starting from Dayr Yasin and Al-Hula in 1948 down to the first Qana, to Janin, to the second Qana, and to the Gaza Strip. We must talk about all massacres whenever a massacre is committed by Israel in order to tell the world public opinion and the free and honorable people of the world: This is Israel, which deceives you and which is defended by your governments.

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Finally, we must continue to work in order to be strong, capable, and confident of our choices and our position. We should work for winning and keeping friends. Imam Khomeyni transformed Iran from an enemy of the Arabs into an ally, friend, and supporter of the Arabs. How can we keep this friendship with Iran? Today, the Justice and Development Party and the Turkish people are returning Turkey to the nation, so how can we keep the friendship of Turkey and its new position without creating animosities here and there as some Arabs do? We have to work in order to be strong because this world as we said on 25 May respects only the strong. We should work to have the power of justice. We should have this power because we are in a world that respects only the powerful.

Dear brothers and sisters, the greatest honor for the martyrs of the Freedom Flotilla lies in upholding our rights, causes, and constants, and following the path of resistance in Lebanon, Palestine, and throughout the nation. This is the future that we make with our own hands without the favor of anyone in this world. We do not beg for this from anyone in the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, thanks to the presence of people similar to those who participated in the Freedom Flotilla and thanks to your presence and your honor, magnanimity, courage, audacity, sacrifices, and dedication, the Freedom Flotilla will not be restricted to a certain day or certain borders. It will continue so that Gaza and all of Palestine, including Jerusalem and the Church of the Resurrection, and so that this nation will be liberated from the yoke of the US-Zionist project hanging over our heads. It will continue with the hands of the resistance men, the will of the mujahidin, and the pure blood of the martyrs, God willing.

God bless you and thank you for your attendance once again. We will together continue our march along the path of liberation and freedom for the dignity of our people, our nation, and our holy places. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [Applause]

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Al-Qaradawi Urges Withdrawal of Arab Peace Initiative Following Flotilla Attack

Doha *Gulf Times Online* 05 Jun 10

Prominent Islamic scholar Sheikh Yousuf al-Qaradawi yesterday warned Israel of "imminent God's wrath", saying that its recent attack on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla was a criminal act requiring the Arab states to withdraw the peace initiative.

In his Friday sermon, Sheikh Qaradawi said that Israel's raid of the flotilla was a "barbaric and unexpected crime" that should not go unpunished.

"When they (Israelis) had said that they would block the aid ships, we thought that those were just mere threats. Nobody ever thought that the Zionist gang in Israel would really attack activists and volunteers on board a defenceless ship carrying humanitarian aid," Sheikh Qaradawi told a congregation at the Omar bin al-Khattab mosque in Khalifa South town.

"But (then) we should not be surprised as they had killed the prophets of God," he added.

"Those corrupt Zionists are war-mongers. I believe that Israel's day of God's wrath is coming very soon because they have, tempted by the American veto and weapons, have crossed all lines," he maintained.

Qaradawi, who is the chairman of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, slammed the Arab nations' stance on the frequent Israeli aggressions, saying that the Jewish state would not dare such attacks if it knew that this would draw a serious response and anger from the Arabs.

"The Arabs are dead. There had been previous incidents which required them to cancel the Arab peace initiative, but they did not," he said.

He urged Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to withdraw from the so-called indirect talks with Israel and announce the end of the peace process.

"I hope that the Palestinian Authority would announce that it was no longer seeking peace with Israel. We did not gain any thing from these lies that were called the peace process," he added.

The scholar hailed the "great Turkish stand" on the Palestinian cause as heroic, saying that Arab countries should feel ashamed.

"We have to greet our brethren the Turks. Some people thought that Turkey had lost its link with Islam but the recent incident showed that Islam was still inherent in the hearts of its people," he said.

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Qaradawi, who is also the head of the European council for Fatwa and Research, urged the Palestinian factions to stand united against Israel's aggressions.

"It is not acceptable any more that some Palestinians would go and shake hands with the Zionist murderers," he added.

He praised Qatar's stance on the attack, saying that Qatar had announced that it would bear the financial cost of suing Israel for its raid on the aid flotilla, both before national and international courts.

"Qatar is among the few Arab countries which strongly support the resistance movement," he added.

The sermon was followed by speakers who condemned the attack on the ship.

[Description of Source: Doha Gulf Times Online in English -- Website of independent newspaper with close ties to the ruling family; sister publication of influential daily Al-Rayah; focuses on domestic affairs; URL: <http://www.gulf-times.com/>]

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العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية المتجهة إلى قطاع غزة
وكسر الحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض عليه

إن مجلس الجامعة على المستوى الوزاري في دورته غير العادية بتاريخ 2010/6/2 بمقر
الأمانة العامة بالقاهرة،

- بعد اطلاعه على مذكرة الأمانة العامة،
- وإذ تدارس خطوات التحرك المطلوبة إزاء العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي وممارسة
الفرصنة في المياه الدولية بالبحر المتوسط على قافلة الحرية التي حملت مواد إنسانية
متجهة إلى قطاع غزة الواقع تحت الحصار، وما أدى إليه هذا العدوان من قتل متعمد
وسقوط ضحايا وجرحى في صفوف المدنيين العزل في هذه القافلة، واختطاف جميع
المشاركين تحت قوة السلاح،
- وإذ يعتبر أن استمرار إسرائيل في احتلال الأراضي العربية وإمعانها في تغيير التركيبة
السكانية والجغرافية للأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة بما فيها القدس الشرقية يُشكل أساس
الاضطراب والتوتر في المنطقة،
- وإذ يقرر أن استمرار إسرائيل، بصفتها القوة القائمة على الاحتلال، في حصار قطاع غزة
وتعطيل إعادة بنائه يمثل جريمة ضد الإنسانية يجب وقفها فوراً بجميع الوسائل المشروعة
بما فيها المقاومة،
- وإذ يؤكد أن استمرار بعض الدول في تقديم الدعم لإسرائيل رغم همجية ممارساتها
وانتهكاكاتهما ضد الشعب الفلسطيني وضد من يحاولون تقديم مساعدات إنسانية ضرورية له،
إنما يستند إلى خطأ سياسي كبير بإعطاء إسرائيل حصانة إزاء عدم احترامها للقواعد
القانون الدولية في سابقة تهدد النظام الدولي برمته،
- وإذ يؤكد أن هذه السياسات والممارسات الإسرائيلية التي تُشكل إرهاب دولة تُفذي نزعات
الإرهاب في الشرق الأوسط،
- ويعدّ المداولات والاستماع إلى كلمات رؤساء الوفود والأمين العام،

يُقرر

- 1- إدانة العدوان العسكري المُنَبَّه الذي ارتكبه إسرائيل ضد قافلة الحرية في المياه
الدولية، الأمر الذي يُشكل فرصنة وإرهاب دولة وتهديداً للاستقرار والأمن في البحر

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- المتوسط، وخرقاً صريحاً للقانون الدولي الذي يحمي الملاحة في المياه الدولية، وللاتفاقيات الدولية ذات الصلة ومبادئ وقواعد القانون الدولي الإنساني.
- 2- كسر الحصار الذي فرضته إسرائيل على قطاع غزة، والالتزام بإيصال المعونات الطبية والأغذية ومواد البناء اللازمة لإعادة الإعمار وغيرها من الاحتياجات الضرورية للشعب الفلسطيني في القطاع بشتى الوسائل، وتحميل إسرائيل المسؤولية الدولية المترتبة على التعرض للمعونات الإنسانية والاحتياجات الضرورية لإعادة الإعمار، وعدم فتح جميع المعابر أمام حركة الأفراد والبضائع.
- 3- تكليف الجمهورية اللبنانية، العضو العربي في مجلس الأمن، والمجموعة العربية في نيويورك بطلب عقد اجتماع لمجلس الأمن، بالتنسيق مع تركيا والدول والتجمعات الصديقة، لإصدار القرار اللازم لإدانة الحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض على قطاع غزة وإلزام إسرائيل برفعه فوراً، وطلب عقد الدورة المستأنفة العاشرة في إطار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة لمواجهة الحصار الإسرائيلي على قطاع غزة.
- 4- الالتزام بما جاء في قرارات قمة سرت وخاصة القرار رقم 508 بتاريخ 2010/3/28 بوقف كافة أشكال التطبيع مع إسرائيل وما أكدته المداولات في هذا الصدد، وفي ظل هذا التحدي والخرق الإسرائيلي المستمر لكافة التزاماتها يوصي المجلس الوزاري برفع توصية لأصحاب الجلالة والفخامة والسمو بشأن تنفيذ ما ورد في كلمة خادم الحرمين في القمة الاقتصادية في الكويت في يناير 2009 بأن المبادرة العربية لن تبقى على المائدة طويلاً.
- 5- إن إيمان إسرائيل في ممارساتها وآخرها في العدوان الإجرامي على المدنيين العزل تؤكد بالنيل الواضح عدم جدية إسرائيل في التوصل إلى سلام عادل وشامل في المنطقة وإصرارها على أن تجعل المفاوضات غير ذات فائدة أو جدوى ويشكك في مصداقية التأكيدات والتطمينات التي قُدمت إلى الجانب الفلسطيني، وتكليف الأمين العام بتوجيه رسالة إلى الإدارة الأمريكية بهذا الشأن.
- 6- تنسيق التحرك العربي مع تركيا والجهات المعنية الأخرى لرفع دعاوى أمام جهات التقاضي الوطنية والدولية المختصة وعلى رأسها محكمة العدل الدولية فيما يتعلق بالحصار الإسرائيلي المفروض على قطاع غزة.
- 7- مطالبة إسرائيل بالإفراج الفوري عن بقية المختطفين من أفراد قافلة الحرية والسفن المحتجزة ومواد الإغاثة.
- 8- الترحيب بقرار مجلس حقوق الإنسان الخاص بتشكيل لجنة تقصي حقائق مستقلة للتحقيق في انتهاكات القانون الدولي عن الاعتداء الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية

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- والإعراب عن التقدير للدول التي صوتت لصالح القرار، وكذلك الإعراب عن استيائه من مواقف الدول التي صوتت ضد هذا القرار.
- 9- الترحيب بمواقف الدول التي اتخذت إجراءات واضحة وقوية في مواجهة العدوان العسكري الإسرائيلي وإدانته، والإعراب عن استيائه إزاء مواقف بعض الدول في مجلس الأمن التي أعاققت الاتفاق على إجراء تحقيق دولي مستقل.
- 10- الدعوة إلى التنسيق مع كافة المنظمات الدولية الحقوقية والإنسانية للبدء الفعلي والفوري لإظهار كافة جوانب هذه القضية، ببغديها القانوني والإنساني، والتوجه نحو وسائل الإعلام العالمية لكشف هذه الجريمة وإظهار تداعياتها، والإشادة بتعهد دولة قطر بتغطية جميع التكاليف الخاصة بالتحرك على المسارين القانوني والإعلامي.
- 11- توجيه تحية تقدير إلى جميع الناشطين الذين شاركوا في هذه المهمة الإنسانية النبيلة والترحم على أرواح الضحايا الشهداء، والتعبير عن تقدير المجلس ودعمه لموقف تركيا المشرف والمواقف الدولية التي عبرت عن إدانتها لهذا العدوان وتضامنها مع الشعب الفلسطيني وقضيته العادلة.
- 12- الطلب من الوفد العربي المشارك في اجتماعات منتدى التعاون العربي التركي بالإعراب عن التقدير للمواقف التركية وتقديم العزاء لأهالي ضحايا العدوان الإسرائيلي على قافلة الحرية.
- 13- الطلب إلى الأمين العام متابعة تنفيذ هذا القرار وإبقاء المجلس في حالة انعقاد دائم.

(ق: رقم 7215 - د.غ.ع - 2010/6/2)

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**Israeli military attack on Freedom Convoy going to Gaza Strip
and breaking the Israeli siege imposed on it**

The Arab League council on the ministerial level extraordinary session on 02 June 2010 at the Arab League General Secretariat head quarters,

-After looking at the general secretariat memo,

-Has studied the required steps regarding the Israeli military attack and piracy conduct in international Mediterranean sea waters on the Freedom convoy which carried humanitarian material going to Gaza strip which lies under siege, and which led to the deliberate murder and fall of unarmed civilian victims and injured in this convoy, and all the participants of which were kidnapped using armed force,

-Considers the continuous Israeli occupation of Arab territories and insistence to change the demographic and geographic formation of the occupied Palestinian territories including East Jerusalem to be the basis for disruption and tension in the area,

-Decides that Israel's continuation, as the occupation force, to put Gaza Strip under siege and obstruct its reconstruction is a crime against humanity that should be immediately stopped using all legitimate means including resistance,

-Emphasizes that the continuity of some states to offer support to Israel despite its savage practices and violations against Palestinian people and those who try to offer to Palestinians necessary humanitarian help, is based on a big political mistake by giving Israel an immunity to not respect international law bases which is a precedent that threatens the entire international order,

-Emphasizes that these Israeli policies and practices that form state terrorism feeds terrorist inclinations in the Middle East,

-After discussions and listening to the speeches of the heads of delegations and the general secretary,

DECIDES

- 1- To condemn the intentional military attack that Israel conducted against the Freedom Convoy in the international waters, an issue that constitutes piracy and state terrorism and threat to the stability and security in the Mediterranean Sea, and a clear violation of international law that protects sailing in international waters, and related international humanitarian law concepts and principles.
- 2- To break the siege imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip and commit to deliver medical and food aid and necessary construction material for reconstruction and other required needs for the Palestinian people in the strip using all the means, and hold Israel internationally responsible for the obstruction of humanitarian aid and necessary requirements for reconstruction, and for not opening all the crossings for the movement of people and goods.

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- 3- To assign Lebanon, the Arab member in the United Nations Security Council, and the Arab group in New York to request holding a meeting for the Security Council, in coordination with Turkey, and friend countries and groups, to issue the required resolution condemning the Israeli siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and compulsion of Israel to immediately lift this siege, and request holding the continued 10th session in the context of the UN General Assembly to counter the Israeli siege on Gaza Strip.
- 4- To commit to the resolutions of Sirte Summit and particularly resolution number 508 dated 28 March 2010 to stop all forms of normalization with Israel and commitment to the discussions in this regards, and in light of this continuous Israeli challenge and violation of all its commitments, the ministerial council decides to send a recommendation to their excellencies heads of states to implement the speech of Saudi King Abdallah at the Economic Summit in Kuwait in January 2010 that the Arab Peace Initiative will not stay on the table for long.
- 5- That Israel's continuation of its practices and the last of which was the criminal attack on unarmed civilians emphasize clearly Israel is not serious in reaching fair and comprehensive peace in the region and is committed to make the negotiations useless and in vain and doubts the credibility of assurances offered to the Palestinian side, and assign the Secretary General to direct a message to the US Administration in this regards.
- 6- To Coordinate the Arab steps with Turkey and other concerned sides to file cases to national and international specialized suing agencies, on top of which is the ICC regarding the Israeli siege imposed on Gaza Strip.
- 7- To ask Israel to immediately release the remaining kidnapped members of the Freedom Convoy and detained ships and relief material.
- 8- To welcome the Human Rights Council resolution regarding forming an independent fact finding committee to investigate the violations of international law in the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy and express appreciation for the countries that voted for the resolution and express resentment from the position of countries that voted against this resolution.
- 9- To welcome the positions of countries that took clear and strong procedures against the Israeli military attack and condemned it, and express resentment from the positions of some countries at the United Nations Security Council that obstructed the agreement to conduct an independent international investigation.
- 10- To call for coordination with all international rights and humanitarian organizations to actually and immediately begin to show all the sides of this case, including the legal and humanitarian dimensions, and target the world media to reveal this crime and show its consequences, and

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praise the Qatari pledge to cover all the special costs for this movement on the legal and media tracks.

- 11- To appreciate all the activists who participated in this noble humanitarian mission and bless the souls of the victim martyrs and express appreciation of the Arab League council and its support for Turkey's honorable position and international positions that expressed condemnation for this attack and expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and their fair case.
- 12- To ask the Arab delegation participating in the Arab Turkish Cooperation Forum meetings to express the appreciation for Turkey's positions and offer the condolences for the families of the victims of the Israeli attack on the Freedom Convoy.
- 13- To ask the Secretary General to follow on the implementation of this resolution and keep the Arab League Council in continuous session.

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Osman, Amany A

From: Salvatore Amodeo [mailto:]
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 6:08 PM
 To: do Olavarria, Laura H
 Cc: Gilmore, Bradley T; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Roundy, Brian A; McCarthy, David T (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlerath, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Diworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Natos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Colin, Melin (Istanbul); Ahn, Michael
 Subject: 5/31 Evening IHH Update - Many wounded passengers and upto 10 dead.

B6

This evening the IHH office in Istanbul informed post:

-While it not have information on individual passengers, but they were able to talk to one of the injured passengers briefly. The injured person told them that there were many other injured passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara and as many as 10 dead. IHH said the telephone conversation with the passenger was very short because of the bad lines.

-It also said that its website was under attack and much of its site was down. The website now only carries part of a press statement it made around noon today. The announcement called for the international community to act and criticized the countries whose citizens were harmed for not acting strongly enough. Mr Yavuz Deda, the Dep. President of IHH, also warned in the press statement that the Israeli forces might "place arms" on the ship in order "to legitimize the attack."

Here's the link: <http://www.ihh.org.tr>

From: Salvatore Amodeo [mailto:]
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:34 AM
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlerath, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Diworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Natos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Colin, Melin (Istanbul).
 Subject: Flotilla Attacked by Israeli Navy, 2- 16 reported killed, upto 50 Injured

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2012 201004163

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The IHH Head quarters in Istanbul informed post at 8:00 am that at least 3 people were killed and 50 were injured during an Israeli military attack on the Free Gaza Flotilla.

The IHH said that it not longer had contact with with its ships (note media reports Israeli forces jammed the flotilla's communication at 3:30 am today)

Thus, they did not know how serious the injuries were. These numbers reflect information they had received from their passenger ship. They do not know about the condition of the people on the cargo ships.

Turkish NTV quotes Israeli media stating up to 16 people were killed.

BBC TV News featured the attack as it first news item at 8:00 am. It showed footage of Israeli navy officers in the ship, passengers on the floor and bloodied cuts. Al Jazeera showed same footage and with a commentator stating that Israeli officers were shooting at the passengers.

BBC also showed live a gathering outside of the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul. The crowd was calm but BBC noted that earlier the protests were heated. It then said that the Turkish police has contained the protest.

RSO sent an SMS to consulate community advising avoiding the area around the Israeli consulate.

BBC says Israeli Amb. to Turkey has been summoned by the MFA.

-- On Sun, 5/30/10, Salvatore Amodeo [redacted] wrote:

From: Salvatore Amodeo [redacted]
Subject: Re: 5/30 Free Gaza Update - Flotilla headed towards Gaza
To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul)Amodeo" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "ViktoriaLopatkiewicz" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "MichelleBernier-Toth" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Teresa SMendel" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Marc JSievers" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "JanLevin" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "David RBurnett" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Desiree ABaron" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Julie DAdams" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Andrew CParker"

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<ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Elisa Greene" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Sandra SZeroubavely" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Thomas GRogan" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Debra J Towry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera VHanania" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Sarah Beran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "Dean Kaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee B Walker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank JFinver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David J Greene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas JManning" <ManningNJ@state.gov>, "Paul HTyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey DFrederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric GFalls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia GReed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees CDavison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen LOgle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKeen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah JerryHoward" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BaileyL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TonlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>
Date: Sunday, May 30, 2010, 12:28 PM

On 5/30 11H [redacted] informed post that:

B6

- He confirmed that the flotilla has departed the rendezvous point near Cyprus for Gaza.
- He expected the flotilla would approach Gaza tomorrow morning.

--- On Sat, 5/29/10, Salvatore Amodeo [redacted] wrote:

From: Salvatore Amodeo [redacted]
Subject: 5/29 Free Gaza Update - 11H ships waiting at near Cyprus for Cypriot ship
To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul) Amodeo" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Viktoria Lopatkiewicz" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "Michelle Bernier-Toth" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Teresa SMendel" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Marc JSievers" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Jan Levin" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "David RBurnett" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Desiree ABaron" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Julie DAdams" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Andrew CParker" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Elisa Greene" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Sandra SZeroubavely" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Thomas GRogan" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Debra J Towry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera VHanania" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Sarah Beran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>.

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"DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee B Walker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank J Finver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David J Greene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas J Manning" <ManningNJ@state.gov>, "Paul H Tyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert W Maggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey D Frederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric G Falls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia G Reed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees C Davison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen L Ogle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel G Keen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah Jerry Howard" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmaniAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BaileyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

This is an updated version of the 5/29 Update:

On 5/29 11H [redacted] informed post that:

B6

- the IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for others ships to join the flotilla.
 - The IHH said the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ship to leave for Gaza so the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
 - Mr Dedo also confirmed that the ship from Greece, Challenge 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers were transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara." The ship now has a total of 778 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla to approach Gaza around 25 hours after they depart. It is unclear when they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.
 - MFA informed Embassy Ankara that that 361 Turkish citizens are participating in the flotilla either as crew or passengers.
- On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus
To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sindle, James M" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Struwe, Rebecca L" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "Bernier-Toth,

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Michelle" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Sievvers, Marc J" <SievversMJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Burnett, David R" <burnetdr@state.gov>, "Baron, Desirce A" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Adams, Julie D" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Greene, Elisa" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Zeroubavely, Sandra S" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Burgess, Richard J" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "Chere, John E" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "Waters, John R" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Towry, Debra J" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Hanania, Vera V" <HanniaVV@state.gov>, "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Lewis, Glenn K" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Beran, Sarah" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Greengrass, Sara D" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "Kaplan, Dean" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Walker, Carollee B" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Finver, Frank J" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "Greene, David J" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Manring, Nicholas J" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Tyson, Paul H" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Maggi, Robert W" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Frederick, Jeffrey D" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Falls, Eric C" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Reed, Julia G" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Davison, Kees C" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Ogle, Karen L" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Keen, Daniel G" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Howard, Jeremiah Jerry" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Parra, Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Dilworth, Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Osman, Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Netos, Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Taylor, Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Riley, Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Dayton, Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Marsh, Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Baily, Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Silliman, Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Rosenstock, Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Goodman, Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Reisser, Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, sal_amodeo@yahoo.com, "Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>, "Cross, Lisa T (Istanbul)" <CrossLT@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>
Date: Friday, May 28, 2010, 4:32 AM

IHH [redacted] informed post at 10:45 am that

B6

- IHH ships are presently enroute towards the rendezvous point near Cyprus and expect to meet the other ships of the flotilla in a few hours.
- They hope to arrive in Gaza tomorrow. "If something happens, it will happen tomorrow," he said.

As reported earlier, IHH informed post yesterday that only one Amcit, [redacted] is aboard their passenger ship.

I plan to send an e-mail on the status of the flotilla over the week-end.

Sal

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Salvatore A. Amodeo

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:22 PM
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Golberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Tolh, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chore, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfield, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Muggl, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Melos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reissor, Wasley J; 'sal_ amodeo' [redacted] Catin, Metin (Istanbul)
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH say only 1 Amcrt with them

At 4:00 pm today IHH [redacted] informed post that [redacted] (please note this correct spelling) is the only American Citizen on any of its three ships to participate in the Free Gaza flotilla. They are expecting their passenger ship the Mavi Marmara to depart this evening, as previously announced.

Regards,

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Sat

Salvatore A. Amodéo

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Amodéo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:58 AM
To: Amodéo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmström, Todd C; Sincé, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kirt B; Lopalkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toh, Michella; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Ehsa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schierath, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Berán, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Oglia, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Diworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Nelos, Eoftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; 'sal_a' [redacted] Celin, Metin (Istanbul)
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH expects ship to leave Antalya at 5:00 pm today, still only 1 Arncit

On the morning of 5/27, IHH informed post that:

- They expect their passenger ship, the Mavi Marmara, to depart Antalya around 5:00 pm today.

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- Only one American Citizen, [redacted] has arrived in Antalya to board the Mavi Marmara.
- Two other American Citizens may join but it is uncertain if they will reach Antalya before the ship departs.
- They expect to approach Gaza Friday evening or Saturday morning.
- IHH will have three ships in the flotilla. The Mavi Marmara, as well as two cargo ships, named the Gazze and the Defne, which only have IHH officials on board and no foreigners.

Sal

Salvatore A. Amodio

Deputy Political & Economic Section Chief/Senior Political Officer

U.S. Consulate General Istanbul

(90) 212-335-9389

SBU

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StateDept01072

Osman, Amany A

From: Parker, Andrew C
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:14 PM
 To: Greens, Elisa; Zeroubavey, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William R; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianna C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [redacted]; Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Salvatore Amodio; Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Zeroubavey, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera Y; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolea B; Finver, Frank J; Greens, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Diworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gilsold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Celin, Melin (Istanbul); Weinfeld, Nili I; Applaton, Richard H; [redacted]; Rogan, Thomas G; Rudman, Mara; Goodman, Ilan A; Sievers, Marc J; Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; de Otañava, Laura H; Cunningham, James B; Reidhead, Van E

Subject: Spm Update from ACS TLV: Amcitt update

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1. MFA reports the following nine Amcitts are now in detention, one [redacted] is in hospital with minor injuries. MFA is checking on their health status and will get back to us today. Access should be possible in the morning, but we may be able to have access to the one hospitalized Amcitt tonight.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Peck Edward Linnel

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[Redacted]
[Redacted]

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- 2. The Mavi Marmara, with over 500 passengers, is expected in Ashdod in the next hour or so.
- 3. Warden Message being released by Post and ConGen shortly.

Andrew C. Parker
 Consul General
 U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv
 Tel. 972-3-519-7671
 Fax 972-3-519-0315
parkerac@state.gov

From: Greene, Elisa
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:22 PM
 To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William R; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianne C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [Redacted]; Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Salvatore Amodeo; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktorin; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Bacon, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Walters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nill J; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amary A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Elsvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cebin, Metin (Istanbul); Weinfeld, Nill J; Appleton, Richard H; [Redacted]; Rogan, Thomas G; Rudman, Mara; Goodman, Ian A; Sievers, Marc J; Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yaef; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; de Otafaro, Laura H
 Subject: 3pm Update from ACS TLV: AmcIt update Freedom Flotilla Coalition

As of 3pm local time, we are unaware of any AmcIt injured/dead in the incident. We will continue to check and advise if any updates. Post has been in touch with all major hospitals who are receiving wounded. We have biodata on 18 AmcIts presumed to have been on the ships; please see attached AmcIt passenger spreadsheet with corrected biodata. We will continue to seek access to any detained AmcIts.

According to the Ministry of Health spokesman, Yair Amitam, most of the injured are unidentified, since they are currently in the operating room, or do not have identification on them. The MOH will advise us if they become aware of any injured AmcIts. Regarding the dead, he could not provide any information.

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According to press reports, passengers from the first vessel have already been transferred from a detention facility in Beer Sheva. The Mavi Marmara is expected into Ashdod at 7pm.
<< File: Freedom Flotilla Coalition color photos of Amclts.docx >> << File: Freedom Flotilla Coalition Passenger List.xls >>

Ella Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel
Address from Israel: 21 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel
Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.
Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-7348; Email: egreene@state.gov

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Peck

Edward Lionel

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2. The Mavi Marmara, with over 500 passengers, is expected in Ashdod in the next hour or so.

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Andrew C. Parker
Consul General
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv
Tel. 972-3-519-7671
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Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:22 PM

To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben;

Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William R; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianne C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W;

[Redacted] Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Slevers, Marc J;

Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Salvatore

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Amodéo; Amodéo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James H; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Zejoubavey, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towny, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn X; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Koplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggl, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gtsvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Weinfeld, Nili I; Appieton, Richard H; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Rogan, Thomas G; Rudman, Mara; Goodman, Ilan A; Sievers, Marc J; Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; de Otaivarro, Laura H
Subject: 3pm Update from ACS TLV: Amdt update Freedom Flotilla Coalition

B6

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<< File: Freedom Flotilla Coalition color photos of Amcits.docx >> << File: Freedom Flotilla Coalition Passenger List.xls >>

Eliza Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel
Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 61000, Israel
Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09030, U.S.A.
Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-7248; Email: american@state.gov

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01078

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W8

RELEASED IN PART

B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Marwaha, Brianne C
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:51 PM
 To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William B; Richter, Kim B; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [redacted] Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Salvatore Amodeo; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Weinfeld, Nili I; Appleton, Richard H; [redacted] Rogan, Thomas G; Rudman, Mara; Goodman, Ilan A; Sievers, Marc J; Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; de Olavaro, Laura H
 Subject: RE: 3pm Update from ACS TLV: Amcrt update Freedom Flotilla Coalition

B6

I received my first call from a concerned family member because of the incident. [redacted] was aboard the Greek passenger ship. His daughter's boyfriend [redacted] called to see if we had any information. Thanks to Elise's update I told him we did not have any information of injured or deceased Americans but that should we have information we would notify the NOK. There is NOK listed for him on the spreadsheet.

From: Greene, Elisa
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:22 AM
 To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William B; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianne C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [redacted] Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Salvatore Amodeo; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Weinfeld, Nili I; Appleton, Richard H; [redacted] Rogan, Thomas G; Rudman, Mara; Goodman, Ilan A; Sievers, Marc J; Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; de Olavaro, Laura H
 Subject: 3pm Update from ACS TLV: Amcrt update Freedom Flotilla Coalition

As of 3pm local time, we are unaware of any Amcrt injured/dead in the incident. We will continue to check and advise if any updates. Post has been in touch with all major hospitals who are receiving wounded. We have biodata on 18

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Americans presumed to have been on the ships; please see attached Amicit passenger spreadsheet with corrected biodata. We will continue to seek access to any detained Amicits.

According to the Ministry of Health spokesman, Yair Amitam, most of the injured are unidentified, since they are currently in the operating room, or do not have identification on them. The MDH will advise us if they become aware of any injured Amicits. Regarding the dead, he could not provide any information.

According to press reports, passengers from the first vessel have already been transferred from a detention facility in Beer Sheva. The Mavi Marmara is expected into Ashdod at 7pm.

<< File: Freedom Flotilla Coalition color photos of Amicits.docx >> << File: Freedom Flotilla Coalition Passenger List.xls >>

Eliza Greene, Chief, American Citizen Services, U.S. Embassy, Tel Aviv, Israel
Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Tarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63950, Israel
Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.
Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2370; Email: greenez@state.gov

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

W9

RELEASED IN PART
B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Greene, Elisa
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:22 PM
 To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William R; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianna C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [redacted]; [redacted] Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Salvatore Amodeo; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindla, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julia D; Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Graengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abayta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Catin, Metin (Istanbul); Weinfeld, Nili I; Appleton, Richard H; [redacted]; [redacted] Rogan, Thomas G; Rudman, Mara; Goodman, Ilan A; Sievers, Marc J; Landau, Avida; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan; Feldboy, Yael; Gutman, Bonnie S; Hoyer, Kurt J; de Ojalvaro, Laura H

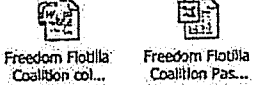
Subject: 3pm Update from ACS TLV: Amcitt update Freedom Flotilla Coalition.

B6

As of 3pm local time, we are unaware of any Amcitt injured/dead in the incident. We will continue to check and advise if any updates. Post has been in touch with all major hospitals who are receiving wounded. We have biodata on 18 Amcitts presumed to have been on the ships; please see attached Amcitt passenger spreadsheet with corrected biodata. We will continue to seek access to any detained Amcitts.

According to the Ministry of Health spokesman, Yair Amitam, most of the injured are unidentified, since they are currently in the operating room, or do not have identification on them. The MOH will advise us if they become aware of any injured Amcitts. Regarding the dead, he could not provide any information.

According to press reports, passengers from the first vessel have already been transferred from a detention facility in Beer Sheva. The Mavi Marmara is expected into Ashdod at 7pm.



Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel
 Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel
 Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.
 Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: greene@state.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 27 MAR 2012 201004163

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UNCLASSIFIED

W10

RELEASED IN PART

B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Salvatore Amodeo
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:59 AM
 To: Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William R; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianne C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [redacted] Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Holmstrom, Todd C; Sinda, James M; Struwa, Rebecca L; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Marchese, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Walker, Carolee B; Finvor, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; D'Worth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Elatharios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Stillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Cohn, Meiri (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Rudman, Mara Omar Bayazeced probably did not make it onto the Mavi Marmara

Subject:

Categories: Working

B6

I do not believe [redacted] ever made it onto the Mavi Marmara. IHH only told us that they initially thought [redacted] would be joining their ship but when the ship departed Istanbul they told me that only one Amcilt [redacted] was on board their passenger ship the Mavi Marmara. However, they told us this before they added the passenger of the Challenger II which had mechanical problems. I do not know if there were any Amcilt aboard the Challenger II.

Sal

Salvatore Amodeo
 Deputy Pol/Ecoin Chief
 Consulate General Istanbul

— On Mon, 5/31/10, Greene, Elisa <GreeneE@state.gov> wrote:

From: Greene, Elisa <GreeneE@state.gov>
 Subject: Freedom Flotilla Coalition latest Amcilt passenger list
 To: "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Zeroubavely, Sandra S" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Tanus, George" <TanusGX@state.gov>, "Sakran, Johnny" <SakranJX@state.gov>, "Harutunian, Ruben" <HarutunianR@state.gov>, "Kaplan, Dean" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Usher, William R" <UsherWR@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Marwaha, Brianne C" <MarwahaBC@state.gov>, "Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv)" <PowerDJ@state.gov>, "Rice, Barry W" <RiceBWJ@state.gov>, [redacted] "Reisser, Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Gutman, Bonnie S" <GutmanBS@state.gov>, "Sievers, Marc J" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Lewis, Glenn K" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "SES-O" <SES-O@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Grubb, Jason B" <GrubbJB@state.gov>, "Salvatore Amodeo" <sal_amodeo@yahoo.com>, "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C"

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<HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sindle, James M" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Struwe, Rebecca L" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "Bernier-Toth, Michelle" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv)" <RobertsKM3@state.gov>, "Marchese, Gregory M" <MarcheseGM@state.gov>, "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Sievers, Marc J" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Burnett, David R" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Baron, Desiree A" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Adams, Julie D" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Zeroubavely, Sandra S" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Burgess, Richard J" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "Chere, John E" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "Waters, John R" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Towry, Debra J" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Hananian, Vera V" <HananianVV@state.gov>, "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Lewis, Glenn K" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Beran, Sarah" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Greengrass, Sara D" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "Kaplan, Dean" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Walker, Carolee B" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Finver, Frank J" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "Greene, David J" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Manring, Nicholas J" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Tyson, Paul H" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Maggi, Robert W" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Frederick, Jeffrey D" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Falls, Eric G" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Reed, Julia G" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Davison, Kees C" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Ogle, Karen L" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Keen, Daniel G" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Parra, Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Dilworth, Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Osman, Amanya A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Netos, Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Taylor, Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Riley, Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Dayton, Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Marsh, Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Baily, Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Silliman, Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Rosenstock, Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Goodman, Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Reisser, Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Cetin, Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>, "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Appleton, Richard H" <AppletonRH@state.gov>, [redacted] <[redacted]@state.gov>, "Rudman, Mara" <RudmanM@state.gov>, "Goodman, Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>
Date: Monday, May 31, 2010, 5:30 AM

Please find attached the most updated Amcit passenger list. No new information on any Amcit injured/dead/other. We are currently reaching out to the major hospitals and with NOK.

<<Freedom Flotilla Coalition Passenger Lists>>

We've left messages for the spokespeople of Barzilai in Ashkelon and Bellinson in Petach Tikva and are waiting to hear back from them.

We've spoken with Tel Ha-Shomer in Ramat Gan; they have 6 unidentified individuals (unidentified as a result of their condition)—no further information. Rambam Hospital in Haifa has 6 injured (two IDF and 4 foreigners)—none Amcits. ConGen IRSM advises that there are no Amcits among the injured at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

It appears no ships are being taken to Haifa—only to Ashdod.

France 24 TV reports (unconfirmed) that 15 were killed and 9 of those were

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