

ACTION EUR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
	PDI-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OES-00	NIMA-00
	PER-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	MA-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
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O 311358Z MAY 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0088
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS ANKARA 000776

SENSITIVE
 SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS

SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 3 on IHH Flotilla, 4:30 pm Turkey Time

REF: 10 ISTANBUL 195; 10 ISTANBUL 199; 10 ANKARA 772; 10 ANKARA 774
 DE OTALVARO EMAIL OF 31 MAY 10 16:38 TO SES-O

- (SBU) At 1500 Ambassador Jeffrey and other ambassadors from UN Security Council member states were briefed by the MFA regarding the intervention by the Israeli Military on the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla. Following this, the MFA briefed other groups of ambassadors from (1) the Organization of the Islamic Council member states, (2) EU member states, and (3) all other states. All member states received the same briefing.
- (SBU) The MFA confirmed that FM Davutoglu is going to New York with the purpose of addressing the UN Security Council today. The Ministry put particular emphasis on calling the intervention a "gross violation of international law," handing out maps to emphasize the location of the intervention. They placed the intervention at 64 nautical miles from the northeast corner of Israel's blockade area of Gaza, which covers 20 square nautical miles from the coastline. The Ministry stressed that it reserves its rights under international law, that this "grave" action should not go without a response, and that a response to the intervention

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 FEB 2012 201004163

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is the responsibility of the entire International Community.

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3. (SBU) The Ministry also stressed that Israel bears the responsibility for the intervention, which involved an attack on innocent civilians -- including women, children and the elderly -- who were on a humanitarian mission. While Turkey has withdrawn its Ambassador to Israel for consultations, its first priority is to determine the whereabouts and identity of the passengers who were killed or wounded in action, and it would like all of the passengers returned to Turkey as soon as possible. (Note: Withdrawing the ambassador for consultations is less dramatic than recalling him, and does not necessarily require a response from the GOI. End note.)

4. (SBU) The Ministry estimated that the Turkish registered ship that was boarded, the Mavi Marmaris, carried 560 passengers not counting the crew. The majority of those passengers (353) were Turks, though there were also citizens from 43 other nations including Algeria (33 passengers), Jordan (31), the U.K. (28), between 10-20 passengers from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Kuwait, respectively, and 3 U.S. citizens.

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CA-00	CCO-00
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	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
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S E C R E T ANKARA 000777

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 AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01

TAGS: PGOV, PTER, TU, PREL, PINR

SUBJECT: TERRORIST-TIED IHH CHARITY WINS FLOTILLA PR BATTLE

CLASSIFIED BY: Doug Silliman, DCM, State, Political; REASON: 1.4(B),
 (D)

1. (SBU) Summary. The Foundation for Human Rights, Liberties and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), the charitable group which organized the aid flotilla to Gaza, has largely achieved its goal of drawing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

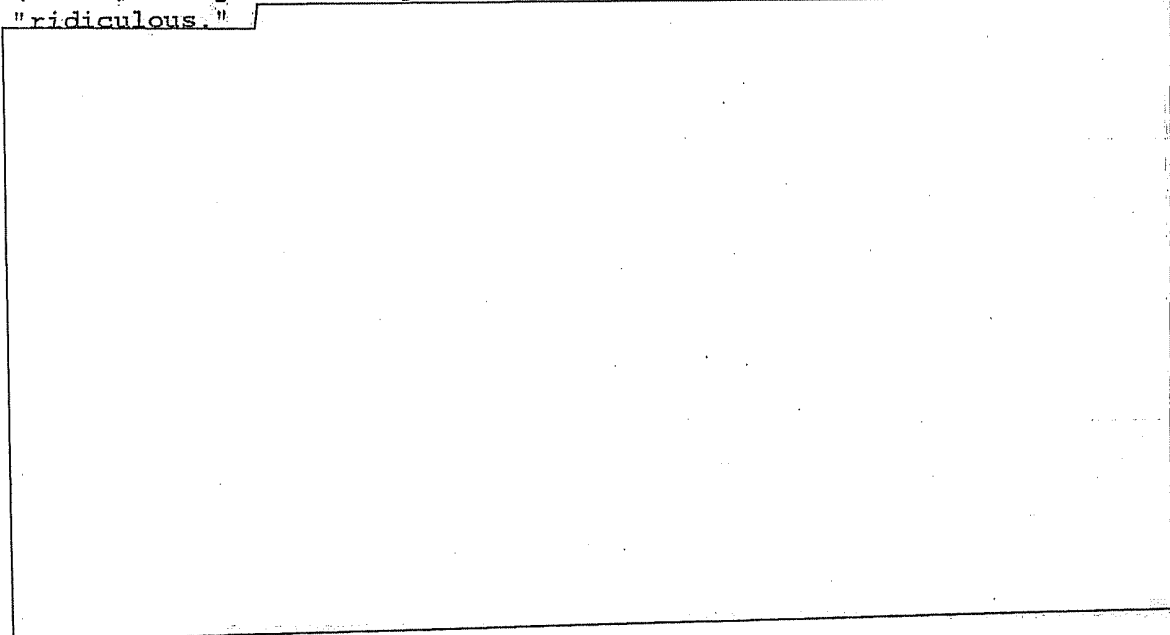
UNCLASSIFIED

attention to itself and casting Israel into the role of an oppressor. The IHH has been on the rise for a decade, particularly gaining prominence in its defense first of Bosnians, then Chechens, and now Gazans. Israel designated the organization as a terrorist-supporter in 2008; the organization has had legal problems in the past related to allegations it provides financial and material support to terrorist organizations. End Summary.

2. (C) The IHH flotilla -- flagshipped by the Mavi Marmara, which was stormed by Israeli Defense Forces on May 31 -- achieved a greater success than it bargained for in portraying Israel in as negative a light as possible. The IHH told us before the flotilla set sail that it would either "win" by successfully landing in Gaza to distribute aid, or highlight Israel's intransigence by forming an "artificial island" off the Israeli coast, trying to dominate the world media at least until the World Cup began on July 11.

(REF A) They said being boarded would make Israel look "ridiculous."

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Past Support of Terrorism?

4. (U) A 2006 report on Islamic charities' support of terrorist organizations written by American terrorism researcher Evan Kohlman and published by the Danish Institute for International Studies discusses details of the IHH's alleged support of terrorist organizations. Turkish authorities raided the Istanbul office in 1997, discovering arms, explosives, instructions for constructing improvised explosive devices, and jihad propaganda material. Documents uncovered in the raid indicated IHH members were either planning to join jihad or were actively facilitating traveling jihadists' efforts to go to Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya. The

Istanbul office's phone records showed "repeated" telephone calls to what was alleged to be an al-Qa'ida guesthouse in Milan, Italy; to various Algerian terrorists in various places in Europe; and to Abd al-Qadr Mukhtari, a jihadist active in Bosnia during the Bosnia war. The report also quotes French authorities that Bulent Yildirim was personally involved in organizing jihadist facilitation.

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5. (U) Following the 1997 raid on their Istanbul offices, the IHH took efforts to protect itself legally from Turkish scrutiny. It registered in Germany as a charitable organization making the bulk of its assets untouchable by Turkish authorities. Bulent Yildirim resigned from formal authority in the organization, although he remained its decision-making and administrative authority; for several years, his son Gokten was President. It appears Bulent

Yildirim is now, once again, officially president. The IHH website is registered in Friesdorf, Germany, keeping it out of the authority of Turkish media monitors. The IHH is represented legally, at least in part, by Osman Karahan, an Istanbul lawyer who also defended the suspects in the 2003 Istanbul bombings and Lu'ay al-Saqa who was found guilty of plotting an attack on an Israeli cruise ship in Turkish waters. Karahan has, himself, been arrested on charges of aiding terrorist organizations.

6. (U) Regarding its ties to HAMAS, IHH has met with senior HAMAS officials in Turkey, Syria, and Gaza over the past three years. HAMAS members attended the launching of the Mavi Marmara out of Istanbul. IHH Deputy President Dede is in damage control mode concerning allegations that passengers on the flotilla attacked Israeli forces first, claiming in the press on May 31 that Israel might "place weapons" on the ship to create a justification for the attack and to paint IHH as a terrorist organization.

But Broadly Popular

7. (SBU) IHH's contact with and seeming support for terrorist organizations is not widely known in Turkish society. In the early 1990s, the organization was only prominent in religious circles. Its advertising and campaigns have always been anodyne, calling for donations to the oppressed people of various Muslim countries, but being vague on the details of who, exactly, would be handling funds and material upon arrival. As a result, the Turkish populace sees it as a supporter of Bosnians, Afghans, Uzbeks, Indonesians, Iraqis, and Palestinians, but is blind to the nuance that some of the groups actually receiving the money use at least part of the funds to perpetuate violent acts. This nuance is especially lost in the Gaza case, because most Turks -- religious and secular -- do not perceive HAMAS to be a terrorist organization.

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8. (SBU) Throughout its existence, IHH has been close to the political religious movement in Turkey. Bulent Yildirim and other IHH staff were frequent guests at events held by the now defunct but religiously conservative Refah and Fazilet parties. Members of these two parties form the core of the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP). It is unlikely that most Turkish politicians are aware of the IHH's contacts with terrorist organizations (other than HAMAS), and would find such allegations incredible and offensive. It is a reasonable assumption that many AKP politicians have donated money to the IHH, assuming it to be a purely charitable organization, making investigations into allegations against the organization politically poisonous.

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Comment

9. (SBU) The IHH appears to have won the PR battle over the flotilla. The Turkish populace is outraged by Israeli actions on the Mavi Marmara, and is staging anti-Israeli protests in Turkey's major cities. The government, the military, and the opposition parties have condemned the Israeli action. Even the respectable secular press is denouncing what it sees as Israeli aggression against innocent charitable workers. In the midst of it all, IHH's profile as a charitable organization defying perceived oppressors is at its highest. Messages coming out of Israel or Washington will meet a jaded public convinced Israel is the aggressor.

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ACTION NEA-00

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S E C R E T ANKARA 000781

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 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
 AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/01
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: PM Erdogan Steps Back From The Brink

CLASSIFIED BY: James F. Jeffrey, Ambassador; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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1. (C) Summary and Comment. In a speech to his parliamentary group, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Noting he would discuss the Israeli naval forces intervention on the IHH flotilla with President Obama this evening, he denounced anti-Semitism but appealed to Israelis to put pressure on the Netanyahu government to stop resorting to violence. Focusing on concrete measures to get beyond the crisis, he called for the passengers and ships seized to be released immediately and said he sent medical planes to return the wounded passengers. He called for an international response that would include punishing Israel for its attitude, and ending the embargo of Gaza.

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2. (S/NF) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. (U) PM Erdogan, speaking in a meeting of his parliamentary group which was broadcast live, appealed for Turks to remain calm about the intervention by Israeli naval forces on the Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) flotilla. Stressing that, "with affection and friendship the ships will overcome their obstacles, and reach their destinations," he announced that he would discuss the incident with President Obama this evening. He emphasized that the GOT is opposed to anti-Semitism, and that Jewish Turks are part of the Turkish nation. He also stressed that Turkey had no qualms with the Israeli people. He appealed to them to tell the Netanyahu government it had to stop hurting their country by using violence as a policy, and by "resorting to piracy and acting like bandits."

4. (U) Erdogan reviewed the Israeli naval forces' landing on the Mavi Marmara, calling it a "bloody attack," a "massacre," and "state terrorism." Speaking passionately, he described the ships as loaded "with mercy and compassion," but unable to reach their

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destination because they were "obstructed with arms and tyranny." Erdogan said the "Freedom to Gaza Flotilla" was carrying 600 people - including women, children and religious men - from 32 countries, with humanitarian assistance for the people of Gaza. "The illegal Israeli intervention shed the blood of innocent people in international waters," he lamented. He demanded that the ships that had been confiscated be released immediately, and the

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civilians returned. As a sign of Turkey being "capable and strong enough to bring back its own people," he sent two military ambulance planes to the region, who retrieved wounded passengers and are on their way back to Turkey. Reiterating that Turkey's actions were in accordance with international law, he warned Israel that "Turkey is not an inexperienced state. No one should try to test Turkey's patience. Turkey's friendship is invaluable but its animosity is strong. Israel should not make the mistake and think that Turkey is like others. The cost will be heavy."

5. (U) Erdogan called for an international response to the intervention, describing the incident as one that dealt "one of the heaviest wounds in human history to the conscience of humanity," that should compel the international community to say "this is enough." He appealed to Israel to "stop making mistakes," admit that it had made a mistake and inform the international community correctly. The international community, for its part, should respond to this threat to international peace, which contravened the UN's basic philosophy, and punish Israel for its attitude. He said that a statement denouncing the incident is not enough, that it should support its decision and compel Israel to end the embargo in Gaza. He called on the UN to investigate the incident rather than wait for Israel to investigate it, and said Turkey would follow this request and use all means of international law and diplomacy to bring a resolution to the incident.

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RELEASED IN FULL

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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070524

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

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HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP SITUATION

REPORT NO. 3

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv expects to visit shortly the nine American citizens detained on June 1. We have no reports of any deaths or serious injuries involving American citizens on the flotilla, although one was injured while taking part in a protest in Jerusalem and has been hospitalized. No additional Americans have been deported. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

ADDITIONAL FREE GAZA SHIP EN ROUTE

2. (SBU) A final ship in the flotilla, the Cambodian-flagged MV Rachel Corrie, is traveling through the Mediterranean from Ireland. It is anticipated the ship will approach Gaza June 3. The Israeli government has not determined how it will respond.

MAJORITY OF PASSENGERS NOW IN ISRAELI DETENTION

3. (U) Approximately 480 passengers are now in Israeli detention and 48 have been deported to their home countries. (jpost.com)

ISRAELI ARABS CALL GENERAL STRIKE

4. (U) Israeli Arab leaders have called for a general strike, which is expected to impact many communities in the north of Israel. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. (U) The UN Security Council adopted a Presidential

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Statement that expresses deep regret for "loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza." The statement requests a prompt investigation by Israel and the immediate release of the detainees and ships. (MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)

6. (SBU) The UN Human Rights Council convened a general debate at 0400 EDT to discuss the Israeli response to the flotilla. (MGGZ01/USUN Geneva e-mail)

7. (SBU) At Turkey's request, the North Atlantic Council will meet at 0830 EDT in Brussels. They may seek a statement along the lines of the UNSC statement. (MGGZ01/USNATO telcon)

WASHINGTON MEETINGS WITH FM DAVUTOGLU

8. (SBU) Both Secretary Clinton and NSA Jones will meet with Turkish FM Davutoglu June 1, following his arrival from New York. (MGGZ01/Turkey Desk e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

9. (SBU) Palestinian Territories: Small demonstrations are occurring throughout the West Bank and Gaza. (Jerusalem 922)

10. (U) Australia: PM Rudd condemned "any use of violence under the sorts of circumstances we have seen" and called for the lifting of the blockade of Gaza. (abc.net.au)

11. (U) China: The Chinese Foreign Ministry expressed shock at the Israeli attack and urged Israel to seriously implement UN Security Council resolutions and improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. (chinadaily.com.cn)

12. (U) Pakistan: President Zardari issued a statement describing the incident as "brutal and inhuman." (dailytimes.com.pk)

13. (U) Minimize considered.
CLINTON

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ACTION INR-00

RELEASED IN FULL

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 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: KMDR, KPAO, OIIP, OPRC, PGOV, PREL, PK
 SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: MAY 29- JUNE 01, 2010

Summary: Coverage of the Israeli attack on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters dominated headlines in all newspapers on Tuesday morning. All dailies reported that a well-known Pakistan journalist Talat Hussain and two other Pakistanis who were onboard one of the ships are safe but their whereabouts are unknown. Newspapers carried front page reports of the Monday night attack on Lahore's Jinnah Hospital believed to be a "bid to free [an] arrested terrorist injured in [the] attack on Ahmedis" last Friday. Ambassador Patterson's meeting with Foreign Secretary Bashir, were carried in all major English and Urdu newspapers. Newspapers reported her statement that "the case of Dr.

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 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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Aafia Siddiqui is still in the courts and therefore discussions of future plans are premature," and that she urged the Foreign Ministry to expedite travel documents for Pakistani nationals awaiting deportation. Almost all major dailies recycled a "New York Times" report that the United States is increasing pressure on Pakistan to provide more information on airline passengers as part of its efforts to combat terrorism. The U.S. Embassy's press release denying the violation of Pakistan airspace by the U.S. aircraft near Landikotal was also published. Media also covered a report that the fee for nonimmigrant U.S. visa applications has increased to 140 dollars. Both electronic and print media reported that the Lahore High Court has lifted the ban on Facebook with a strict warning against any future acts of blasphemy.

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Weekend editions carried Admiral Mullen's statement that he is more focused on Pakistani cooperation to contain the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan than weighing military action against militant targets in that country in retaliation for a terror attack. The Sunday editions of almost all mainstream dailies published a "Washington Post" report on their front pages that U.S. military planners are looking at options for a "unilateral strike" in Pakistan if a successful attack on U.S. soil is traced to the tribal areas." Both newspapers and TV networks reported that the U.S. Mission in Pakistan has strongly condemned the terrorist attacks in Lahore on Friday.

The Gaza-bound aid flotilla incident dominated editorial themes in Monday's newspapers. In its editorial titled, "Under a dark flag," "The News," observed that "This monstrous outrage has caught the world's attention and once again put the spotlight on the activities of a state that has been a law unto itself for most of its life," however, "The Nation," wrote in its article, "Depraved, brutal, illegal," that "it seems quite significant that the Americans could not hit upon stronger words than 'deeply regret' the loss of life, with the Obama Administration 'currently working to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragedy.'" The Urdu daily "Khabrain," in its editorial, "Rein Israel in," noted that "If the U.S. has permitted Israel to engage in terrorism, it should not have any objection to Al Qaeda and the Taliban as it is in reaction to the Israeli and American terrorist acts that the Taliban and Al Qaeda are responding." "Dawn," wrote in its editorial "Murder most foul," that "Save condemnations from around the world, one can reasonably be sure Israel will face no material consequences for this brutality on the seas." End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: Israel Storms Gaza Aid Fleet, 19 Killed - "Daily Times"
(06/01)

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"Israeli navy commandos stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla in international waters on Monday, killing up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists in a raid that sparked global outrage."

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News Story: Journalist Talat And Other Pakistanis Are Safe - "Dawn" (06/01)

"TV journalist Talat Hussain and two other Pakistanis who were onboard a ship that Israeli commandos stormed in international waters on Monday are reported to be safe but their whereabouts are not known. An official statement issued after Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani made a telephone call to the wife of Talat Hussain said that Interpol had informed the government that the journalist was in 'safe hands'."

News Story: Audacious Attack Follows Strike On Ahmadis: Terrorists Fail To Reach Comrade In Lahore Hospital - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Terrorists targeted Lahore's Jinnah Hospital on Monday midnight to 'free or kill' their fellow, who was injured in Friday's attack on

Ahmadis' worship place in Model Town, leaving at least five persons dead and six injured. Some 10 Ahmadis and terrorist Moaz alias Amir Moavia were under treatment in the hospital when the terror attack took place at around 11.45pm."

News Story: Terrorists Attack Jinnah Hospital, Attack Considered Bid To Free Arrested Terrorist Who Was Injured In Attack On Ahmedis "Daily Times" (06/01)

"At least five people, including a woman, were killed when at least four unidentified terrorists stormed various wards of Lahore's Jinnah Hospital late on Monday night. Reports said the attack was an attempt to free a terrorist, who was under treatment at the hospital after being arrested following Friday's attacks on a Ahmedis' prayer facility in Model Town's C-block."

News Story: Too Early To Predict Aafia's Future, Says Patterson - "Daily Times," "Dawn," "The News," "Jang," "Ausaf," "Islam," "Jinnah," "Pakistan," "Nawa-e-Waqt," (06/01)

"US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W Patterson said on Monday that it would be too early to discuss the future of Dr Aafia Siddiqui as the case was still in the court, a statement said on Monday. 'Dr Siddiqui has not yet been sentenced and also has the right to appeal her conviction - so the US legal process is not yet concluded,' the US ambassador said during a meeting with Foreign Affairs Secretary Salman Bashir."

News Story: US Seeks FO Help In Repatriation Of '300 Pakistanis' -

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"Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," (06/01)

"American Ambassador Anne Patterson has sought the help of Foreign Office for expeditious repatriation of 300 detainees, believed to be Pakistanis, facing deportation from the United States. At a meeting with Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir on Monday, Ambassador Patterson asked Islamabad to immediately provide travel documents to the Pakistanis so that they could be repatriated."

News Story: US Seeks More Information About Travelers - "Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," (06/01)

"The Obama administration is increasing pressure on Pakistan to provide the United States with much broader airline passenger information, a crucial tool that American investigators use to track terrorist travel patterns, but a step that Pakistan has resisted, the New York Times reported on Monday."

News Story: Correction For The Record: U.S. Aircraft - "Express," "Nawa-e-Waqt," "Islam," (06/01)

"Two daily national newspapers published articles today claiming that U.S. aircraft violated Pakistan's airspace on Sunday near Landikotal Tehsil in the Khyber Agency. This accusation is entirely false. No U.S. aircraft flew over the Khyber Agency as alleged in the articles."

News Story: Nonimmigrant Visa Application Fees to Increase June 4 - "Nawa-e-Waqt," "Ausaf," "Islam," "Mashriq," "Jinnah," "Pakistan," (06/01)

"On June 4, 2010, all U.S. Consular Sections worldwide will introduce new application fees for nonimmigrant visas. For most visas, including those for temporary visitors and students, the application fee will increase from \$131 to \$140."

News Story: Court Lifts Facebook Ban - "Dawn," "The News," "Daily Times," "The Nation," (06/01)

"A judge of the Lahore High Court allowed on Monday conditional access to Facebook, a social networking website, with a strict warning against any future act of blasphemy. A 12-day-old ban on the website was lifted after the Ministry of Information Technology gave an assurance that no blasphemous material would be allowed to be shown on it."

News Story: Al-Qaeda Leadership In Pakistan: Mullen - "The News" (05/31)

"Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on

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Sunday he is more focused on Pakistani cooperation to contain the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan than weighing military action

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against militant targets in that country in retaliation for a terror attack in the US emanating from there. Mullen, appearing on Fox News Sunday program, said he was pleased with the increase in Pakistani military success against militants along the Afghan border."

News Story: US Mulls Unilateral Pakistan Strikes, US Military Officials Say Strike Will Only Be Considered Under Extreme Circumstances - "Daily Times" (05/30)

"US military planners are looking at options for a unilateral strike in Pakistan, if a successful attack on US soil is traced to the Tribal Areas, The Washington Post reported late on Friday. US retaliation would be contemplated only under extreme circumstances, unnamed senior military officials told the Post."

News Story: U.S. Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Lahore - "The News," "Business Recorder," "Jang," "Express," "Nawa-e-Waqt," (05/29)

"The U.S. Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemns the terrorist attacks today at Garhi Shahu and Model Town, Lahore. U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W. Patterson said 'cowardly assaults on people at prayer are attacks against people of all faiths'."

TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: Obama, Netanyahu Meeting Cancelled After Israeli Attack - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday cancelled his meeting with US President Barack Obama and rushed back home from Canada to deal with the aftermath of an Israeli military action that killed up to 19 international aid workers. Also on Monday, President Obama expressed "deep regret" over the loss of life in the attack on the aid ships."

News Story: Nation Denounces Israeli Barbarsim On Relief Workers - "The News" (06/01)

"Entire Pakistani nation on Monday stood together against use of force by Israeli army against 'Freedom Flotilla' the humanitarian mission launched to deliver aid to Palestinian in Gaza in which 20 people have lost their precious life."

News Story: At Least Nine Activists Killed: Israeli Commandos Storm Aid Fleet - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Israeli navy commandos stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla on Monday,

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killing at least nine pro-Palestinian activists in a pre-dawn raid that sparked global outrage and plunged the Jewish state into a diplomatic crisis. The bloody ending to the high-profile aid mission plunged the Jewish state's already troubled relations with Turkey into crisis, with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu saying that Israel had lost all international legitimacy." UNCLASSIFIED

News Story: US 'Regrets' Deaths In Israeli Raid On Aid Flotilla -
"Daily Times" (06/01)

"The US 'deeply regrets' the loss of life during an Israeli raid on an aid convoy to the Gaza Strip and is looking into the details of the incident, the White House said on Monday. "The United States deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries sustained and is currently working to understand the circumstances surrounding this tragedy," White House spokesman Bill Burton said in a statement."

News Story: Taseer Wants Stern Action Against Banned Outfits -
"Daily Times" (06/01)

"Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer said that the Punjab government must ensure zero tolerance towards banned religious outfits, suggesting that leniency would embolden them."

News Story: Diplomatic Efforts For Recovery Of Pakistanis Launched -
"Daily Times" (06/01)

"Pakistan on Monday asked for the US government's immediate intervention in the matter regarding the recovery of Pakistani nationals who were aboard Freedom Flotilla. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters that he had telephoned US special representative Richard Holbrooke on the issue of recovery of Talat Hussain, executive director of a private TV channel."

News Story: Israel In Eye Of Storm Over Siege - "The Nation"
(06/01)

"Israel's allies froze military ties and summoned its ambassadors Monday over the storming of an aid flotilla bound for Gaza, as Muslim leaders slammed the deadly raid as "criminal" and 'inhuman'. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he was "shocked" by the Israeli navy's assault on a convoy carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists, lawmakers and journalists through international waters towards besieged Gaza."

News Story: Israel Faces Worldwide Condemnation - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Israel faced a wave of global outrage over the storming of Gaza-bound aid ships on Monday, as key ally Turkey froze military

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ties, Muslim leaders demanded UN action and protests erupted in many countries. UN chief Ban Ki-moon said he was "shocked" by the naval assault on a convoy carrying hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists through international waters, while capitals across Europe summoned Israel's ambassadors."

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News Story: Zardari Earns Friend Reprieve From Agencies - "Dawn" (06/01)

"Personal intervention of President Asif Ali Zardari led to the return of his close friend and prominent businessman Riaz Laljee, who was allegedly picked up by intelligence operatives early on Sunday morning soon after his return from Dubai, it has been reliably learnt."

News Story: Terrorists Sent To Target PM House - "The Nation" (06/01)

"Three high-profile terrorists have reportedly been sent from the tribal areas to target the Prime Minister's House situated in the Federal Capital, police sources said. According to reliable sources, Punjab-based intelligence agencies informed the Islamabad Capital Territory Police that three high-profile terrorists could target the Prime Minister House by carrying suicide attacks."

News Story: Security Issues Discussed- "Dawn" (06/01)

"Chief of the Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani called on Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani here on Monday and exchanged views with him on security situation in the country."

News Story: 42 Killed In Orakzai Air Attacks- "Dawn" (06/01)

"Forty-two militants were killed and 18 others injured in air strikes on suspected positions in Orakzai on Monday. Officials said military planes and helicopters targeted seven places in Ghelju, Toorkani and Mamozai areas of Dabori."

POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: US Seeks To Balance India's Role In Afghanistan- "Daily Times" (06/01)

"The Obama administration is grappling with how to balance India's role in Afghanistan as it thinks Pakistan also jostles for influence there ahead of Washington's planned troop withdrawal to start in mid-2011. US strategy in Afghanistan is set to be included on the agenda in the US-India talks this week in Washington - with Delhi seeking clarity over rival Pakistan's role, particularly in reconciliation plans with the Taliban."

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News Story: Pakistani Law Fuels Hatred Of Ahmadis, Says UN -

"Dawn" (06/01)

"Official discrimination in Pakistan against the Ahmadi sect fuels hatred of the community and prompts violent attacks against them, according to three UN human rights investigators. In a statement issued by the United Nations in Geneva on Monday following deadly bombings last Friday of two Ahmadi worship places in Lahore, the three said the authorities had failed to head off the attacks despite many signs that they were coming."

ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: VAT Being Opposed By The Rich: PM's Adviser - "Dawn"
(06/01)

"The Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance, Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, claimed here on Monday that those who possessed wealth and did not want to be brought into the tax net were the main opponents of Value Added Tax (VAT), which was likely to be imposed from July 1."

News Story: Petroleum Prices Reduced - "Dawn" (06/01)

"The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority reduced on Monday the prices of petroleum products by up to 8 per cent for the month of June, following a decline in crude rates in Gulf markets."

News Story: Pakistan, India Close To Deal On 2 Power Projects-
"Daily Times" (06/01)

"India and Pakistan are close to an agreement on two power projects coming up in Indian-held Kashmir, which have been a major bone of contention between the two countries over the past two years. Confirming that a consensus had evolved on the 250 megawatts Uri-II power project on Jehlum River, Pakistan Indus Commissioner Jamaat Ali Shah told Daily Times that the issue was dealt with in the 'spirit of cooperation and as a gesture of goodwill'."

News Story: Water Level In Hunza Lake Reaches 370 Feet - "The Nation" (06/01)

"Assistant Commissioner Hunza said water level in Attaabad lake has reached to 370 feet while, the outflow from the spillway was recorded as 400 cusecs. According to details, Assistant Commissioner Hunza Zamir Abbas brushed aside the possibility of lake burst and said water outflow is 70 cusecs per second. He said that water flow is at speed of 200 cusecs from base of the lake. He said that helicopters are monitoring the whole situation."

EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

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Editorial: Under A Dark Flag an editorial in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"This monstrous outrage has caught the world's attention and once again put the spotlight on the activities of a state that has been a law unto itself for most of its life... This inhuman use of force in international waters on a flotilla made up of three cargo ships and three elderly passenger ferries is well-deserving of the condemnation of it delivered by Foreign Minister Qureshi. We hope that those of Pakistani origin find their way safely home and we also hope that none of them are among the dead and injured. Today, the civilized world stands aghast at what Israel have done, and we add our voice to the condemnation of what many will understand as state terrorism."

Editorial: Depraved, Brutal, Illegal, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/01)

"The brutal attack on the six-ship flotilla, carrying 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid and 600 passengers, for the Palestinian Gazans who have been besieged for the past three years, is just one more instance of Israel's rank depravity that, nevertheless, would hardly have surprised anyone in the international community. Much before the Jewish state was thrust upon the Palestinians and usurped their land, the forerunners of the waves of settlers acted like marauding hordes, killing and plundering, destroying and expropriating the lands and properties of local inhabitants. And since the state machinery at Tel Aviv assumed the executioner's role and powerful political forces in the world carry a dead conscience that tradition of open acts of inhumanity has flourished."

Editorial: Rein Israel In, an editorial note in the Lahore-based center-right populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (06/01)

"According to reports, Israel has attacked the Freedom Flotilla taking assistance for Palestinians in Gaza strip, killing 20 people, and taking the rest hostage... The question is: can the U.S., which is at war against terrorism, not see this terrorism by Israel? Have Obama and Hillary Clinton closed their eyes to Israeli deeds? Can't they see the atrocities taking place against the Palestinians? If the U.S. has permitted Israel to engage in terrorism, it should not have any objection to Al Qaeda and the Taliban as it is in reaction to the Israeli and American terrorist acts that the Taliban and Al Qaeda are responding."

Editorial: Murder Most Foul an editorial-note in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

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"Given the nonchalance with which the Israeli military sheds civilian blood regularly as a matter of policy, one shouldn't be shocked by the grim drama that rocked the ships carrying aid and relief workers to the Gaza Strip on Monday morning. Israeli forces boarded the vessels and killed a number of passengers, even though the flotilla carried nothing but relief goods. While Turkey condemned the cold-blooded murder on board and said Israel would have to 'endure the consequences' of this crime, all an Israeli minister could do was to utter regrets. The angry reaction by Greta Berlin, spokeswoman for the Free Gaza Movement, which had organized the aid flotilla, was telling: 'Do they think because they can attack Palestinians indiscriminately, they can attack anyone?' Yes, Israel can attack anyone - and get away with it. It has murdered several UN peacekeepers, western aid workers and journalists, and American student Rachel Corrie died when an Israeli bulldozer flattened her. The crime has largely remained unknown to the American public. . . . Save condemnations from around the world, one can reasonably be sure Israel will face no material consequences for this brutality on the seas"

Editorial: Israeli Attack On Aid Caravan For Gaza Hostages, an editorial in the popular rightist Urdu-language daily "Ausaf" (cir. 10,000) (06/01)

"We don't know how the international community would treat Israel after the attack on an aid caravan which was carrying the most and much-needed amenities of life for the hapless Palestinians held hostage in the Gaza Strip. We don't expect anything good from the rulers of the Muslim countries, but we do appeal the people of these countries to exert pressure on their governments to join hands in order to put an end to the Israeli aggression against Palestinians. We urge the Muslim rulers to strongly protest against this naked aggression and boycott Israel."

Editorial: Israeli Action In Gaza, And U.S. Plan To Attack Pakistan: Is It Still Not Time For The Ummah To Awaken?, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (06/01)

"In violation of international laws Israel attacked vessel, Freedom Flotilla, taking aid to Gaza as a result on which at least 20 people were killed and over 50 were injured. . . . Israeli act of depriving Gaza of the aid and killing of those onboard the vessel is not just condemnable; it is rather a time for the formation of an Islamic bloc. Incidentally, Turkey and Iran are in favor of such an alliance with Turkey being the latest victim of the fresh Israel attack. . . . Is not it possible for the Pakistani Parliament to fulfill the dream of an Islamic bloc. . . . And if not then these atrocious anti-Muslim forces are bent upon destroying the Muslim Ummah."

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Editorial: The Strike Scenario, an editorial-note in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The pressure is on Islamabad again after just a few months of relative respite. Pentagon officials have been quoted as saying that a unilateral strike on Pakistan could be considered if a terrorist attack on US soil is linked back to it. . . . recent comments from Washington indicate that terrorism remains an issue that continues to dominate thinking. Islamabad needs to engage in some serious thinking on the issue. It must determine what it can do to remove from its territory the bases that promote terror. There is no denying the fact that these exist. Militants captured in Lahore following the attack on Ahmedi places of worship have again pointed fingers in the direction of North Waziristan as the place where they were trained. Centres exist too in other places. We need to ensure that the US never considers the action it has threatened by targeting them ourselves. More than anything else, it is such action that would send out the clearest signal to people everywhere of Pakistan's determination to protect its own sovereignty. This is something we need to lay out before Washington as well as our own people. Threats are not acceptable. But to stop them we must demonstrate that we are ourselves capable of taking on militants and that we possess both the means and the fortitude to do so for the sake of the citizens of our own country who have fallen in their thousands to terrorists."

Editorial: Potential Threats To Pakistan's Security, an editorial in the Karachi-based, pro-Taliban Jihadi Urdu daily "Islam" (cir. 15,000) (06/01)

"The announcement of U.S. President Barack Obama has validated our concerns regarding the threats to Pakistan's security. In this scenario, it is high time for all political and religious parties and the national institutions to join hands to ensure the protection of the country. It seems that the Pak-U.S. relations have entered a very critical phase therefore our national leadership needs to adopt a very prudent and far-sighted approach to tackle this situation."

Editorial: Punjab's Militants an editorial in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The attacks on Lahore's Ahmadi community constitute further proof that the city is firmly in the crosshairs of extremists who find no act of murder or mayhem too foul. With every fresh attack it becomes clearer that the extremism problem is being grown in the province itself. An increasing body of evidence points to the fact that proscribed organizations including the Lashkar-i-Jhangvi,

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Sipah-i-Sahaba and Lashkar-i-Taiba continue to operate out of southern Punjab. What's more, they are swelling their ranks with members of other militant groups who are on the run from areas such as Swat and Waziristan. . . . Emergency response plans, and intelligence-gathering and sharing networks must be created in anticipation of coordinated law enforcement action. The state must move against southern Punjab's terrorist cells before the situation worsens further."

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Editorial: Roots Of Terrorism, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (06/01)

"Interior Minister Rehman Malik, on his visit to Lahore on Sunday, referred to the roots of the Punjabi Taliban as lying in Balochistan and FATA. He failed to connect the situation in Balochistan with that in FATA, but clearly to some extent one common trait is the marginalization of the people in both these areas by the state over the decades. It is unfortunate that the government is totally unable or unwilling to see the writing on the wall regarding the growth of terrorism and extremism in Pakistan. Had they been less blinded by US lures, they would realize that one of the major causes of post-9/11 terrorism in Pakistan has been the US policies in this region - which are increasingly revealing their anti-Muslim character."

Editorial: Terrorists In South Punjab, an editorial in the leading mass circulation populist, often sensational Urdu daily "Jang" (cir. 300,000) (06/01)

"It seems that the terrorist attacks have become the most powerful tool for the anti-Pakistan forces to destabilize our country. The deadly incidents of Lahore provide a clear evidence that this monster has managed to spread its tentacles to South Punjab. The intelligence agencies' reports also show that the terrorist outfits have established their foothold in this area. We think that the time has come for our ruling elites to address the root causes of terrorism and take immediate and effective steps to arrest the rapid growth of this menace. . . ."

Editorial: Terrorism In Punjab, an editorial in the Peshawar-based Urdu-language daily "Mashriq" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The recent statement by Interior Minister, Rehman Malik, that the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is involved in the Friday's terrorist attacks in Lahore needs to be supplemented by irrefutable evidence which can be presented in a court of law to incriminate this organization. We think that it would be too early to hold the TTP responsible for the Lahore terrorist attacks unless and until it is proven guilty of this crime. We are no sympathizers of this organization, but any allegation without concrete evidence would

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provide the Americans a justification to raise a finger against Pakistan or take some action on their own."

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Editorial: The Term Punjabi Taliban, And Intention To Launch Operation, an editorial in the Urdu daily "Waqt" (circ. 5000) (06/01)

"Our entire country is engulfed in terrorism, and the U.S. is talking about a unilateral strike. U.S. Admiral Mike Mullen's statement also confirms this U.S. plan. He has said that the Al Qaeda leadership is present in Pakistan, and added that more than action in Pakistan he is looking towards cooperation from Islamabad. This latest statement by Admiral Mullen is symbolic of U.S. double standards, a U.S. norm for several years."

Editorial: A Report Published In The U.S. Media, an editorial in the Lahore-based independent Urdu daily "Din" (circ. 5000) (06/01)

"The U.S. intentions disclosed in the Washington Post will not eventually produce positive results for Pakistan... The Pakistan government should prepare to hold a direct dialogue with the U.S. officials to avoid a major [U.S.] offensive, and try to inform the Obama administration what our priorities are as a sovereign independent country, and how far we can go to defend ourselves."

Editorial: Military Operation In North Waziristan, And The U.S., an editorial in the center-right Urdu daily "Pakistan" (cir. 10,000) (06/01)

"A press report quoting diplomatic sources has said that in principal Pakistan has decided to take action against those of the militants' hideouts in North Waziristan and other areas which will be allude to by the Americans.... It is believed that whether the operation in is North Waziristan or any other location the public reaction against it will be severe. The question of the country's sovereignty and national honor will push the issue of terrorism in the background. In view of the fact it is imperative for Pakistan not to allow Americans attack on North Waziristan and other areas.... America and its western allies should provide funding for development in the tribal areas. This is the effective way for ending extremism in the region."

Editorial: U.S. Should Think Before Operation In Pakistan, an editorial in the Lahore-based center-right populist Urdu daily "Khabrain" (cir. 50,000) (06/01)

"According to U.S. media reports, the U.S. has conducted a dry run for a ground assault on Pakistan in case another incident like the Times Square were to happen... The fact is that the U.S. is finding

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excuses to prolong its stay in Afghanistan. Even American analysts have admitted that the U.S. is not withdrawing from Afghanistan due to its interests there, as it is only through this country that it can monitor the Middle East, Central Asia and China. The U.S. should really think hard before interfering in Pakistan because this action could have dangerous consequences. The Pakistani nation will not tolerate the killing of their compatriots."

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Editorial: A United Fight, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English language daily "Daily Times" (cir. 10,000) (06/01)

". . . . It is imperative that the government, intelligence services and military establishment all stop assuming that some parts of the country are safe from terrorism as we are now caught in a countrywide all out war against the militants. If the terrorists can find the will to collaborate for their long-term goals, we must come together to share resources, intelligence and logistical support to eliminate the threat they pose. . . ."

Opinion: Terrorism & The Economy , an op-ed by Shahid Javed Burki in the Karachi-based center-left independent national English daily "Dawn" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The latest incident of attempted terrorism in the United States which has links with Pakistan has administered another blow to our economy. The reference here of course is to the attempt by Faisal Shahzad, a 30-year-old American citizen of Pakistani origin, who attempted to detonate a bomb in Manhattan's Times Square. . . . Pakistan's counter-terrorism strategy, which has been extensively praised by American generals, is now coming apart at the seams - all because of North Waziristan. What is the connection between the perception that Pakistan has become the centre of international terrorism and the country's economic recovery? The most important link is via Pakistan's dependence on external capital flows for its economic survival. Of the many types of flows Pakistan depends on, at least three would be seriously affected by the growing apprehension that most acts of terrorism."

Opinion: The Looming Twin Offensives, an op-ed by Rahimullah Yusufzai in the populist, often sensational national English daily

"The News" (cir. 55,000) (06/01)

"The US military commanders would prefer coordinated offensives by the Nato forces and Pakistani army on both sides of the Durand Line around the same time, in a bid to squeeze the militants out and stop their cross-border infiltration and escape. . . ."

Opinion: The Tide Of Bigotry, an op-ed by Zafar Hilaly in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir.

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"After the carnage of Lahore and the threat of the Taliban to visit similar destruction on the other minorities in Pakistan, including the 25 per cent of the population who are Shias, unease, nay fear, is rife. Rumours corroborated by foreign sources reveal that the population of Hindus in Pakistan has declined, not because they have stumbled upon some magic birth-control potion, but because they are fleeing the country. Similarly, Christians are terrified that some bigot or the other might report them for blasphemy, a charge which the police are reluctant to rebut and magistrates terrified to dismiss. The nagging feeling that the government has already lost the battle against extremism has now acquired the force of conviction. . . . With the government unable to protect them, the minorities have two options either to bow to the inevitable and accept their fate while power inexorably flows into the hands of overt or closet fundos; or to protect themselves by any means that they can. And this can have dangerous consequences. There is still time for the federation not only to act and stop the rising tide of bigotry, but also to reverse it."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)

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	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	FSI-00
	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MMP-00
	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	CDC-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00
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CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

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JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD/J-1// IMMEDIATE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 01 FEB 2012 201004163

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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR,
AMGT, IS, GZSUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 2STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv has not yet made contact with any of the AmCits, though the MFA should provide consular access the morning of June 1.
2. (SBU) Only half of the passengers on the MAVI MARMARA were identified and some names were provided to the MFA.
3. (SBU) A former U.S. ambassador aboard one of the ships seized is reportedly fine and on his way home, likely to arrive in NYC on June 1, his wife said. Edward Peck, 81, of Chevy Chase, Md., was a former U.S. ambassador to Mauritania.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION UPDATE

4. (SBU) USUN reports that a draft text is circulating amongst a small group - Lebanon, Turkey, and United States - but it was leaked by Turkey or Lebanon to the Israelis and Palestinians, complicating negotiations. Turkey wants a Presidential Statement. USUN seeks to negotiate the language in the text and SC consultations remain suspended. (MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)

U.S. STATEMENT TO UNSC

5. (SBU) Deputy PermRep Wolff addressed an emergency session of the UNSC stating that the United States is "deeply disturbed by the recent violence and regrets the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved." Wolff noted that "we are working to ascertain the facts" and that the United States expects a "credible and transparent investigation." Wolff reiterated the United States is concerned about the situation in

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Gaza and we continue to engage with Israel to address the full range of humanitarian and recovery needs and this situation underscores need to move ahead with negotiations that can lead to a comprehensive peace in the region. (MGGZ01/USUN e-mail)

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QUARTET STATEMENT

6. (SBU) Following a Quartet envoys' conference call and interagency concurrence, a draft statement was circulated for review. The Quartet plans to issue the statement after a second envoys' call scheduled for 0900 EDT June 1. The draft statement mirrors Deputy PermRep Wolff's earlier comments before the UNSC and also notes that the only viable solution to the conflict is negotiations between the parties toward realization of the two-state solution. (MGGZ01/SEMEP e-mail)

LINK TO PEACE EFFORTS

7. (SBU) NEA ambassadors will deliver demarches to host governments, asking that the Arab League meetings scheduled this week to discuss the Gaza flotilla not result in the withdrawal of Arab support for proximity talks. (MGGZ01/SEMEP e-mail)

8. (U) Additional updates are available through our Intellipedia portal on the unclassified system at:
http://www.intelink.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010.

9. (U) Minimize considered.
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ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

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STATE FOR TASKFORCE MGGZ01, NEA/ARP (CSULLIVAN), AND NEA/PPD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KMDR, KPAO, AE

SUBJECT: "Freedom Flotilla" Lights Up Headlines in UAE

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: In separate June 1 statements, UAE President Sheikh Khalifa and FM Sheikh Abdullah condemned Israeli actions against the "Freedom Flotilla" manned by international activists sailing for Gaza. These statements reflect, in part, very strong public sentiment regarding Israeli actions and are designed to stay ahead of that opinion. Street protests, however, are unlikely. Articles and editorials covered official and unofficial responses to Israel's seizure of the vessels, all condemning Israel's actions in extremely harsh terms. The USG has not come in for direct criticism, but English and Arabic dailies expressed disappointment at the USG's role in "softening" language used in a recent UN Security Council resolution calling for an investigation into the Israeli offensive on the flotilla. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) UAE President Sheikh Khalifa stressed the need for a collective response to the Israeli offensive and the need to make the issue a top priority among GCC states. "UAE condemns Freedom Flotilla attack," read the headline published by WAM, the official Emirates News Agency. The news item, covering FM Sheikh Abdullah's response to the attack, repeatedly stated that the attack was carried out in international waters and violated international law. Sheikh Abdullah said the Israeli raid on the ships was an

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"unprovoked response" to a peaceful humanitarian mission. In a quasi-official endorsement, WAM summarized a Gulf News editorial in which the Israeli offensive was called "a terrorist attack." The opinion piece stated, "Again the international community fails the children of Gaza and those who support peace and justice around the world."

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3. (SBU) Despite the focus in public, Embassy contacts have remained silent on the incident. UAE Minister of Trade, Sheikha Lubna al Qasimi, arrived at Bethlehem on June 1 to attend a two-day conference and has also remained silent on the flotilla incident.

4. (U) Gulf News, which had a reporter on-board the lead vessel of the flotilla, has published more than 40 articles in the last 48 hours related to the Israeli actions against the flotilla. An editorial stated that the President of the United States should take "urgent action against Israel for its despicable act." A screaming front-page headline on June 1 read, "Freedom Attacked." The article referred to the Israeli offensive as "the Mediterranean massacre" and stated that Israeli forces fired on civilians "armed only with baby milk and packs of antibiotics." The article compares the capture of the flotilla to "other Israeli massacres," and lists incidents in Lebanon and Gaza. Below a half-page photo of the lead vessel of the flotilla, the caption read, "Israeli commandos [...] fired indiscriminately at passengers." Al Bayan, an Arabic newspaper, published an editorial stating, "The Jewish state [is] the world record holder in bloody arrogance and piracy."

5. (U) In English language and Arabic newspapers, columnists and cartoonists condemned Israel's "massacre" aboard vessels in the flotilla. The National, an Abu Dhabi-based English language daily, wrote in an editorial that Israel's treatment of Palestinians ought to be compared with apartheid-era South African government policies and that international pressure on the government of Israel was increasing. English language newspaper Khaleej Times declared in an opinion piece, "The number of shipboard casualties indicates that once fighting started, the Israeli commandos simply sprayed automatic weapons fire into the people around them."

6. (U) Newspapers stressed that the Israeli offensive was carried out in International waters and that the USG ought to apply greater pressure on the GOI. Several columnists expressed disappointment at the USG's role in softening the tone of the recent UNSC statement expressing regret at the loss of life aboard flotilla vessels. In one opinion piece, the author urged the international community to condemn Israel for its actions and said that nations that failed to act would, "in their silence and complicity, align themselves with the Israelis who carried out the murderous predawn attack." An editor at Arabic language daily Al Khaleej declared, "It is time for the Arabs to realize that this U.S. administration is like its

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predecessors that cannot abandon its Zionist ally."

7. (SBU) COMMENT: The Emirati leadership is no friend of Hamas. Israeli actions, however, have inflamed public opinion and - as with most governments in the region - the UAEG wants to be out in front. While it is unlikely that public outrage in the UAE will spill into the streets, the public statements and media coverage are the strongest we have seen on Israel since the 2008 Israeli offensive in Gaza. END COMMENT.

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ACTION NEA-00

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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
NSC FOR NEA STAFF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA UNCLASSIFIED
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SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

1. Mideast
2. Iran

Key stories in the media:

All media continued to lead with the implications of the IDF raid of the Mavi Marmara passenger ship. The media highlighted President Obama's and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's interest in an international probe of the lethal incident. HaQaretz reported that yesterday White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs began his briefing by expressing sorrow at the death of civilians on Monday's Gaza-bound flotilla, then concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, which he said cannot continue. "We are open to ways to assure credible investigation, including international participation," he added. When he finished, he was deluged by reporters asking why the U.S. had not condemned Israel's "deliberate massacre" of civilians on the flotilla. "Nothing can bring them back," he answered, reiterating his demand for a "credible and transparent" investigation. He declined to say whether the U.S. thought the Israeli raid had violated international law, or whether he thought ships bearing humanitarian cargo should be allowed to break the blockade on Gaza. HaQaretz quoted Gibbs as saying that P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas will visit Washington on June 9 as planned and that PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who canceled his planned

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visit yesterday, has an "open invitation." One reporter asked whether Israel had become a political burden on the U.S. Gibbs responded that Israel is an important ally and American support for its security would not change. However, HaQaretz reported that administration officials did not hide their frustration at this new obstacle on the road to direct Israeli-Palestinian talks.

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The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that last night Israel rejected international calls to end its naval blockade of Gaza and launch an independent investigation into the death of at least nine activists. The media reported that PM Netanyahu told a special meeting of the diplomatic-security cabinet: It is important to understand that this [blockade] is essential to protect Israel's security and its right to defend itself. Gaza is an

Iranian-sponsored terrorist state, and as such it is vitally important to prevent the entry of weapons there, whether by air, sea, or land, he said. He acknowledged that weapons are already smuggled into Gaza through tunnels, but said there was a vast difference between the scope of that operation and the scale and quantity of weapons that could be brought into Gaza by ship if cargo was allowed to arrive unchecked. Israel Hayom and other media reported that the Cabinet was told that the men who attacked IDF forces on board the boats were well-equipped al-Qaida mercenaries. The Jerusalem Post quoted top Israeli security analyst Ely Carmon as saying yesterday that the flotilla's aim was to open a sea corridor for Hamas. Carmon was quoted as saying that the Turkish group IHH was the real force behind the ships. Major media reported that Israelis are deeply depressed over the international responses to the operation. The media reported on anti-Israel demonstrations in the Arab and Muslim worlds and in the West.

Yediot quoted a senior Israeli member of the septet of Cabinet ministers as saying that Netanyahu and DM Ehud Barak did not share information about the operation with anyone. Other media cited similar reports.

A Maariv/telesaker poll found that 47 percent of Israelis support the establishment of a commission of investigation into the government's failure; 61 percent believe that Israel should have stopped the boats in a different fashion.

The media reported that militants aboard the Turkish boat threw an IDF officer overboard (or onto a lower deck).

Media reported on Israel's deportation through Turkey and Jordan of activists arrested during the raid. The media reported that Israel detained Raed Salah, the leader of the northern branch of Israel's Islamic Movement, and three members of his group who took part in the flotilla. Israel Radio reported that Israel is conveying to

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Gaza cargoes of humanitarian aid that was on the detained ships. The media reports that the Irish ship Rachel Corrie and possibly another vessel are approaching Gaza.

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The media quoted Turkish PM Recep Tayyip Erdogan as saying that Israel carried out a massacre, that this was Turkey's 9/11, and that Turkey will be a strong, harsh enemy of Israel, which should not try us. Media reported that yesterday at the U.N. Security Council in New York, Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoglu accused Israel of "murder" and demanded a strong condemnation of it "piratical".

behavior. Leading media reported that the Foreign Ministry has ordered the evacuation of the families of Israel's diplomats from Turkey. Israel Radio reported that the U.S. is attempting to tone down the crisis between Israel and Turkey.

The Jerusalem Post and other media reported that yesterday P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas rejected calls to suspend proximity calls with Israel despite the naval operation.

Israel Hayom and other media quoted Mossad Director Meir Dagan as saying before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel has turned from an asset to the U.S. to a burden. Speaking on Israel Radio this morning, Kadima Knesset Member and Chairman of the Committee Tzachi Hanegbi said that Dagan had been misquoted and had meant to indicate the growing erosion of Israel's positions in the U.S. The Jerusalem Post quoted Dagan as saying in testimony to the committee that Turkey seeks to regain dominance by going down Islamic hall.

The Jerusalem Post reported that members of the U.N. Human Rights Council are calling for a "Goldstone-like" inquiry into the Israeli military operation.

The media reported that two Palestinians were killed as the IDF was preventing an infiltration into Israel from Gaza. Three Palestinians were killed in an IAF raid in Gaza. Two Qassam rockets were launched into Israel.

Elliot Abrams, a senior foreign policy official in the Bush administration, was quoted as saying in an interview with Maariv that President Obama should not have condemned Israel over its naval operation.

Israel Radio reported that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has suspended his country's diplomatic ties with Israel over the IDF raid in the Mediterranean.

1. Mideast:

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Block Quotes:

I. QThe Limits of Force

Prominent liberal author Amos Oz wrote on page one of the independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz (6/2): Q Hamas isn't just a terror organization. Hamas is an idea -- a desperate, fanatical idea that grew from the desperation of many Palestinians. Never has an idea been defeated by force: neither through a siege, nor by a bombardment, crushing by tank chains, or a naval commando. In order to beat an idea one must propose another, more attractive, more acceptable idea.... I do not underestimate the importance of force. Israel needs force. We wouldn't be able to survive even one day; woe to those who would despise the power of force. But we shouldn't forget for a moment that the power of power is only meant to prevent -- the annihilation and conquest of Israel.... Any attempt to use force for purposes other than self-defense ... will bring additional disasters upon Israel, such as the one we planted on ourselves in the international waters, in the open sea, facing the Gaza coast.

II. QThe Fiasco Is Sinking In

Diplomatic correspondent and television anchor Ben Caspit wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/2): Q The results of the TNS/Teleseker poll which was conducted for Maariv yesterday are no less than a dramatic shakeup.... The public largely places the responsibility for the operation on Defense Minister Ehud Barak and hopes that the present leadership will be replaced. Only 32 percent say they prefer to remain with the present troika, compared to 45 percent who seek an alternative. Tzipi Livni is, so far, the ostensible alternative, [popular journalist] Yair Lapid and [Tel Aviv Mayor] Ron Huldai are treading far behind (one ought to note that they have not announced their candidacy, and are so far only candidates presented by the media), and [IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen.] Gabi Ashkenazi shows some impressive numbers (although he is not at all relevant in the upcoming elections and his inclusion in the poll does him a great disservice). In one sentence? The maritime Gaza fiasco is sinking in, and the public is demonstrating its disapproval, wanting to punish its elected officials, whereas Ehud Barak, who one might have thought could go no lower, continues to plummet.

III. QIt's Time for Real Disengagement

Diplomatic correspondent Aluf Benn wrote in Ha'aretz (6/2): Q The Qflotilla affairQ offers a good opportunity to complete the disengagement from the Gaza Strip, five years after Israel withdrew.

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Hamastan to its own devices.... Those who oppose Israel's very existence will continue to fight and persecute it even if Jerusalem abandons the last shred of responsibility for Gaza. No disengagement will persuade them to change. But they are not the audience at which Israeli policy is aimed: its target audience is Western governments, from which it needs support and with which it needs diplomatic and economic ties. And these Western governments are telling it to end the blockade and free Gaza. Monday's deadly operation against the aid flotilla has only strengthened these demands. Hence this is Israel's opportunity. Instead of arguing with the international community, it should tell it: you want Gaza? Fine. Take it.

IV. QIsraelQs No-Choice War

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/2): QSome of the worldQs democracies do not understand that the Israeli commandoes were on the decks [of the Free Gaza Flotilla] on a mission of freedom.... One day Israel will hear their words of gratitude.... After this weekQs events there can be no doubt that another ship will be stopped on the way. All the bad ships are coming. This now is IsraelQs war of no choice.

V. QNuclear Fiasco

Chief Economic Editor and senior columnist Sever Plotker wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/2): QIn order to cover their harsh diplomatic failure, IsraelQs so-called diplomatic officials are trying to turn a defeat into a victory. In fact, they are proudly repeating what a friend ironically told me: 188 countries plus the United States voted [at the U.N. General Assembly] for an anti-Israeli resolution [on nuclear nonproliferation] -- a great achievement for an Israeli Government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, Avigdor Lieberman, and Ehud Barak! It would be difficult to avoid the impression that the Israeli Government is behaving as a Qbattered womanQ vis-a-vis ObamaQs America. Her entire body is beaten but it is forgiving, because the beater lavishes praises on her -- the only beloved one -- and brings her presents to prove his love. Until the next beatings, of course.

VI. QBurden on the U.S.

Former Consul-General in New York Alon Pinkas wrote in Maariv (6/2):

QIf there is any diplomatic significance to the Marmara story, it lies in strengthening the Palestinian argument for finding an

international solution to the conflict. The [U.N.] Security Council, Turkey, and the U.S. are involved in a meaningless flotilla. The change in Israel's standing in the eyes of foreign policy makers in Washington -- from a certain asset on the way to a certain burden -- is a known fact and a clear trend. A year without a diplomatic process and incomprehensible squabbling with the U.S. President have not improved the intimacy between the administrations. The same is true for the Prime Minister's absence from the nuclear conference convened by Obama in Washington. And now, Israel's ability-- in terms of PR and in substantive terms -- to appear as if it is continuing to apply pressure on the Iranian issue has dropped, and the administration's incentive to present a diplomatic plan [for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict] will increase. It is not without reason that Obama was the one who preferred that Netanyahu not come to Washington this week.

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VII. QA Turning Point for Turkey

The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post editorialized (6/2): QRelations between Israel and Turkey are at a new low and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is doing a great deal to exacerbate the situation. In a speech to his country's parliament Tuesday, Erdogan called the Mavi Marmara conflict at sea a Qbloody massacre and warned, Qtoday is a turning point in history. Nothing will be the same again.Q So far, the Turkish premier has refrained from breaking off diplomatic ties with Israel. But with four Turkish citizens among those killed on the Turkish ship that was part of the QPeace FlotillaQ to Gaza, the future of relations with Turkey, once Israel's closest friend in the Middle East, is uncertain.... With elections slated for November 2011, Erdogan was right when he said that his country is at a turning point in history. Turkey's leadership has a choice. It can continue on its present path. Or, however improbably and belatedly, it can yet change direction. If it chose to, Turkey could have a highly constructive role in forging a better Middle East. As a successful Islamic democracy aligned with the West, it could be a powerful force for regional peace and a uniquely valuable partner for the U.S. In the process, it would be improving its own global stature while helping to stabilize the world's most volatile region.

VII. QWe Must Look Beyond this Episode

Columnist Yoav Sorek editorialized in the nationalist, Orthodox

Makor Rishon-Hatzofe (6/2): QThe harsh incident on the deck of the Marmara [ship] isn't a successful IDF operation.... But what was done cannot be undone. This isn't about moral guilt -- quite the contrary: the flotilla turned out to be a cynical ploy meant to trade in pictures of the dead, according to the best tradition of terror groups.... Israel must not play into the hands of those who wish to

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defeat it in the fields of PR and diplomacy, constantly blame it, and tie its hands ahead of any future operation. Now is a testing time for Israel, which must express a clear and moral position lifting the veil of peace from organizations and establishments backing world terror.

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2. Iran:

Block Quotes:

QThe Gaza Convoy Takeover: an Effective QCasus BelliQ?

Contributor Shira Kaplan, a Harvard graduate with a degree in Government who was a Milken Fellow in 2008-9, wrote in the conservative, independent Jerusalem Post (6/2): QIn a world of tightening military networks, Iran has become a natural ally of the parties involved in MondayQs flotilla. IranQs involvement can hardly be separated from regional events such as this one. . . . To be sure, Israel can very well use a regional event such as this as a trigger to target its archenemies in Tehran. The idea that Iran may well be IsraelQs indirect target settles with the [British] Sunday TimesQ recent report that Israel has deployed nuclear submarines off the Iranian coast. A wide-lens view of the recent crisis in the waters of Gaza can hence shed light on IsraelQs otherwise thoughtless takeover of the pro-Gaza flotilla. If IsraelQs Government hasnQt completely lost its mind, it has probably decided to come nearer to a point of no return with Tehran.

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APPROVED BY: S/ES-O: SLDONER

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JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD/J-1// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLAS STATE 056622

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP SITUATION
REPORT NO. 5

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Eleven AmCit detainees plan to, or have already signed, voluntary deportation forms provided by the Israeli Ministry of Interior. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL PASSENGERS

2. (U) Israel's inner security cabinet voted to deport remaining prisoners within 48 hours. A government statement issued late June 1 stated that the detainees would be expelled immediately according to the procedures set by law, said a government statement issued late June 1. (AFP)

3. (U) Turkey sent three planes to Israel to repatriate approximately 350 detained activists. (AFP)

WOUNDED COULD BE CONSIDERED COMBATANTS

4. (SBU) Approximately 50 wounded detainees of various nationalities are currently being treated by the Government of Israel as suspects, and thus may not be allowed to leave the country. The GOI might want to file court cases against these individuals, but this course of action is subject to the attorney general's discretion. (MGGZ01/NEA-FO e-mail)

RETURN OF ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC FAMILY MEMBERS FROM TURKEY

5. (U) Approximately 50 people related to Israeli consulate and embassy staff in Turkey are returning to Israel, a senior official told Israeli public radio. (AFP)

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INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

6. (SBU) Moscow condemned Israel's action against the MAVI MARMARA, asserting that the "Use of weapons against civilians and detaining ships in the open sea without any legal reason constitutes obvious and gross violations of generally accepted international standards." Embassy Moscow notes Russia likely will use this incident to push for Israel to lift the Gaza blockade. (MGGZ01/Embassy Moscow e-mail)

7. (SBU) NATO SYG Rasmussen released a statement June 1 expressing "deep regret over the loss of lives and the other casualties resulting from the use of force" and urging the UN and the EU to conduct "a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation into the incident." He also called for "the immediate release of the detained civilians and ships held by Israel." (MGGZ01/USNATO e-mail)

8. (U) India condemned Israel for "indiscriminate use of force" and asserted that "lasting peace and security in the region can be achieved only through peaceful dialogue." (Xinhua)

9. (U) Lebanese President Sleiman discussed the incident with Turkish President Gul and reportedly agreed to coordinate efforts to "counter Israel's actions." (nowlebanon.com)

10. (U) The Irish government called on Israel to allow an Irish-registered aid ship, the RACHEL CORRIE, to continue its voyage to Gaza. Late June 1, PM Cowen warned of "serious consequences" if any detained Irish citizens were harmed, and called for their immediate and unconditional release. (bbc.co.uk)

11. (U) The Malaysian Cabinet tabled a parliamentary motion strongly condemning Israel's raid. FM Aman departed for Jordan to seek the release of the 12 Malaysians. (Xinhua)

12. (SBU) Nicaragua suspended diplomatic ties with Israel June 1 to protest Israel's raid on the MAVI MARMARA, President Ortega's office said. Embassy Managua notes that Nicaragua has no diplomatic presence in Israel but has an embassy in Cairo. (MGGZ01/Embassy Managua e-mail, elpueblobresidente.com)

13. (U) Iranian FM Mottaki expressed solidarity with the "martyrs" killed during the raid and added that the incident

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?opened some possibility? to put pressure on Israel to lift the blockade of the Gaza Strip and thereby allow the passage of medicine and humanitarian assistance. (AFP)

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14. (U) French FM Kouchner said that the raid was ?a very grave mistake? and ?extremely damaging to the image of Israel itself.? Kouchner advocated for an international investigation and said ?there should not be impunity.? (AP)

15. For more information on the Gaza Flotilla, please see the Ops Portal at the following link:

[http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza Flotilla 2010](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Gaza_Flotilla_2010)

Please note that this web address is case sensitive.

16. (U) Minimize considered.
CLINTON

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ACTION NEA-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	INL-00	DOTE-00
	PDI-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00
	OES-00	NIMA-00	PER-00	PM-00	MA-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	IIP-00
	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00	/000W		

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O 021349Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0122
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL ADANA IMMEDIATE
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
 MNF-I C2X BAGHDAD IQ
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UNCLAS ANKARA 000800

SENSITIVE
 SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 6 on IHH Flotilla

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Turkish National Security Council (MGK) meets today to set a new course for Turkey's bilateral relationship with Israel in light of the flotilla interception. Ministry of Justice contacts confirm PM Erdogan's interest in pursuing a possible criminal case against Israeli officials. Protests continue in Ankara and Adana. The Turkish parliament unanimously denounced the flotilla interception as a violation of international law. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) The Turkish National Security Council (MGK), which comprises senior representatives of the Prime Ministry, Turkish General Staff, the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs and the Turkish National Intelligence Service, postponed its special

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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June 2 meeting to early afternoon to accommodate FM Davutoglu, who is returning today from the U.S. The meeting is likely to recommend a new course for Turkey's bilateral relationship with Israel in light of the flotilla interception. The MFA tells us the MGK will issue a statement shortly after the meeting concludes.

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3. (SBU) Working-level contacts at the Ministry of Justice confirm PM Erdogan's interest in pursuing a possible criminal case against Israeli officials over the flotilla interception. Our contacts would not speculate as to charges or a judicial venue.

4. (U) In the southern Turkish city of Adana, an estimated 7,000 people gathered June 1 for an anti-U.S./Israel protest organized by the Islamist Furkan Foundation (<http://www.furkanvakfi.net>). Demonstrators chanted messages against the U.S. and Israel, burned U.S. and Israeli flags, and carried banners reading: "Long live our Islamic resistance, blood of our martyrs is the news for the victory"; "Europe and the USA, Israel is your product"; "Zionism will be beaten"; "We will win"; "Everywhere is Palestine"; "One dies and thousands come"; "Damn the Israeli supporters"; "Muhammad's army is coming"; "Jews remember the Hayber war"; "We are all from Gaza"; and "Murderer Israel". Consulate Adana expects another protest following Friday prayers June 4.

5. (U) In Ankara, protests continued throughout June 2 in the vicinity of the Israeli ambassador's residence. The size of the protests has declined since yesterday; groups now number about 45-50 individuals. The protestors are waving Palestinian flags and chanting in Arabic. The police, who remain deployed in force, have closed streets near the ambassador's residence.

6. (SBU) The MFA reports three Turkish passenger aircraft and three "ambulance" aircraft are loading passengers in Israel. The MFA expects the aircraft to depart today.

7. (U) Today, the Turkish parliament unanimously denounced the flotillas' interception as a violation of the UN Charter and international law. The parliamentary statement called for UN condemnation of Israel and sanctions. The statement urges the GoI to review its political, military and economic relations with the GoI and pursue international legal action against Israeli officials. The statement distinguishes the GoI from the Israeli people as the target of Turkish national anger.

JEFFREY

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UNCLASSIFIED

A13

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
	DOTE-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	CAC-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	OIG-00	NIMA-00
	PM-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	NCTC-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	GSWA-00	SWCI-00	/000W			

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R 021237Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1593
 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

RELEASED IN PART
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 000275

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/05/18
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, IS, GZ, MU, AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PINR
 AMGT
 SUBJECT: MGGZ01: THE OMANI STREET - UNOFFICIAL REACTION TO THE GAZA
 FLOTILLA INCIDENT

REF: MUSCAT 368; MUSCAT 271

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard Schmierer, Ambassador, Department of State,
 Embassy Muscat; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Oman's official response to the Gaza flotilla incident was relatively measured (ref A); however, the average Omani saw the event as further evidence of the impunity of Israel, enabled by unquestioned U.S. support. Omanis have expressed considerable frustration with Arab leaders who they see as unwilling to risk action against Israel. The incident resonated further due to the fact that an Omani journalist was on the Mavi Marmara ship and was tweeting and blogging as events unfolded. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) In the aftermath of the June 1 flotilla incident, conversations with Omanis revealed several recurring themes. Most were angry with Arab leaders for not taking any action against Israel. While the Omanis knew there would be meetings and summits, in the end they thought the Arab leaders were more interested in protecting their positions and keeping the U.S. happy. U.S. policy towards Israel played into that anger, with a majority feeling that this "horrendous act" would not change U.S. support for Israel. A minority opined that this event was different as it involved

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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non-Arabs and non-Muslims, so the U.S. would not be able to ignore the event. There was universal consensus that there would not be much reaction from the Omani public. All viewed Israel as "untouchable," due to "unconditional" U.S. support. They felt that Israel would continue its "aggression" until the U.S. "put its foot down." As one said, "same stuff, different day."

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3. (SBU) On-line fora echoed these views, but also went further in expressing anger at the Omani government for only condemning and denouncing the attack. Participants called on the government to take a more active response, such as halting all official and unofficial involvement with Israel.

4. (SBU) The event was made more personal for many Omanis due to their concern for Omani journalist, Abbas al Lawati, who was reporting from aboard the Mavi Marmara ship. Al Lawati, a journalist for the privately-held Emirates-based English news outlet "Gulf News," reported events from his vantage point with up to the minute reports to his website blog, and Twitter account. Al Lawati included pictures of passengers in life vests in his blog minutes before Israeli soldiers boarded. On June 1, privately-owned newspaper "Times of Oman" featured front page news on al Lawati's situation and expressions of relief and pride from his parents in Muscat. Several fora, Facebook, and a dedicated website all had messages of support for al Lawati from many Omanis. He is reported safe and on his way back to the UAE.

5. (C) COMMENT:

B1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In a country where public commentary has traditionally been limited, and criticism of the government is illegal, the internet is continuing to emerge as a forum for more vocal expression than has been seen in the past. END COMMENT.
Schmierer

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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AMAD-00	AOP-00
	AEX-00	AS-00	A-00	RPPR-00	ACQ-00	COME-00	CCOE-00
	INL-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	PERC-00	DS-00	EAP-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VCI-00	FO-00	DIAS-00	FSI-00
	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	CAC-00	ARMY-00
	MED-07	MFLO-00	MMP-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	CDC-00
	VCIE-00	NEA-00	NRC-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	OIG-00
	NIMA-00	OPR-00	PC-01	PM-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00
	FMPC-00	IRM-00	SS-00	STPD-00	MR-00	DPM-00	T-00
	NCTC-00	R-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	ALM-00	SCA-00	SAS-00	FA-00	PMA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00

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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

057147

SOURCE: DISKETTE.070575

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:WJREISSER -- 06/02/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:DSHELTON

S/ES-O:RWTTHOMAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USD:SOLIC// IMMEDIATE

COMFIFTHFLT IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

NGA HQ BETHESDA MD IMMEDIATE

COMSOCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE:PRO/DAPE-PRR-C/DAPE:MO// IMMEDIATE

DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-AOC-CAT//PCC// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSTRATCOM OFFUTT AFB NE IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC//TWC// IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD/J-1// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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S E C R E T STATE 057147

NOFORN, SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/01/2021

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP

SITUATION REPORT NO. 6

CLASSIFIED BY: Greg Macris, Senior Watch Officer, S/ES-O
for REASON: 1.4(B) AND (D)

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) Thirteen American citizens were transferred to Ben Gurion Airport and are scheduled to depart by June 3. Three additional American dual-nationals are departing to their countries of origin: Kuwait, Jordan, and Ireland. One Israeli-American was released without conditions, and the Embassy is trying to locate one additional American citizen. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

2. (C) The Israeli government initiated deportation for all of the 637 foreign detainees, including those suspected of instigating violence. Proceedings are expected to be completed by June 3. Four injured detainees may depart later in the week. Detention has been extended for four Israeli-Arab leaders from the boats. (Tel Aviv 1225)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

3. (S/NF)

B1

(Tel Aviv 1225)

4. (SBU) UNRWA and ICRC are unable to confirm that eight truckloads actually entered Gaza from Israel. Media report 10 additional truckloads will be transferred on June 2. (MGGZ01/PRM e-mail)

ISRAELI RESPONSE

5. (U) PM Netanyahu publicly defended the military operation, emphasized the importance of the blockade for Israeli security, and rejected international pressure to launch an investigation of IDF actions. (Reuters)

6. (U) Pro-IDF demonstrators are calling for a boycott of Turkish products. (Tel Aviv 1225)

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

7. (SBU) There has been a slight uptick in protest activities and violence in the West Bank and along the Gaza-Israel border, including sporadic mortar firing from Gaza. Jerusalem remains tense. (Jerusalem 928)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

8. (U) ASEAN-GCC: Foreign ministers condemned the Israeli raid as "an act of violence," and urged release of the detainees and an end to the blockade. (MGGZ01/EAP e-mail)

9. (U) UNHRC: The Human Rights Council approved a Palestinian-drafted resolution condemning the "outrageous attack by the Israeli forces" by a vote of 32 yes, three no (U.S.), nine abstentions, and three no-shows. The resolution establishes an international fact-finding mission to investigate alleged violations of international law. (MGGZ01/IO Bureau e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

10. (SBU) Egypt: The government opened the Rafah crossing indefinitely and allowed shipment of electric generators into Gaza, the first non-food or medical shipment from Egypt since the 2008-2009 Gaza conflict.

Reportedly, 200 to 800 Gazans have crossed into Egypt.
(Cairo 611)

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11. (S) Turkey:

B1

12. (U) Palestinian Authority: President Abbas
rejected calls to suspend proximity talks. (jpost.com)

13. (SBU) Jordan: A warden message was issued warning
American citizens to avoid crowds and maintain a low
profile due to anti-American sentiment and expected
protests. (MGGZ01/Embassy Amman e-mail)

14. (U) EU: Members of the European Parliament
Foreign Affairs Committee almost unanimously condemned
Israeli actions. Some called for suspending the EU-
Israel Association Agreement. One MEP called for
opening talks with Hamas. (MGGZ01/USEU Daily Report e-
mail)

15. (U) Tunisia: A Gaza solidarity demonstration took
place in Tunis. (Tunis 395)

16. (U) Minimized considered.
CLINTON

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StateDept0383

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DNI-00	DODE-00
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	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NSAE-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	GIWI-00	DOHS-00
	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	SCRS-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	SRMC-00

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P 031259Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7694
 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

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 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 001270

SIPDIS

DEAPRTMENT FOR NEA/ELA MGREGONIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2020
 TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KPAL, IS, JO
 SUBJECT: JORDAN RECEIVES GAZA FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS FROM ISRAEL

REF: A. AMMAN 1231
 B. AMMAN 1232

Classified By: Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft

1. (SBU) On the morning of June 2, Israel turned over to Jordan approximately 120 activists from Arab and Muslim countries who had been on the flotilla heading to Gaza. The activists arrived in three separate buses and were greeted by small but enthusiastic crowds both at the Hussein Bridge and in Amman. Both rallies were organized primarily by the Islamist-dominated professional associations, who have assumed a leading role in organizing demonstrations to condemn the Israeli naval action against the convoy. The former head of the professional associations, Wael Saqqa, was among those who participated in the flotilla and were detained by Israeli security forces.

2. (SBU) King Abdullah received a personal call of thanks from King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain, and other countries conveyed their thanks to the GOJ through diplomatic channels. The activists included citizens from Jordan, Kuwait, Algeria, Lebanon, Bahrain, Malaysia, and others.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

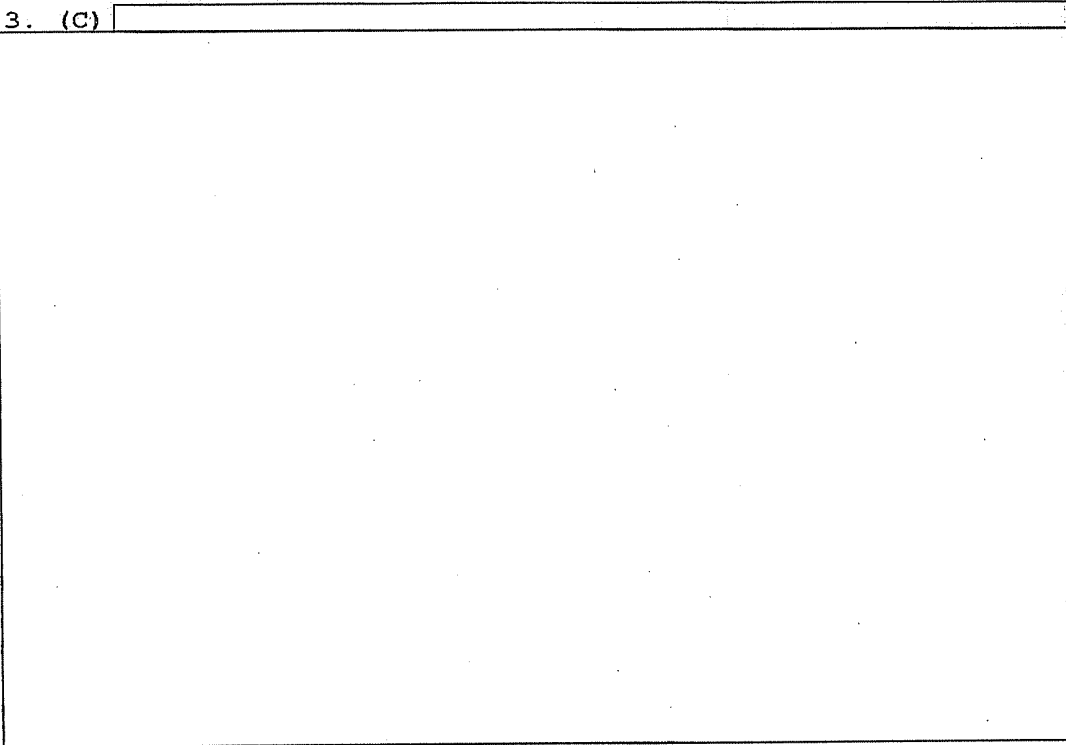
UNCLASSIFIED

Wounded and injured passengers are expected to arrive in small numbers at irregular time intervals in the future.

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3. (C)

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Beecroft

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ACTION IIP-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AMAD-00	A-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
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	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	PA-00	MCC-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	STR-00
	TRSE-00	FMP-00	BBG-00	R-00	ECA-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00
	CARC-00	SAS-00	/000W				

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P 030139Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1614
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
 COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
 HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
 COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
 HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
 OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
 USFJ PRIORITY
 INFO AMCONSUL FUKUOKA
 AMCONSUL NAHA
 AMCONSUL NAGOYA
 AMCONSUL SAPPORO
 AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE
 AMEMBASSY BEIJING
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
 AMEMBASSY SEOUL
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001083

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
 EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
 USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
 TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
 SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
 CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
 PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OIIP, KMDR, KPAO, JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - GAZA AID FLOTILLA

1. LEAD STORIES: All Thursday morning papers gave top play to moves

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within the DPJ to select a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Hatoyama.

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2. "Israel Begins Deporting Civilians Held after Sea Raid" The moderate Yomiuri wrote from Jerusalem (6/3): "The Israeli government decided during a cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening to deport about 600 passengers of the six Palestinian aid boats, which were seized (in the recent sea raid). As the presidential statement of the UN Security Council called for an immediate release of the detained civilians, Israel apparently responded to international criticism (of its detention of the civilians).... While giving consideration to international criticism, Israel has refused to take the blame for the sea raid that caused civilian casualties.... Two additional aid boats flying the flag of Ireland are heading toward Gaza, but Israel is apparently prepared to block them."

ROOS

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AEX-00	A-00
	ACQ-00	CCO-00	COME-00	INL-00	WHA-00	PERC-00	DS-00
	EAP-00	EUR-00	VCI-00	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	L-00	CAC-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00	MMP-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00
	M-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	OPR-00	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	ASDS-00	BBG-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SRMC-00
	MEPP-00	/001R					

RELEASED IN PART
B6, B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

057669

SOURCE: DISKETTE.070601

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:KFRELICH/JGROBLACHER -- 06/03/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:DSHELTON

S/ES-O:RWTOMAS

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O 040035Z JUN 10

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CDR USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

DA WASHINGTON DC//DAPE:PRO/DAPE-PRR-C/DAPE:MO// IMMEDIATE

DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-AOC-CAT//PCC// IMMEDIATE

CDR USSTRATCOM OFFUTT AFB NE IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHINGTON DC//TWC// IMMEDIATE

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JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//J-3:JOD/J-1// IMMEDIATE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/03/2020
TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT,
IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO. 8

CLASSIFIED BY: Robert Thomas, Senior Watch Officer,
S/ES-O for REASON: 1.4(B) AND (D)

STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

1. (SBU) A family member confirmed that 19 year-old Turkish-American citizen, Furkan Dogan, was among those killed on the MAVI MARMARA. (MGGZ01/Embassy Ankara e-mail)

2. (SBU) Embassy officials located previously unaccounted for Israeli-American citizen, [REDACTED] in Ramallah. Eight American citizens departed from Tel Aviv to Istanbul, another to Athens, and two to Jordan. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

B6

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

3. (U) The Israeli Foreign Ministry announced three activists from Ireland, Australia, and Italy remain in Israel for "technical reasons," without providing any further information. Seven additional activists are still hospitalized in Israel. (Israel Radio News)

4. (SBU) Israel turned over 120 detainees from Muslim and Arab countries to Jordan. (Amman 1231)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

5. (S/NF) The CHALLENGER II and the DIMITRIS K are in Cyprus. The RACHEL CORRIE is heading south toward Egypt and the Free Gaza Movement announced it will delay its arrival to Gaza until June 7 to maximize media coverage.

6. (U) Media report the Israeli Navy intends to board the RACHEL CORRIE if necessary, but released no additional specifics. (Ma'ariv)

STATUS OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS

7. (SBU) Truckloads of goods arrived in Kerem Shalom but have not entered Gaza. UNRWA and ICRC are waiting for permission from Turkey to secure the items. Hamas is disallowing any further entry of goods into the area. (MGGZ01/Special Envoy for Middle East Peace e-mail)

ISRAELI RESPONSE

8. (C) [Redacted]

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9. (U) Media report Israel decided to release flotilla detainees immediately in order to help the United States garner support for UN sanctions against Iran. (ynetnews.com)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

10. (SBU) Arab League: Foreign ministers agreed to ask the UN Security Council to urge an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza. (MGGZ01/Embassy Riyadh e-mail)

11. (U) UN: Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, condemned Hamas for raiding NGO offices in Gaza City and the Rafah crossing. (MGGZ01/Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process e-mail)

12. (SBU) A June 3 International Maritime Organization meeting was interrupted by Cuba, Indonesia, Syria and Venezuela condemning Israeli actions. Turkey is expected to push for official IMO condemnation of Israel at the June 7 meeting. (MGGZ01/Bureau of International Organization Affairs e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

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13. (U) Turkey: PM Erdogan said full restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel was contingent upon ending Israel's blockade of Gaza. (nytimes.com)

14. (U) South Africa: The ambassador to Israel was recalled June 3. (ynetnews.com)

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15. (U) Ecuador: The ambassador to Israel was recalled June 3. (washingtonpost.com)

16. (U) EU: The European Jewish Congress called on the EU to ban the Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH) and other "terrorist front organizations". (European Jewish Congress press release)

17. (U) Saudi Arabia: Flotilla discussions interrupted meetings between a U.S. Congressional delegation and members of the Saudi business community at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry on June 2. (Saudi Gazette, Al-Watan, Shams)

18. (U) UK: Former FS Miliband restated the British call for an end to the blockade as the only way to limit Hamas' control over the region. (MGGZ01/Embassy of the United Kingdom to the United States e-mail)

19. (SBU) Australia: PM Rudd called for an independent inquiry and an easing of the blockade. (MGGZ01/Embassy of Australia to the United States e-mail)

20. (U) Minimized considered.
CLINTON

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A19

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	ACQ-00
	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOFE-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	EUR-00
	FAAE-00	VCI-00	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	VCIE-00
	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00
	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STPD-00	NCTC-00
	BBG-00	SHEM-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00

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O 041511Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
 B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(C), 1.4(D), B6

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 001265

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/2020
 TAGS: PREL, CASC, MOPS, KWBG, KPAL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 4

REF: A. TEL AVIV 1218
 B. TEL AVIV 1225
 C. TEL AVIV 1239

Classified By: A/DCM Marc Sievers, reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) As of 6:00 p.m. local time on June 4:
2. (SBU) SUMMARY: As Israel prepares for the arrival of the next ship, the M/V Rachel Corrie, both GOI officials and the press are focusing on Israel's accounts of the events on the Mavi Marmara on May 31. There are conflicting reports regarding when the Rachel Corrie will arrive off the coast of Gaza, ranging from June 5 to June 7. The GOI says that it will continue to use diplomatic means to try to convince the Rachel Corrie to divert to Ashdod, but will intercept the ship if necessary and will not allow it to dock in Gaza. END SUMMARY.

POLITICAL-MILITARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 17 FEB 2012 201004163

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3. (C)

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4. (S//NF) The Israeli Defense forces (IDF) continues to watch for additional vessels that may potentially participate in a "second wave." Israeli and international media reported extensively on the intentions of the M/V Rachel Corrie, a Cambodian-flagged 1,200-ton cargo vessel.

The Free Gaza website posted a press release stating that it is stopping to board more journalists and dignitaries and "there is no way we are going to Ashdod. We are, for sure, on our way to Gaza."

5. (S//NF)

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6. (SBU) According to [redacted] European passport holders who were detained had complained of mistreatment at the time of arrest and detention. [redacted] said the EU countries are weighing a collective demarche to the GOI. Given the number of countries involved and the number of Europeans detained, [redacted] doubted any decision would be made until next week.

B6

7. (SBU) The medical doctor who examined the bodies of nine men brought to the morgue from the Mavi Marmara told ConsAsst that none of the remains had been identified prior to their return to Turkey. At the request of the Turkish government, no autopsies had been conducted. He said the Turkish Embassy

had not been helpful and had not provided documentation or photographs to help identify remains prior to shipment. Although no official cause of death was determined by the morgue, the doctor reported that all bodies had gunshot wounds. He could not confirm that any of the bodies showed evidence of four entry wounds to the head, as reported in some media. He suspected that some wounds visible on the remains were in fact exit wounds.

8. (SBU) ConOffs continue efforts to obtain guidance from the MFA on reclaiming property and an accounting of the nationalities of any remaining detainees. According to the MFA, there are no flotilla passengers still in custody while three flotilla passengers remain in the hospital, one Indonesian and two Turks. ConOffs are still trying to ascertain if any of the six still-hospitalized IDF commandos are dual-national American citizens.

REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE

9. (SBU) On June 3, there was an anti-Turkish government protest outside the Embassy of Turkey in Tel Aviv. Approximately 1,000 people participated in the demonstration, which went late into the night. Police arrested three people after protestors hurled stones and a smoke grenade at the Turkish Chancery. Embassy MSGs and Local Guards were on alert, and Surveillance Detection Units monitored the situation, which took place about one mile from the U.S. Embassy. A/DCM happened to drive by the demonstration as it

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was getting started. The demonstrators appeared mostly to be young, secular Tel Aviv types waving large Israeli flags. We saw at least one sign written in Turkish mentioning the Armenian genocide. There are also press reports that a monument to Turkish soldiers was vandalized in Beersheva.

PRESS REPORTING

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10. (U) Hundreds of Israeli Arabs rallied on June 3 in Israel's second-largest Arab town of Umm el-Fahm when the movement's northern branch leader, Sheikh Raed Salah, entered the city for his house arrest. The crowd of primarily Islamic Movement members shouted "Alahu Akbar" and "the sheikh is our hero," and waved Turkish and Palestinian flags and Islamic Movement banners. In an attempt to ensure that protests did not erupt in Jerusalem, the Israeli National Police increased its presence in Jerusalem and denied access to the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif for Friday prayers to all men under the age of 40, according to customary security measures.

11. (U) While the Israeli press defends the actions of its soldiers, with several banner headlines calling them heroes, editorials are still questioning both the methods used and the explanation for why the IDF was unprepared for the resistance it met. At the same time, some news sources say that PM Netanyahu will ease the blockade on Gaza to relieve international pressure, including allowing for more types of goods to enter the Strip. Official statements maintain that the blockade must be kept in place as-is and that any humanitarian aid ships must dock in Ashdod and have the cargo transferred to Gaza via truck following inspection.

12. (SBU) The GOI reported that its transfer of humanitarian goods from the initial flotilla continues, with 30 truckloads already delivered to the Kerem Shalom crossing. Items already transferred include, inter alia, clothing, blankets, school bags, mattresses, baby safety seats, toys, wheels chairs, motorized scooters, bandages, hospital beds, and medication. The GOI reported that the shipment also included some medicines that have been expired for over a year, and camouflage cloth it says was meant for Hamas militants. While these shipments have been sent to Kerem Shalom, the GOI says that Hamas is refusing to allow the goods to enter Gaza. Sources in the NGO community have also told Embassy officials that no commodities from the flotilla have entered Gaza. The same sources told EmbOffs that Hamas will not allow acceptance of any of the goods until all those being held from the flotilla are released.

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13. (U) Israel still has not officially responded to calls for an international investigation regarding the incident, leaving the press to speculate about the government's intentions. Within the inner cabinet, the reports generally say that PM Netanyahu, MOD Barak, and possibly Minister Meridor support allowing an international investigation, while Yishai, Begin, and Ya'alon are reportedly against it, preferring to rely on the credibility of the IDF Military Advocate General investigation. MFA Lieberman has publicly called for an independent Israeli-led investigation, possibly headed by a former Supreme Court judge, with international observers.

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14. (U) The IDF continues to release video of the events from the Mavi Marmara, including from both passenger and ship security cameras. One video, which the IDF was reportedly reluctant to release, shows a few Israeli naval commandos being beaten by a large group until other passengers on the ship fended off the mob. Other press reports say that 3-4 commandos were briefly held hostage below deck during the confrontation before being freed. One member of the Naval Commando assault team gave an exclusive interview to the Jerusalem Post. The soldier, reportedly the last of 15 commandos to rappel to the deck from the helicopter and responsible for six of the nine deaths, said that when he arrived his team was already taking fire from two Turkish passengers who had seized pistols from the wounded commandos, and that he was forced to fire back while under attack.

15. (U) Navy officials have publicly asserted that no innocent civilians, only combatants, were killed during the operation on the Mavi Marmara. In addition, the GOI is briefing the press regarding their evidence about the violent intentions of some passengers on the ships. This includes reports that ammunition casings of a type that were not used by the IDF were found aboard the Mavi Marmara, that the IDF had discovered code books used to prepare plans for violent resistance, and that several passengers made videos in which they declared their intention to become "shahids," which is typical of suicide terrorists. Officials from the IDF have speculated that the activists could have thrown their weapons overboard during the takeover.

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A23

ACTION NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	INL-00	PERC-00	DS-00	DHSE-00
	EUR-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00
	OES-00	NIMA-00	PM-00	MA-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	BBG-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00	/001W		

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O 041632Z JUN 10
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0174
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
 39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 ODC ANKARA TU
 CIA WASHINGTON DC
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
 AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000815

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 AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
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 AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PASS TO AMEMBASSY PODGORICA
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
 AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/06/04
 TAGS: PGOV, PHSA, PREL, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 8 on IHH Flotilla

REF: 10 ANKARA 799; 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 779; 10 ISTANBUL 203

CLASSIFIED BY: Douglas Silliman, DCM; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 28 FEB 2012 201004163

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1. (C) Summary. Non-violent protests continued in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana June 4, with press attention focused on the victims of the Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla and their funerals.

B1

MOST TURKS BACK IN TURKEY

3. (SBU) Acting U/S Cevikoz expressed gratitude for U.S. engagement in securing the release of detainees and reported that all of those detained were returned to Turkey, with the exception of five who had been too seriously injured to be moved on June 3. Two additional "air ambulances" had arrived in Israel in the early morning hours of June 4, but it was likely that one of the five was still not stable enough to transport. The daughter of the man who was still too injured to be moved had been transported to Israel and would remain with her father, supported by the Turkish Embassy,

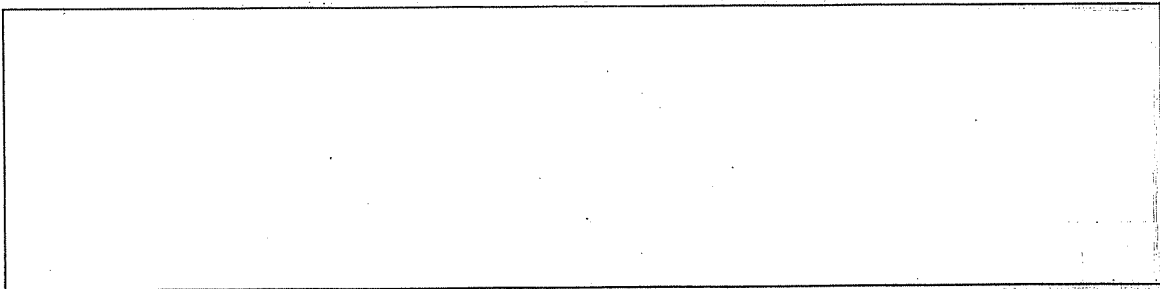
Cevikoz said. The Ambassador contacted the family of the Turkish-American dual national who was killed in the attack and conveyed its condolences. His body was returned to his hometown of Kayseri and a funeral was planned for June 4.

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4. (SBU) There was press speculation that a Turkish warship might accompany the M/V Rachel Corrie, one of the next boats scheduled to arrive in the IHH convoy. Both MFA Acting U/S Cevikoz and the Turkish Navy denied this rumor. When PM Erdogan was questioned about the rumor, he told the press that the idea was "out of the question."

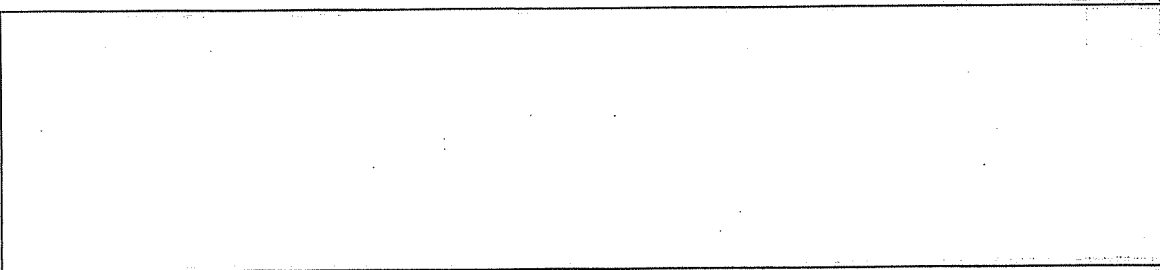
MORE PROTESTS EXPECTED

5. (SBU) In Ankara, between 100-200 protestors continue to gather outside of the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Ambassador's residence. On Sunday a group of NGOs plan a protest in downtown Ankara that organizers estimate will attract up to 80,000 people, while the police believe the number will be closer to 20,000.



B1

7. (SBU) In Istanbul, the ceremony for the bodies of the deceased victims of the attack on the flotilla -- their coffins draped in Turkish and Palestinian flags and ribbons in Arabic saying "there is no God but God and Muhammad is the Prophet of God" -- was widely televised and Turkish press reported tens of thousands of people attended.



9. (SBU) According to an AKP Provincial Chairman in Istanbul (see REF A) and an AKP Municipal Assembly member in Ankara, the AKP has not issued a call for supporters to turn out for protests. AKP members instead, they claimed, have attended protests to reinforce their position as leaders, to draw attention from opposition political parties, and to deliver a message that people should act with calm and common sense and refrain from violent acts.

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ACTION IO-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	WHA-00	EAP-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	DIAS-00
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00
	NEA-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	CARC-00
	SAS-00	FA-00	/000W				

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R 041405Z JUN 10
 FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0412
 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
 UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000337

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KWEG, KPAL, UNSC, IS, TU

SUBJECT: UNSC: Security Council adopts June 1 Presidential Statement
 on Gaza flotilla

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: The Security Council met in an emergency session on May 31, in response to requests from Turkey and Lebanon, to discuss Israel's handling of its interdiction of a flotilla sailing to Gaza. Many Council members condemned the Israeli actions and Turkish FM Davutoglu made a particularly harsh statement criticizing Israel, calling the incident "banditry and piracy." The Israeli Deputy Perm Rep and Palestinian Observer also spoke, after which the Council went into consultations and negotiations to draft a Presidential Statement (PRST). Over the next 13 hours, the U.S. delegation negotiated with the Turkish delegation to produce a PRST which condemned "those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded," called for a "prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards," and requested the immediate release of the ships and civilians held by Israel. The PRST also expressed concern about the incident's potential effect on the proximity talks, and urged the parties to act with restraint and avoid unilateral or provocative actions. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) In response to written requests from Council members Turkey and Lebanon to convene a formal Council meeting, the Council decided in consultations on May 31 to hold an emergency Council

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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debate on the recent incident in the Eastern Mediterranean with the participation of all Council members, Israel, the Palestinian Observer and a briefing by the Secretariat. That debate was held in the Chamber immediately following the Council's consultations. [Note: The provisional verbatim meeting record can be found at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scact2010.htm> <<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/scact2010.htm>> . End note.]

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Secretariat briefing

3. (SBU) Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco briefed the Council that, in the early hours of May 31, Israeli naval forces had boarded a six-ship convoy heading to Gaza. He noted that the stated purpose of the convoy was to deliver humanitarian assistance and to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza. He referred to Israeli government statements in the lead-up that it would not allow the convoy to proceed and that the vessels would be stopped, the cargo inspected and then transferred to Gaza, and any individuals onboard deported. He said that "de facto authorities in Gaza" had formed a committee to receive the convoy.

4. (SBU) He referred to the Secretary-General's spokesman's May 28 statement that "all involved act with a sense of care and responsibility and work for a satisfactory resolution." Though the Israeli navy had told the convoy it could not proceed to Gaza, the convoy nevertheless proceeded, he briefed, and the Israeli navy acted to intercept it by boarding the vessels some 40 nautical miles off the coast in international waters. While the Israelis were able to take control of all six vessels, "there was serious violence" on the main passenger vessel (the "Mavi Marmara") he said, with at least ten killed and 30 injured and six Israeli military injured, according to the information at the time. He underscored that it was "not possible to state definitively the sequence or details of what happened" and that the UN has "no independent information of what transpired."

5. (SBU) He referred to Israeli government statements that the demonstrators on board used knives and clubs against the IDF naval personnel, and possibly live fire from a weapon grabbed from an IDF soldier. He referred to Israeli statements that the seriously injured had been taken by helicopter to hospitals in Israel and that five of the ships had arrived under escort to the Israeli port of Ashdod but the "Mavi Marmara" had not yet been brought into port. He referred to Israeli authorities' expressions of regret about the casualties but noted that they blamed the activists for the violence. He noted Palestinian President Abbas' condemnation

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of Israel's actions, the killing of the activists, and the declaration of three days mourning. He summarized the Secretary-General's statement that he is shocked by the killings, that he condemned the violence, and called for a full investigation to determine how the bloodshed took place and stressed that Israel must provide a full explanation. Fernandez-Taranco underscored that Israel should provide access to detainees and for all parties to adhere to international law, including international humanitarian law and the law of the sea. He concluded by saying that "today's bloodshed would have been avoided if repeated calls on Israel to end the counterproductive and unacceptable blockade

had been heeded." He said that the only way forward for Gaza is a "different and more positive strategy that implements resolution 1860."

Turkish FM

6. (SBU) Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu was the first Council member to speak. In a sharply worded statement, he said it was a "very sad and tragic occasion when one state member of this august house has committed a serious crime" in total disregard of UN system values. He termed Israel's actions a "grave breach of international law," "tantamount to banditry and piracy," "aggression in high seas," "murder conducted by a state," and said "the distinction between terrorists and states has been blurred." He characterized the "sole aim" of the "multinational civilian flotilla" representing 32 countries as providing "much needed relief to the children of Gaza." He called the use of force "not only inappropriate, but also disproportionate." Referring to freedom of navigation, he claimed that no vessel can be stopped or boarded without the consent of its captain or the flag state. He said that this "unacceptable action" was perpetrated by those who had taken advantage in the past of "ships carrying refugees" and they should be more aware of the importance of humanitarian assistance and of the "dangers and inhumanity of ghettos" as in Gaza. He called on the Security Council to adopt a Presidential Statement "condemning the Israeli act of aggression, demanding an urgent inquiry," and calling for all responsible to be punished.

Council members

7. (SBU) A number of Council members joined Turkey in specifically condemning Israel's use of force/violence, including Austria, Bosnia, Brazil ("vehemently condemns"), and Mexico. The Lebanese

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Perm Rep, in a harshly worded statement, said, it was a "flagrant violation of the Charter," as well as of "international law, international humanitarian law and the law of the sea." He said the perpetrators of this "wanton attack" must be punished. Japan condemned the "violent acts of hostility that caused this tragic incident." Russia called the stopping of ships on the high seas without justification a "gross violation of the norms of international law." China condemned Israeli actions targeting humanitarian workers and civilians. All Council members spoke of the need to open up the crossings to Gaza, with some noting the need for the implementation of resolution 1860. Some called on Israel to provide a full and transparent account of what had occurred while others called for an independent investigation. Many called for Israel to provide immediate consular access to the detained activists. Almost all Council members expressed concern that this incident happened at this time during the peace process and some flagged it as a reason why the negotiations need to be successfully concluded.

Palestinian Observer

8. (SBU) The Palestinian Permanent Observer said that the Palestinian Authority had declared three days of mourning and that all of those killed were "martyrs of Palestine." He referred to "Israel's blatant acts of aggression" and condemned its actions. He attributed the violence to the silence of the international community and its inability to hold Israel accountable for its "war crimes." He called for an "independent, impartial, international investigation into this crime" and for all of those detained to be released.

Israeli Deputy Perm Rep

9. (SBU) Just before the Israeli Deputy Perm Rep was called on to speak, the Lebanese Perm Rep, as Security Council President, handed the gavel over to his deputy and left the Chamber, as did the Turkish Foreign Minister and the Palestinian Permanent Observer. The Israeli Perm Rep underscored that the purpose of the convoy was to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza and referred to the

convoy passengers' use of weapons to attack Israeli soldiers. He said that, if the mission had been truly humanitarian, its organizers would have accepted the Israeli government's offer to transfer the assistance through the Israeli port of Ashdod and overland to Gaza. He commented that there is no humanitarian

crisis in Gaza and referred to UN Special Coordinator Serry's recent remarks to the Security Council.

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10. (SBU) The Israeli Deputy Perm Rep stressed the state of armed conflict between Israel and the Hamas authorities in Gaza, the fact that rockets had been fired at Israel as recently as that morning, and that there continue to be attempts to smuggle arms by sea. He termed the maritime blockade a "legitimate mechanism of armed conflict" and said that Israel had provided the appropriate notification of the blockade to governments and the flotilla organizers. Nevertheless, the flotilla leader had publicly responded, "They are going to have to forcefully stop us." He described the organizers, the IHH, as having a radical anti-Western orientation and having provided previous support to Hamas and global jihad elements. He said that it was clear that there was an effort to "lynch" the soldiers boarding the one vessel and the soldiers acted in self-defense. He said the IDF would conduct a "debriefing" on the matter and will share it. He said that Israel "deeply regretted any loss of innocent life" and noted that the full picture will continue to unfold. He called for all to embrace the positive developments of the past few weeks in the peace process.

PRST

11. (SBU) The Council then returned to consultations which were suspended to allow for almost thirteen hours of largely bilateral negotiations between the Turkish and U.S. delegations on the text of a Presidential statement (PRST). Shortly after 1:30 a.m. on June 1, under the just-begun Mexican Presidency of the Security Council for the month of June, the Council formally adopted the Presidential Statement. Begin text of Security Council Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2010/9) on the recent incident in the Eastern Mediterranean:

"The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

"The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

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"The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

"The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

"The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, could bring peace to the region.

"The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity

talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region." End text.

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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070619

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:KFRELICH/JGROBLACHER -- 06/04/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:DSHELTON

S/ES-O:WPARRS

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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INFO WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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HQ USSOUTHCOM J2 MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/04/2020

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT,
IS, GZ

SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO.10

CLASSIFIED BY: Walter Parrs, Senior Watch Officer,
S/ES-O for REASON: 1.4(B) AND (D)

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS

1. (U) Three of five remaining injured Turkish citizens landed in Ankara and two are still in Israeli hospitals. (ynetnews.com)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA

2. (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv believes the Israelis are escorting the RACHEL CORRIE to Ashdod Port, but the embassy does not have confirmation. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

3. (SBU) The Free Gaza Movement says none of the RACHEL CORRIE passengers is an American citizen. (MGGZ01/Bureau of Consular Affairs e-mail)

PALESTINIAN INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

4. (U) Special Envoy for Middle East Peace Mitchell commented the flotilla incident should not hamper progress on proximity talks, media report. PM Fayyad had limited involvement in the conference, but additional Arab State representation was high. (Al-Hayat Al-Jadida)

SECURITY UPDATE

5. (U) Palestinians fired four rockets at Israel from Gaza June 4 without causing injury or damage. (Israel Radio News)

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ISRAELI RESPONSE

6. (U) Israeli officials deny the government is resisting pressure to form an investigation committee. (Al-Quds)

7. (U) Media report Israel is seeking "new ways" to allow civilian goods to enter Gaza. PM Netanyahu promised Quartet Representative Tony Blair, Israel will ease the blockade but will not allow ships to reach Gaza. (nytimes.com)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

8. (SBU) The Egyptian Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Coordinating Bureau released a statement condemning the Israeli blockade of Gaza and IDF actions. (NAM press release)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

9. (C) Turkey: 10,000 people held an anti-Israel rally in Istanbul, and protests likely sponsored by conservative religious groups continue in Ankara, Istanbul, and Adana. Media report Turkey will pursue an ICC investigation seeking damages and claiming Israel violated International Maritime Law.

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(Ankara 815).

10. (C) Tunisia: Protests headed by the Tunisian General Labor Union continue and have become increasingly anti-American. (Tunis 407)

11. (SBU) Pakistan: The government released a statement thanking Jordan and Embassy Islamabad for their work to assure the safety of Pakistani citizens on the boats. (MGGZ01/Pakistan desk e-mail)

12. (U) France: The foreign ministry opposes the mission of the RACHEL CORRIE and does not plan to pursue Israel for interdicting the MAVI MARMARA. (Israel Radio News)

13. (U) Greece: Assistant FM Droutsas released a statement condemning IDF actions and supporting the

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lawful activities of NGOs. (MGGZ01/Embassy Athens e-mail)

14. (U) Minimized considered.
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	OES-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	MA-00	DOHS-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	BBG-00
	EPAE-00	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00
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 CIA WASHINGTON DC
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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHSA, TU, IS
 SUBJECT: Turkey: SitRep 9 on Gaza Flotilla, June 5, 2010

REF: 10 ANKARA 815; 10 ANKARA 800; 10 ANKARA 799; 10 ANKARA 779
 10 ISTANBUL 203

1. (SBU) Summary. Prime Minister Erdogan admonished Israel, saying "Thou Shalt Not Kill," and defended Hamas as a group that is defending its land.

-- Prosecutors are examining witness testimony and autopsy reports to determine whether there is a basis to press charges against Israeli officials.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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-- The IHH is seeking "martyr" status for the deceased passengers so they will receive additional benefits from the GOT.

-- In Adana, a funeral for one of the passengers drew large crowds and anti-Israel statements, but no violence. In Istanbul, the media focused on returned wounded passengers, one of whom voiced support for Hamas.

-- Turkish religious leader Fethullah Gulen issued a statement critical of the GOI and the IHH actions in the clash. End summary.

GOT Still Smarting, Considering Legal Options

2. (U) Speaking at a World Environment Day celebration in Konya on June 4, PM Erdogan rebuked Israel's use of deadly force on the passengers of the Mavi Marmaris, citing the condemnation in the sixth of the Old Testament's Ten Commandments: "Thou Shalt Not Kill" in English, Turkish, and Hebrew. Erdogan also said he did not regard Hamas as a terrorist organization. "They are defending their land."

3. (U) The press reported that the prosecutor in Istanbul's Bakirkoy Office has opened an investigation into the attack on the Mavi Marmaris, with assistance from the prosecutor's office in Ankara, to determine whether there is a basis for charges against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Chief of General Staff Gabi Ashkenazi in a Turkish court. The prosecutor in Istanbul plans to use testimony gathered from wounded passengers on the IHH flotilla ships and autopsy reports of the deceased U.S. and Turkish citizens as evidence in the case. If there is sufficient evidence, the prosecutor could charge the Israeli officials with murder, injury, taking hostages, attacking Turkish citizens on the open seas, and piracy.

Turks Continue to Mourn, Focus on Flotilla

4. (U) On June 4 CNN Turk reported that Yavuz Dede, Vice President of the IHH, delivered a petition to the Prime Ministry requesting that the GOT declare the nine people who died on the Mavi Marmaris

"martyrs." According to Turkish law, their status as "martyrs" would entitle their families to welfare payments, housing assistance, and state scholarships for their children.

Adanacrowds.JPG

5. (SBU) In Adana, the media reported that on June 3 the body of Cetin Topcuoglu -- one of the nine people killed during the Gaza flotilla incident -- was brought by his wife from Istanbul to

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Adana. A letter written by Topcuoglu to a local radio station before he joined the flotilla asked for people to pray for him to become a martyr. After bringing her husband's body from Istanbul to Adana, Cigdem Topcuoglu, said, "Hopefully, we, my son and I, will take our places in the next flotilla to follow". Topcuoglu's funeral on June 4 at the Sabanci Central Mosque in Adana drew between 30,000-40,000 people, including the provincial police director, governor, members of parliament, mayors and other officials. The ceremony was quiet and non-violent. Several times demonstrators chanted anti-Israeli slogans but no anti-American slogans. The most common chant by the crowd was "The Islamic movement cannot be stopped." While men made up the majority of the crowd, there were thousands of women as well, almost half of which were -- unusual for Turkey -- fully veiled in black.

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6. (U) In Istanbul, the media interviewed wounded passengers who were still in hospitals. At least one of the wounded voiced solidarity with Hamas and urged Hamas to continue its struggle. The reporter highlighted that the American citizen who was killed had five wounds which allegedly were shot from a distance of less than 45 cm from his body. There are reportedly more than 20 wounded passengers still in hospitals, five in critical condition. The press reported that two more wounded individuals from the flotilla arrived in Turkey today. Another funeral will be held on the Asian side of the city for a deceased passenger on June 5, and protests may follow the funeral. On June 4, a non-violent crowd of approximately 100 demonstrators marched to within one kilometer of the U.S. Consulate, but did not approach it. The crowd was reportedly shouting anti-Israel statements and carrying banners and flags.

7. (U) Renowned Turkish religious leader Fethullah Gulen, who lives in the United States, released a statement to the Wall Street Journal that criticized both Israel and the IHH in the flotilla incident. Pro-Gulen newspaper Zaman stressed the importance of conducting an international investigation, and opined the forensic medical exams given to the released volunteers were the first step in such an investigation. Other religiously-affiliated newspapers emphasized the "martyrdom" of the victims of the attack on their front pages.

8. (U) All major newspapers, news channels and wire services carried the statement by NSC Spokesman Mike Hammer, which said, among other things, "The current arrangements [in Gaza] are unsustainable and must be changed." Turkish media interpreted this statement to mean "the siege over Gaza cannot be sustained."
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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070659

DRAFTED BY: CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA:KRICHTER -- 06/05/2010 7-8308

APPROVED BY: CA:JLJACOBS

CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA:CWALKER CA/OCS:MEHICKEY NEA:JFELTMAN

S/SEMEP:PKNOFF NEA/IPA:TGOLDBERGER NEA:MCONNELLY

CA/OCS/ACS:MBERNIER-TOTH CA/OCS:MTBOND EUR/SE:JBAILY

P:ECATALANO/AWELLS D(S):GRANA S/P:DRAND

NSC:PKUMAR (OK-MUST X-HATCH), M:TBURL (OK),

D(L):NSHEPHERD (OK), CA/OCS/PRI:EBETANCOURT (OK)

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SENSITIVE

FOR AMB CUNNINGHAM FROM CA A/S JACOBS AND NEA A/S FELTMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IS

SUBJECT: Tel Aviv: Demarche Regarding Death
of/Injuries to U.S. Citizens

REF: TEL AVIV 1224, TEL AVIV 1225

1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 2.
2. (SBU) Action Request: The Department requests that Embassy Tel Aviv approach the GOI at senior levels to seek details concerning the specific circumstances surrounding the death of U.S. citizen Furkan Dogan and injuries to U.S. citizens [REDACTED]. Objectives follow in para 5.
3. (SBU) Background: On May 31, Israeli Naval Forces (INF) boarded a Turkish-flagged ship which was part of a

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
 DATE/CASE ID: 21 SEP 2011 201004163

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six ship flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza in contravention of an Israeli blockade. Upon boarding, the GOI claims the INF were attacked by passengers carrying metal rods, axes and sticks. INF officers responded, resulting in nine fatalities and more than 30 wounded among the passengers. One INF officer was also seriously wounded. Among the fatalities was U.S. citizen, Furkan Dogan, and among the wounded was a second U.S. citizen, [REDACTED]. According to Turkish press reports and Mr. Dogan's father, Dogan was shot four times in the head and once in the chest. Embassy Tel Aviv was shown photographs of nine corpses at the morgue. None of the photographs indicated evidence of gunshot wounds to the face. At the time of viewing, Embassy Tel Aviv did not have the picture or identity of Mr. Dogan and could not compare that to the photographs shown at the morgue. No USG official, in either Turkey or Israel, viewed the body of Mr. Dogan because he was transported to Turkey prior to identification as a U.S. citizen and was positively identified by his father upon arrival.

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4. (SBU) In a separate incident, U.S. citizen [REDACTED] was injured when she was struck in the face by a gas canister shot at the protesters by Israeli security forces during a protest of the IDF action against the flotilla at the Qalandiya checkpoint. [REDACTED] lost her eye in this incident.

5. (U) Objectives:

- Seek an explanation from the GOI of the specific circumstances surrounding the death of U.S. citizen Furkan Dogan, and the injuries to U.S. citizens [REDACTED]
- Note that the seriousness of the injuries in these incidents is of especially deep concern to the U.S. Government;
- Reinforce that the safety of U.S. citizens abroad is one of the highest priorities of the U.S. Government;
- Confirm that the return of Furkan Dogan's remains to Turkey without identification or notice to the U.S. Embassy that a U.S. citizen's body was being removed was because the GOI was unaware of his identity as an American citizen;
- Reinforce that the USG expects a thorough, credible, and transparent investigation into these incidents.;
- Note that we will follow-up to request the results of the investigation.

6. (U) Point of Contact: Post should contact
CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA Kim Richter at (202) 647-8308 for any
additional background or assistance.
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SOURCE: DISKETTE.070661

DRAFTED BY: MGGZ01:KVBARTELS -- 06/05/2010; 202-647-7640

APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:SDONER

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

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CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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UNCLAS STATE 058418

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR,
AMGT, IS, GZSUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO.12STATUS OF THE RACHEL CORRIE

1. (U) The IDF boarded the RACHEL CORRIE in international waters approximately 20 miles from Gaza. An Israeli spokeswoman said the boarding was by sea, rather than by helicopter, and took just five minutes. (YNET)
2. (U) The RACHEL CORRIE was towed by two Israeli naval vessels and arrived in the port of Ashdod five hours after the takeover. (AFP)
3. (SBU) The 19 passengers and crew are being held at a facility in Holon near Tel Aviv, according to the Irish consul. The consul believes the passengers are primarily from Ireland, Malaysia, and the Philippines; one might be British and one Cuban. There were no American citizens aboard. On June 6, the CORRIE's passengers and crew will be taken to the Ben Gurion Airport detention facility and offered immediate repatriation. Those who do not accept will have 72 hours to appeal, and post comments they will likely be repatriated at the end of that time.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
4. (SBU) Israel Radio reports there are 500 tons of cement on board. Israeli MOD officials are assessing whether it can be delivered by the UN. While the distribution could be done by UN Relief and Works Agency or the International Committee of the Red Cross, neither has agreed to do so at the current time, and Hamas has said it will not permit distribution.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

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5. (U) Israel: The Israeli Foreign Ministry said that Israel would continue to enforce the blockade as long as Hamas leaders refuse to meet conditions for international acceptance, including a renunciation of violence and the recognition of Israel. (AP)
6. (U) Turkey: An autopsy report for the May 31 victims will be sent to the prosecutor's office in Istanbul in the next two months to be used as evidence against Israel in a possible court case. (AP)
7. (U) Egypt: President Mubarak has ordered the passenger terminal with Gaza to open daily, rather than sporadically. (AP)
8. (U) Malaysia: The Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a press release demanding that Israel ensure the safety of all activists removed from the RACHEL CORRIE. The foreign minister plans to escort the Malaysian detainees involved in the May 31 raid from Turkey to Kuala Lumpur June 6. (kln.gov.my)
9. (U) Northern Ireland: Deputy First Minister McGuinness described the latest Israeli intervention as a raid and said, "The RACHEL CORRIE should have been allowed to proceed to Gaza without Israeli aggression. This is an attack on an Irish flagged vessel and it demands a strong response by the Irish government." (bbc.co.uk)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDS

10. (U) Representative Kucinich (D-OH) called for Washington to impose diplomatic and financial consequences on Israel, citing the importance of maintaining good relations with Turkey and Iraq. He also called for an independent investigation of the incident. (AFP)

PROTESTS

11. (U) UK/Cyprus: The Free Gaza Movement announced it will relocate to London after closing its Cyprus headquarters due to the country's decision to ban the departure of any Gaza-bound ships. It plans to send as many as three more ships in coming months and reports that four captains already have volunteered for the missions. (AP)
12. (U) Israel: Thousands of Israeli activists marched

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in Tel Aviv to protest Israeli policies, including the recent raids on Gaza-bound ships. During the protest, a smoke grenade was hurled at protestors outside the Tel Aviv Museum, but no one was injured. (YNET)

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13. (U) Turkey: Approximately 5000 protestors gathered in Istanbul for a demonstration organized by the Foundation for Humanitarian Relief (IHH), a key organizer of the flotilla intercepted on May 31.
(timesonline.co.uk)

14. (U) UK: The Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign organized a protest in Edinburgh that attracted nearly 3000 people, including a May 31 raid survivor. The captain of the RACHEL CORRIE is Scottish. (bbc.co.uk)

15. (U) UK: Thousands of protestors in London marched from Downing Street to the Israeli Embassy.
(timesonline.co.uk)

16. (U) Sweden: Swedish dockworkers are launching a blockade of Israeli ships and goods from June 15 to 24.
(AP)

17. (U) Minimized considered.
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	EUR-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VCI-00	FOE-00	DIAS-00
	FSI-00	OBO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ARMY-00	MFLO-00
	MMP-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	M-00	CDC-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00
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APPROVED BY: S/ES-O/CMS:SDONER

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL, PINR, AMGT,
IS, GZ
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING GROUP
SITUATION REPORT NO.13

STATUS OF M/V RACHEL CORRIE DETAINED PASSENGERS AND CREW

1. (SBU) Israel has deported or will deport the passengers and crew of the M/V RACHEL CORRIE. One UK citizen, one Cuban, and six Malaysians have already left; one Filipino and five Irish citizens are scheduled to leave by June 7. (MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon)

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

2. (SBU) Iran: According to the semi-official Mehr news agency, Ali Shirazi, Supreme Leader Khamenei's Revolutionary Guard Corps representative, said its forces are ready to provide a military escort to cargo ships seeking to break Israel's Gaza blockade. (Reuters)

ISRAELI REACTIONS

3. (SBU) Israel's ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren, stated on Fox News Sunday that Israel will reject an international commission to study its commando raid on a Gaza-bound aid ship in which nine pro-Palestinian activists were killed, saying, "We are rejecting an international commission. We are discussing with the Obama administration a way in which our inquiry will take place." (Reuters)

4. (SBU) The Israeli Defense Forces stated that six of the activists aboard the M/V MAVI MARMARA have links to

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Hamas or Islamic Jihad, according to the media. Two of the six are identified as American citizens: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] According to Embassy Tel Aviv, each has left Israel.
(MGGZ01/Embassy Tel Aviv telcon, Ha'aretz)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE RESPONDS

5. (SBU) Representative Sarbanes (D-MD) released a statement June 4 noting that it is possible that "delivering humanitarian aid to the residents of Gaza was not the primary objective of those piloting the MAVI MARMARA" and that "the persistence of the MAVI MARMARA in seeking to breach the blockade was intended to provoke a clash with Israeli Defense Forces."
(Bignews.biz; Rep. Sarbanes' Press Release

6. (U) Minimized considered.
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 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
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STATE FOR NEA, NEA/IPA, NEA/PPD

WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE, SIT ROOM
 NSC FOR NEA STAFF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
 DATE/CASE ID: 02 FEB 2012 201004163

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SECDEF WASHDC FOR USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA
HQ USAF FOR XOXX
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JOINT STAFF WASHDC FOR PA
CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL FOR POLAD/USIA ADVISOR
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SIPDIS
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, KMDR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL MEDIA REACTION

SUBJECTS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:

Mideast

Key stories in the media:

HaQaretz reported that PM Benjamin Netanyahu opposes U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's proposal for an international investigative committee into the Free Gaza Flotilla affair. Netanyahu has not officially rejected the proposal, but people close to him say he is studying other options. Media reported that Netanyahu and most Israeli Cabinet ministers apparently prefer an Israeli probe in which Americans and other foreigners would have observer status. Leading media reported that Netanyahu spoke by telephone yesterday with a number of close allies, including U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Georgian PM Nika Gilauri, and Quartet Representative Tony Blair. Netanyahu emphasized during these conversations, as he has since the proposal was first made, that Israel acted in self-defense just like any other country would if faced with the threat of thousands of missiles and rockets. The media quoted Michael Oren, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, as saying on the U.S. TV program "Fox News Sunday," "We are rejecting an international commission. We are discussing with the Obama administration a way in which our inquiry will take place." Maariv reported that President Obama is urging Netanyahu to decide quickly. HaQaretz quoted an Israeli official as saying earlier in Jerusalem.

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that Ban Ki-moon had suggested establishing a panel that would be headed by former New Zealand PM Geoffrey Palmer and include representatives from Turkey, Israel, and the U.S. The Jerusalem Post reported that the Foreign Ministry is recommending that the Government quickly agree to an investigation mechanism so as to knock the issue out of the deadlines. UNCLASSIFIED

HaQaretz reported that the U.S. Embassy in Israel has demanded an investigation into how American Citizen Emily Henochowicz lost her eye last week at the Qalandiyah checkpoint after being struck by a tear gas grenade.

Electronic media reported that early this morning IDF commandoes thwarted a terrorist attack in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip.

Three Palestinians were killed and four were wounded. In a separate incident, Israel Radio reported that IDF forces killed three Palestinians who were about to launch a rocket into Israel.

The media reported that yesterday the Turkish daily Hurriyet published photographs showing that Israeli naval commandos were taken belowdecks during last week's raid of the Mavi Marmara. The Israeli media said that this is consistent with the Israel Navy's claim that some of the passengers on the ship tried to kidnap three commandos. The Israeli media reported that activists in the flotilla sent radio messages saying: QGo back to AuschwitzQ and Qremember 9/11.

Yediot reported that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Syrian President Hafez Assad, and P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas will be among regional leaders convening in Istanbul starting today in an effort to isolate Israel.

The Jerusalem Post reported that yesterday visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal S. Wolin told reporters that Israel's economy will weather the international furor over the IDF raid on the flotilla.

Leading media reported that yesterday ten senior Israel Navy reserve officers released an open letter to PM Netanyahu and DM Ehud Barak criticizing the handling of the raid last week of the Mavi Marmara. The letter, the signatories of which are all patrol boat commanders at the rank of lieutenant or lieutenant commander, calls for the establishment of an external inquiry committee into the incident. The letter represents the first public expression of criticism of the way the incident was handled from within the IDF.

Media reported that family and friends of Gilad Shalit plead with the Government not to lift the blockade on Gaza. The media reported that the IDF has ordered its soldiers and officers not to travel to

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Turkey. Media reported that a group of Israelis intends to create a peaceful flotilla and make it circle the two parts of Cyprus. Israel Radio reported that yesterday in Los Angeles thousands of people attended a pro-Israel rally led by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. On the other hand, 6,000 people gathered in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to protest 43 years of Israel's occupation of the West Bank, and a government that organizers said is drowning Israel.

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Yediot cited the British weekly The Sunday Times as saying that

Turkey is considering closing an Israeli intelligence base in eastern Turkey that has been monitoring military activity in Iran. HaQaretz cited the Israeli defense establishment's concern over the recent appointment of Hakan Fidan as the head of Turkey's national intelligence organization (MIT). HaQaretz says that together with the Turkish PM and FM, Fidan orchestrated an intentional change in relations between Israel and Turkey.

Electronic media reported that this morning the Knesset's House Committee deprived Arab Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi (National Democratic Assembly Q Balad) of three of her privileges, including her diplomatic passport. Zoabi had participated in the Free Gaza Flotilla.

HaQaretz and Maariv cited the potential appointment of a new Israeli ambassador to the U.N. HaQaretz reported that Dan Gillerman, who held the position in the past, declined to take up the post once again. Maariv reported that FM Avigdor Lieberman's choice for the post is Bar-Ilan University Law Professor Yaffa Silberschatz.

HaQaretz reported that South Korea has downgraded the visit of President Shimon Peres to the country following the Free Gaza Flotilla's debacle.

Most media quoted Helen Thomas, a veteran member of the White House Press Corps, as saying that the Jews must get the hell out of Palestine and go home to Germany or Poland.

The media reported that the Israeli satirical group's QWe Con the World video -- a parody on the flotilla affair -- has registered well over a million Internet hits.

Mideast:

Block Quotes:

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The conservative, independent Jerusalem Post opined in a special, page-one editorial (6/7): QThe campaign to demonize Israel is being most energetically championed, unsurprisingly, by nations, organizations and individuals that make no secret of the fact that

they seek Israel's destruction. But it is being facilitated in good part because of a growing disinclination among those who know better to contest those assaults on Israel that have departed from the framework of moral tenability and legitimacy. In this context, the United States has a critical part to play. It has been a credible and dependable ally of Israel through innumerable past crises, and it is vital that the Obama administration play that central role again today. It is vital, most of all, that the U.S. insist on the maintenance of Israel's capacity to protect itself against those who seek its elimination.... We cannot in good conscience do nothing. And we invite you, amid what in some quarters is developing into anti-Israel hysteria, to add your voice to our call for the U.S. to lead the way along the path of reason.

II. QReach an Understanding with the United States

Senior columnist, veteran journalist, and television anchor Dan Margalit wrote in the independent Israel Hayom (6/7): QIn the current situation Israel's foremost interest is to try to reach an agreement with the United States regarding the king of investigation of the legitimate action against the flotilla. It would indeed be advisable to seek Europe's participation. It is known that the Arab world supports [actions against extremists], but that it is keeping mum. But the most important people in the international arena are the Americans. As far as Israel is concerned, understandings with the U.S. would represent the climax of the line of flexibility, the conclusion of the move of concessions.

III. QLonging for a Leader

Senior columnist Nahum Barnea wrote on page one of the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/7): QNetanyahu lives in a state of repression. As in the Western Wall tunnel events in his previous term, now too he did not realize how far things could go. He did not ask himself what Erdogan would do, how Turkey would react to the takeover of a Turkish ship by Israeli commandos. He did not ask himself what the reaction would be of governments who had respected citizens on board. He was so complacent that he did not leave anyone from his bureau in Israel as a contact person, despite the fact that he knew the operation would be carried out during his stay abroad, prior to a meeting with the U.S. President. And then, when the damage has been done, he backs down all the way: He announces that the Turks on the ship are al-Qaida agents but

sends them home, as heroes, without fully questioning them. He eases the blockade on Gaza. He consents to international

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participation in the investigation and then changes his mind. He deludes himself that things will be fine: soon Obama will begin his election season, and then he will be defeated and weakened. All Israel has to do is lower its head until the storm passes. A leader would take the initiative into his own hands, replace Lieberman with [Finance Minister Yuval] Steinitz or Yisrael Beiteinu with Kadima, take steps that would strengthen the Palestinian Authority's sovereignty in the West Bank, remove the blockade from Gaza, which has mainly harmed Israel until now, and prepare for a new age in the ties with Turkey. But as of now, Israel has no leader, and it has no leadership.

IV. QBreaking Out of the Siege

The independent, left-leaning Ha'aretz editorialized (6/6): Q[Following the outbreak of the Free Gaza Flotilla affair] Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his usual manner, rushed to raise the specter of the Iranian threat along with the adage that the whole world is against us. Q Instead of locating the fire scorching the diplomatic relations we built up with such effort, Netanyahu is following in the footsteps of his ostracized Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, accusing the world of hypocritical treatment of Israel... A thorough examination of the Mavi Marmara incident and the lifting of the siege against civilians in Gaza are essential steps, but they are certainly not sufficient. If Israel is to break out of the international siege and strategic catastrophe it now faces, it urgently needs a different policy.

V. QThe Mask Has Fallen

Military correspondent Alex Fishman wrote in the mass-circulation, pluralist Yediot Aharonot (6/6): QThe Turkish government ... knew precisely who was on board the Marmara. Had it wanted to prevent a violent clash, it could have and should have whispered something into an Israeli ear. But it wanted the provocation. And now Israel is looking into the personal-commercial relationship between the company, which owns the ship, and Erdogan. Israel more than merely suspects that Erdogan contributed to the flotilla an asset he partially owns. Those facts aren't going to change Israel's public image in the world. But the citizens of Israel need to know that the stumbles and the errors that were made here in dealing with the flotilla are not the principal reason for Israel's political distress. Turkey took the liberty of taking this kind of provocative action because Israel has lost, to a great extent, the political protection of the United States. Furthermore, Turkey has identified the fact that the interests maintained by the current

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U.S. administration in Turkey are far more powerful than the administration's interests in Israel. This is the product of a shift in the United States' global policy that was introduced by the Obama administration. It is no coincidence that the Mossad Director said last week that it was becoming a liability instead of an asset to the current US administration. And worst of all, the Turks understand, as do the Syrians, that the ally, Israel's principal political support, is becoming weaker.

VI. QPride, Not Weakness

Liberal columnist Yael Paz QMelamed wrote on page one of the popular, pluralist Maariv (6/7): QWhat is left [of the Free Gaza Flotilla affair] is also pride -- Israeli pride, in the good sense of the word. And it is difficult to explain it in words, only in gut feelings, but these harsh images do not project helplessness. And even had we not known the outcome, we could guess it easily. Because these mercenaries, or whoever they were, did not have a chance against the Naval Commando combatants: Not because of their strength and the professionalism, because that is clear. Because whoever puts terrorists on a QpeaceQ flotilla and takes pictures of them, with open enjoyment, covered with blood -- will ultimately be covered by their blood.

VII. QWho Is Afraid of a Muslim Turkey?

Foreign News Editor Shay Ilan wrote in Maariv (6/7): QNostalgia for Ottoman colonialism is not necessarily a negative thing. Many people have sent me the fact that Turkey was one of the first countries visited by Obama represented a seal of approval for Erdogan's Qneo-Ottomanism.Q Thus, Israel does not constitute a factor in Turkey's Islamization or tightening of ties with Syria and Iran. But this doesn't mean that Israel cannot take advantage of this trend, provided it does not react to it angrily.

VIII. QTurkey Also Has What to Lose over the Gaza Flotilla Affair

Diplomatic correspondent Herb Keinon wrote in The Jerusalem Post (6/7): Q[Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip] Erdogan's caustic criticism of Israel is doing nothing, according to diplomatic officials, to settle the unease inside European institutions and NATO concerning Turkey's direction. And this could -- if Israel so

chose -- be used as leverage over Ankara to get the Turkish government to pull back and turn down the heat before a fire erupts that is certainly detrimental to Israel, but would also burn Turkey.

It will be interesting to watch in the coming days whether Israel more and more openly implicates the Turkish government in responsibility for planning, organizing and carrying out the flotilla initiative. Some diplomatic officials think that this is a

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new aggressive tack that Israel should take. The idea is not to match Erdogan's vitriolic rhetoric, but rather to just expose the degree to which the Turkish government -- which says it wants to be a part of Europe and a bridge builder between East and West -- was involved in last week's disastrous events. Up until now, Israel has been extremely careful not to respond to Erdogan's bitter tongue-lashings in kind. Yet there are other ways, beyond getting into a megaphone screaming match with Erdogan, for Israel to react the place the Turkish government had in this whole story is not something that will likely add to Turkey's luster in the E.U., NATO or -- for that matter -- in Washington.

IX. Dangerous Incitement

Ha'aretz editorialized (6/7): Of all the damage done by the botched takeover of the Mavi Marmara, one aspect is particularly serious: the further erosion of the relationship between the State of Israel and its Arab citizens, and between Jews and Arabs in Israel in general. While decisions were made concerning the flotilla to Gaza, the Prime Minister, his ministers and his spokesmen knew that on board the Mavi Marmara were a number of Arab Israeli public figures, including a Knesset member and a political-religious leader. However, they took no particular precautions. Apparently, no voice of reason was heard, asking that Knesset Member Hanin Zoabi and Sheikh Raed Salah not be turned into heroes. But the intimidation and incitement against them were even more egregious.... Arab citizens may be the direct victims of government policy and the atmosphere in the Knesset, but all of society will pay the price of the devastation that will result.

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