

UNCLASSIFIED

G2

ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	ACQ-00	WHA-00	VCI-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	L-00	ARMY-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	VCIE-00	NEA-00
	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	MA-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	/000W					

-----4CC706 141337Z /69

P 140950Z APR 10  
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2711  
 INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
 EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
 AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY  
 SECNAV WASHDC PRIORITY  
 NSACSS FT GEORGE G MEADE MD PRIORITY  
 CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
 AFOSI 52 FIS ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
 CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
 DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
 EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
 JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5// PRIORITY  
 NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
 SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000565

SIPDIS

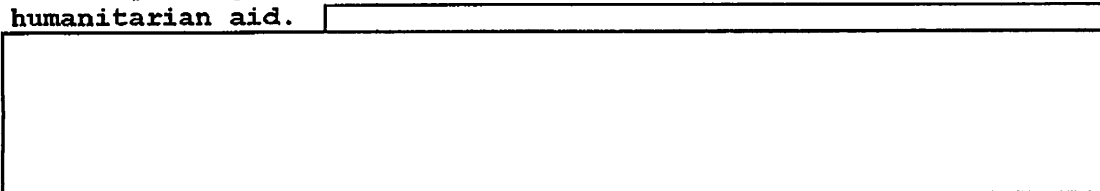
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/14/2020  
 TAGS: PGOV, PREL, TU, EG, IS  
 SUBJECT: ANGST REIGNS OVER CONVOY OF AID SHIPS TO GAZA

REF: ANKARA 467

Classified By: POL Counselor Daniel O'Grady for reasons 1.4(b,d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH) is preparing to lead a convoy of ships to Israeli-controlled Gaza beginning on May 15 to "break the embargo" and deliver humanitarian aid.



B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 16 AUG 2011 201004163

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END

## SUMMARY.

2. (C) Bulent Yildirim, president of the Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), [REDACTED]

B1

[REDACTED] has announced his organization will lead a flotilla of ships to Israeli-controlled Gaza in May to "break the embargo" and deliver humanitarian aid. IHH has called this convoy "Noah's Ark," "Freedom Is the Last Port," and most recently "Palestine Our Destination, Freedom Our Cargo."

B1, B6

[REDACTED] told us April 9 the flotilla will consist of seven ships: two from Turkey, three from the UK, and one each from Greece and Ireland. Inconsistent media reports say IHH hopes to increase the number of ships to 10, 15, or 20. One of the Turkish ships is a cargo ship with a 3000-ton freight capacity. The other is a passenger ship with a maximum capacity of 1100 persons. IHH was forced to buy its own ships when no shipping company would risk their property on this convoy. The passenger ship was purchased for \$1.2 million while the cargo ship cost \$570,000. [REDACTED] said financial contributions for the ships came "from people in every city and every town of Turkey." He acknowledged that IHH does not have strict rules regarding contributions, saying "we cannot refuse money." The IHH ships will launch from Istanbul and stop in Mersin before joining the rest of the flotilla near the Gaza maritime "border." The other ships in the convoy will make a stop in Cyprus before heading to Gaza. [REDACTED]

B1, B6

B6

## An "Artificial Island"

3. (SBU) According to [REDACTED] IHH fully expects to be stopped along the maritime border by Israeli ships. He said the convoy will create an "artificial island" and is prepared to stay at least one month. This "artificial island" will be serviced and supplied by a number of smaller, faster boats that will make supply runs to Mersin and Cyprus. In addition to providing a supply-line, the smaller supply boats will also ferry and rotate the passengers, crew, and media. [REDACTED] said VIPs such as entertainers, Turkish MPs, and other politicians can be shuttled to the mother ships with ease. The large Turkish passenger ship will not be at full

B6

capacity. [redacted] said this is so the passengers are comfortable even if they have to stay long-term. Women and children will reportedly be aboard. Because IHH now owns its own ships, he said, it plans to continue sending convoys by sea to Gaza "until the end."

4. (C) The sea convoy will have a heavy media component and organizers plan to broadcast everything live on television.

[redacted] said "Our power is the consciousness of the world people. Day by day, hour by hour, we will inform the world."

B1, B6

[redacted] said IHH opted to wait until after the May 6 UK election in order to maximize media coverage. IHH believes its media coverage window will close on June 11 when the 2010 World Cup begins in South Africa. Meanwhile, [redacted]

B1

[redacted] told us April 12 that he believes the

only purpose of the convoy is political propaganda and "diplomatic drama." He cited existing means for delivering humanitarian to Gaza, if that were the true purpose. [redacted] told us

B1

the same thing on April 9. He said [redacted]

B1

[redacted] believes IHH has no interest in actually delivering the aid, contending there are no ports in the Gaza Strip that can even accommodate the ships.

5. (C) The IHH's [redacted] told us the flotilla will not attempt to break through the expected line of Israeli ships. But [redacted] did say it would be impossible to have absolute control over such a large and diverse convoy: "We are not a state. We don't know what will happen." [redacted] understood the potential for hostilities. He stressed that the seven ships will be from four states: "There are four flags. If Israel attacks, it is an attack on four countries. It will be her problem, not ours." If Israel boards the convoy ships, [redacted] said they would be no different from the Somali pirates: "It is your (international community's) obligation to fight against pirates." Other IHH representatives claim the convoy will attempt to break through the line of Israeli ships. In interviews with local media, IHH spokesperson Salih Bilici said the goal of the convoy is to reach Gaza. Bilici said, "We don't have a plan B, C, or D. We have decided to reach Gaza by sea and enter via its port." In a meeting announcing the convoy at their headquarters, IHH President Yildirim declared "We will sail in May to break the embargo."

B1, B6

[redacted] Concerns

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9. (C) COMMENT:

"Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at <http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Turkey>"  
SILLIMAN

NNNN

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201009798

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

S5



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
Operations Center

RELEASED IN FULL

**SPOT REPORT No. 2**  
**LATEST SITUATION ON GAZA AID FLOTILLA**

Monday, May 31, 2010  
1200 EDT

**NETANYAHU TO CURTAIL TRIP AND RETURN TO ISRAEL**

(U) The Israeli Prime Minister is currently in Canada, but press report he will cancel his scheduled onward stop in Washington to return to Tel Aviv. (AP)

**FLOTILLA SHIPS ENTERING PORT, CASUALTIES NOT YET IDENTIFIED**

- (SBU) Embassy Tel Aviv reports nine American citizens are in detention and consular staff hope to have access to them the morning of June 1. Israeli sources say two former U.S. diplomats detained for their participation in the flotilla will be deported from Ben Gurion Airport tonight. One Amcit is hospitalized with minor injuries and will be transferred to a deportation facility shortly. A total of 18 Amcits are believed to have been part of the flotilla, seven are unaccounted for. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) Israeli defense officials say 10 to 14 civilians were killed or seriously injured, with an additional 30 wounded. Ten Israeli Navy personnel were wounded, one seriously. All casualties had been aboard the MAVI MARMARA and are now in Israeli hospitals. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) The CHALLENGER I is now in the port of Ashdod with Americans onboard, and the MAVI MARMARA is expected between 1700 and 1800 local time, with the rest arriving later in the evening. Passengers will have two options - jail or deportation. (Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)

**TURKEY CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND**

- (SBU) Turkey is alleging a gross violation of international law, saying the raid occurred 64 nautical miles from the Gaza blockade area. The IDF contends a vessel may be boarded prior to entering an area under naval blockade, if there is reason to believe the vessel intends to breach it. (Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail, Ops/Embassy Tel Aviv e-mail)
- (SBU) Israeli Defense Minister Barak and Major General Dangot, Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories, are in communication with officials from the Turkish Foreign and Defense Ministries. They discussed the extent to which rhetoric could be kept in check, the need for security cooperation, and the impact the status of wounded Israeli Arab Islamic leader Raed Salah could have on public reaction. (Ops/ConGen Jerusalem e-mail)
- (SBU) Turkish PM Erdogan cut his trip to Latin America short and will return to Turkey today. FM Davutoglu is in route to New York to request an emergency session of the UNSC today to discuss the incident. Acting PM Arinc ruled out sending Turkish naval forces to the region for the time being, and President Gul condemned the attack, but urged Turks to act with restraint. (Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 10 AUG 2011 201004163

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## CLASSIFICATION

- (SBU) Peaceful protesters gathered outside the U.S. Consulate in Adana (500 to 700 according to local guards, 4000 by Turkish National Police estimates) to lay a black wreath, then dispersed. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*
- (SBU) Embassy Ankara requested additional security for Israeli and American installations in Turkey, and reports the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has authorized the additional forces. *(Ops/Embassy Ankara e-mail)*

Please see our classified website at <http://sec.state.gov>.

Drafted: JBLedy

Dist: State (all bureaus), NSS, OSD, NMCC, JCS, CIA, OSC, NCTC, DHS

Approved: PMBeckman

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

T7

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2011 5:49 AM  
**To:** Grubb, Jason B  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla Update / new GOI Asks  
**Attachments:** 11-STATE-36240.eml.pdf; 11-AMMAN-569.eml.pdf  
**Importance:** High  
**Categories:** Working

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

This document is SECRET//NOFORN when separated from SECRET//NOFORN attachment(s).

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2036/06/09

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**From:** Silverman, Robert J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2011 12:45 PM  
**To:** Levin, Jan X  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla Update / new GOI Asks  
**Importance:** High

My bad

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2036/06/09

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**From:** Sutphin, Paul R  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2011 9:59 PM  
**To:** 'reedjg@state.sgov.gov'; 'sacharax@state.sgov.gov'; 'rudmanm@state.sgov.gov'; 'feltmanjd@state.sgov.gov'; 'WafflesJ@state.sgov.gov'; 'kaidanowts@state.sgov.gov'; 'vandiepenvh@state.sgov.gov'; 'ganzerak@state.sgov.gov'; 'FoleyPA2@state.sgov.gov'; 'jacobsonmn@state.sgov.gov'; 'andersongc@state.sgov.gov'; 'cunninghamjb@state.sgov.gov'; 'goldbergerth@state.sgov.gov'; 'silverrj@state.sgov.gov'; 'dicarlora@state.sgov.gov'; 'germainej@state.sgov.gov'; 'bassw@state.sgov.gov'; 'Colin.Kahl@osd.smil.mil'; 'Alexander.vershbow@osd.smil.mil'; 'Eric.lynn@osd.smil.mil'; 'john.charlton@js.smil.mil'; 'brook.leonard@js.smil.mil'; 'timothy.vuono@js.smil.mil'; 'Kumar, Prem G.'; 'Riley, Robert J'; 'Gregonis, Meghan E'; 'dshapiro@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; 'ssimon@nss.eop.sgov.gov'; 'Desjardins, Marc'; 'Shampaine, Nicole D'; 'Schedlbauer, Amy W'; 'Burnett, David R'; 'Silverman, Robert J'; 'Schwartz, Jonathan B (Legal)'  
**Cc:** 'Sindle, James M'; 'Buzbee, John R'; 'Levinson, Jesse S'; 'Jacoby, Julia I'; 'Doutrich, Jack T'  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Update / new GOI Asks  
**Importance:** High

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 26 SEP 2011 201004163

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Colleagues:

As a follow up to our discussions regarding stopping/impeding the prospective Mavi Marmara anniversary flotilla,

NR

Update from the GOI

Next Steps

- USCG is working to release the agreed Notice to Mariners (NOTMAR) warning U.S. vessels not to attempt to break the Israeli blockade as soon as possible.
- We should consider the release date for the pre-cleared Dept of State statement. Depending on additional information on the timing of the flotilla, we would propose the first or second week of June.

Re GOI's new requests (per Tel Aviv 613 below):

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- Response: High level engagement with the GOT is ongoing, including recent calls from Secretary Clinton to FM Davutoglu. [redacted]

[redacted] We will continue to strongly and actively urge Turkey and Israel to take immediate steps to resolve their differences before the flotilla departs.

NR

[redacted]

- Response: We have already encouraged Egypt to let flotilla vessels use the port of El-Arish to offload cargo for screening and overland shipment to Gaza; [redacted]

[redacted] We'll work with Embassy Cairo to follow up on El Arish access for the prospective June flotilla.

B1

[redacted]

NR

**Paul Sutphin**

Director  
 NEA/IPA  
 tel: 202-647-3672  
 Fax: 202-736-4461  
 VIPER: 202-647-1686

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Derived From:** Derived from previous message in thread.  
**Declassify On:** 2021/05/26

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**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET//NOFORN  
**Classified by:** Paul R. Sutphin, Director, NEA/IPA, State  
**Reason:** 1.4b, d  
**Declassify On:** 2036/05/27

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**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2011 09:45:34  
**To:**  
**Cc:** Holliday, Gregory E; Neal, Bobbie S; Rax, Dwayne E; Thompson, Peter M; Tyson, Paul H; Hopkins, Donna L

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ORIGIN SSO-00

RELEASED, NON-RESPONSIVE DELETED

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	NRF-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	DOFE-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

/009R

057147

SOURCE: DISKETTE.070575

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

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

S/ES-O:RWTOMAS

-----6ECD58 030001Z /38

O 022352Z JUN 10

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 VAHINGEN 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 VAHINGEN 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: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 21 SEP 2011 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  
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3. (S/NF) The RACHEL CORRIE is currently expected to arrive at a staging point near Cyprus early June 5. The CHALLENGER II and Greek-flagged DIMITRIS-K are docked in Cyprus. IDF officials have not informed the Embassy of the specific actions they plan to take, but have confirmed the boats will not be allowed to reach Gaza. (Tel Aviv 1225)

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HUMANITARIAN GOODS

UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI RESPONSE

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SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATE

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

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UNCLASSIFIED

NR

16. (U) Minimized considered.  
CLINTON

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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
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	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	ISNE-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	ASDS-00	BEG-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, NR, 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:RWTTHOMAS

-----6FA3E9 040222Z /15

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

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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

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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

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0000

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

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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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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  
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8. (C) [Redacted]

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9. (U) [Redacted]

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
-----

10. (SBU) Arab League: [Redacted]

11. (U) UN: [Redacted]

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS  
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13. (U) Turkey: [redacted]  
[redacted]

14. (U) South Africa: [redacted]  
[redacted]

15. (U) Ecuador: [redacted]  
[redacted]

16. (U) EU: [redacted]  
[redacted]

17. (U) Saudi Arabia: [redacted]  
[redacted]

18. (U) UK: [redacted]  
[redacted]

19. (SBU) Australia: [redacted]  
[redacted]

20. (U) Minimized considered.  
CLINTON

NNNN

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A20

ACTION OCS-00

INFO LOG-00 CA-00 DS-00 UTED-00 H-00 TEDE-00 L-00  
NEA-00 PPT-00 DSCC-00 SAS-00 /000W  
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P 041240Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7181  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

RELEASED IN PART  
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UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001256

CA/OCS/ACS/NESA  
\_ACSIP\_TLV201015324920062\_ACSIP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, IS [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF [REDACTED]

B6

- 1. NAME: [REDACTED]
- 2. SEX: [REDACTED]
- 3. DPOB: [REDACTED]
- 4. PASSPORT: [REDACTED]
- 5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: United States Of America  
USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: U.S.A.  
NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: U.S.A.
- 6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
- 7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: May 31, 2010, Ashdod Port, Israel
- 8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal
- 9. CHARGES: Unspecified.
- 10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ella Prison, Beer Sheva, Israel.
- 11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deportation
- 12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: None.
- 15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Blanket waiver signed 6/1/2010, and specifically to [REDACTED]

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

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16. NOK: [REDACTED]

17. NOTIFICATION: Post was notified of subject's detention on May 31, 2010, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

18. ACCESS: Conreps visited subject on June 01, 2010, at the Ella prison, Beer Sheva.

19. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Yes. Fifteen Amcits in total that Post is currently aware of were arrested/detained on 05/31/2010 at the Ashdod Port. Subject and the other Amcits were passengers on a flotilla of 6 ships attempting to enter Gaza (see septels).

21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: U.S. passport, two camcorders, computer, credit cards, clothes. 350USD in cash, cell phone.

22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Deported

24. REMARKS: Subject appeared healthy. Subject was on the Challenger I boat.

25. ADVISING NOK OR OTHERS: Conoff notified NOK.

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ACTION OCS-00

INFO LOG-00 CA-00 DS-00 UTED-00 H-00 TEDE-00 L-00  
NEA-00 PPT-00 DSCC-00 SAS-00 /000W  
-----70002F 041230Z /38

P 041220Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7177  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001252

CA/OCS/ACS/NESA  
\_ACSIP\_TLV201015324921276\_ACSIP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, IS [redacted]  
SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF [redacted]

B6

1. NAME: [redacted]

2. SEX: [redacted]

3. DPOB: [redacted]

4. PASSPORT:

5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: [redacted] by birth.

USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: United States of America  
NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: U.S.

6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: [redacted]  
[redacted]

7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: May 31, 2010, Ashdod Port, Israel

8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal

9. CHARGES: Unspecified

10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ella prison, Beer Sheva, Israel

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deported

12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: UNKNOWN

13. POSSIBLE SENTENCE: Deported

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

UNCLASSIFIED

14. ATTORNEY:

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Yes, subject completed a full PAW.

16. NOK: Subject's husband, [REDACTED]

B6

17. NOTIFICATION: Post was notified of subject's arrest on May 31, 2010, by the Israeli Ministry of Interior

18. ACCESS: Conreps. visited subject on June 02, 2010, at the Ella prison, Beer Sheva

19. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Yes. Fifteen Amcits in total that Post is currently aware of were arrested/detained on 05/31/2010 at the Ashdod Port. Subject and the other Amcits were passengers on a flotilla of 6 ships attempting to enter Gaza (see septels).

21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: [REDACTED] passports, blackberry, laptop, camera lenses, HD camera.

22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Deported

24. REMARKS: Subject stated [REDACTED] was on board the Challenger II but said that all of the passengers were moved to another boat when that boat had technical problems. [REDACTED] was also visited by [REDACTED] Embassy reps. Subject stated that she lives in the US and preferred to return to the US.

25. ADVISING NOK OR OTHERS: NOK contacted by CONOFF on 06/01/2010

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A26

ACTION OCS-00

INFO LOG-00 CA-00 DS-00 UTED-00 H-00 TEDE-00 L-00  
NEA-00 PPT-00 CFPP-00 DSCC-00 SAS-00 /000W  
-----700B81 041314Z /38

O 041305Z JUN 10  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7183  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001258

CA/OCS/ACS/WHA  
CA/FPP  
\_ACSIP\_TLV201015324919426\_ACSIP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, IS [REDACTED]  
SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF [REDACTED]

B6

1. NAME: [REDACTED]

2. SEX: [REDACTED]

3. DPOB: [REDACTED]

4. PASSPORT: Subject told ConOff that he was a dual  
Irish-American citizen. However, subject did not provide US  
passport data. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Subject's current citizenship status  
is unknown and unconfirmed.

5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: Irish by birth.  
NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: Irish

6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: May 31, 2010, Ashdod Port, Israel

8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal

9. CHARGES:

10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ella Prison, Beer Sheva, Israel.

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deported.

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

UNCLASSIFIED

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12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE:

13. POSSIBLE SENTENCE: Deportation

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Yes. Subject signed a blanket PAW on 6/1/2010.

16. NOK: Father, [REDACTED]

B6

17. NOTIFICATION: Embassy notified of subject's arrest on May 31, 2010, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

18. ACCESS: VISITED ON June 1, 2010 by CONREPS at Ella Prison in Beer Sheva.

19. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Yes. Fifteen Amcits in total that Post is currently aware of were arrested/detained on 05/31/2010 at the Ashdod Port. Subject and the other Amcits were passengers on a flotilla of 6 ships attempting to enter Gaza (see septels).

21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: Yes. Subject claimed that his passport was confiscated, along with two blue backpacks, a Nokia cellphone, a gold and silver pen, a Canon Camcorder with case and tape, and a Panasonic Lumix digital camera were confiscated.

22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Deported.

24. REMARKS: Subject appeared healthy. Subject was on the Challenger I ship as the 2nd Mate. Subject stated that the Turkish detainees on the boat used "weak water hoses" in defense.

25. ADVISING NOK OR OTHERS: Conoff called subject's father [REDACTED] but there was no answer. Conoff then called the subject's uncle and left a voicemail message.

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ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AIT-00	A-00	ACQ-00
	CA-00	CCO-00	COME-00	DODE-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	M-00
	VCIE-00	NEA-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OCS-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
	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-00	G-00	SCA-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	/001R					

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

057767

SOURCE: CBLXSSO.004836

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

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

S/ES-O:GPMACRIS

-----700DB8 041329Z /02

O 041118Z 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

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USD:SOLIC// IMMEDIATE

COMFIFTHFLT IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

NGA HQ BETHESDA MD IMMEDIATE

COMSOCEUR VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

JICPAC PEARL HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

CDR USSACOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE IMMEDIATE

CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL IMMEDIATE

CDR USJFCOM NORFOLK VA IMMEDIATE

CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

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

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

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0000

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

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SIPDIS  
NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06032020  
TAGS: AEMR, ASEC, CASC, KFLO, MARR, PREL,  
PINR, AMGT, IS, GZ  
SUBJECT: MGGZ01: GAZA FLOTILLA MONITORING  
GROUP SITUATION REPORT NO. 9

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

STATUS OF FOREIGN PASSENGERS  
-----

1. (SBU) All participants in the Gaza  
Flotilla, except for seven still hospitalized  
in Israel, are back in their countries of  
origin or are en route there. (Tel Aviv 1240)

OTHER SHIPS EN ROUTE TO GAZA  
-----

2. (S/NF) If RACHEL CORRIE [redacted]  
[redacted] it would arrive  
in Gaza late June 4 or early June 5.  
[redacted]

B1

3. (U) Media report RACHEL CORRIE has no  
plans to stop until reaching port in Gaza  
and does not intend to resist, should  
Israeli forces attempt to board. The vessel  
is equipped with video and satellite devices  
to stream live events over the internet.  
(CNN)

4. (U) Former UN Assistant Secretary  
General Denis Halliday, Northern Irish  
Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead  
Corrigan-Maguire, and an Irish lawmaker  
are a part of the 11-passenger manifest of  
RACHEL CORRIE. (CNN, The Guardian)

5. (S/NF) CHALLENGER II and DIMITRIS K  
are assessed to be in an unknown port in  
Cyprus. The Free Gaza Movement commented  
on its website that CHALLENGER II

is currently undergoing repairs, but might rendezvous with RACHEL CORRIE in transit to the Gaza Strip.

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[Redacted]

CNN)

B1

**ISRAELI RESPONSE**

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6. (U) Israeli PM Netanyahu vowed Israel would not permit RACHEL CORRIE to reach Gaza but would consider some form of international role in enforcing an arms embargo there. He added civilian goods would be allowed to reach Gaza, but declined to elaborate. (CNN)

7. (U)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

NR

**INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS**

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[Redacted]

NR

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NR

13. (U) Minimized considered.  
CLINTON

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AWRight 8-23.txt

2010.08.23.12:57

B6

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] com [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2010 9:24 PM  
To: zzwebrespond99 (Akaka)  
Subject: CF\_MAIL

<IP>75.210.223.80</IP>  
<PREFIX>MS, </PREFIX>  
<FIRSTNAME> [redacted] /FIRSTNAME>  
<LASTNAME> [redacted] /LASTNAME>  
<ADDRESS1> [redacted] /ADDRESS1>  
<ADDRESS2></ADDRESS2>  
<CITY> [redacted] /CITY>  
<STATE> [redacted] /STATE>  
<ZIP> [redacted] /ZIP>  
<HOMEPHONE> [redacted] /HOMEPHONE>  
<WORKPHONE></WORKPHONE>  
<EMAIL> [redacted] /EMAIL>  
<SUBJECT>FOREIGN RETALIATION</SUBJECT>  
<MESSAGEBODY>August 20, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka  
United States Senator  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
Office (808) 522-8970  
Fax: (808) 545-4683

Dear Senator Akaka:

Thank you for your July 15, 2010 request for information about my possessions that were taken by the Israeli commandos from the Challenger 1, one of the ships of the Gaza flotilla and for forwarding me the July 22, 2010 letter from U.S. Consul General Andrew Parker. I received that letter on August 16, 2010

I must take issue with parts of Mr. Park's letter.

Specifically, Mr. Park said that "The Government of Israel forwarded all personal property of flotilla participants, except for electronic and magnetized devices, to Turkey in early June 2010." I spent at least 6 hours in two days in Istanbul looking for my possessions and the possessions of the passengers on the other five ships in the flotilla and found nothing of mine, nor did anyone on my ship, the Challenger 1.

The government of Israel did send in a cargo container that arrived in Istanbul on June 4, suitcases from the Mavi Marmara, but not from the other five ships. On the Mavi Marmara, the commandos dumped the contents of all the suitcases for 600 people and the bales of medical supplies and other humanitarian cargo onto the floors and aisles looking for weapons and contraband.

When ordered to "repack" the suitcases so they could be sent to Istanbul, the commandos scooped up whatever was near and crammed it into the first available suitcase. To my knowledge, no one on the Mavi Marmara got back their possessions in their suitcases, but had to rummage through the piles of clothes and items that were taken out of the suitcases and left in the hallways of the medical center so others could determine if any of the items were theirs.

Mr. Park also states, "The Government of Israel has not yet determined which, if any, of the electronic and magnetized devices will be returned to flotilla participants."

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AWright 8-23.txt

Unfortunately, in the nine weeks since the commandos seized our property, the Israeli government has not inventoried or secured it. This week, Israeli newspapers headlined "Israeli commandos sell Flotilla passengers' computers." (<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6dbacbd6-ab94-11df-abee-00144feabdc0.html>) Two Israeli military officers have been arrested for stealing and selling four to six computers to other military personnel.

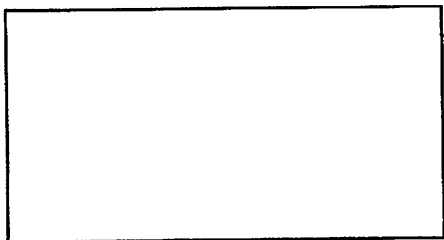
I request that you ask the US Embassy in Tel Aviv to demand that Israeli government allow them to see the conditions in which millions of dollars of electronic equipment is stored to ensure that it has been inventoried and that it is secure. All of the passengers have turned into their respective Embassies lists of equipment taken and most have provided descriptions and serial numbers of computers and other equipment that has serial numbers.

As we are very concerned that the Israeli government has allowed evidence on passengers' electronic equipment to be destroyed or lost, the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City is acting as legal counsel for American citizens and has requested through numerous Freedom Of Information Act filings, copies of US government requests to the Israeli government that these items be preserved and secured.

If you could help us determine what pressure the U.S. Department of State has placed on the Government of Israel, I would appreciate it very much.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



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ORIGIN NEA-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CIAE-00
	INL-00	C-00	DNI-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	EAP-00
	DHSE-00	AVC-00	EUR-00	E-00	FBIE-00	SIPD-00	DIAS-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	MOFM-00
	MOP-00	M-00	DCP-00	NRRC-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	OES-00
	OIC-00	NIMA-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00	MA-00	SCT-00
	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	DPM-00	T-00	NCTC-00	CBP-00	EPAE-00	SHEM-00
	IIP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	CARC-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	FA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	MEFP-00
	SANA-00	/001R					

036240

SOURCE: CLOUTCLS.008732

DRAFTED BY: NEA IPA:SINDLE, JAMES M -- 04/15/11

APPROVED BY: NEA/FO: SCHLICHER, RONALD L

NEA/FO: SCHLICHER, RONALD L NEA/FO: WALLIS, JACOB

NEA/IPA: SUTPHIN, PAUL R NEA/IPA: BUZBEE, JOHN R

MAIN STATE RM 6245: REED, JULIA G NEA/ELA: SCHWEDT, MIRIAM L

NEA: RIGGS, SUSAN J DEPARTMENT OF STATE: PARRS, WALTER

NEA/ELA: ABELL, J ANDREW NEA: SPECHT, LINDA NEA/MAG: ULLNER, JASON H

NEA: HAYES, MOLLY E NEA: WELLS, APRIL S NEA/RA: GRIMM, BRIAN M

EUR/CE: WRIGHT, J LARRY EUR/CE: WEINSTEIN, IVAN S

EUR/ERA: DERETIC, ZOJA EUR/NB: WAHL-TUCO, LILLIAN C

EUR/NB: SELINGER, THOMAS B EUR/SE: GREGONIS, MEGHAN E

EUR/SE: GOODMAN, ILAN A EUR/SE: SCARLATELLI, ADAM W

EUR/WE: MARCUS, ROBERT B EUR/WE: SURAMPUDI, RAKESH X

EUR/WE: HACKWORTH, JASON K EUR/WE: REIDHEAD, VAN E

EUR/WE: BOFILL, MARIJU L EUR/WE: PARADISE, DAVID T

EUR/WE: QUICK, DELIA D HST RM 7325: EPPING, JEROME N

DRL: MANN, WINSTON E (DRL) PM RSAT: JAKOBSON, NICHOLAS W

PM PPA: TYSON, PAUL H ISN CATR: BACHMAN, BRIAN D

MAIN STATE RM 2256: WORMAN, PATRICK F IO/UNP: ZURCHER, KENNETH M

LEGAL: BAUMERT, KEVIN A USUN/W: BASS, WARREN

MAIN STATE RM 7250: CATALANO, ELISA

MAIN STATE RM 7220: SCHREPEL, DAWN M 'KUMAR, PREM G.'

-----61BE71 152214Z /38

O R 152201Z APR 11

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

ALL EUROPE COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

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

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE  
INFO USEU BRUSSELS  
ALL NEAR EAST COLLECTIVE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

S E C R E T STATE 036240

SIPDIS

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/04/15  
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, PHSA, PTER, KWBG, TU, IS  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE: THE FREE GAZA "ANNIVERSARY FLOTILLA"

REF: A) 11 TEL AVIV 365  
B) 11 TEL AVIV 423  
C) 11 TEL AVIV 433

Classified by: Ronald L. Schlicher, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State  
Reason(s): 1.4 (b), (d)

1. (U) This is an action request. All action addressees are asked to use paragraph 3 points at their discretion, depending on whether there are individuals or vessels from host countries participating in flotillas bound for Gaza, or as they otherwise see fit. In addition to paragraph 3 points, the following addressees should draw on the following points: GCASI members see paragraph 4, Nicosia paragraph 5, Athens paragraph 6, Ankara paragraph 7, Cairo paragraph 8, Amman paragraph 9 and Tel Aviv paragraph 10.

-----  
BACKGROUND  
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2. (C) Planning is underway for a flotilla of vessels sponsored by a number of international NGOs and other groups to attempt to break the Israeli maritime blockade of Gaza, ostensibly to deliver humanitarian aid, in late May. The broader purpose of this flotilla is to make a deliberately provocative demonstration of opposition to the blockade.

Recalling the tragic May 31, 2010 incident aboard the M/V Mavi Marmara that led to the deaths of nine flotilla participants, the USG is deeply concerned about the possibility of another violent encounter between flotilla participants and Israel Defense Forces (IDF). According to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] information the Department has gathered, the planned flotilla is a joint effort of the Free Gaza Movement, the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza, the U.S. Boat to Gaza organization, and the Turkish NGO Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHHR) and possibly other groups. The flotilla could comprise 15 or more ships and over 1,500

B1

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participants. Flotilla ships may set sail from ports as early as May 15 (which Palestinians commemorate as Naqba (Catastrophe) Day in relation to Israel's founding) with the goal of reaching Gaza about May 31. There also are indications that IHH may attempt a second flotilla following Turkey's June 12 national elections.

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GENERAL TALKING POINTS  
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3. (SBU) FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: Please draw on the following points to approach host governments at the appropriate level, particularly if you are aware or learn of host-country nationals or vessels will be involved in upcoming flotillas.

BEGIN TALKING POINTS

We all regret the tragic loss of life and injuries in the May 31, 2010 violent confrontation between Israeli forces and activists on board the Turkish ship M/V Mavi Marmara when that vessel, and others, attempted to break Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza. That incident has had serious and long-lasting negative repercussions in the region and beyond.

We are concerned that a number of groups are organizing a flotilla to breach Israel's maritime blockade of Gaza on the one-year anniversary of the Mavi Marmara incident. Possible groups involved in this anniversary flotilla effort include the Free Gaza Movement, the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza, the U.S. Boat to Gaza organization, and the Turkish Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH). Organizers are gathering up to 15 or more ships, likely to include the Mavi Marmara, with the intention of setting sail as early as May 15 which Palestinians commemorate as Naqba Day in relation to Israel's creation and arriving in Gaza about May 31.

Israel is taking steps to avoid another confrontation. The Israeli government will offer all ships wishing to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza the opportunity to unload their cargo at the port of Ashdod for inspection before delivery to Gaza. The M/V Rachel Corrie delivered humanitarian assistance to Gaza through this mechanism in June 2010, resulting in the assistance moving quickly to Gaza.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The purpose of the impending flotilla seems to be more about making a political statement than actually improving the lives of the people of Gaza. Attempts by the flotilla to deliver goods directly to Gaza, without allowing security inspections, UNCLASSIFIED would be neither appropriate nor responsible.

The United States hopes that your government will do everything legally possible to prevent another flotilla confrontation. Given the tumult in the region, another violent incident poses significant political risk and also a real risk to safety of life at sea.

There are a number of specific steps we ask that you consider:

-- We urge you to speak out publicly about the potential safety risks involved in attempting to breach the blockade, the importance of ensuring that goods moving to Gaza are screened for illicit weapons smuggling or dual-use materials, and that any organization seeking to deliver humanitarian assistance to Gaza should use the existing mechanisms for the transfer of such assistance.

--We ask that your government reach out privately to flotilla organizers in your country with the same message, stressing that there are existing, non-provocative mechanisms for the delivery of humanitarian goods to Gaza. Humanitarian assistance for Gaza can be delivered via Israel's Ashdod port, which the government of Israel has indicated will be available for this purpose.

[REDACTED]

We also ask that you consider using appropriate, legally available authorities to prevent flotilla ships originating in your country from departing for Gaza, especially those vessels registered in your country or calling on your ports. For example, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), which sets basic standards for ships to be seaworthy, could provide your government requisite authority to conduct safety or other inspections on vessels in your port that are intending to depart for Gaza. Your government may have already integrated SOLAS or similar standards into national law. The U.S. also has a range of authorities that we are considering utilizing in this matter, such as suspension and/or revocation of mariner credentials, termination of voyage, and criminal or civil penalties for negligent operation of vessels.

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(FOR ALL POSTS EXCEPT TEL AVIV)

--The anniversary flotilla plans, as far as we can determine, are subject to continuous change. We would appreciate any information you may have on these plans, or flotilla participants, that you are able to share.

--We are also expressing to Israel the need for careful planning in how it might intercept flotilla vessels, and restraint in dealing with civilians aboard those vessels.

END TALKING POINTS

-----  
GAZA COUNTER ARMS SMUGGLING INITIATIVE POINTS  
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4. (SBU)

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-----  
CAPITAL-SPECIFIC POINTS  
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5. (C/REL CYPRUS) FOR EMBASSY NICOSIA:

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B1

6. (C/REL GREECE) FOR EMBASSY ATHENS:

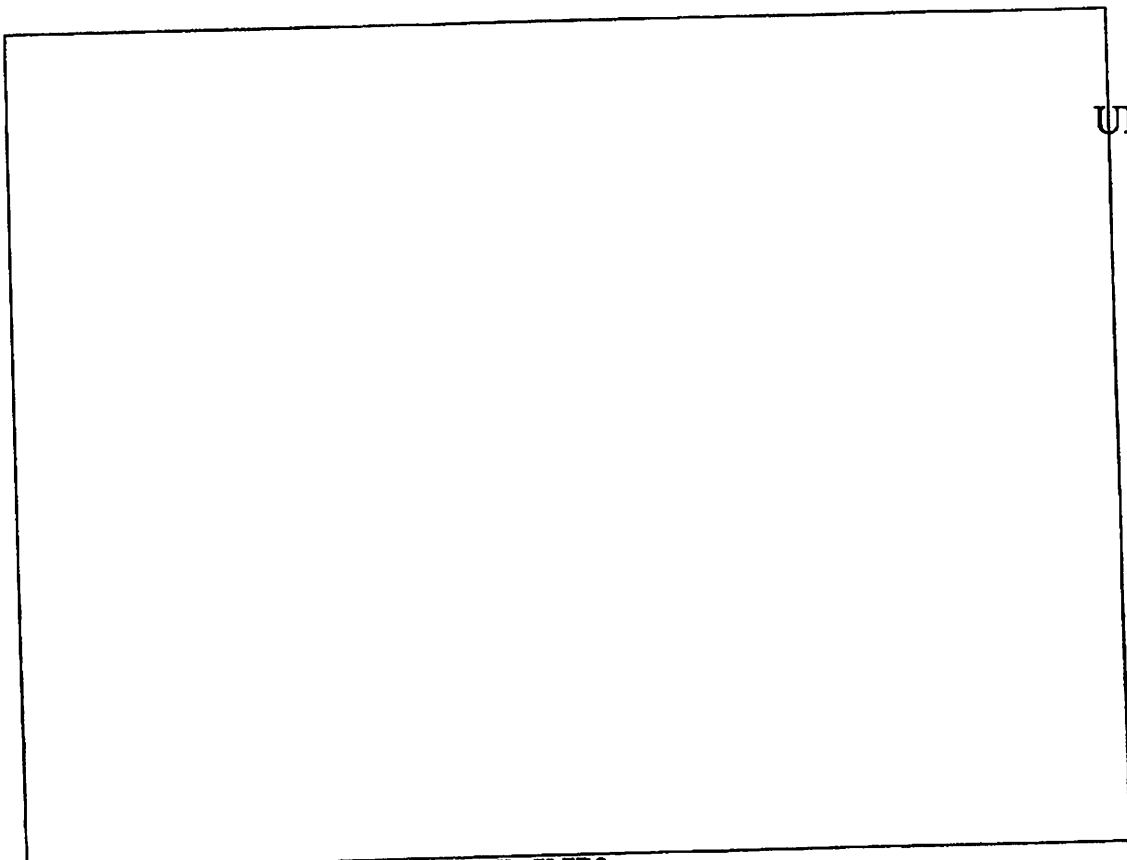
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7. (S/REL TURKEY) FOR EMBASSY ANKARA:

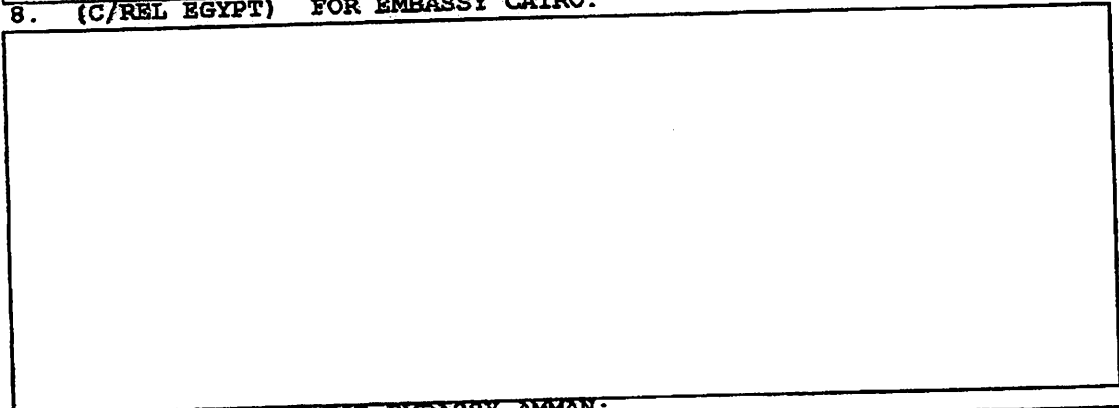
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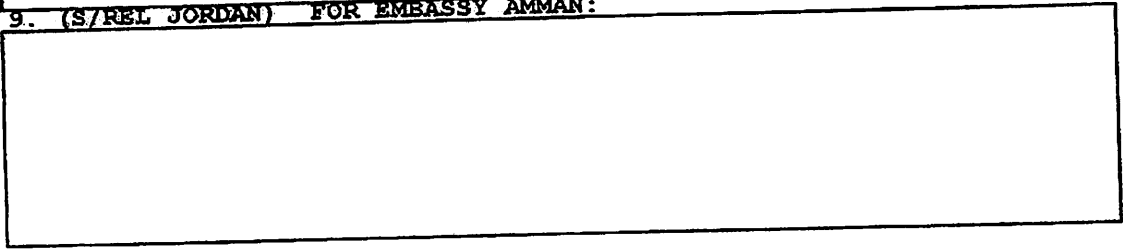
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8. (C/REL EGYPT) FOR EMBASSY CAIRO:



9. (S/REL JORDAN) FOR EMBASSY AMMAN:



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10. (C/REL ISRAEL) FOR EMBASSY TEL AVIV:

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**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**  
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11. (SBU) Embassies should report results of efforts by cable to NEA/IPA as soon as is practicable. Please contact Jim Sindle at (202) 647-4386 or via e-mail for any necessary, additional background

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information or argumentation to meet our objectives.  
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A10

ORIGIN 550-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	AIT-00	AEX-00	A-00
	ACQ-00	CCG-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	MME-00	MOEM-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	DSCG-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:RWTTHOMAS

-----6FA3E9 040222Z /15

O 040035Z JUN 10

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

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 VAHINGEN 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 VAHINGEN 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

CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0000

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

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SECRET STATE 057669

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  
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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  
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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.

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(MGGZ01/EUCOM e-mail)

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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  
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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)

B1

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  
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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)
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

NNNN

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RELEASED IN PART

0.35

Mendel, Teresa S

B6

B

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 4:38 PM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier, Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Flaver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A  
**Subject:** Live Updates on Free Gaza & the Current Status of Ships  
**Attachments:** Free Gaza May 2010.xlsx

All - In order to best track the current location of ships as they head in towards Gaza, check out <http://witnessgaza.com/>. Nothing is close enough to show up on their google map yet, but the boats will start to appear there soon.

Sydney Morning Herald has a map which shows the locations of some of the boats, but was only updated two days ago: <http://maps.google.com.au/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&t=h&msa=0&msid=104462212968933858200.00048752daadc5c5c8f38&ll=35.746512,27.37793&spn=12.471296,18.457031&z=5&source=embed>.

As of right now, we are aware of the ships in the attached spreadsheet as being en route. No word on whether the following vessels may be going to Gaza: BESIRE KAIKAVAN, OCEAN STAR, NOVOROSTYSK STAR, SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY, MAESTRO OCEAN, AND KYKLADES. Also no word on whether additional boats have departed Turkey. For those of you with additional info, please let me know so that our folks in Israel and CA are fully armed with as much info as we can get prior to the ships arrival in the Gazan vicinity this weekend!

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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Name of Ship	Point of Departure	Country/Flag	Known Amcits on Board
MV Rachel Corrie	Ireland	Cambodia/Cambodia	none
Challenger 1	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Challenger 2	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Mavi Marmara	Istanbul	Turkey/Turkey	
3 Additional boats from Greece??	Athens	Greece/Greece	

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(036)

Richter, Kim B

RELEASED IN PART

B

From: Greene, Elisa  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:50 AM  
To: Richter, Kim B  
Cc: Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B6

B6

Is [redacted] on the flotilla? What about her husband, [redacted] [redacted] is a dual Israeli-American and would face (b)(6) arrest by the GOI if she came on the flotilla. Since you are checking with her, perhaps you can remind her of that (though I'm certain she is already aware of the risks).

From: Richter, Kim B  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 6:37 PM  
To: Parker, Andrew C  
Cc: Greene, Elisa  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

I just called [redacted] - She's with the Free Gaza Movement and she said she did not know of any ships flying under U.S. flags. She was going to email [redacted] to confirm but she believes there are none under U.S. flags. (b)(6) (b)(6)

I will let you know as soon as I know more.

From: Parker, Andrew C  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:00 AM  
To: Richter, Kim B  
Cc: Greene, Elisa  
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Boat names would help, per email below.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
To: Slevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
Cc: Relsser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels - Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

B6

[redacted]  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M. BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: [schlerethfg@state.gov](mailto:schlerethfg@state.gov)

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elsa; Zerubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nill I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Firver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gsvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
**Subject:** Israel Navy on Free Gaza.

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aid to Gaza via land. It should be noted that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

**Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.**  
Desk Officer - NEA/IFA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone: (202) 647-2647  
Fax: (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

UNCLASSIFIED

039

Mendel, Teresa S

RELEASED IN PART

B6

B

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:15 AM  
 To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B;  
 Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Parker, Andrew C; Burnett, David R; Adams,  
 Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Briganti, James D; Cizek, Michael;  
 'Craig.Haynes@eu.navy.mil'; Goodman, Ilan A; Burgess, Richard J  
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank - Our Embassy in Athens is contacting Greek authorities to find out the actual port of registration of these two ships. Although they are flying American flags, we have not been able to confirm if they are actually U.S. registered boats, or have raised the U.S. flag over foreign registered vessels (which would render the ships legally stateless).  
 Wes

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
 Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:12 AM  
 To: Sievers, Marc J; Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Grubb, Jason B  
 Cc: Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Parker, Andrew C; Burnett, David R; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa;  
 Richter, Kim B; Mendel, Teresa S; Briganti, James D; Cizek, Michael; 'Craig.Haynes@eu.navy.mil'; Goodman, Ilan A;  
 Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G  
 Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy has sent me the Blog below from a AMCI [Ann Wright] participating that indicates the two vessels are US Flagged. The Israel Navy is formally requesting, and I understand the Israeli MFA has requested as well, that the USG take appropriate actions. I have been asked to provide a response to ASAP to Israel Navy leadership on USG intentions as well as USG reaction to Israel Navy intercepting US Flagged yachts. Thank you.

(b)(6)

R/  
 LCDR Frank Schlereth  
 Assistant Naval Attaché  
 US Defense Attaché Office  
 US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
 Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
 Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

### Break the Israeli siege of Gaza or attack at sea, detention camps and deportation

BY ANN WRIGHT  
 MAY 26, 2010

(b)(6)

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By the time you read this, we will be on the high seas of the Mediterranean (we hope the seas will not be too high).

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Our two U.S. flagged Free Gaza boats, will join two other passenger ships, a 600 passenger ship from Turkey sponsored by the Turkish humanitarian organization, İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH) and a 50 passenger ship from Athens sponsored by the European Campaign Against the Siege and the Greek/Swedish Ships to Gaza campaign, to sail to the shores of Gaza to break the Israeli naval blockade of the 1.5 million citizens in Gaza.

Four cargo ships from Ireland, Greece, Algeria and Turkey, will carry a total of 10,000 tons or 2 million pounds of construction materials for the housing of 50,000 made homeless during the 22 day Israeli attack on Gaza that killed 1,440 Palestinians and wounded 5,000.

Many of us would like to see our boat renamed "The Audacity of Hope" as that is what we want to see from the Obama administration -- courage to challenge the Israeli government on the siege of Gaza. It would be a really brave, bold move as every U.S. presidential administration since the formation of the State of Israel in 1948 has blindly given free rein to Israel in whatever actions it wishes to undertake no matter if the actions are a violation of international law. The carte blanche given to Israel by the United States has been dangerous for Israel's national security as well as for the national security of the United States.

Probable reaction of Israeli Navy: Ships - Bow shots, ramming or boarding

In less than 48 hours, the Israeli Navy will probably fire U.S. made ammunition and rockets in international waters over the bows of two U.S. flagged boats and one Greek boat with U.S. citizens aboard as well as citizens from 13 other countries and over the bows of the Turkish 600 passenger ship.

(b)(6)

Ironically, on one passenger ship will be Joe Meaders, a U.S. citizen who is a survivor of the Israeli air and naval attack on a United States Navy ship, the USS Liberty, in 1967 killed 34 U.S. sailors and wounded 173. The Israeli government has never acknowledged, much less apologized for, the deaths of these sailors, nor the destruction of the USS Liberty.

According to Israeli media (<http://www.ipost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=176491>), the Israeli military is preparing for our arrival off the shores of Gaza. The Israeli navy has been practicing its plan for preventing us from docking in Gaza, a plan that probably includes demanding by radio that the ships change course away from Gaza, firing weapons in front of the ships, ramming the ships, and sending well-armed boarding parties onto the ships.

Israelis prepare a detention camp

As our 8 ship flotilla prepares to depart Greece and Turkey to break the Israeli naval blockade of Gaza, the Israeli military is preparing a detention camp for the flotilla's 700 delegates from 20 countries who are passengers on four of the ships.

(b)(6)

Those passengers include Fedy Epstein, an 85 year old holocaust survivor, Parliamentarians from Germany and Ireland, two former diplomats from the United States, a retired U.S. Army Colonel, authors, journalists, activists, businesspersons and clergy.

Additionally, the military has identified a warehouse in the Ashelod area, just over Gaza's northern border that will be used to detain the 700 passengers on the 8 ships.

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Taking a page from the New York City police who put over 1500 persons into a filthy, unclean warehouse on a pier in New York City during the 2004 Republican convention, the Israeli government no doubt will make the surroundings as difficult as possible for us.

The Israeli government has extensive experience in warehousing dissent, as over 10,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails and prisons, including juveniles who are arrested regularly in nighttime raids in villages of the West Bank.

20 passengers on the May, 2009 Free Gaza boat trying to break the siege were imprisoned for 10 days before they were deported from Israel. They included Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. (b)(6)

Wish us luck as we challenge the Israeli, Egyptian, European Union and United State's unlawful siege and collective punishment of 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza!

What will you do to help break the siege of Gaza?

About the Author:

Ann Wright is a 29 year US Army/Army Reserves veteran who retired as a Colonel and a former US diplomat who resigned in March, 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq. She served in Nicaragua, Grenada, Somalia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sierra Leone, Micronesia and Mongolia. Wright made three trips to Gaza in 2009 and helped organize the Gaza Freedom March that in December, 2009 brought 1350 persons from 44 countries to Cairo, Egypt in an attempt to break the siege of Gaza. She is the co-author of the book "Dissent: Voices of Conscience." ([www.voicesofconscience.com](http://www.voicesofconscience.com)) (b)(6)

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From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:11 PM  
To: Parker, Andrew C; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Adams, Julie D; Greene, Elisa; Richter, Kim B;  
Mendel, Teresa S; Schlereth, Frank G  
Cc: Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

These are the boats that Athens is aware of. Note that they do not include Challenger 1 & 2, which they are trying to track down and reportedly are flying American flags. No confirmation on the actual port of registry yet for those two boats:

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From: Frowick, George H  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 7:25 AM  
To: Goodman, Ilan A; Taylor, Victoria J; Reisser, Wesley J; Bailly, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scarlatelli, Adam W  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; McCarthy, Deborah A; Cockrell, John D; Malik, Paul; McKeever, Matthew  
X: Davison, Kees C; OPALKA, SCOTT J  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

We are trying to get through to Piraeus harbor authorities. In the meantime, our Consular Section received a few days ago a fax of the crewlists for the ships that purport to be in the flotilla leaving Greece. None is US flagged or crewed, but none is named Challenger I or Challenger II.

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The names/nationalities of the ships we have are:

1. (unreadable) Ocean/Marshall Islands Capt. Dane, Crewed by Filipinos and two Ukrainians.
2. Novorossiysk Star/Malta, Capt Israeli, crewed by Bulgarians, Israelis, Russians, Romanians, a Moroccan and a Filipino
3. Kyklades/Panama - Capt. Greek, crew Ukrainian, Egyptian, Sri Lanka, Ghana, etc..
4. (Resire?) Kallavan/Marshall Islands. Capt and crew are Turkish.
5. Ocean Star/Malta Capt. and crew Ukrainian
6. Shenandoah Highway/Panama - Capt. Bulgarian, crew Bulgarian and Filipino

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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From: Goodman, Ilan A.

Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:19 AM

To: Goodman, Ilan A; Taylor, Victoria J; Reisser, Wesley J; Bally, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scarlatelli, Adam W

Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; McCarthy, Deborah A; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; Malik, Paul;

McKeever, Matthew X; Davison, Kees C

Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Embassy Athens colleagues:

Per conversation with the Israel desk, this issue has acquired a bit more urgency. Apparently the Greek Ambassador here in Washington contacted the Israeli Embassy to state that the vessels discussed below were flying the U.S. flag. This could pose some serious ramifications if they are registered Greek, but flying the U.S. flag. We need to know NLT Washington OOB tomorrow whether or not this is the case. Presuming the vessels departed for Piraeus, the GOG should know where the ships were registered, and whether or not they were registered to Greece when they departed (and sailing under a Greek flag).

Additionally, Embassy Tel Aviv would greatly appreciate if Embassy Athens can help determine which of the ships are carrying AmCts. I believe CA has already reached out on this.

NEA is working with L to determine what ramifications there are if the Greek vessel is indeed flying under an American flag. We'll keep you updated as that works its way forward, but so far this is what we've received from L.

"It is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

As discussed, the consequence of a ship flying the flag of more than one state is that the vessel cannot claim the nationality of either state and may be assimilated to a "stateless vessel" (ie without nationality and the protection of any state). Very bad idea for a vessel to do this. I'll check as to what we do, if anything, when a foreign flagged vessel flies a US flag. In the meantime, I don't think we should be responsive to Israeli pleas that we do something about this (unless we find out they are registered in the US). Ironically, if the vessel is assimilated to statelessness, then it would provide Israel a legal basis for stopping the ships (perhaps in addition to whatever their current legal theory is).

Thanks,

Ilan

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SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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**From:** Goodman, Ilan A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 1:35 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Victoria J; Reisser, Wesley J; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scariatelli, Adam W  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; McCarthy, Deborah A; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

I'm looping in Embassy Athens, who should be able to help out.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Taylor, Victoria J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 12:08 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Scariatelli, Adam W; Goodman, Ilan A  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Hi Wesley, I'm adding in Greece Desk officers Adam and Ilan.

VT

Victoria J. Taylor  
Turkey Desk and Regional Economic Affairs  
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)  
Phone: 202-647-6934  
Fax: 202-647-5087  
[TaylorVJ@state.gov](mailto:TaylorVJ@state.gov)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 12:07 PM  
**To:** Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Can EUR help us confirm with the Greeks if two of the boats mentioned by our DATT in Tel Aviv are legitimately American-flagged vessels or are they registered as Greek ships?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy -  
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,

[REDACTED]  
US Defense Attache Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels - Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

[REDACTED]  
US Defense Attache Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

B6

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM  
To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU). Courtesy Embassy, Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible, however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in*

6  
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**UNCLASSIFIED**

*Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aid to Gaza via land. It should be noted that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken.*

**Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.**  
Desk Officer - NEA/PA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1 of 5

040  
B

RELEASED IN PART  
B7(C), B6

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**To:** Hanrahan, Richard F; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C;  
**CC:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Carouso, James A; Stewart, Nan E; Allison, Alicia P;  
[redacted] Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza  
**Sent:** 5/27/2010 4:37:02 PM  
Richard, Mike:

B7(C)

Many thanks for sharing this very useful information. (Looping in CA's Teresa Mendel.)

Regards.

Terry

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Hanrahan, Richard F  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:28 PM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H;  
Carouso, James A; Stewart, Nan E; Allison, Alicia P; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B7(C)

All,

B7(C)

I just got off the phone with [redacted] the FPD Special Agent in Cyprus. He informed me that the Cypriot authorities will not allow any of the Free Gaza ships to enter any ROC port. He also believes it is unlikely that they would be allowed within the 12nm territorial sea. (b)(7)(c)

Richard

---

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 8:11 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H;  
Carouso, James A; Stewart, Nan E; Allison, Alicia P; Hanrahan, Richard F  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

Printed By: Mendel, Teresa S  
Page 1 of 5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept0646

With respect to potential steps to take with the Cypriots, do we have any information to indicate whether or not the vessels will either: 1) call on an RoC port (my understanding—corroborated by Embassy Nicosia—was that they would not do so based on the e-mail below. I am looping in Embassy Nicosia to make them aware of your information from the IDF), or 2) whether or not the vessels will conduct their rendezvous within the 12-nm territorial sea claimed by the RoC (if they do not, there is really nothing we can expect the RoC to do, as the vessels would not be operating in their territorial waters).

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 12:37 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin—Our DAO is working it as best he can, as is Emb Athens. Is there any specific info Coast Guard needs (make, model etc)? These are yachts, not merchant ships, so they don't have as many identifiers according to the DATT in Tel Aviv as the big boats have.

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on. In my view, there is not enough to go on to approach Cyprus. Like I mentioned, I have my doubts that there are US-flagged yachts in the Med, though it is certainly possible.

As you saw, I'm checking with L/PM on whether we have legal objections to the blockade. The blockade is not justified by the law of the sea; it's a measure that is generally undertaken under a law of armed conflict justification.

Thanks,  
Kevin

---

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, ELEFTHERIOS E  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - Can we additionally find out if there are any steps we can take with the Cypriots. The Israelis have told us these two ships will stop there to refuel on the way. If we have knowledge that they are headed to a closed zone or into harms way, is there anything we can ask of that government?  
Wes

---

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered. If they are American vessels, are there any steps we can take (contact by U.S. Navy or other authority, charges they may face or loss of license etc) if these boats do try to enter a closed port in a closed military zone? What do we do when a foreign navy intercepts a U.S. flagged vessel that is attempting to enter such a zone?  
Wes

---

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
To: Reisser, Wesley J  
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes - It is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

As discussed, the consequence of a ship flying the flag of more than one state is that the vessel cannot claim the nationality of either state and may be assimilated to a "stateless vessel" (i.e. without nationality and the protection of any state). Very bad idea for a vessel to do this. I'll check as to what we do, if anything, when a foreign flagged vessel flies a US flag. In the meantime, I don't think we should be responsive to Israeli pleas that we do something about this (unless we find out they are registered in the

US). Ironically, if the vessel is assimilated to statelessness, then it would provide Israel a legal basis for stopping the ships (perhaps in addition to whatever their current legal theory is).

Thanks,  
Kevin

---

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to "break the Israeli blockade." The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.

The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered). What are the consequences, if any, of flying the wrong states flag on a ship? The Israelis asked us to take action against these ships, and we want to know what the range of options there are, if any, that could be taken. We are not looking into a specific one or promising the Israelis anything. Just want to find out the facts and legal issues. The Greece desk, copied above, will hopefully have info from Athens as to whether the boats are actually American or soon.

Thanks!

Wes

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy -  
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R;

[REDACTED]  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

Cc: Reisser, Wesley J.; Goldberger, Thomas H.  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels - Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks:

R/

[Redacted]  
US Defense Attache Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

From: Reisser, Wesley J

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM

To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H.; Holmstrom, Todd C.; Sindle, James M.; Struwe, Rebecca L.; Richter, Kim B.; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S.; Sievers, Marc J.; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R.; Baton, Desiree A.; Adams, Julie D.; Parker, Andrew C.; Greene, Eliza; Zeroubavely, Sandra S.; Schlereth, Frank G.; Burgess, Richard J.; Chere, John E.; Waters, John R.; Rogan, Thomas G.; Towry, Debra J.; Hanania, Vera V.; Weinfeld, Nili I.; Lewis, Glenn K.; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D.; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B.; Finvar, Frank J.; Greene, David J.; Manning, Nicholas J.; Tyson, Paul H.; Maggi, Robert W.; Frederick, Jeffrey D.; Falls, Eric G.; Reed, Julia G.; Davison, Kees C.; Ogle, Karen L.; Keen, Daniel G.; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A.; DiKworth, Alison E.; Osman, Amany A.; Netos, Eleftherios E.; Taylor, Victoria J.; Riley, Robert J.; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M.; Baily, Jess L.; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C.; Silliman, Douglas A.; Rosenstock, Matthew S

Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone: (202) 647-2647  
Fax: (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

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Page 1 of 1

063

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
To: Richter, Kim B  
Subject: FW: Report from Embassy Nicosia on Challenger II and III  
Sent: 6/4/2010 8:43:37 AM

---

From: Riley, Robert J  
Sent: Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:53 PM  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
Cc: Cohen, Jonathan R; EUR-SE-DAR-DL; Kaidanow, Tina S  
Subject: Report from Embassy Nicosia on Challenger II and III

I just got off the phone with Embassy Nicosia, which we asked to check into the reports a ship may have departed Limassol, Cyprus possibly en route Gaza. Embassy spoke directly with Cypriot Marine Police, which reported the following:

- Challenger III remains in Limassol, is seriously damaged and will take an estimated month to repair. There are currently no captain, crew or passengers aboard the ship. As they have stated previously, Cypriots have no intention of allowing ship depart for Gaza.
- Challenger II, a different ship, is damaged and anchored in the Med outside of Cypriot territorial waters. Cypriot marine police do not believe it is seaworthy.
- Previously, upon learning of the Challenger III's potential for involvement with the Gaza Flotilla, Embassy Consular Officers asked Cypriot authorities for a briefing on the ship's status, crew and passengers to protect any Amcits potentially aboard. It was then that the Cypriots informed Embassy that there were no Amcits on board and the GoC had no intention of allowing the ship to depart for Gaza. Embassy officers of course agreed with the GoC's course of action and thanked them for the briefing.

Robert J. Riley  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-5120  
rlevr@state.gov

SBU

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CLASSIFICATION: UNKNOWN

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

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Printed By: Richter, Kim B  
Page 1 of 1

StateDept0688

UNCLASSIFIED

0.82  
B  
(b)(6) B6

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 5:21 AM  
To: Richter, Kim B  
Subject: Re: Update on lost luggage and electronic equipment

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Kim,

As you know all the electronics taken from crew/passengers on Challenger were listed by IDF in detail, placed in plastic bags - a separate bag for each person - and numbered on an attached strip of duct tape. My number was 17 which was also placed on my rucksack and carryon bags. If the Israeli authorities checked with the IDF aboard the ship perhaps they could learn who received luggage from them.

Thanks.

[Redacted]

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----  
From: Richter, Kim B <Richterkb@state.gov>

[Redacted]

(b)(6)

Cc: Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul) <AbeytaSK@state.gov>; Greene, Eliza <GreeneE@state.gov>; Zeroubavely, Sandra S <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>; Cross, Lisa T (Istanbul) <CrossLT@state.gov>; Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul) <GisvoldLC@state.gov>

Sent: Wed, Jun 30, 2010 5:21 am  
Subject: Update on lost luggage and electronic equipment  
The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv has contacted the Government of Israel regarding your belongings and we have been told that they are working on releasing the electronic equipment to the various embassies. As soon as we have more information, we will let you know.

The Israeli authorities claim that they have no additional personal property.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will try to assist you.

Regards,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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088

RELEASED IN PART

B6 B6

B  
(b)(6)

From: Zuckerman, Eve  
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 9:31 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Richter, Kim B  
Subject: FW: Update on lost luggage and electronic equipment

(b)(6)

Dear [redacted]

Sorry for the delay in responding. Please be advised that we have repeatedly raised the specific cases of missing items belonging to Americans from the Flotilla with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry has acknowledged that it is aware of the property issues and has told us that it has raised this matter with other involved parties. To the best of our knowledge, no decisions have been made on the release of the electronic equipment and we have been told by the Ministry they have no knowledge on other personal effects being held in Israel.

We continue to follow up with the Ministry for updates regarding the electronics, and will, of course, contact you should any decisions be reached.

Sincerely,

Eve Zuckerman  
Consular Assistant  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2010 4:41 PM  
To: Richter, Kim B; Zuckerman, Eve  
Subject: Re: Update on lost luggage and electronic equipment

(b)(6)

Dear Kim, Eve,

I hope this note finds you both well,

I did not hear back from either of you so I am resending the note that I sent on August 9. An update / information on the points mentioned below would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

[redacted]  
On Mon, Aug 9, 2010 at 9:43 PM, [redacted] wrote:  
Dear Kim, Eve

(b)(6)  
(b)(6)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M. BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

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an update from you as to all of the above would be highly appreciated.  
 past nine weeks is safeguarded?  
 sole possession for the  
 government done to ensure that this evidence, which has been in Israel's  
 what has the US  
 not seen any kind of response or noticed any action by the US government.  
 May 20th. We have  
 equipment, which contain important information regarding the events of 1971  
 request that the US government demand that Israel turn over to a  
 department a letter  
 Also, in mid-June the Center for Constitutional Rights send to the State

requesting that the US government demand that Israel turn over to a  
 department a letter  
 Also, in mid-June the Center for Constitutional Rights send to the State  
 vessels: what about the Challenger I, an American-owned and flagged  
 vessels have been released.  
 the release of the Greek  
 the Greek government reports that they have also secured agreement for  
 vessels as a result of pressure from the Turkish government, the Turkish  
 is not the case. We saw  
 However, the lack of results makes my colleagues and I believe that this  
 just not hearing about it.  
 I apologize if you are putting this pressure on the Israelis and we are

Dugan.)  
 family of Furkan  
 measures be expect the US government to take to ensure justice for his  
 to mention the  
 the US should be demanding compensation from Israel for us victims for  
 irreparable, for this, and for all the property (some of which is  
 weeks already is  
 have been without my laptop from which I do all my work for almost 10  
 the fact that I  
 over to some disputable NGO for propaganda purposes. This complaint with  
 computer and handed them  
 there is evidence that Israeli authorities stole documents from my  
 have probably heard,  
 hearing that the Israelis promise to release our belongings soon. As you  
 released I have been  
 It's been two and a half months already. From the first week that I was  
 it only had two shirts and some undergarments in it.  
 was practically empty.  
 the IHI warehouse in Istanbul. I found one of three bags of mine and it  
 to Turkey. I have been to  
 It is not true that the Israelis sent everything but electronic equipment  
 more than this.  
 The US Embassy in Tel  
 Aviv and the US State Department has been doing to press the Israelis for  
 I appreciate this update, but I would like to ask more specifically what

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Thank you.

(b)(6)

On Wed, Jun 30, 2010 at 3:21 PM, Richter, Kim B <RichterKB@state.gov> wrote:  
The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv has contacted the Government of Israel regarding your belongings and we have been told that they are working on releasing the electronic equipment to the various embassies. As soon as we have more information, we will let you know.

The Israeli authorities claim that they have no additional personal property.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me and I will try to assist you.

Regards,

Kim Richter  
Department of State

"It's better to die on your feet than to live on your knees." -- Emilio Zapata

"It's better to die on your feet than to live on your knees." -- Emilio Zapata

"It's better to die on your feet than to live on your knees." -- Emilio Zapata

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

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113

RELEASED IN PART B  
B6

**From:** Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Property  
**Sent:** 3/8/2011 8:53:40 AM

Sorry I forgot to mention that I also asked how/whether we could receive a list/catalogue of the items taken from the other boats.

Sandra

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 3:06 PM  
**To:** Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Property

Okay. Sorry to do this to you - but what happened to the other property. Only Dogan was on the Mavi Marmara - there were several other boats with Amel's. What happened to their stuff?

---

**From:** Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 08, 2011 5:02 AM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** RE: Flotilla Property

Kim,

According to our MFA contact, the catalogue contains only the property taken from the Mavi Marmara. Some of that property was handed over to the IIR and the rest to the Turkish Embassy.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

I sent an e-mail to our MFA contact asking whether we could receive the list/catalogue of items taken from the other boats. I will let you know when I receive a response.

Sandra  
**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 03, 2011 7:22 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Printed By: Richter, Kim B  
Page 1 of 3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 18 NOV 2011 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
Subject: Flotilla Property

Sandra,

As you know I've been bugging Eve about this property stuff for months. It was both our understanding that all the items had been returned to the Turks - the property was sent back via containers and the electronics were given to the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv.

From your email though it sounds like the IDF still has some. Is there anyway to check if they have the following? This was taken from the file of pictures with Hebrew descriptions.

- 1) [redacted] Item #101: Sony camera. B6 (b)(6)
- 2) [redacted] Item # 37: Sony camcorder, listed as a ndv 1080, 18 a 250. (b)(6)
- 3) [redacted] Item #101 - A DSC N1 SONY (SN 5782601). (b)(6)
- 4) [redacted] Item #47 Nikon Camera & Lens (SN 8413995) and #52 Nikon lens (SN 1412902). They were both in a Lowe Pro "SlingShot" camera bag along with three 8GB SD cards. (b)(6)

Can we confirm that not only the Mavi Mara property was returned to the Turks but all the property? There were several flotilla boats and to my understanding only one Amcıt (Dogan) was on the Turkish boat. What happened to the items on the Challenger (a U.S. flagged ship) or the other boats. I can get their names of the other boats - that didn't come from Turkey.

Thanks and I'm sorry to continue to raise this. I thought it was over but once I saw your email saying that the IDF still had some equipment, it just opened the can of worms again.

Kim

SBL  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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## Overview

1. This report describes the fighting waged by IHH operatives and their accomplices against IDF soldiers aboard the *Mavi Marmara*. The descriptions are based on testimonies given by IDF officers and soldiers who participated in the takeover of the ship (names withheld by the IDF).

2. The testimonies corroborate the vast amounts of information gathered by the ITIC since the takeover of the *Mavi Marmara* (some of which, including visual material, was used in this report to complete or illustrate the IDF soldiers' testimonies). The information includes photographs and videos taken aboard the *Mavi Marmara* by the IDF as well as journalists who accompanied the flotilla and foreign media; documents seized aboard the ship; statements made by passengers; descriptions in *The Bloodstained Mavi Marmara*, the book about the flotilla written by Turkish journalist Serik Dinc, published in Turkey; and information appearing in the Turkish and Western media (including the BBC's "Panorama").

3. The testimonies of the IDF soldiers, supported by ITIC information, unequivocally refute the false, biased claims made by the operatives aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, claims which were used in the report criticizing Israel lodged with the fact-finding mission sent by the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The main conclusions drawn from the testimonies are the following:

1) The IDF force which took over the *Mavi Marmara* was faced with organized resistance from scores of operatives (IHH operatives and their accomplices). They were highly motivated and armed with knives, clubs, axes, iron chains, etc. They had been equipped with bulletproof vests, gas masks, pepper spray, headlamps and walkie-talkies. Their mode of deployment and modus operandi indicate that at least some of them had military skills (early briefing, centralized direction, assignment to fighting stations, professional knowhow for operating military equipment and weapons, combat tactics, etc.).

2) The claims that guns were fired from the IDF helicopter at the deck of the *Mavi Marmara*, that the IDF forces fired their weapons indiscriminately, and that they shot at passengers point-blank are false. At no time did the soldiers shoot from the helicopters, and the helicopters were not equipped with weapons which could be used to attack the ship. According to testimonies from IDF soldiers and officers, a stun grenade was thrown from the first helicopter to deter the operatives (which might be the source of the claim that the helicopters fired on them).

3) Two IDF soldiers were shot a short time after they landed on the upper deck, one in the stomach, the other in the knee. According to the soldiers' testimonies, they were shot at during the fighting. In some instances, the shots were

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fired from weapons snatched from IDF soldiers. The bullet wounds and testimonies of the soldiers completely contradict the Human Rights Council's report, which denies the fact that IDF soldiers were shot.

4) During the first stages of the fighting three IDF soldiers were taken hostage, wounded and moved below decks. During their capture and confinement, despite their serious wounds they were brutally beaten with wooden clubs, stabbed and choked, genuine threats to their lives. Despite their appeals they received no medical attention. They were apparently saved by the presence of passengers not involved in the fighting and correspondents with cameras who documented their beatings, deterring their captors from killing them. Eventually, the soldiers were released when the captain used the PA system to announce that the ship was under IDF control.

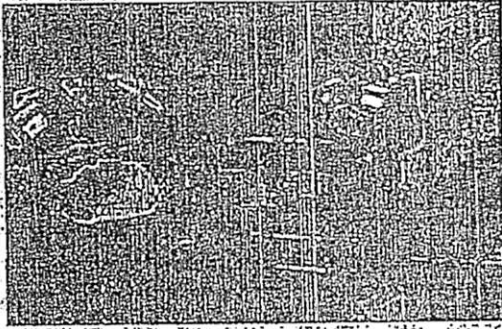
5) The IDF soldiers behaved humanely toward the passengers after the operatives' resistance had been neutralized. They tied the hands of operatives who were violent or posed a danger. Passengers whose hands were tied but not dangerous and requested to be liberated were untied. Once the situation was under IDF control, additional passengers who were not dangerous were untied whether or not they requested it. According to the testimonies, including the statement made by a doctor aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, the wounded were treated professionally and with care, even some who refused medical treatment and evacuation to Israel, claiming they wanted to die as shaheeds. Despite the difficult circumstances under which the Israeli medical team worked, not one single wounded operative died.

#### Deployment for Battle of IHH Operatives and Their Accomplices

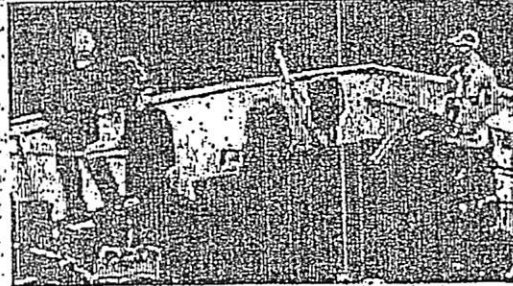
4. Testimonies from the IDF forces indicate that scores of operatives armed with knives, axes, iron chains, clubs and possibly live weapons participated in the fighting (completely contradicting the claims made by IHH leader Bülent Yıldırım during the sea voyage that "we do not have so much as a penknife"). According to the testimonies of the IDF soldiers, they found themselves confronted by scores of well-trained operatives who behaved totally differently from the ordinary passengers, who did not take part in the fighting. Those operatives followed an organized, centrally directed plan, were equipped with weapons and other military equipment to harm IDF soldiers and prevent them from boarding the ship at any cost.

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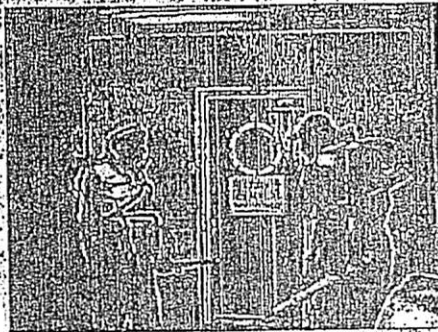


As soon as the soldiers boarded the ship the operatives completed their preparations. They put on bulletproof vests and gas masks and began confronting the soldiers with iron bars and wooden clubs (Picture and caption from Sefik Din's book)

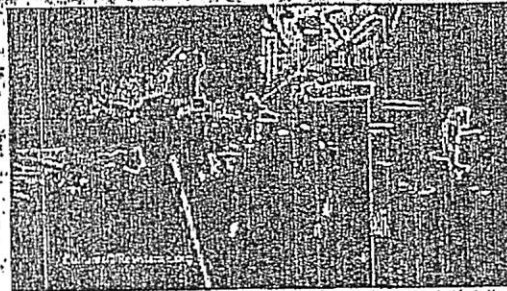


Operatives hold clubs in preparation for a confrontation. In the center rolled-up clubs can be seen, waiting to be unrolled and distributed.

5. According to the testimonies of the IDF soldiers, the operatives who were deployed for battle, were wearing bulletproof vests and were equipped with gas masks, pepper spray, headlamps and walkie-talkies. They had printouts of instructions and code words to be used when IDF soldiers boarded the ship.



Operatives armed with improvised clubs made from the ship's railings wait below decks (Photo by Adam Ozkosa for Reuters, May 31, 2010)



An operative holds a club made from the ship's railing (YouTube)

6. According to the testimonies of IDF soldiers who boarded the *Mavi Marmara*, the deployment and tactics used by operatives during the takeover of the ship indicated that they had military qualifications. Indications included pre-confrontation briefings, assignment to fighting positions, analysis of possible points where the IDF might board the *Mavi Marmara* and corresponding deployment. In addition, the fact that operatives approached the helicopters and were not deterred by the stun grenades, the way the operatives remained at the positions to which they had been assigned, the professional knowhow they demonstrated in operating hot and cold weapons and the way they fought during the IDF takeover of the ship also indicated military qualifications.

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### **Violent Resistance to the Soldiers' Attempt to Board the Mavi Marmara from the Sea**

7. Before the soldiers began descending from the helicopter, the operatives aboard the *Mavi Marmara* exhibited violent resistance to the attempts of IDF soldiers to board the ship from naval commando boats. They threw objects at the soldiers, including iron bars, crowbars, iron chains, objects of various sizes (metal chairs, trays, glass) and a stun grenade. They also used slings to hurl objects, including pieces of metal and steel balls. To cut through the IDF's climbing equipment they used hand-held disk saws, which had been distributed around the periphery of the upper deck.

8. The violent activity at the ship's railing continued throughout the IDF takeover. Molotov cocktails ready for throwing were found near positions of operatives. During the fighting, when it became clear that the IDF was being attacked with firearms, that there were seriously wounded soldiers and that three were missing, Israeli Navy boats again approached the ship to board additional soldiers. That time as well, violent operatives were organized along the ship's railing to throw objects at the boats, including iron bars, clubs and chains.

9. At that point the naval force identified a number of operatives who approached and used slings to hurl iron balls at them. Some soldiers reported a burst of gunfire targeting the boats.

### **Violence Directed at IDF Soldiers who Descended from the Helicopters**

10. According to the testimonies of soldiers who were aboard the three helicopters, at first there were about 15 operatives on the upper deck. As soon as the soldiers descended from the helicopter, they were joined in a coordinated action by scores of other operatives who had been waiting nearby. According to a statement from one of the soldiers, their appearance on deck was directed by one individual.

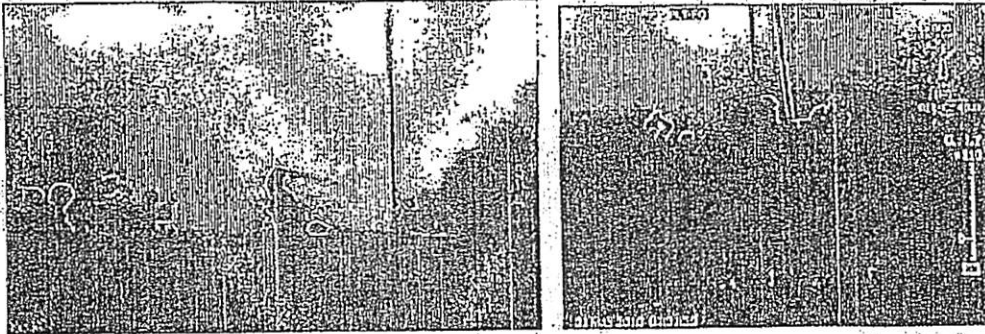
11. Each IDF soldier was attacked by a team of three or four operatives. They were dragged away from the rope from which they had been lowered from the helicopter as soon as they reached the deck and attacked with both hot and cold weapons (one soldier was stabbed in the stomach and another was shot in the knee). According to the soldiers' testimonies, the first shots were fired a short time after they began descending from the helicopter to the ship.

12. The IDF soldiers who reached the deck were attacked by frenzied teams of operatives carrying deadly cold weapons, including axes, knives, clubs, crowbars, metal objects hurled with slings and other objects (for example, early on one soldier was stabbed in the ear and another was repeatedly beaten and required hospitalization).

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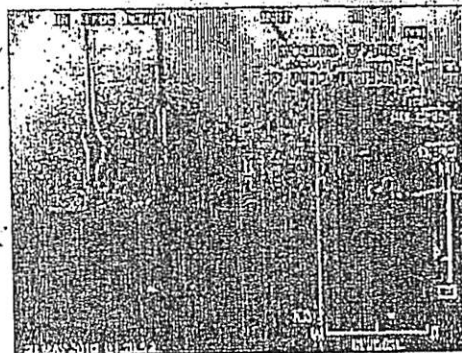
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Above left and right: Operatives beat IDF soldiers as soon as they land on deck. Bottom right: The first soldier off the helicopter is beaten after having been thrown to the lower deck (Photographed by the Israeli Navy).



Operatives on deck wait for the opportunity to beat the IDF soldiers. They are equipped with iron bars and chairs (Photographed by the Israeli Navy)



Operatives on deck wait for the second soldier, having already attacked the first (Photographed by the Israeli Navy).

13. According to one of the testimonies, "...The first minutes the battle were hard by any standard. The soldiers were fighting a life and death battle at very close quarters in an extremely limited zone. They were fighting against extremist terrorists who were ready to die, were well equipped with weapons and had had military training. [I say that because] no ordinary civilian knows how to conduct an extended fight at night, wearing a bulletproof vest and a gas mask, how to take a weapon, cock it and shoot it, and not be deterred when someone is fighting against him, unless he has been trained for it and briefed beforehand..."

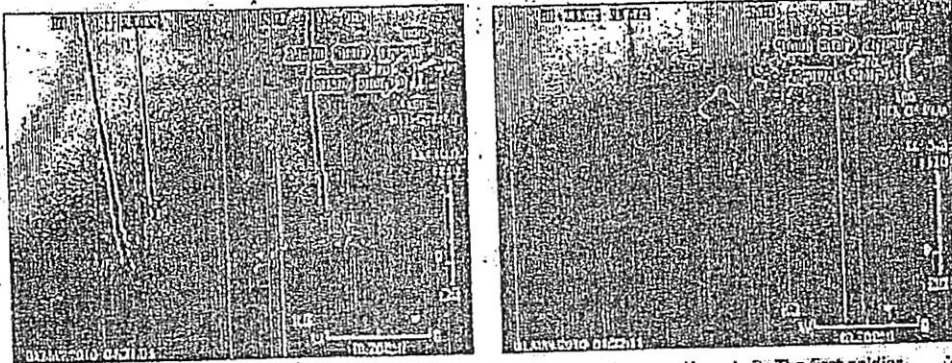
### Capture of Three Soldiers Who Descended from the First Helicopter

14. The three IDF soldiers on board the first helicopter who were the first to reach the upper deck of the *Mavi Marmara* were brutally attacked by the operatives on deck. Their weapons were taken and they were thrown from the upper to the lower deck. They

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were captured in a pre-meditated, well-coordinated action carried out by a large number of operatives and brought below decks where more operatives were waiting for them.



The soldiers are thrown from the upper to the lower deck by the operatives. Left: The first soldier. Right: Another soldier (Photographs taken by the Israeli Navy).

15. The three soldiers testified that while they were being held below decks a large number of operatives continued the attack, including choking and beating them with iron bars and wooden clubs. That was despite the fact that the hands of two were tied and the third was having convulsions and lost consciousness several times. The three were wounded and bleeding, and in need of medical treatment (one of them had been stabbed in the stomach and was critically wounded).

16. All three testified that during the incident their lives were in danger and they felt the operatives intended to kill them. They added that some of the passengers, those who were below decks, did not participate in the attacks and that there was a more moderate group of passengers who tried to protect them.<sup>1</sup> They also stated that while they were being beaten below decks they were photographed many times.<sup>2</sup>

17. After the IDF forces took over the bridge, the captain used the PA system to inform the passengers that the ship was under IDF control, and that use had been made of firearms [by the IDF]. At that point the three captive soldiers were dragged to the upper deck near the prow. As they were being dragged, the operatives continued beating and choking them. Despite their requests, the captive soldiers received no medical attention. Once above decks two of them escaped by jumping into the sea, and the third remained on deck unconscious and was later rescued by other soldiers.

<sup>1</sup> The testimonies of the soldiers corroborate the description of the events in *The Bloodstained Mavi Marmara* by Turkish journalist Serik Dinc's, who was aboard the *Mavi Marmara*. He wrote that the intervention of a number of activists prevented the IDF captives from being beaten even more. He said that the doctors among the passengers also tried to prevent the soldiers from being beaten.

<sup>2</sup> Serik Dinc documented their capture. For the pictures, see the Appendix.

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18. According to one of the testimonies, "...The soldiers who were taken below decks were not murdered because of the 450 civilians aboard, who were not accomplices to their beating, many of whom had cameras" [the murderous, violent behavior of the operatives took place outside, and the violence inside the ship was relatively slight].

### The Use of Firearms against IDF Soldiers

22. A number of testimonies from officers and soldiers indicate that in several instances the operatives who fought the IDF forces used firearms.

24. The following are testimonies from the two soldiers who were shot:

- 1) The second soldier to descend from the helicopter and was shot in the stomach said, "...About five terrorists jumped on me and I fought them off as best I could. I was attacked with clubs, [iron] bars, metal chairs and fists. They choked me and tried to throw me into the sea from the starboard side of the *Mavi Marmara*. I realized that my life was in danger and that they were trying to kill me and to throw me into the water to kill me. At that point I felt a sharp blow to the left side of my stomach, and I realized that I had apparently been shot... [Note: The soldier was hospitalized in Israel and operated on. During the operation half of his lower intestine was removed, a hole in his stomach was repaired and his pancreas was found to have been damaged. He remained in the hospital for three weeks.]
- 2) A soldier who was one of the first to reach the upper deck was shot in the leg. He said, "...The order of descent got messed up and we didn't go down in the original order. [I] was apparently number four or five... As soon as I hit the deck, they started hitting me with iron bars. I also saw a terrorist holding an axe. I moved four, five meters toward the stern... and a group of six, and I think more, chased me. I remember perfectly what they were holding: three had iron bars painted light blue [the color of the ship]... there were two holding knives who were running toward me and wanted to stab me, and one other had a crowbar, an iron tool about half a meter [long], one end sharp and the other end flat...
- 3) He continued, "...I was surrounded by five men, and one more who came a couple of seconds later... They beat me with iron bars... they hit me in the face with the bars, and on the head a lot. My head was protected by a helmet, and after the battle I was told that my helmet was completely shattered... I tried to use my hands to protect my face, so my hands got hit a lot, and one was broken. [Note: One of his hands was found to have three broken bones and one cracked bone...]. Then a terrorist ran toward me with a knife and stabbed me in the chest as hard as he could... and all the time they kept beating me with iron bars. They beat my

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number of times and lost consciousness. The next thing I remember was regaining consciousness because of a severe pain in my knee... That was when I realized I had been shot in the knee. I also realized that my ear and head had been cut and that bones in my hand were broken...

4) Question: "When the incident was over, what were your injuries?" Answer: "I was shot in the right knee, I had three fractures and a crack in my right hand, a deep cut in my left ear, internal bleeding, bruises from beating and cuts all over my body. My face was completely swollen..." Question: "In retrospect, do you know who shot you?" Answer: "As far as I know, when I was shot there were only five soldiers on board the ship. Three of them were thrown off the roof [another was shot in the stomach]... so none of the shots was fired by our forces..."

25. Testimony of a soldier about an operative holding a gun: "...I looked at the other side of the deck. I saw one of my comrades sitting on the deck, looking at it, his head was bleeding. There was a lot of yelling and noise everywhere. And then I looked down and I saw a handgun with a [cocking] hammer. I understood it was not one of our soldiers, because we all have handguns, and they don't have hammers. It was close to me, just two meters away. That was when I knew they had firearms aboard ship and that they were using them to shoot at us. That was when I realized everything was different from the original plan... One of our commanders shouted that there was gunfire below [on the lower deck] and I ran with him to the port side of the hull... The commander and I kept looking for the source of the gunfire and he told me that he saw a man hiding and shooting at us... I kept guard with another soldier, and all the time someone kept looking at us from near the chimney in the stern and shooting at us sporadically..."

Question: "Did you see firearms on board the ship or firearms directed against your force?" Answer: "There was the gun I saw on the deck next to my commanding officer, who was lying there wounded. I know for certain that the handgun did not belong to us because we don't have that kind of handgun, it had a cocked hammer and none of our guns has a hammer. I also felt gunfire coming toward us from the lower deck. It wasn't automatic fire, just a single bullet every couple of seconds..."

26. Other testimonies:

1) From a soldier: "While we were searching the hall we found one of our guns with an empty magazine and the slide pulled back hidden under a couch. [Note: i.e., someone had fired all the bullets...]"

2) From another soldier: "When we sailed the ship to Ashqelon we searched it. I went back to the bridge and rejoined my team. During the search we found large quantities of weapons, including iron rods, pieces of metal, wooden clubs, when all of

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a sudden one of the soldiers found a gun under one of the couches. It was a gun taken from one of us. The magazine was still inside but empty and the slide was back, which meant it had been fired until it was out of ammunition and then hidden."

### Treatment of the Passengers and Wounded after the IDF Takeover of the Mavi Marmara

27. IDF officers and soldiers testified that after the takeover of the *Mavi Marmara* they behaved humanely toward the passengers despite the fact that many of them refused to follow orders or cooperate. Testimonies from soldiers indicate that requests for water or to use the facilities were complied with.

28. Soldiers testified that they tied only the hands of operatives who caused a disturbance, or those who they were afraid might pose a danger to the IDF forces. Their testimonies indicated that passengers who did not pose a danger and who requested that their hands be untied had their requests complied with. According to a high-ranking Israeli Navy officer, "Below decks the passengers sat with their hands tied. We brought them food and water and took them to use the facilities when they requested. We loosened the bindings of those who found them painful... We did not tie the hands of the women and older men..."

29. Medical treatment: Testimonies from officers and soldiers, including the Israeli naval commando doctor who was on board the *Mavi Marmara* and the unit commander for aerial evacuation, indicate that the wounded received professional medical treatment and were evacuated by air in a complex operation. They were brought to a number of locations on board the ship and with considerable effort raised to the upper deck to ensure treatment and evacuation. Triage was performed in accordance with objective medical criteria, with the result that some of the wounded IDF soldiers received treatment after wounded operatives.

30. According to testimony, the wounded were evacuated very rapidly. Thirty-one were evacuated in six hours, an extremely rapid rate considering that there was only one evacuation point on board the ship and that at the same time other wounded individuals were being treated. The evacuation ended around noon. An IDF doctor aboard the *Mavi Marmara* said that as soon as the wounded began receiving treatment not one of them died. That was despite the fact that according to testimony, several of the wounded operatives refused

The testimonies of the soldiers corroborate the description of the events in *The Bloodstained Mavi Marmara* and Selik Ding's interview on Israel's Channel 1 TV. He said the Israeli soldiers untied the hands of the several passengers, especially older passengers, women, and men who had not created a disturbance.

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medical treatment, claiming they preferred to die as shaheads. In addition, according to the fleet doctor, in a number of cases wounded operatives tried to hamper medical treatment by removing and tearing off medical equipment.

31. According to the testimony of a high-ranking Israeli Navy officer, some of the wounded operatives were unwilling to leave the lounge below deck where they lay (apparently preferring to die rather than receive medical care from Israelis). He said that he had spoken to the doctor on board the ship, who told him that there were many wounded individuals who refused to be evacuated; some of them seriously injured. The IDF soldiers were forced to evacuate wounded operatives against their will to save their lives, while other operatives physically tried to prevent the soldiers from reaching them. Even after all the wounded had been evacuated some of the operatives continued physical resistance, and in one case the resistance was so violent the soldiers had to use force to restrain the operative.

### **IDF Forces Subjected to Physical and Verbal Abuse on the Flotilla's Other Five Ships**

32. The flotilla included five ships besides the *Mavi Marmara*. There were two Turkish IHH ships, the *Defne* and the *Gazze*, a European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG) ship, the *Sfendoni 8000*, the Free Gaza Movement's *Challenger*, and the *Sofia*, a ship sent by a Greek organization which joined the flotilla. Testimonies from IDF officers who commanded the takeover of the ships indicate that the IDF forces were subjected to various levels of physical and verbal abuse and the passengers expressed readiness to use violence against the soldiers, although not at the same level exhibited on board the *Mavi Marmara*.

33. According to the testimonies of IDF soldiers, during pre-boarding exchanges of communications the soldiers told the ships that the Gaza Strip was under closure and that they would not be able to enter. The ships' spokesmen replied that they were determined to reach Gaza and hurled invective (in English), such as "Go back to Auschwitz."

34. According to various testimonies:

1) Aboard the *Sfendoni 8000* the IDF forces encountered moderate violence and even beyond: for example, an attempt at evasion was made which endangered other IDF vessels in the zone; objects were thrown when vessels were approached; an attempt was made to take a soldier's weapon; the soldiers were shoved down a ladder to the lower deck and dozens of passengers engaged in physical violence at close quarters. The passengers also attempted to

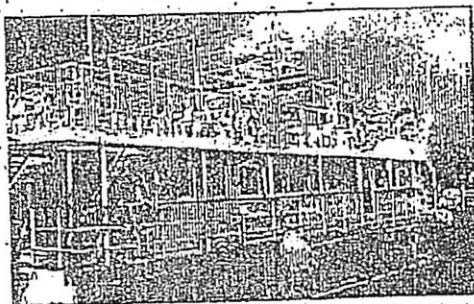
\* The testimonies corroborate the description of the events in *The Bloodstained Mavi Marmara*. According to the book, the operatives on board were prepared for every scenario, and expressed their readiness to die (pp. 73-74).  
\* According to ITIC information, before the violent confrontation seven of the nine operatives killed had stated, in one way or another, that they intended to die as shaheads.

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congregate on the roof. [Note: According to testimony from a soldier regarding the *Sfendoni 8000*, "...One of the boats [the *Sfendoni 8000*] maneuvered itself very close to us, it was on a collision course. That is, it simply tried to run us down, and chased us even after we tried to evade it. It got as close as 20 meters, a very short distance in naval maneuvering, and it presented a clear and immediate danger to our vessel...Finally we made a sharp turn and got in back of it..."]



The *Sfendoni 8000*, the ECEEG ship which participated in the flotilla. Its name refers to the number of Palestinians detained in Israel for terrorist activities.

2) The *Challenger* carried out evasion tactics and in effect made the force pursue it for a considerable distance. Once on board the soldiers were faced with moderate violence, which included both physical and verbal abuse, there were attempts to shove soldiers and some passengers barricaded themselves in certain cabins. In addition, there were a number of activists who caused a disturbance and refused to cease, and the soldiers were forced to use Tasers to restrain them.

3) Aboard the *Dafny* significant preparations had been made for violence. The ship's crane had been positioned in such a way as to make it hard or impossible for soldiers to descend from a helicopter to the deck, forcing them to descend to the roof and endanger their lives. In addition, cables were strung, barbed wire was unrolled, gravel was strewn and there were stones and iron bars ready for use near the hull. In the communications room set up on board the ship the soldiers found videos documenting the crew deploying for the soldiers' arrival, preparing to prevent the takeover of the ship. According to one statement, when the soldiers arrived on board the ship they were met with verbal abuse from the crew.

4) On board the *Sofia* resistance included verbal abuse.

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<zeroubavelys@state.gov>, "Frank GSchlereth" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Richard JBurgess"  
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"Thomas GRogan" <RoganTC@state.gov>, "Debra J Towry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera V Hanania"  
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"Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ian A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Westley J"  
<ReiserWJ@state.gov>, "Mein (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Sunday, May 30, 2010, 12:28 PM

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

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

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

From: Salvatore Amodco [redacted]  
Subject: 5/29 Free Gaza Update - 11H ships waiting at near Cyprus for Cypriot ship  
To: "Salvatore A (Istanbul)Amodco" <AmodcoSA@state.gov>, "Thomas HGoldberger"  
<GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Todd CHolmstrom" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "James MSindle"  
<SindleJM@state.gov>, "Rebecca LStruwe" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Kim BRichter"  
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<BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "John EChere" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "John RWaters" <WatersJR@state.gov>,  
"Thomas GRogan" <RoganTC@state.gov>, "Debra J Towry" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Vera V Hanania"  
<HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn K Lewis"  
<LewisGK@state.gov>, "Sarah Beran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara D Greengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>

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"DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee B Walker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank J Finver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David J Greene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas J Manning" <ManningNJ@state.gov>, "Paul H Tyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey D Frederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric G Falls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia G Reed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees C Davison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen L Ogle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKata" <KeenDC@state.gov>, "Jeremiah Jerry Howard" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DitworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Elietheros E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert F" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Lisa L" <BallyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeyiaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GivoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReiserWJ@state.gov>, "Melin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

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

On 5/28 11H [redacted] informed post that:

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

— On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

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

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StateDept01068

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W10

RELEASED IN PART

B6

B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Salvatore Amodeo  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:59 AM  
 To: Parker, Andrew C; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Tanus, George; Sakran, Johnny; Harutunian, Ruben; Kaplan, Dean; Usher, William R; Richter, Kim B; Marwaha, Brianne C; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Rice, Barry W; [Redacted]; Reisser, Wesley J; Levin, Jan; Gutman, Bonnie S; Sievers, Marc J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Rogan, Thomas G; Lewis, Glenn K; SES-O; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Holmstrom, Todd C; Shida, James M; Strawa, Rebecca L; Lopuliewicz, Victoria; Benke, Job; Mishaite, Roberts, Kisi (Tel Aviv); Marchesa, Gregory M; Mendel, Teresa S; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiro A; Adams, Julie D; Burgess, Richard J; Chert, John E; Waters, John R; Tomy, Debra J; Hannon, Vera V; Wolford, Na K; Berman, Sarah; Grechgrass, Sara D; Walker, Coralee B; Finer, Frank J; Greene, David J; Mandrup, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Moad, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Aja G; Davidson, Kass C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah J; Parra, Yolanda A; O'Brien, Albert E; Osman, Amory A; Nemo, Eutharhos E; Taylor, Victoria J; Rhee, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baly, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abaya, Susan K (Istanbul); Glavold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Siltman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ben A; Cahn, Meira (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Rudman, Mara; Omar Bayazzad probably did not make it onto the Mavi Marmara

Subject: Working

Categories: Working

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

Sa

Salvatore Amodeo  
 Deputy Pol/Econ Chief  
 Consulate General Istanbul

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

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

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Recd JC@state.gov, "Kees C Davison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen L Ogle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, Daniel O'Keefe <KeenDO@state.gov>, Jeremiah Jerry Howard <HowardJ@state.gov>, Yolanda A <FarrYA@state.gov>, Allison E <DillworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Jennifer G" <NgosJE@state.gov>, "Victoria I" <TaylorVI@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Walt (Istanbul)" <DaytonW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MunshiDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BailyL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeysaK@state.gov>, "Lisa G (Istanbul)" <GisvoDL@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Mouhews" <KosmatocMS@state.gov>, "Ilhan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReiserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinaMX@state.gov>  
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

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

On 5/29, [redacted] informed post that:

B6

- the IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for others ships to join the flotilla.
- The IHH told the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ship to leave for Gaza so the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
- [redacted] also informed that the ship from Greece, Challenge 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers were transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara". The ship now has a total of 778 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla to approach Gaza around 28 hours after they depart. IHH would not know when they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.
- SIFA informed Embassy Ankara that that 361 Turkish citizens are participating in the flotilla either as crew or passengers.

On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>  
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, Goldberger, Thomas H <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sirdle, James M" <SirdleJM@state.gov>, "Struwe, Rebecca L" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Lopankiewicz, Victoria" <LopankiewiczV@state.gov>, "Bernie, Toth, Michelle" <BernieTothM@state.gov>, "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Slevers, Marc J" <SleversMJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Bumett, David R" <BumettDR@state.gov>, "Baron, Deslee A" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Adams, Julie D" <AdamsJD@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Greene, Elise" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Zorobavely, Saïda B" <ZorobavelyS@state.gov>, "Schlarick, Frank O" <SchlarickF@state.gov>, "Burgess, Richard J" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "Chera, John B" <CheraJS@state.gov>, "Waters, John R" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Ragan, Thomas G"

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Wen (Istanbul) <DwyerW@state.gov>, Denise M <MarshDM@state.gov>, Jess L <BullyL@state.gov>, Christina (Istanbul) <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, Susan K (Istanbul) <AbeysaSK@state.gov>, Lisa C (Istanbul) <GjovoldLC@state.gov>, Douglas A <StiffmanDA@state.gov>, Matthew S <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, Ian A <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, Wesley J <ReiderWJ@state.gov>, Mehm (Istanbul) <CeinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

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

On 5/29/10 [redacted] informed post that

B6

- The IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for other ships to join the flotilla.
- The IHH said the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ship to leave for Gaza as the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
- [redacted] also confirmed that the ship from Greece, Chalkos 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers were transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara." The ship now has a total of 770 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla to approach Gaza around 29 hours after they depart the island, which they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.
- MFA informed Embassy Ankara that that 161 Turkish citizens are participating in the flotilla either as crew or passengers.

--- On Fri, 5/29/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>  
 Subject: Fico Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>; Golberger, Thomas H <GolbergerTH@state.gov>; Holmstrom, Todd C <HolmstromTC@state.gov>; Sindler, James M <SindlerJM@state.gov>; Spruwa, Rebecca L <SpruwaRL@state.gov>; Richien, Kim B <RichienKB@state.gov>; Lopalkiewicz, Victoria <LopalkiewiczV@state.gov>; Benitez, Toshi Michelle <BenitezT@state.gov>; Mendel, Teresa S <MendelTS@state.gov>; Stevens, Mike J <StevensMJ@state.gov>; Levin, Ian <LevinI@state.gov>; Bumell, David R <BumellD@state.gov>; Baron, Deshae A <BaronDA@state.gov>; Adams, Julie D <AdamsJD@state.gov>; Parker, Andrew C <ParkerAC@state.gov>; Greene, Elia <GreeneE@state.gov>; Zerbubavely, Sandra S <zerbubavelys@state.gov>; Schlereth, Frank C <SchlerethFC@state.gov>; Burgess, Richard J <BurgessRJ@state.gov>; Chare, John E <ChareJ@state.gov>; Waters, John R <WatersJR@state.gov>; Rogan, Thomas G <RoganTG@state.gov>; Towry, Debra J <TowryDJ@state.gov>; Hanania, Vera V <HananiaVV@state.gov>; Weinfeld, Nili I <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>; Lewis, Glenn K <LewisGK@state.gov>; Beran, Sarah <BeranS@state.gov>; Greengrass, Sarp U <GreengrassSU@state.gov>; Kaplan, Dean <KaplanDM@state.gov>; Walker, Carole B

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W13

RELEASED IN PART

B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Salvatore Amodeo  
 Sent: Monday, May 29, 2010 1:01 PM  
 To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sinda, James M; Sruwa, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopalkiewicz, Viktoriya; Bernier-Teich, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Steyers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnell, David R; Baron, Debra A; Adams, William B; Parker, Andrew G; Gibana, Elia; Zerubbino, Sandra S; Schlorer, Frank G; Stupacz, Richard J; Chero, John B; Walters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towner, Debra J; Hennek, Vera; V. Weisfeld, Neil J; Lewis, Glenn K; Botin, Sarah; Greenblatt, Sam D; Kaplan, Oscar; Walker, Carolee B; Finer, Frank J; Grodin, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Mason, Robert W; Brodsky, Jeffrey D; Felt, Eric D; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Ross C; Ogo, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah; Perry, Yolanda A; Diwan, Susan B; Demarc, Amany A; Noto, Enoch; E. Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Ozyer, Yildiz; Ibrahim, Marah; Denizli, Bah; Joss, L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Aboya, Susan (Istanbul); Glavin, Lisa C (Istanbul); Saurier, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Flosser, Wesley J; Cain, Moira (Istanbul)

Subject: 5/29 From Gaza Update - IHH ships waiting at near Cyprus for Cypriot ship

B6

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

On 5/29/10, [redacted] informed post that:

- The IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for others ships to join the flotilla.
- The IHH told the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ships to leave for Gaza for the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
- [redacted] also confirmed that the ship from Greece, Chalkira 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers were transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara." The ship now has a total of 778 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla to approach Gaza ground 28 hours after they depart. It is unclear when they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.
- MPA informed Embassy Ankara that that 361 Turkish citizens are participating in the flotilla, either as crew or passengers.

On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>  
 Subject: From Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
 To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>; "Goldberg, Thomas H" <GoldbergTH@state.gov>; "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>; "Sinda, James M" <SindaJM@state.gov>; "Sruwa, Rebecca L" <SruwaRL@state.gov>; "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>; "Lopalkiewicz, Viktoriya" <LopalkiewiczV@state.gov>; "Bernier-Teich, Michelle" <BernierTeichM2@state.gov>; "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>; "Steyers, Marc

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

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W14

RELEASED IN PART

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Osman, Amany A

B6

From: Salvatore Amodico [redacted]  
 Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 12:58 PM  
 To: Amodico, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberg, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sledge, James M; Strawa, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopalkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sloviter, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Bumst, David R; Baron, Debra A; Adams, Julia D; Parker, Andrew C; Gmuro, Erika; Zembrovsky, Sandra S; Schriber, Frank C; Burgess, Richard J; Chera, John E; Walters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Toyin, Debra J; Mariani-Vera, V; Weikold, NH J; Lewis, Glenn R; Baron, Debra A; Green, Sara D; Kaplan, David; Walker, Cordele B; Fiver, Frank J; Grooc, David J; Mojdin, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Robert W; Froufouk, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davidson, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, David G; Howard, Jeremiah; Jory, T; Parn, Yolanda A; Elsworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Nolas, Bahar; E. Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dwyer, W; (Istanbul); Martin, Debra M; Bathy, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Glavats, Lisa C (Istanbul); Shuman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Barry A; Rafisat, Wesley J; Cain, Melin (Istanbul)

Subject: 528 Fico, Gaza Update - IHH ships waiting at near Cyprus for Cypriot ship.

On 5/29/10 [redacted] re: mud post that

- The IHH ships are still waiting near Cyprus for others ships to join the flotilla.
- Word IHH said the Greek Cypriot authorities did not allow the Greek Cypriot (GC) ship to leave for Gaza so the passengers, including some members of GC parliament, have to join the group through another route. Thus, the flotilla is still waiting for the Greek Cypriot passengers and ship to arrive.
- [redacted] also confirmed that the ship from Greece, Challenge 2, could not continue because of technical problems and the passengers have transferred to IHH's ship "Mavi Marmara". The ship now has a total of 770 passengers on board now. IHH expects the flotilla to approach Gaza around 25 hours after they depart. It is unclear when they expect to depart since it depends on when Greek Cypriot ship arrives.

On Fri, 5/29/10, Amodico, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodicoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodico, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodicoSA@state.gov>  
 Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
 To: Amodico, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodicoSA@state.gov>; Goldberg, Thomas H <GoldbergTH@state.gov>; Holmstrom, Todd C <HolmstromTC@state.gov>; Sledge, James M <SledgeJM@state.gov>; Strawa, Rebecca L <StrawaRL@state.gov>; Richter, Kim B <RichterKB@state.gov>; Lopalkiewicz, Viktoria <LopalkiewiczV@state.gov>; Bernier-Toth, Michelle <BernierTothM2@state.gov>; Mendel, Teresa S <MendelTS@state.gov>; Sloviter, Marc J <SloviterMJ@state.gov>; Levin, Jan <LevinJ@state.gov>; Bumst, David R <BumstDR@state.gov>; Baron, Debra A <BaronDA@state.gov>; Adams, Julia D <AdamsJ@state.gov>; Parker, Andrew C <ParkerAC@state.gov>; Gmuro, Erika <GmuroE@state.gov>; Zembrovsky, Sandra S <ZembrovskyS@state.gov>; Schriber, Frank C <SchriberFC@state.gov>; Burgess, Richard J <BurgessRJ@state.gov>; Chera, John E <CheraJS@state.gov>; Walters, John R <WaltersJR@state.gov>; Rogan, Thomas G

UNCLASSIFIED

N/21

Law, Rosemary C.

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Blaukopf, Ruth B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:18 AM  
**To:** Baron, Desiree A; Garcia, Dennis J; Kaplan, Crystal T; Burnett, David R; Frelich, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hale, David M; Harden, Dave; Hertzberg, David A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Irwin, Matthew T; Jacoby, Julia I; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Knopf, Payton L; Lentz, Andrew N; Sievers, Marc J; Mayo, Iris J; Reisser, Wesley J; Roberts, Kristi (Tel Aviv); Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sindle, James M; Waters, John R; Holst, Alan R; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Honigstein, Michael D; Michaels, David G; Nelson, Timothy (Tel Aviv)  
**Subject:** IDF.SPOKESPERSON: FLOTILLA BOARDING: FOREIGN AND IDF CASUALTIES

IDF SPOKESPERSON TELLS FOREIGN MEDIA :

5 IDF INJURED - 2 SERIOUSLY  
15 PARTICIPANTS IN THE FLOTILLA KILLED AFTER NAVAL COMMANDOS BOARDED THE VESSELS AND WERE ATTACKED WITH LIVE FIRE AND KNIVES.  
A TOTAL OF 18 PARTICIPANTS IN THE FLOTILLA WHO WERE INJURED HAVE BEEN HOSPITALISED IN IL.

IL RADIO REPORTS THAT A FIRST VESSEL FROM THE FLOTILLA, THE "CHALLENGER" IS NOW ENTERING ASHDOD PORT.

Ruth

*in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in executive order 12958 this email is UNCLASSIFIED*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE/CASE ID: 01 NOV 2011 201004163

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StateDept01160



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1150

Law, Rosemary C

From: Connelly, Maura  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:12 PM  
To: Sindle, James M  
Cc: NEA-IPA-DL  
Subject: Re: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

RELEASED IN PART  
B5

The highlighted parts sound reasonable. Just so long as we are not seen as enforcing the blockade.

From: Sindle, James M  
To: Connelly, Maura  
Cc: NEA-IPA-DL  
Sent: Wed Jun 02 20:40:44 2010  
Subject: FW: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Below is L/OES's legal views regarding how we might deal with Challenger II. Highlighted portion describes the option we're currently looking at.

Jim

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:24 PM  
To: Sindle, James M; Maggi, Robert W  
Cc: PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Maxwell, Raymond D; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta; Polizzotto, Susan; Frederick.J.Kennedy@uscg.mil; Darr, Charles  
Subject: RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Pasted below are some factual/legal bullets, which L/FO provided informally to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor...some of which respond to questions posed in the email string below. Also, I'm copying USCG colleagues, since some of the legal angles are in their lane (and they are of course invited to correct or amplify, as appropriate).

Thanks,  
Kevin

#### Factual Issues

- There are two vessels – Challenger I and Challenger II – that have been involved in this incident and are confirmed as U.S. flagged yachts (Delaware registered). Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel.
- Although the facts are uncertain, Challenger II is believed to be currently in the Cypriot port of Limassol, with the likely intent of breaching the blockade in the coming days. Cypriot authorities have stated that they are not allowing ships to depart for the blockade.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to have any AMCITs on board. As a pleasure craft, it is not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes it harder to track its location.

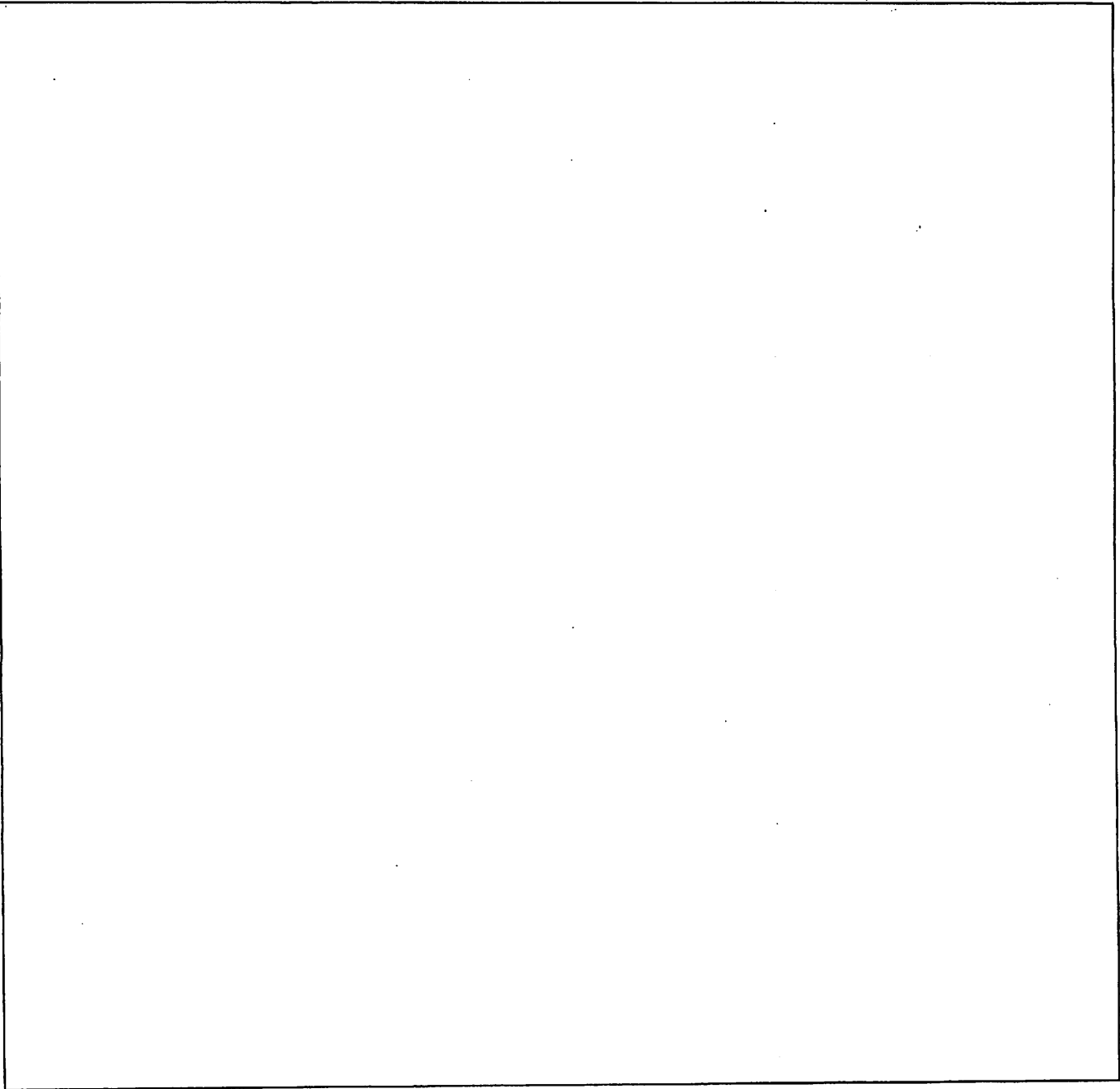
Legal issues and possible courses of action  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 01 NOV 2011 201004163

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UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01192

UNCLASSIFIED

B5



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**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:12 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Maxwell, Raymond D; 'Cook, Kevin RDML'; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta; Polizzotto, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Kevin,

2

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As we continue to proceed, I think it would be helpful to know...

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Sindle, James M; Maxwell, Raymond D; Cook, Kevin RDML; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

[Redacted]

Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Maggi, Robert W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:49 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Sindle, James M; Maxwell, Raymond D; Cook, Kevin RDML; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Kevin, thanks!

[Redacted]

Best  
turk

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:36 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Pollizzotto, Susan; Warner, Trent (OES-OPA); Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

UNCLASSIFIED

Just to keep this group on the same page, Susan has confirmed that the relevant USCG's database shows that the vessel is validly registered in Delaware. We can now be comfortable in concluding that the vessel is properly characterized as U.S. flagged.

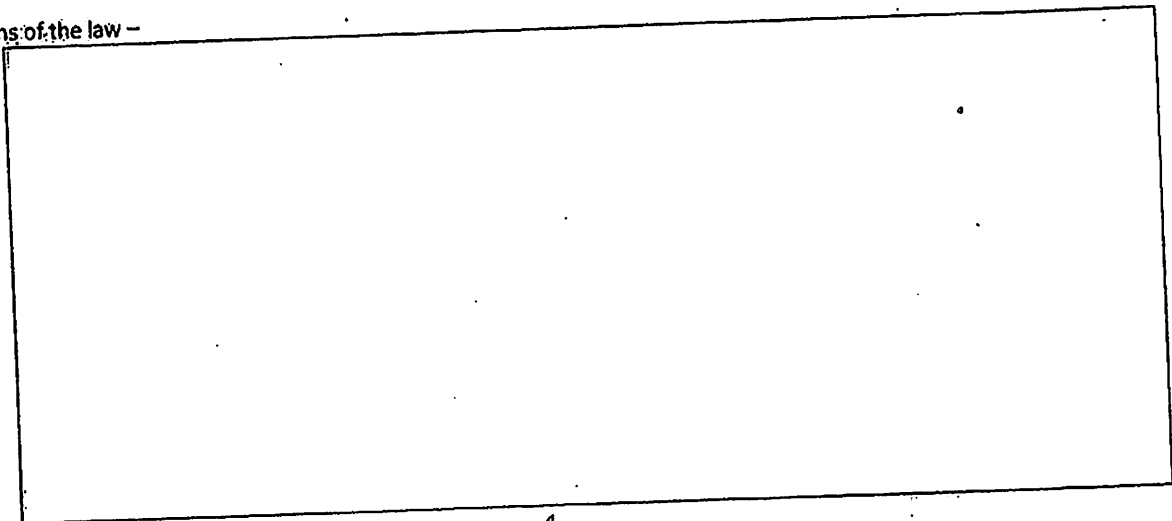
**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pempfer, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

Jim - in case this comes up tomorrow, here is the situation as I understand it regarding the apparently US flagged vessels.

In terms of the facts -

- There are two vessels - Challenger I and Challenger II - that have been involved in this incident and are believed to be U.S. flagged vessels. Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel. Challenger II is believed to have had mechanical difficulties and may be intended to breach the blockade in the coming days (estimates range from Wed to Saturday).
- We are not certain that the vessels are properly registered in the United States. Greek port authority documentation showed both vessels as having Delaware registration numbers. Coast Guard is still checking whether those registrations are still valid; we should know tomorrow. IDF reported at various times that these vessels were actually flying Greek and St. Vincent flags (after earlier suggesting we take action because they were U.S. flagged). This also raises some doubt as to their nationality.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to include any AMGITs (again, based on Greek port docs). Cargo - humanitarian or otherwise - is not known. The two vessels are pleasure craft (yachts) that apparently do not tend to make international voyages. They are not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes locating them more difficult.
- Efforts were underway on Friday-Saturday to notify the vessel/owners and pass them a warning regarding potential consequences of unlawful activity. Unclear whether the vessels or owners have been reached yet (and efforts to reach Challenger II may have been aborted because it dropped out of the original flotilla). We are seeking an update on the facts.

In terms of the law -

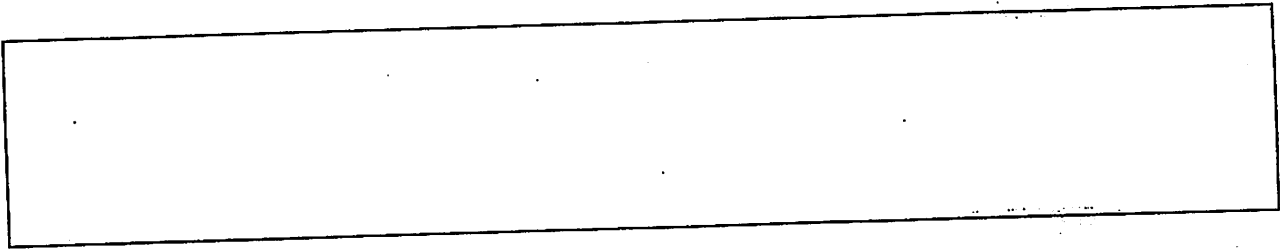


B5

4  
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B5



Thanks,  
Kevin

UNCLASSIFIED

B33

Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)

RELEASED IN PART

From:  
Sent:  
To:

Usama Najeeb [redacted] B6 B6  
 Sunday, June 06, 2010 1:13 AM  
 'Usama Najeeb'; 'Nesreen Hamimi'; Najeeb, Usama M; 'Leslie Adkins'; Allen, Katherine E;  
 Scobey, Margaret; Brooks, Lynne A; Carper, David W. (NEA/ELA); Gregonis, Meghan E; Irwin,  
 Matthew T; Lawson, Christine M; Moriz, Allison M; Able, Jason A; Pina, Aaron D; Waters,  
 John R; richardriley [redacted]; Riley, Richard H; Brown, Christopher J; Knopf, Rayton L B6  
 Struwe, Rebecca L; 'Noah I Siegel'; Shampaine, Nicole D; 'Julia M Santucci'; Abdeldayem,  
 May M; Aly, Nashwa H; Awadallah, Karim S; Berns, David B; Cutrona, Almee; Gressel, Sika  
 D; Hamimi, Nesreen H; Heidelberg, Breck D; LoGerfo, Gregory D; Morse, Monica L; O'Dowd,  
 Stephen; Speaks, John T; Watkins, Todd J; White, Edward A; Gilne, Melissa R; Blome,  
 Donald A; Hamroush, Hany A; Turner, India R; Greenan, Robert J; AguilraSC@state.gov;  
 Farbeann, Joseph R; 'Usama M Najeeb' [redacted] Perry, Laura M;  
 Lenert, Adam J; Shea, Peter T; Edward, Marie N; [redacted] Iskandar, Nabil G;  
 [redacted] Salima, Sameh A; Addis, Casey L; Duchak, John T; Soliman,  
 Reham M; Rezkalla [redacted]  
 [redacted] AbdelHafez, Hend A; Williams, Eric C; Delaney, Tom (Cairo/DIR); Sergio L.  
 Aguilra@nso.eop.gov; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Ofobike, Nnanna N; Sindle, James M; Kosa,  
 Lauren S; Maxwell, Raymond D; Patel, Gayatri A; Jeffrey S. Giauque; Grimm, Brian M;  
 Lieberman, Jessica D (DRL); Pelton, Erin; Ismail, Amrallah T; Dawson, Catherine N; Djerassi,  
 Alexander M; Fleming, John T; Ratney, Michael A; Saft, Sameh; Sayles, Ambrose G;  
 Staples, David A (NEA/PPD); Stukes, Roberta L (NEA/FO); Sullivan, John L; Vasquez, Edgar  
 J; CottrellBD@state.gov; Ford, Robert S; Hehner, Clifford D; Nemr, Christina R; Cofsky,  
 Warren A (DRL); Doyle, Robert F; Kelly, Mark T; Nicolaidis, Constantinos C; Shaunfield, Jill R;  
 Whitmore, Morgan G  
 Cairo External News Summary 06-06-2010

Subject:

Good Morning

Cairo External Affairs News 06-06-2010

Summary:

- Egypt keeps an American ship in Suez because it cut internet cables canal.
- US DOS: Mitchell completed a constructive negotiations session.
- Israeli troops seized Irish ship bound to Gaza.
- EM Aboul Gheit sends letters to EU foreign ministers on Flotilla.
- Hamdy Khalifa files case at ICC against Israelis involved in flotilla attack.
- OIC holds emergency ministerial today on flotilla attack.
- 3,700 crossed through Rafah Crossing during first 4 days of operation.
- Court approves citizenship rule when married to Israeli women.
- GOSS: Egypt has to recognize other countries' rights in water.

News:

**US Ship in Suez:** Port Said prosecution ordered the keeping of the American Ship Liberty Agile because it cut the internet cables in Suez Canal when it went off its sailing track in Suez Canal. The ship was carrying flour to Djibouti and was crossing through Suez when its sailing system broke (RAY).

**Palestinian Israeli Negotiations:** US Department of State said the US Envoy to the Middle East

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
 DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

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NO CLASSIFICATION MARKED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1 of 1

B53

RELEASED IN FULL

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus  
**Sent:** 6/4/2010 5:33:54 PM

To reduce confusion, please note the following information based on reporting from Embassy Nicosia and USCG contacts with Cypriot port authorities:

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger II has suffered extensive damages and is on the ground in Limassol. It arrived in Cyprus after showing ingress of water and will remain out of the water for at least a month.

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger III (formerly, the Greek-flagged Dimitris K) is in the water at Limassol new port, but without crew or passengers and is chained to the pier by port and marine police.

--Both vessels are U.S.-flagged. The Challenger II had previously been Greek-owned, flagged in Honduras and known as the Nitta II. The Challenger III, had previously been the Cyprus-flagged and owned Dimitris K.

--Cypriot port authorities in Limassol have told Embassy Nicosia they do not intend to let any vessel depart to participate in the flotilla.

*Terry Netos*  
Cyprus Desk Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of European Affairs/Office of Southern Europe  
Tel.: +1-202-647-6760  
Fax: +1-202-647-5087

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)  
Page 1 of 1

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01436

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
SBU:

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1 of 1

1380

RELEASED IN FULL

From: Riley, Robert J  
To: Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
CC: Cohen, Jonathan R; EUR-SE-DAR-DL; Kaidanow, Tina S  
Subject: Report from Embassy Nicosia on Challenger II and III  
Sent: 6/3/2010 3:52:58 PM

I just got off the phone with Embassy Nicosia, which we asked to check into the reports a ship may have departed Limassol, Cyprus, possibly en route to Gaza. Embassy spoke directly with Cypriot Marine Police, which reported the following:

- Challenger III remains in Limassol, is seriously damaged and will take an estimated month to repair. There are currently no captain, crew or passengers aboard the ship. As they have stated previously, Cypriots have no intention of allowing ship depart for Gaza.
- Challenger II, a different ship, is damaged and anchored in the Med outside of Cypriot territorial waters. Cypriot marine police do not believe it is seaworthy.
- Previously, upon learning of the Challenger III's potential for involvement with the Gaza Flotilla, Embassy Consular Officers asked Cypriot authorities for a briefing on the ship's status, crew and passengers to protect any Amcits potentially aboard. It was then that the Cypriots informed Embassy that there were no Amcits on board and the GoC had no intention of allowing the ship to depart for Gaza. Embassy officers of course agreed with the GoC's course of action and thanked them for the briefing.

Robert J. Riley  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-5120  
rileyj@state.gov

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CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 03 APR 2012 201004163

Printed By: Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)  
Page: 1 of 1

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StateDept01475



UNCLASSIFIED

B178

**Coleman, Charmaine (DRL)**

**From:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** DRL-NESCA-DL  
**Cc:** DRL-MLGA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza

RELEASED IN FULL

Want to make sure all or some of NESCA is receiving these flotilla working group updates.

---

**From:** Sindle, James M.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 10:32 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Cc:** Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Goodman, Ian A; Sillman, Douglas A; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Leary, Thomas M; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Ankara-POL-DL; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Cetin, Metin (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L; Combs, James D; Gilmore, Bradley T; Allison, Alicia P; de Otalvaro, Laura H; Grubb, Jason B; Howe, Geoffrey G; Chue, Jason; Greene, Elissa; Parker, Andrew C; Slevers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Waters, John R  
**Subject:** Two Additional Ships Heading to Gaza

Colleagues:

There is press reporting that the Free Gaza Movement is sending two additional vessels to Gaza. The first ship is Ireland's "Rachel Corrie," with about 10 passengers on board including Denis Halliday, the Irish former UN Human Rights Coordinator in Iraq. The second ship is the US-flagged "Challenger II", which dropped out of the first flotilla to undergo repairs in Nicosia. According to Free Gaza Movement spokesperson Audrey Bömse in Larnaca, the Rachel Corrie left Malta on her way to Gaza the night before last and she should be coming near Crete today. Arrival is expected around Gaza between late Wednesday and sometime Thursday.

If anyone has additional information on the status of the vessels and the number, nationalities, and the names of the passengers aboard please forward it to the collective. It should help us in terms of tracking any arrests in advance of detainment. CG Istanbul and Embassy Ankara reaching out to the IHH organizers was valuable in this regard during the first iteration. GDI has told Embassy Tel Aviv that the IDF still intends to intercept these vessels, but is reviewing how to do it.

Many Thanks,

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: [SindleJM@state.gov](mailto:SindleJM@state.gov)  
Classified: [SindleJM@state.gov](mailto:SindleJM@state.gov)

202-647-4386 (office)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD  
DATE/CASE ID: 04 APR 2012 201004163

UNCLASSIFIED

StateDept01601

W16

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B6

Osman, Amany A

From: Drylon, Win (Istanbul)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 7:00 AM  
To:



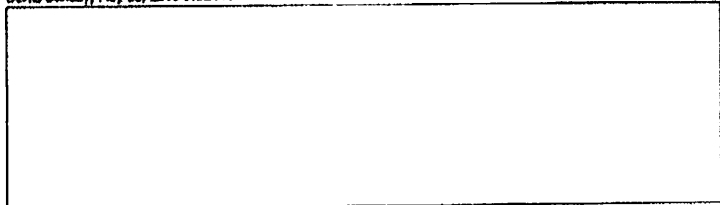
B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

Turkish television (quoting Israeli media) is reporting 10 dead and more wounded in the Israeli Defense Forces' interception and boarding of the flotilla. Film clips purporting to be from the flotilla depict chaotic scenes from the deck of one ship and apparent wounded civilians. We are trying to contact IHM reps in Istanbul for comment, including on status of US citizens on board.

Turkish TV is showing a live feed of a crowd of hundreds in front of the Israeli consulate in Istanbul. Earlier reports indicated some stone throwing there but current videos show a peaceful crowd with Palestinian flags and a bullhorn or two.

From: Marwaha, Brianne C  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 9:02 PM



B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: Free Gaza Update Monday

Hi All - please see the below e-mail from [redacted] I am able to respond intelligently regarding the assistance to American Citizens if they are detained...however, if they are U.S. owned boats, does NEA or DOD know what we can expect will happen with their property?

B6

Thanks,  
Brianne  
CA/OCS Weekly Duty Officer

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

From: Macris, Gregory P  
To: CA-Staffers Mailbox; CA-OCS-Duty-Principals; Harwaha, Briarne C; Scott, Pamela F  
Sent: Sun May 30 13:13:02 2010  
Subject: FW: Assistance for American Humanitarians

CA colleagues - hoping you could take a crack at responding. Greg Macris, SWO

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 1:02 PM  
To: Operations Center  
Subject: Assistance for American Humanitarians

B6

State Department Operations Center:

This morning I offered a prayer to my Baptist Church for the safe landing of the humanitarian flotilla bringing needed goods to the refugees in Gaza. Several of my Baptist colleagues asked how our State Department would aid of American citizens on American-owned boats should the Israeli armed forces make arrests and/or seize property. I called (202) 647-4000 for answers and the operator suggest I email you for prompt answers.

Because we are following the event by the hour, your prompt response is appreciated.

B6

First Baptist Church  
Hamilton NY

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 7:04 AM

B3 OTHER

[redacted]

B3 OTHER

Subject: RE: FPOC Gaza Update Sunday

Recirculating update below from USDAO Tel Aviv to this list. Also adding some additional US military addresses.

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, May 30, 2010 6:24 AM

B3 OTHER

Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interception.

RV  
[redacted]

B3 OTHER



B3 OTHER

From: Goodman, Ian A  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:22 AM  
 To: Reisser, Wesley J; Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Tothi, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Slevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zaslavavely, Soodra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julie G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keert, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; DiWorth, Alison E; Osman, Amrany A; Neos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianna C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frisch, Karlene H  
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

I've added my contact numbers. In case I need to be reached.

Ian Goodman  
 EUR/SE  
 C: 413-530-1358  
 BB: 202-485-2407

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 11:05 AM  
 To: Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Tothi, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Slevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zaslavavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julie G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keert, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; DiWorth, Alison E; Osman, Amrany A; Neos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Danover, Jennifer J; Marwaha, Brianna C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frisch, Karlene H  
 Subject: RE: One More Free Gaza Update

Also, please note that weekend POCs are listed in the spreadsheet as well. I will be out of town and only reachable via State Ops. Karlene Frisch and Jeff Glauque will be in town and also can be reached with any NEA related concerns.  
 Wes

From: Reisser, Wesley J  
 Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:29 AM  
 To: Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Tothi, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Slevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett,

David R; Baron, Debra A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zorubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chen, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weisfeld, Neil I; Lewis, Glenn K; Berni, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Deary; Walker, Corilee B; Flower, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Hagg, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Felt, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parro, Yolanda A; Daworth, Alison E; Osnain, Armony A; Helas, Eliotheos E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Vrin (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Sillman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Goodman, Ian A; Denver, Jennifer J; Morwaha, Brionne C; Finnegan, Joseph P; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Kirtone H  
Subject: One More Free Gaza Update

Everyone - Here is one last update as we move into the holiday weekend. Emb. Tel Aviv is standing by and the duty officers in DC have been briefed in and are on this message. I have once again pasted the link to the spreadsheet, which is now as updated as possible. It has a link to press guidance as well for your reference. Thanks to all for your assistance on this big effort!

Wes

<http://oes.o.state.sbu/sites/igs/Shared%20Documents/Free%20Gaza%20May%202010.xlsx>

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - MEN/PA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 947-2647  
Fax (202) 735-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

Law, Rosemary C

N6

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM  
**To:** Frelch, Karlene H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza  
**Attachments:** 052410-Israel-Palestinians - Israel Blockade of Gaza.docx

RELEASED IN PART B6, B8

---

**From:** Frelch, Karlene H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 8:31 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Can you send me the press guidance too? Thanks.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frelch, Karlene H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elissa; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

---

**From:** Frowick, George H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scariatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy, Deborah A  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoni flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [redacted] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizen [redacted]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

---

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM  
**To:** Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scariatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa

S

**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wcs,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Goodman, Ian A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scarlatelli, Adam W  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ian A; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI - Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are very confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7488  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Sent:** Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank - Does the Israeli Navy have any more info beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Just connected with Coast Guard. If we can provide more facts on the vessels in question, they can assist with identifying options. Thanks, Kevin

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:00 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

B5

Someone needs to identify the vessels. That is a central fact here that I don't believe there is clarity on.

Thanks,  
Kevin

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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:56 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin

Wes

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A



**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered. [REDACTED] B5

Wes

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**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ian A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes – it is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

Thanks,  
Kevin

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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM  
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**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin – We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to “break the Israeli blockade.” The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend; board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out of the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S.  
The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).

Thanks!  
Wes

---

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy –  
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

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From: Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels – Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

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To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nill I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Koen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftheros E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, W/n (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Golvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/PA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12858.

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

N7

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 9:09 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Stevers, Marc J; Richter, Kim B  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Levin, Jan; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Usher, William R; Hoyer, Kurt J; Schlereth, Frank G; Grubb, Jason B; Frowlck, George H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Thanks for the ship manifests. Tel Aviv consular section is ready to respond as required over the long weekend. Officer and LES volunteers met this afternoon to share information and coordinate our response. If Amcits are brought to the Port of Ashdod and then disbursed to the airport or detention facilities in Beersheva or elsewhere, we will visit them as soon as allowed. We will do our best to have contact with all Amcits who land at Ashdod, though access to dual nationals may be more difficult. We will stand by for reports from the Naval attaché, media and other sources and will arrange visits to Amcits through the MFA Operations Center, which is coordinating access to foreign nationals.

Points of contact:  
ACS chief Elisa Greene  
[greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)  
+972-57-420-6715

and

Andrew C. Parker  
Consul General  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel. +972-3-519-7671  
Cell +972-54-324-4153  
Fax +972-3-519-0315  
[parkerac@state.gov](mailto:parkerac@state.gov)

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 3:26 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Stevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Greeks finally passed the ship info for the Amcits. The Challenger 1 and 2 are U.S. flagged vessels per Greek port authorities. L has alerted the Coast Guard to this fact.

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**From:** Frowlck, George H  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:31 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A; Braunschweig, John J  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scariatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S; McCarthy,

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Darts, Senior Reviewer

Deborah A  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Attached are crew/passenger manifests for three additional vessels we received (via Cons sections' persistent calls) from the Port of Piraeus.

It shows a number of Amcits (including the retired Ambassador) are on MV Svendoni flagged in Lome, Togo.

It also shows the two US flagged boats (60 ft. MVs) owned by "Western Mediterranean Trips PLU, LLC" based in Wilmington DE. Challenger I is captained by a UK citizen, [REDACTED] Challenger II is Captained by a Greek citizen [REDACTED]

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:13 PM  
**To:** Goodman, Ian A; Reisser, Wesley J; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scariatelli, Adam W; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes,

Thanks for this important update. I'm looping in Teresa Mendel in CA regarding the w/w. (We've already discussed by phone and she'll be in touch with Nicosia's consular section separately.)

Terry

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Goodman, Ian A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:10 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Netos, Eleftherios E; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** 'OPALKA, SCOTT J'; Frowick, George H; Cockrell, John D; McKeever, Matthew X; Scariatelli, Adam W  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in Embassy Athens.

SBU  
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**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 4:08 PM

**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Goodman, Ilan A; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

FYI - Our naval folks are sure the Challenger boats are not U.S. flagged. Would still appreciate concurrence by Emb Athens if at all possible. Terry, this means we would not need anything other than potential w/w if they stop in Cyprus.

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**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 3:58 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Burgess, Richard J  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

ONI and Sixth Fleet are ver confident that the boats are not legitimately US flagged.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7488  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Sent:** Thu May 27 18:16:56 2010  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Frank - Does the Israeli Navy have any more irfo beyond the ship's names? If so we can touch base with the Coast Guard to see if they are American registered and can let us know more about their position on what happens if they are boarded etc.

Wes

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**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:15 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Netos, Eleftherios E  
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[Redacted]

B5

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[Redacted]

Wes

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[Redacted]

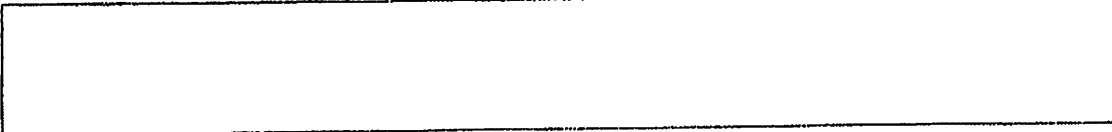
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Wes

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**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

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**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
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To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; LopaKiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michele; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavey, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falis, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Danfel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; DiJworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gisvold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
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Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

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RELEASED IN PART B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

NO

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 8:26 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Cc:** Sindle, James M; Frelich, Karlene H; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Schlereth, Frank G; Slevors, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza  
**Attachments:** Scanned Lists

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Terry

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

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2

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E  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza B5

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[REDACTED]

Thanks,  
Kevin

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[REDACTED]

Wes

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**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desfree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E

**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israël Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels—Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/  
LCDR. Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

---

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM  
**To:** Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Stevers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desirée A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E; Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Greene, David J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Baily, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Gislvoold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S  
**Subject:** Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/PA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12858.

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-845-2298

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

B5

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

N/15

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 30, 2010 6:24 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio\_L.\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G (Belgrade); Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Challenger II Greek flagged; probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio\_L.\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L.\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 19:18:45 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[Large redacted block]

B5

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L.\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L.\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



<Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glaugue, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
Sent: Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010  
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted] B5

The Israells told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; 'Alan [redacted]'; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glaugue, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethf@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glaugue, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted] B5

[redacted]

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B. <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6

[redacted]

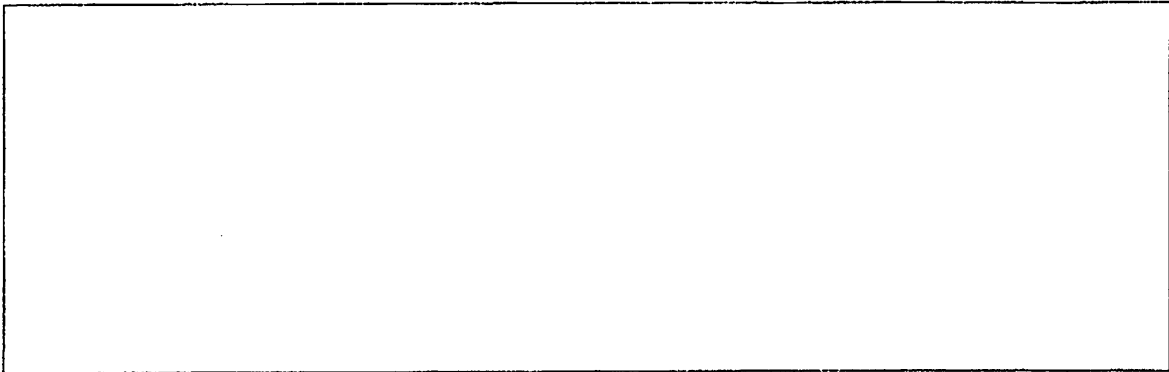
B5

**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana,

B6

Gautam A; Sims, [redacted]; Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.;  
Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J.; Schlereth, Frank G.; Baumert, Kevin A.; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B;  
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan,  
JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI  
**Importance:** High

B6



B5

Clearances requested:

- State/L
- OSD
- NSC
- J-5
- State/NEA
- State/EUR
- State/CA
- State/P
- State/D(S)

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART B5,B3 OTHER,B6

Law, Rosemary C

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Grubb, Jason B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 5:43 AM  
To: Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Rudman, Mara; Waters, John R; Pelton, Erin; Harutunian, Ruben; Levin, Jan  
Subject: FW: Flotilla Update

-----Original Message-----

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:41 PM  
To: [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Burgess, Richard J; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]; Foggo, James G. RDML  
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Gentlemen,

First vessels are currently arriving in Ashdod. No access granted to US Embassy at this time. Hour of phone call with the Chairman is now being discussed.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:38 PM  
To: [redacted]; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Joe -- thanks.  
John, Mike, Gerry -- FYI.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Harry

VADM Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN  
Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet  
Commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO Joint Force Maritime Component Commander  
EUROPE

B6  
B3 OTHER

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:55 AM  
To: SchlerethFG@state.gov; [redacted]; [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; PicaTM@state.gov; MurphyMP@state.gov;  
[redacted]; GrubbJB@state.gov; CNE-CNA-C6F IWO; Dumont, Mike J. SES  
EUCOM  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Thanks Frank. Will call Moses shortly.

VR, JER

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Pica, Tolan M <PicaTM@state.gov>;  
Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted] Grubb, Jason B  
<GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:48:56 2010  
Subject: RE: Flotilla Update

Gentlemen,

IDF reporting that 2 pistols were taken from boarding IDF forces and found on two "violent" activists after apparently firing on soldiers. Magazines of the pistols were found emptied. FYI. IDF COS will speak via phone with Chairman at 1330L (Israeli Time) to personally update him. IDF is providing a briefing to the foreign attaché community at the same time. Will keep all updated of any additional details.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Pica, Tolan M  
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:13:24 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Formal statement from IDF-

May 31st, 2010 IDF Forces Met with Pre-Planned Violence when attempting to Board Flotilla

Early this morning, IDF Naval Forces intercepted six ships attempting to break the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip. This happened after numerous warnings from Israel and the Israel Navy that were issued prior to the action. The Israel Navy requested the ships to redirect toward Ashdod where they would be able to unload their aid material which would then be transferred over land after undergoing security inspections. During the intercept of the ships, the demonstrators onboard attacked the IDF Naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier. The demonstrators had clearly prepared their weapons in advance for this specific purpose. As a result of this life-threatening and violent activity, naval forces employed riot dispersal means, including live fire. According to initial reports, these events resulted in over ten deaths among the demonstrators and numerous injured, in addition, more than four naval personnel were injured, some from gunfire and some from various other weapons. Two of the soldiers are moderately wounded and the remainder sustained light injuries. All of the injured, Israelis and foreigners are currently being evacuated by helicopter to hospitals in Israel. Reports from IDF forces on the scene are that it seems as if part of the participants onboard the ships were planning to lynch the forces. The events are ongoing, and information will be updated as soon as possible. Israeli Naval commander, Vice Admiral Eliezer Marom is overseeing the events. In the coming hours, the ships will be directed to the Ashdod port, while IDF naval forces will perform security checks in order to identify the people on board the ships and their equipment. The IDF Spokesman conveys that this event is currently unfolding and further details will be provided as soon as possible. This IDF naval operation was carried out under orders from the political leadership to halt the flotilla from reaching the Gaza Strip and breaching the naval blockade. The interception of the flotilla followed numerous warnings given to the organizers of the flotilla before leaving their ports as well as while sailing towards the Gaza Strip. In these warnings, it was made clear to the organizers that they could dock in the Ashdod sea port and unload the equipment they are carrying in order to deliver it to the Gaza Strip in an orderly manner, following the appropriate security checks. Upon expressing their unwillingness to cooperate and arrive at the port, it was decided to board the ships and lead them to Ashdod. IDF naval personnel encountered severe violence, including use of weaponry prepared in advance in order to attack and to harm them. The forces operated in adherence with operational commands and took all necessary actions in order to avoid violence, but to no avail. LCDR Frank Schlereth Assistant Naval Attache USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

B6  
B3 OTHER

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Rocco, Michael A. BGen <Michael.Rocco@eucom.mil>; Gardner, John D.  
[redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted]  
[redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:01:17 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
[redacted]

B6

Cc: [redacted] Pica, Tolan M  
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

Sent: Mon May 31 08:59:10 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Israel Navy has confirmed to me that vessels are going to Ashdod despite some reports indicating Haifa.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] Burgess, Richard J; [redacted]  
[redacted] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted]  
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; [redacted]

Sent: Mon May 31 07:17:58 2010  
Subject: Re: Flotilla Update

Thanks Frank. Please keep us posted.

VR, JER

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] Col Richard J. Burgess; [redacted] Pica, Tolan M  
<PicaTM@state.gov>; Murphy, Michael P <MurphyMP@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J <SieversMJ@state.gov>; Grubb, Jason B <GrubbJB@state.gov>; [redacted]

Sent: Mon May 31 06:13:15 2010  
Subject: Flotilla Update

As of 0700L (Israeli Time), the IDF has informed me that the operation involving the flotilla has been underway for approx 2.5 hours. The Israeli forces were met in a "violent" manner. No confirmation of press reports of injured and killed. Expected formal IDF response should be released soon.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J;  
[REDACTED] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy,  
Michael P; [REDACTED] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb,  
Jason B

Sent: Mon May 31 00:14:26 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

The Israel Navy is monitoring and "escorting" the flotilla at this time. As they travel further south, additional steps will be taken to have them arrive in Ashdod.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J;  
[REDACTED] Pica, Tolan M; Murphy,

Michael P; Schlereth, Frank G

Sent: Sun May 30 16:17:09 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

As of 1550L, the Israel Navy assesses the Flotilla is headed south. They expect to intercede in the morning hours of Monday 31 May.

V/R,

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED] Schlereth, Frank G; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Burgess, Richard J

Sent: Sun May 30 14:22:55 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Looping the BWC in.



R/s  
Badfinger

B6  
B3 OTHER

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: 'SchlerethFG@state.gov' <SchlerethFG@state.gov>; [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Sent: Sun May 30 12:26:20 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Thanks Frank... Jack Gardner

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G <SchlerethFG@state.gov>  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Sent: Sun May 30 12:23:17 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Sir,  
Challenger II Greek flagged, probably not participating. Challenger I St. Vincent/Grenadine flagged most likely participating. Israel Navy assesses the flotilla has not yet started to head south, once it does, expect 8-12 hours for interdiction.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-83-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Sat May 29 23:11:40 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

DCOM - responded on NIPR. This is a report from the Israelis. Have received NO confirmation from any US source that the vessels have indeed re-flagged. Discussed with Moses and Frank Schlereth, and they will continue to update us as they get new information. For now, we have policy guidance on how we are to proceed, and COS has issued clear guidance to CNE on what actions they must take in the event of a distress call.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

VR, Joe

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]  
'schlerethfg@state.gov' <schlerethfg@state.gov>  
Sent: Sat May 29 21:33:16 2010

Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Charlie/ Joe - did we confirm this is true ... Not US flagged? Didn't see anything on SIPR.  
Jack

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted] J.  
'schlerethfg@state.gov' <schlerethfg@state.gov> B6-----  
Sent: Sat May 29 12:30:21 2010 B3 OTHER  
Subject: FW: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Chief- FYI. It appears that those 2 vessels that had been flying US flags are no longer flying them. One is flying a Greek flag and the other the St Vincent and Grenada flag. Reported by the Israeli Navy.

Will keep you posted as we learn more.

[redacted]

Deputy Director, J5 Plans & Policy  
U.S. European Command

-----Original Message-----

From: Schlereth, Frank G [mailto:SchlerethFG@state.gov]  
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2010 11:36 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov; Reisser, Wesley J;  
Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana,  
Gautam A; [redacted]  
Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov; Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov; [redacted] Hickey,  
Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]  
[redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth,  
Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K;  
Mortlock, David JL; [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.

LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: Sindle, James M; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>;  
Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted]  
[redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted]  
[redacted]  
'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'  
<Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E;  
Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

RELEASED IN PART B6, B3 OTHER, B8

Law, Rosemary C

B6  
B3 OTHER

N18

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 30, 2010 5:12 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Connelly, Maura; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

The Israel Navy is monitoring and "escorting" the flotilla at this time. As they travel further south, additional steps will be taken to have them arrive in Ashdod.

R/  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-646-2208

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Connelly, Maura; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson, Clifton M  
**Sent:** Sun May 30 01:56:21 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B3 OTHER  
B6

[Large redacted area]

B5

**From:** Connelly, Maura  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 6:38 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] 'Daniel\_B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [redacted] Johnson,

B6  
B3 OTHER

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

Clifton M  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted]  
Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'  
<Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted] Johnson, Clifton M  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 16:49:48 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 12:19 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; [Redacted]  
Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Sat May 29 08:10:31 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

The Israelis told us yesterday that Challenger II had dropped out due to mechanical reasons. The organizations websites are confirming this, including showing pictures of passengers transferring from Challenger II to Mavi Marmara (the Turkish ferryboat with nearly 800 passengers).

B6  
B3 OTHER

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 29, 2010 5:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov'; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov'; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; Burgess, Richard J; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL; [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

Israel Navy just phoned me and stated that the two vessels are no longer flying US flags. One is flying a Greek flag and the other ST. Vincent and Grenada flag.  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attache  
USDAO Tel Aviv  
E-mail: schlerethfg@state.gov  
Office: 972-03-519-7486  
Cell: 972-50-645-2298

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Sindle, James M; 'Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio\_L\_Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]  
[Redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frelch, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura; Harris, Robert K; Mortlock, David JL;

B6

'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil' <Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil>  
Sent: Sat May 29 04:19:38 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B5

[Redacted]

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Glauque, Jeffrey G; Frellich, Karlene H; Connelly, Maura  
Sent: Fri May 28 20:56:36 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: 'Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov' <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>; Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]; 'Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov' <Daniel B. Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; 'Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem G. Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [Redacted]; [Redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Sent: Fri May 28 20:31:47 2010  
Subject: Re: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

From: Aguirre, Sergio L. <Sergio L. Aguirre@nss.eop.gov>  
To: Sindle, James M; Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Lynn, Eric CIV OSD POLICY [Redacted]; Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [Redacted]; [Redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.  
B6  
B3 OTHER

<Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nss.eop.gov>; Kumar, Prem G. <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted]

Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Sent: Fri May 28 19:39:59 2010  
Subject: RE: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI

B6  
B3 OTHER

B5

B6  
B3 OTHER

From: Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]

Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 7:35 PM

To: Reisser, Wesley J; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Waller, Robert P; Rana, Gautam A; [redacted] Shapiro, Daniel B.; Kumar, Prem G.; Aguirre, Sergio L.; Burgess, Richard J; Schlereth, Frank G; Baumert, Kevin A; Hickey, Mary E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; [redacted] Sievers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Dolan, JoAnn; Bernier-Toth, Michelle

Subject: Draft Points on Free Gaza for GOI  
Importance: High

[Large redacted area]

B5

Clearances requested:

- State/L
- OSD
- NSC
- J-5
- State/NEA
- State/EUR
- State/CA
- State/P
- State/D(S)

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B6

NZZ

Law, Rosemary C

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:04 PM  
To: Burgess, Richard J; Sindle, James M; Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andrea; Pomper, Stephen E; Perina, Alexandra H; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A;

B6

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

I have added Stephen Pomper and Alexandra Perina who are handling for L/PM and are in the best position to coordinate with DOD lawyers.

-----Original Message-----

From: Burgess, Richard J  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:59 PM  
To: Sindle, James M; Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andrea; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Jim, all

FYI, when Frank Schlereth and I met with IDF JS this afternoon, and then with some of his staff afterwards, it was clear to them (their opinion) that they had legal authority to intercept an inbound force in international waters whose "stated intentions" and demonstrated actions were to attempt to break a blockade which is in place via a recognized interim agreement.

Richard J. "Moses" Burgess, Col, USAF  
US Senior Defense Official, Defense and Air Attache to Israel US Defense Attache Office  
71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv, Israel, 63903  
Work: +972-3-519-7333  
Cell: +972-50-523-2542

-----Original Message-----

From: Sindle, James M  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:53 PM  
To: Gordon, Philip H; Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay, Andrea; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Bbrink@nsc.eop.gov'; McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J;

1

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



Marsh, Denise M; Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S;  
[redacted] JCS JS AQ'; [redacted] Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson,  
Linda; Dolan, JoAnn; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

B6

According to attachment and in several statements, GOI believes that they are in armed  
conflict with Hamas in Gaza and have the right to enforce blockade, including interdicting  
ships in international waters that intend to break that blockade. [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Gordon, Philip H  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:35 PM  
To: Jeffrey, James F; Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center;  
Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese,  
Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey  
D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy,  
Michael P; Clay, Andreia; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov'; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov';  
McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M;  
Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Isr Amb Oren told D-Steinberg that Israel would release/deport all the people forthwith. Did  
not address plans for the ships.

----- Original Message -----

From: Jeffrey, James F  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara  
(Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Clay,  
Andreia; 'elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-randall@nsc.eop.gov' <elizabeth\_d\_sherwood-  
randall@nsc.eop.gov>; 'bbrink@nsc.eop.gov' <bbrink@nsc.eop.gov>; Gordon, Philip H;  
McEldowney, Nancy E; Kaidanow, Tina S; Baily, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Marsh, Denise M;  
Waser, Tamir G; Silliman, Douglas A; Ankara-POL-DL; Wolff, Alexis S; Rice, Susan E (USUN)  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:27:49 2010  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla: TU Parliament For Aff Comm Chief Murat Mercan on Next Steps

Aside from stressing as Amb Tan did to Phil Gordon need for Am 'condemnation' of Israel  
Mercan-who can speak usually better for AKP leadership and Erdogan than MFA, Told Codel  
Delahunt and me that of particular importance for Turks is immediate release of Turkish ships  
and all personnel. He asserted and we need to look at, that under international law  
enforcing a blockade does not convey the right to seize people/property. [redacted]

B5

[redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jari; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Hale, David M; Murphy, Michael P; Schlereth, Frank G; Clay, Andreia  
Sent: Mon May 31 19:27:09 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

All,

The DATT and I met with the IDF J5 MG Amir Eshel. The majority of the conversation involved details already provided via multiple sources. Additional highlights below -

- MG Eshel stressed link between IHM organization and Muslim Brotherhood. Clear action on part of individuals on MAVI MARMARA to incite violence. Beat first wave of soldiers who arrived on board via Fast Rope. Several Rhibs and 3 Blackhawks were used in action against MAVI MARMARA. Took approximately an hour for INF forces (Flotilla 13(Navy Seals)) to gain control of the vessel. All 6 boats were boarded at approximately the same time(0400-0500L) in international waters. Violence isolated to MAVI MARMARA. Medical attention rendered to all injured.
- As of 1700L 3-4 of the vessels are in port Ashdod. MAVI MARMARA to arrive soon.
- All IDF forces are monitoring for reaction, but currently no heightened activity on borders or in Gaza. Some minor incidents involving Israeli Arabs within Israel (stone throwing), Israeli Arab protests and strike expected tomorrow. IDF continuing to monitor situation to determine reactions.
- Several meetings and conversations with Turkish officials have taken place. There is concern for safety of Israeli representatives in Turkey.
- Air exercise that has been taking place in Crete with Greeks has been stopped by the Greeks and the IAF assets have been asked to leave.
- GOI and IDF focused on getting the facts out. Multiple video clips depicting violence against IDF forces being released. They will review the operation internally.
- No decision on reaction to any additional vessels that may attempt to head to Gaza.
- We are awaiting response on CHALLENGER I Flag and any status of AMCITs.
- At this time, unclear if any riot related gas, etc was used.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Murphy, Michael P  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 4:37 PM  
To: Schlereth, Frank G; Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese,

Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Hale, David M  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

Ma'am, Sir,

Notes from briefing by BG Yossi Heymann, Deputy J-5 at 1400 31 May 2010.

BG Heymann-

"There was a significant event this morning, we don't have all the details, and we are still in the event. We will continue to update you."

BG Heymann then moved to a prepared, written statement beginning with the assertion that the Gaza Strip is ruled by a hostile enemy, HAMAS, that does not recognize the State of Israel. HAMAS encourages and executes hostile activity against Israel and is currently holding an Israeli citizen, Gilad Shalit, against international convention.

The naval blockade was established prevent smuggling that supports terrorist activity.

The Free Gaza flotilla was organized by the Turkish IHH which is belligerent towards Israel and supports the Muslim Brotherhood.

Israel tried different avenues to prevent the flotilla from launching to include communications with the ships' owning countries and companies to no avail. Israel expressed willingness to transfer any non-contraband supplies via established land procedures and Israel continues to look for ways to ameliorate the human conditions in Gaza. Israel assesses that there is no Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza.

When the organizers of the flotilla showed no desire to divert to Ashdod when requested by the Government of Israel (GoI), the GoI made the decision to board the ships in strict accordance with international law and with a desire to minimize damage to the ships and injury to passengers.

Boarding of the ships.

During boarding of the ship Mavi Marmara, Israel Navy (INF) Personnel encountered "severe physical violence" including knives, clubs and firearms. 1 INF weapon was seized by passengers. Due to a clear and present danger to INF personnel, the INF initiated contact using riot control systems (NFI) then transitioned to live fire. The injured in the event, both Israeli and foreign, have been transferred to "4-5 hospitals."

Short term future actions.

Provision of Medical attention to the wounded.

Non-contraband supplies, after inspection and processing, will be transferred to Gaza.

An IDF investigation will be initiated.

The GoI continues to see HAMAS as a terrorist group. (Note: this seemed out of place in the context of the current topic of the briefing).

Israel is taking action to prevent escalation of the situation.

Israel will "respond heavily" to any entity seeking to provoke escalation.

Legal Aspects

BG Heymann indicated that a separate briefing would be provided on the legal aspects of the operation. This was the attachment provided on LCDR Schlereth's earlier summary. A copy is attached as well to this email.

Questions from the assembled group.

What are the nationalities of the casualties?

No information yet, should have details in "a few hours." This information will be transmitted via "diplomatic" channels, not military.

Where are the ships?

2 ships are at Ashdod, to include the Challenger I (as of 1415). The Challenger has US citizens, European citizens and at least one Israeli citizen. The Mavi Marmara should arrive to Ashdod between 1700-1800.

What will happen to passengers?

Passengers will have 2 options. Accept immediate extradition or be jailed by Israeli authorities. By "tonight," all personal details should be known.

Any information on nationalities?

Information will be passed to the Ambassador.

What time and where did boarding occur?

Between 0500-0600, 70 NM from Israel in international waters. All 6 ships were boarded. Only on the Mavi Marmara was serious violence encountered. One other minor incident occurred on a second ship. All casualties were on the Mavi Marmara.

Was permission granted to board the ships?

Unknown at this time.

What weapons were encountered?

One INF sailor was seriously wounded by rifle or pistol fire. 2 pistols were seized from dead passengers. One INF weapon was seized by the passengers during boarding.

What international reaction has occurred?

HAMAS has declared 3 days of mourning. Turkey has recalled its Ambassador. Israeli Ambassador to Turkey was summoned to the Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and was passed a "serious message."

BG Heymann spoke with UNIFIL, and MFO to coordinate for de-escalation efforts in Lebanon and Egypt.

The INF assesses that there were Jordanians on the ships, but no details were given. If there are Syrian or Lebanese citizens on the ships, then they will be transferred via the Red Cross and UN to their respective countries.

The MoD and IDF sent messages to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Arab Community to not escalate the situation. At least one Palestinian passenger may have been wounded.

BG Heymann pointed out that there has been no US reaction as of yet.

Casualties?

10-14 passengers severely wounded or killed, all on the Mavi Marmara. A total of 30 passengers now at 4-5 Israeli hospitals.

10 INF wounded, 1 seriously, one moderately

Why were the ships boarded in international waters?

BG Heymann started by saying the organizers were warned that the GoI would respond to any provocation and the Free Gaze flotilla was meant only as a provocation. He then said he would not get into operational details, but the INF intercepted at 70 NM in accordance with international law as the flotilla made it clear that its intention was to violate the Israeli exclusion zone.

Did the INF know what was on board?

Only through press accounts, but INF assessed contraband items such as concrete, and iron.

Intentions for the ships?

The ships will remain at Ashdod until further notice.

Very Respectfully,

LTC Michael Murphy  
Acting Army Attaché

-----Original Message-----

From: Schlereth, Frank G  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:08 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; Schlereth, Frank G  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

I have spoken with LTC Mike Murphy, USDAO, who attended a briefing given by BG Yossi Heymann. Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific Highlights

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

LTC Murphy will write a formal summary upon his return to the Embassy. DATT and I will attend briefing with JS at 1700L.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from Gen. Dangot, the COGAT, who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

Dangot reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning he and Barak made the following calls/contacts:  
--Turkish FM and MoD (Barak); Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh (Dangot). He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan  
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Schlereth, Frank G; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010  
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.

-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.

-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.

-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B3 OTHER, B5, B6

A/47

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:35 PM  
**To:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Knopf, Payton L; Sachar, Alon (NEA/PA)  
**Cc:** Baumert, Kevin A; Maggi, Robert W; Maxwell, Raymond D; EUR-SE-DAR-DL; Schlereth, Frank G; Burgess, Richard J; Slevers, Marc J; Grubb, Jason B; Levlin, Jan  
**Subject:** DoD Contacting Gaza Flotilla Ships  
**Importance:** High

According to the below email from DoD's National Military Command Center (their version of OPS), DoD DID NOT/NOT deliver the maritime warning to U.S. vessels on Friday, May 30 before the Israeli boarding. Furthermore, DoD does not believe that they have equities in contacting U.S. vessels.

Jim Sindle

-----Original Message-----

**From:** NJOIC POLICY JCS J-5 JCS J-3 B6  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 2:13 PM  
**To:** [redacted] B3 OTHER  
**Cc:** [redacted] NJOIC POLICY JCS J-5 JCS J-3; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Contacting Gaza Flotilla Ships B3 OTHER  
B6

[redacted]  
 Follow-up to your phonecon with the Battle Capt a few minutes ago. BLUF: Recommend the tasker to contact US ships participating in the Gaza Flotilla be directed to State Dept. (They don't know what they are talking about here because we never got this bounced back to us.)

- Over the weekend, NJOIC attempted to comply with JS instruction to contact US flagged/owned vessels participating in the Gaza Flotilla to forward the NSS approved message regarding Israeli sovereignty and shipping to Gaza, despite the lack of Joint Staff or OSD equities in the matter.

[redacted] B5  
 They could broadcast a general notice to all mariners.

[redacted] B5

- USCG had difficulty verifying Challenger I and II identity and ownership (many ships by that name). They had no success in contacting the parent company (in Delaware) of the suspected vessels.

- EUCOM was contacted, and EUCOM Chief of Staff determined that this was an Israeli Law Enforcement issue - not a DoD lane - and that even so, [redacted] B5

- NJOIC concluded, based on Open Source Internet sites reporting on the Free Gaza Flotilla, that all ships involved were well aware of the purpose and risks involved in approaching Israeli naval boundaries.

At this point, NJOIC recommends against DoD being responsible for contact with potential US vessels still involved with the Free Gaza movement. [redacted] B5

V/R,  
 NJOIC Policy Desk - Pentagon

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer



National Joint Operations Intelligence Center (NJOIC)



B6

RELEASED IN PART B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

N33

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 11:46 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; Tel Aviv POL Section  
**Subject:** FW: NOTMAR on Gaza  
**Attachments:** GazaNotice.pdf; GazaHYDROLANT.pdf

**Categories:** Working

Colleagues,

Attached is the USCG Notice to Mariners regarding the Gaza flotilla that went out yesterday. (Paul: I've already sent separately to NEA/PPD).

V/R,  
Jim Sindle

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil [mailto:Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 7:36 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Kumar, Prem G.; Connors, Timothy CDR; [redacted] Cook, Pauline F CAPT;  
Christensen, Eric CAPT; Sollosi, Mike  
**Subject:** RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Mr. Sindle:

The Gaza notice has been published in all Coast Guard Local Notices to Mariners (LNM) except the 11th District (California). I expect the 11th District's LNM to be published today. A copy of the notice as it appeared in the 8th District's (Gulf of Mex) LNM is attached. The notice also appears on the Coast Guard's Navigation Center website (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>).

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) has issued the notice as a NAVAREA IV (Atlantic), NAVAREA XII (Pacific), HYDROLANT, and HYDROPAC warning. A copy of the HYDROLANT warning is attached.

V/R,  
Frank Parker  
Commandant (CG-5531)  
Office of Navigation Systems

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Charles Daris, Senior Reviewer

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)  
US COAST GUARD  
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580  
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580  
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil  
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.l@uscg.smil.mil  
Tel: (202) 372-1551  
Fax: (202) 372-1992

-----Original Message-----

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 4:50 PM  
To: Parker, Frank; Connors, Timothy CDR; [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT;  
Christensen, Eric CAPT; Sollosi, Mike  
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.  
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

USCG Colleagues:

I just wanted to follow-up and find out what the status was on the Gaza flotilla NOTMAR going out. Any updates?

Thanks,

Jim Sindle

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: Sindle, James M  
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 7:45 AM  
To: 'Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil'; 'Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil'  
Cc: [REDACTED] 'Pauline.F.Cook@uscg.mil'; 'Eric.P.Christensen@uscg.mil';  
'Mike.M.Sollosi@uscg.mil'  
Subject: Re: NOTMAR on Gaza

Colleagues,

State will release a press statement in early June shortly before the flotillas prepare to leave. But it seemed understood at the IPC that USCG was going to get the cleared NOTMAR out in April (the IPC was APR 4). Several principals, including SecState, have already referenced it as already being transmitted. Anything that USCG can do to expedite this would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Jim Sindle  
NEA/IPA

----- Original Message -----

From: Parker, Frank [mailto:Franklin.L.Parker@uscg.mil]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 12:07 PM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR <Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil>  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT  
<Pauline.F.Cook@uscg.mil>; Christensen, Eric CAPT <Eric.P.Christensen@uscg.mil>; Sindle, James M; Sollosi, Mike <Mike.M.Sollosi@uscg.mil>  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

CDR:

There is a process in place to issue these types of notices. I have attached a 2-page extract from our Aids to Nav Admin Manual (COMDTINST M16500.7A). I do not mind sending the notice to NGA and the Districts, but I don't want to step on any toes at State or NGA.

Frank Parker  
Commandant (CG-5531)  
Office of Navigation Systems

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)  
US COAST GUARD  
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580  
WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580  
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil  
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.l@uscg.smil.mil  
Tel: (202) 372-1551  
Fax: (202) 372-1992

-----Original Message-----

From: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 11:46 AM  
To: Parker, Frank; SindleJM@state.gov  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT; Christensen, Eric CAPT; Connors, Timothy CDR  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Frank,

Attached is the final version of the notice that cleared through State and here in the building. I wasn't at the IPC, so I'm not certain what MARAD has planned. I think State has already issued a warning on the issue, and the language of the notice is synchronized with the State warning. Included Jim Sindle on this e-mail to confirm that.

V/R,

TPC

CDR Tim Connors  
Chief, Operations Law Group  
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)  
Office: (202) 372-3798  
Cell: (202) 441-4971  
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil  
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Parker, Frank  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 7:27 AM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cook, Pauline F CAPT; Christensen, Eric CAPT  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

Cdr Connors:

I haven't seen a copy of the notice, but I can push one through to the districts and NGA. Do you know whether MARAD is going to issue anything? Should the notice go through State and be issued as a Special Warning?

Frank Parker  
Commandant (CG-5531)  
Office of Navigation Systems

COMMANDANT (CG-5531)  
US COAST GUARD  
2100 2ND STREET SW STOP 7580

WASHINGTON DC 20593-7580  
E-mail: frank.parker@uscg.mil  
SIPRNET: parker.franklin.1@uscg.smil.mil  
Tel: (202) 372-1551  
Fax: (202) 372-1992

-----Original Message-----

From: Christensen, Eric CAPT  
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 7:20 AM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Cc: [redacted] Parker, Frank; Cook, Pauline F CAPT  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Tim,

Frank Parker in CG-553 was the coordinator for the release of the Japan radiation advisory, so he can assist here also. If we have a text to go out please pass to Frank.

Eric P. Christensen  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
CG-543

-----Original Message-----

From: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:51 PM  
To: Christensen, Eric CAPT  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: FW: NOTMAR on Gaza

Sir,

Appears as if there was some disconnect on the NOTAM. Not sure who would send the NOTAM, but it appears as if it has cleared and is ready to go.

V/r

TPC

CDR Tim Connors  
Chief, Operations Law Group  
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)  
Office: (202) 372-3798  
Cell: (202) 441-4971  
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil  
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: prvs=1174c06b8=Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov  
[mailto:prvs=1174c06b8=Prem\_G.\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov] On Behalf Of Kumar, Prem G.  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:42 PM  
To: Connors, Timothy CDR; SindleJM@state.gov; [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR;  
Baumert, Kevin A  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

Can we release it now? We at NSS thought it would go out per the IPC several weeks ago.

Thanks,

Prem G. Kumar  
Director for Israeli and Palestinian Affairs National Security Council  
Tel: 202-456-9121  
Fax: 202-456-9120  
Email: pkumar@nsc.eop.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil [mailto:Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:30 PM  
To: SindleJM@state.gov; [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Kumar, Prem G.  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Jim,

Our understanding is that the request from NSS never came.

Thanks

Tim Connors

CDR Tim Connors  
Chief, Operations Law Group  
Office of Maritime and International Law (CG-0941)  
Office: (202) 372-3798  
Cell: (202) 441-4971  
Unclas: Timothy.P.Connors@uscg.mil  
SIPR: ConnorsT@uscg.smil.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:27 PM  
To: [redacted] Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Connors, Timothy CDR; Kumar, Prem G.  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

[redacted]

Why wasn't the NOTMAR sent out? I understand that it was supposed to have been sent out in response to a request by the NSS.

Thanks,

Jim Sindle  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs U.S. Department of State  
Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov  
202-647-4386 (office)

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:24 PM  
To: Sindle, James M; Polizzotto, Susan; Baumert, Kevin A  
Cc: Connors, Timothy CDR  
Subject: RE: NOTMAR on Gaza

B6

Mr. Sindle,

The latest on this is that it has not been sent out.

Very respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Operations Law Group  
Commandant (CG-09412)  
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters  
2100 Second St., SW Stop 7121  
Washington, DC 20593-7121

[REDACTED]

(NCC for duty matters 24/7) 202-372-2100

[REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: SindleJM@state.gov [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov]  
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 11:00 AM  
To: Polizzotto, Susan CDR; Baumert, Kevin A; [REDACTED]  
Subject: NOTMAR on Gaza  
Importance: High

Colleagues:

Does anyone know if this NOTMAR has gone out yet? If so, when was it sent out and can I please get a final version?

Thanks,

Jim Sindle  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED



RELEASED IN FULL

N58

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 5:34 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus

To reduce confusion, please note the following information based on reporting from Embassy Nicosia and USCG contacts with Cypriot port authorities:

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger II has suffered extensive damages and is on the ground in Limassol. It arrived in Cyprus after showing ingress of water and will remain out of the water for at least a month.

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger III (formerly, the Greek-flagged Dimitris K) is in the water at Limassol new port, but without crew or passengers and is chained to the pier by port and marine police.

--Both vessels are U.S.-flagged. The Challenger II had previously been Greek-owned, flagged in Honduras and known as the Nitta II. The Challenger III, had previously been the Cyprus-flagged and owned Dimitris K.

--Cypriot port authorities in Limassol have told Embassy Nicosia they do not intend to let any vessel depart to participate in the flotilla.

*Terry Netos*  
Cyprus Desk Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of European Affairs/Office of Southern Europe  
Tel.: +1-202-647-6760  
Fax: +1-202-647-5087

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN PART B6

P66

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:** O'Grady, Daniel J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2010 1:12 AM  
**To:** Ahn, Michael; Price, Adam P; Mineo, Mark R  
**Cc:** Miles, Barbara J  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Meeting

**Categories:** Working

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Bally, Jess L  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 11:56 PM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M; Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L.; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Meeting

Susan, Rich – many thanks to you and your sections for your help with Amcits in the Free Gaza flotilla. Jess

**From:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:54 PM  
**To:** Wiener, Sharon A (Istanbul); Dayton, John W (Win) (Istanbul); Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Appleton, Richard H; Ogle, Karen L.; Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul)  
**Cc:** Silliman, Douglas A; O'Grady, Daniel J; Howard, Jeremiah H; Bally, Jess L; Riley, Robert J; Schrank, Alexander D; Taylor, Victoria J  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Meeting

All – please see below from NEA/IPA – it is the interview CA and NEA conducted today with [redacted] who was aboard the Challenger I. There are a couple of mentions of CONGEN Istanbul.

B6

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2010 3:17 PM  
**To:** Marsh, Denise M  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Meeting

Denise, Wanted to share this with you and for you to share with the ConGen as well.  
Wes

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

6/14/2010

**(SBU) Meeting with Free Gaza Participant**

Edit

CA/OCS and NEA/IPA met today with [redacted] who was on board the Challenger I and arrested as part of the Free Gaza flotilla. [redacted] previously has visited Gaza three times since Operation Cast Lead and was involved in the failed Gaza Freedom March last year, which ended in Cairo with Egyptian refusal to enter at Rafah.

B6

[redacted] made several requests to the Department including:

- To press the GOI to release the ships to their owners;
- Have a U.S. investigation into the death of Amcit Furkan Dogan;
- Gain the return of personal possessions from the Challenger and Svendoni ([redacted] believes that only possessions on the Mavi Marmara were transferred to Turkey and ConGen Istanbul is working to confirm if any belongings of Amcits remain unclaimed);
- Request that consular officers visit the ships to ensure no personal property remains on board;
- Request that Israel return electronic equipment to its owners (she stated that it was fine if the memory was wiped clean on them, but that the equipment should be returned);
- Have international participation in the investigation, which she understood may already have been announced by Israel.

[redacted] described the conditions at Ben Gurion prior to her removal as "brutal." She stated that along with 11 other female detainees, she was forced to remain in a prison van for 5 hours with no water or ability to use a bathroom. There were many altercations between deportees and security officials, which she claimed were started when security officials struck individuals.

Finally, [redacted] expressed her thanks to both Embassy Tel Aviv and ConGen Istanbul consular staff, for their assistance to Free Gaza participants!  
Posted at 3:00 PM by Reisser, Wesley J << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> << OLE Object: Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) >> | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

*Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.*  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs  
(202) 647-2647 (Unclass phone)

<ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

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

On 5/29 IHH Deputy President Yavuz Dede informed post that:

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

--- On Fri, 5/28/10, Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov> wrote:

From: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul) <AmodeoSA@state.gov>  
Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sindle, James M" <SindleJM@state.gov>, "Struwe, Rebecca L" <StruweRL@state.gov>, "Richter, Kim B" <RichterKB@state.gov>, "Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria" <LopatkiewiczV@state.gov>, "Bernier-Toth, Michelle" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Mendel, Teresa S" <MendelTS@state.gov>, "Sievers, Marc J" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Levin, Jan" <LevinJ@state.gov>, "Burnett, David R" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Baron, Desiree A" <BaronDA@state.gov>, "Adams, Julie D" <AdamsJD2@state.gov>, "Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>, "Greene, Elisa" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Zeroubavely, Sandra S" <zeroubavelyss@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov>, "Burgess, Richard J" <BurgessRJ@state.gov>, "Chere, John E" <ChereJS@state.gov>, "Waters, John R" <WatersJR@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Towry, Debra J" <TowryDJ@state.gov>, "Hanania, Vera V" <HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Lewis, Glenn K" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "Beran, Sarah" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Greengrass, Sara D" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "Kaplan, Dean" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Walker, Carolee B" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Finver, Frank J" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "Greene, David J"

<HananiaVV@state.gov>, "Nili IWeinfeld" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Glenn KLewis" <LewisGK@state.gov>, "SarahBeran" <BeranS@state.gov>, "Sara DGreengrass" <GreengrassSD@state.gov>, "DeanKaplan" <KaplanDM@state.gov>, "Carolee BWalker" <WalkerCB@state.gov>, "Frank JFinver" <FinverFJ@state.gov>, "David JGreene" <GreeneDJ@state.gov>, "Nicholas JManring" <ManringNJ@state.gov>, "Paul HTyson" <TysonPH@state.gov>, "Robert WMaggi" <MaggiRW@state.gov>, "Jeffrey DFrederick" <FrederickJD@state.gov>, "Eric GFalls" <FallsEG@state.gov>, "Julia GReed" <ReedJG@state.gov>, "Kees CDavison" <DavisonKC@state.gov>, "Karen LOgle" <OgleKL@state.gov>, "Daniel GKeen" <KeenDG@state.gov>, "Jeremiah JerryHoward" <HowardJ@state.gov>, "Yolanda A" <ParraYA@state.gov>, "Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Amany A" <OsmanAA@state.gov>, "Eleftherios E" <NetosEE@state.gov>, "Victoria J" <TaylorVJ@state.gov>, "Robert J" <RileyRJ@state.gov>, "Win (Istanbul)" <DaytonJW@state.gov>, "Denise M" <MarshDM@state.gov>, "Jess L" <BailyJL@state.gov>, "Christina (Istanbul)" <TomlinsonC@state.gov>, "Susan K (Istanbul)" <AbeytaSK@state.gov>, "Lisa C (Istanbul)" <GisvoldLC@state.gov>, "Douglas A" <SillimanDA@state.gov>, "Matthew S" <RosenstockMS@state.gov>, "Ilan A" <GoodmanIA@state.gov>, "Wesley J" <ReisserWJ@state.gov>, "Metin (Istanbul)" <CetinMX@state.gov>  
Date: Saturday, May 29, 2010, 7:01 AM

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Subject: Free Gaza Update - IHH ships heading toward rendezvous point off of Cyprus  
To: "Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul)" <AmodeoSA@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Sindle, James M"

[redacted] cont'd

- taupe scarf from Bangladesh -cotton-about 2 ft by 5 ft 30.00
- necklace sterling silver and black rubber--100.00 (designer Boston)
- new v neck medium blue three quarter sleeve cotton tshirt blouse 36.00
- black skirt=Jones polyester 58.00
- maroon skirt cotton/linen 20.00
- cotton long blouse by Zara (Spain) beige with embroidery-black, maroon--front, back
- sleeves with ties 60.00
- 2 black silk under blouses, sleeveless, jewel neck 40.00
- teva sandals 60.00
- light blue blue sandals 15.00
- underwear 30.00
- cotton blouse by Zara grey 40.00
- black cardigan summer sweater with 3/4 sleeves -polyester 50.00
- cotton pants with strings on bottom grey in color-tie waist 90.00
- free gaza hats- 3 30.00
- 2 t shirts
- Bank of American bank card--used in tel aviv--will send bank docs
- credit card expired visa chase--will check to see if tried to use
- Discovery card--not used before--also believe out of date--so hopefully not used--
- Health card, Cigna
- 380.00 US cash
- Drivers License California

! Issued #21 for electronics:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HDV sony camcorder Z5U | 4300.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 mini dv tapes       | 150.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 mgbite chip         | 60.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mono/tri pod           | 140.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone and cord    | 240.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> eee Computer and cord  | 450.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flash drive            | 30.00   |

[redacted] Property List on the Challenger 1-Gaza Flotilla

My luggage, computer, camera and cell phone were taken by the IDF on the Challenger 1 boat. We had only [redacted] on the ship. [redacted] All of our luggage was put in the forward cabin. All electronics were taken from us, batteries taken out and taped to the equipment and a number for each passenger placed on it. [redacted]

- Small light purple/lilac colored suitcase with wheels. An airline name tag was on the outside of the bag. Value-- \$500. Contents:
  - several t-shirts with Gaza logos
  - two pairs of slacks
  - 2 dress jackets

JUDGE HOLWELL

11 CIV 4105

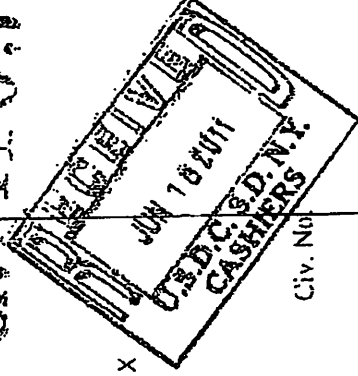
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DR. ALAN J. BAUER

Plaintiff,

-against-

**RELEASED IN FULL**



Civ. No.

THE MAVI MARMARA,  
THE AUDACITY OF HOPE,  
THE RACHIEL CORRIE,  
THE CHALLENGER I,  
THE CHALLENGER II,  
THE GAZZE,  
THE TALL,  
THE ARION,  
THE SPENDONI (BOAT 8000),  
THE TAMARA (ELIETTI/IRI MESOGHIOS),  
THE SEVEN Y TWO (IRENE),  
THE FINCH,  
THE TAHRIR,  
and THE STEFANO CHIRIANI,

COMPLAINT

Defendants.

----- X

Plaintiff, by his counsel, hereby alleges for his Complaint as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is an informer's action under 18 U.S.C. § 962, seeking forfeiture of the vessels listed below (the "Defendant Vessels"):

- The Mavi Marmara,
- The Audacity of Hope,
- The Rachiel Corrie,
- The Challenger I,
- The Challenger II,
- The Gazze,

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

commit hostilities against the State of Israel, a state with which the United States is at peace. Specifically, the Defendant Vessels have been and/or will be used to violate Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip, and to otherwise commit hostilities against Israel.

4. The plaintiff, Dr. Alan J. Bauer, is an American citizen and a professional biologist. On March 21, 2002, Dr. Bauer and his young son were severely injured in a bombing attack carried out by Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem, Israel.

5. The plaintiff has informed the United States Attorney General that the Defendant Vessels have been furnished and fitted out, and/or that attempts have been made to furnish and fit out the Defendant Vessels, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 932, Exhibit A.

6. The plaintiff is therefore an "informer" within the meaning of § 932, and thus is entitled to one half of the proceeds of the forfeiture of the Defendant Vessels.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 18 U.S.C. § 962.

8. Venue is proper in this Court because violations of 18 U.S.C. § 962 giving rise to the forfeiture took place in the Southern District of New York.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

9. In 2007, the Hamas terrorist organization seized power in the Gaza Strip, and began to carry out systematic rocket and missile attacks against civilian targets in Israel, which killed and injured a large number of civilians and caused extensive property damage.

10. Thereafter, in order to limit Hamas' ability to receive material support enabling it to carry out such attacks, the State of Israel imposed a maritime blockade on the Gaza Strip.



11. Following the imposition of Israel's maritime blockades on the Gaza Strip, anti-Israel organizations in the U.S., together with a coalition of violent and/or militant anti-Israel organizations from other countries, initiated and organized efforts to breach Israel's blockade, to harm Israeli security and to support the Hamas-controlled government in the Gaza Strip, by sending the Defendant Vessels to the Gaza Strip, and raised funds in the U.S. with which they purchased, equipped, furnished and fitted out the Defendant Vessels for that purpose.

12. The anti-Israel organizations in the U.S. referred to in the previous paragraph include, without limitation, the "Free Gaza Movement" and the "U.S. Boat to Gaza project" (collectively hereinafter: "U.S. Organizational Offenders").

13. The U.S. Organizational Offenders raised funds in the U.S. with which they purchased, equipped, furnished and fitted out the Defendant Vessels, for the purposes stated above, from donors located in the U.S., using internet sites located and operated in the U.S., via affiliated organizations in the U.S., and using bank accounts located in the United States.

14. The U.S.-based internet sites, affiliated organizations and bank accounts referred to in the previous paragraph include the following:

*a. Internet Sites*

The U.S. Organizational Offenders raised funds in the U.S., with which they purchased, equipped, furnished and fitted out the Defendant Vessels, for the purposes stated above, through the following internet sites located and operated in the U.S.:

<http://www.freegaza.org>

<http://ustogaza.org>

<http://ustogazawest.org>

*b. Affiliated Organizations / Bank Accounts*

The U.S. Organizational Offenders raised funds in the U.S., with which they purchased, equipped, furnished and fitted out the Defendant Vessels, for the purposes stated above, by soliciting donations that were channeled through the following U.S.-based organizations and their U.S.-based bank accounts:

Institute for Media Analysis  
143 West 4th Street #2F  
New York, NY 10012

Stand for Justice  
PO Box 373  
Bearsville, NY 12409

American Educational Trust LE  
PO Box 53347  
Washington, DC 20009

15. The U.S. Organizational Offenders, together with a coalition of violent and/or militant anti-Israel organizations from other countries, have attempted and/or are intending to attempt to violate Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip using the Defendant Vessels, with the common purpose of violating and undermining Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, harming Israeli security and supporting the Hamas-controlled government in the Gaza Strip. For example, the "U.S. Boat to Gaza project" has explained that the Defendant Vessels are being used "to break the blockade of Gaza and to end the occupation of Palestine." Therefore, the U.S. Organizational Offenders and the coalition of violent and/or militant anti-Israel organizations with which they are allied and acting jointly for the purposes described above are acting "in the service of [a] ... colony, district, or people" within the meaning of § 962. *See The Three Friends*, 17 S.Ct. 495, 500 (1897) (Holding that 18 U.S.C. § 23, now codified at § 962, applies to any group "associated together in a common political enterprise" against a U.S. ally).

16. The efforts and attempts to violate and undermine Israel's maritime blockade of the Gaza Strip, to harm Israeli security and to support the Hamas-controlled government in the Gaza Strip using the Defendant Vessels, constitute cruising and committing hostilities against the subjects, citizens, and property of the State of Israel, with whom the United States is at peace.

CLAIM FOR FORFEITURE

17. The preceding paragraphs are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

18. Persons acting within the U.S. have furnished and fitted out and attempted to furnish and fit out the Defendant Vessels, with the intent that the Defendant Vessels be employed in the service of a colony, district, or people, to cruise and commit hostilities against the subjects, citizens and property of the State of Israel, with whom the United States is at peace.

19. Plaintiff has notified the Attorney General of the facts above, and is therefore an "informer" within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 962.

20. Accordingly, the Defendant Vessels, and their tackle, apparel, and furniture, together with all materials, arms, ammunition, and stores which may have been procured for the building and equipment thereof, should be forfeited, one half to the use of the plaintiff and the other half to the use of the United States.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays that all persons having an interest in the Defendant Vessels be summoned to appear and show cause why the Defendant Vessels (and their tackle, apparel, and furniture, together with all materials, arms, ammunition, and stores which may have been procured for the building and equipment thereof) should not be forfeited, that this Court decree forfeiture of the Defendant Vessels (and their tackle, apparel, and furniture, together with

June 13, 2011

BY FEDERAL EXPRESS AND BY FAX: (202) 307-6777

Hon. Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
United States Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Violations of Section 962 of Title 18 of the United States Code

Dear Attorney General Holder,

As you are aware 18 U.S.C. § 962 provides in relevant part as follows:

Whoever, within the United States, furnishes, fits out, arms, or attempts to furnish, fit out or arm, any vessel, with intent that such vessel shall be employed in the service of any foreign prince, or state, or of any colony, district, or people, to cruise, or commit hostilities against the subjects, citizens, or property of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States is at peace ...

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

Every such vessel, her tackle, apparel, and furniture, together with all materials, arms, ammunition, and stores which may have been procured for the building and equipment thereof, shall be forfeited, one half to the use of the informer and the other half to the use of the United States.

18 U.S.C. § 962 (emphasis added).

I write you as an "informer" pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 962 to notify you that according to the information that I have received an organization known as the "Free Gaza Movement" ("FGM"), while acting within the United States, has furnished and fitted out, and has attempted to furnish and fit out, a large number of vessels (listed below), with the intent that those vessels be employed in the service

of a group of anti-Israeli insurgents to cruise and commit hostilities against the State of Israel, a state with which the United States is at peace.

Specifically, the vessels at issue have been and/or will be used to violate Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip, and to otherwise commit hostilities against Israel.

According to the information that I have received, the vessels that persons acting within the United States have already furnished and fitted out and/or attempted to furnish and fit out, in violation of § 962, are the following:

- The Mavi Marmara
- The Audacity of Hope
- The Rachel Corrie
  
- The Challenger I
- The Challenger II
- The Gazze
- The Tali
- The Arion
- The Sfendoni (Boat 8000)
- The Tamara (Eleftheri Mesoghios)
- The Seven Y Two (Irene)
- The Finch
- The Tahrir
- The Stefano Chiriani

Pursuant to § 962, I intend to bring an action for forfeiture of all the vessels listed above, with half of the proceeds to the undersigned as informer and the other half to the United States. While a conviction is not a prerequisite for forfeiture under § 962 (see *The Three Friends*, 17 S.Ct. 495, 497 (1897)), I nonetheless respectfully request that your office take all appropriate steps to bring to justice the parties involved in violations of § 962 in respect to these vessels.

Please do not hesitate to have your office contact me to obtain any further details or information that you may require.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Alan J. Bauer

49 Ussishkin St.  
Jerusalem 94542 Israel  
Tel. 011-972-2-623-5496  
[alanjoseph.bauer@gmail.com](mailto:alanjoseph.bauer@gmail.com)

06/16/2011 14:18

212-486-1216

FEDEX OFFICE

0231

PAGE 85

JUDGE HOLWELL

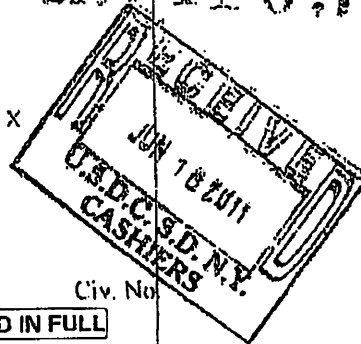
11 CIV 4105

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DR. ALAN J. BAUER

Plaintiff,

-against-



Civ. No.

RELEASED IN FULL

THE MAVI MARMARA,  
THE AUDACITY OF HOPE,  
THE RACHEL CORRIE,  
THE CHALLENGER I,  
THE CHALLENGER II,  
THE GAZZE,  
THE TALI,  
THE ARION,  
THE SPENDONI (BOAT 8000),  
THE TAMARA (ELEFTERIJ MESOGHIOS),  
THE SEVEN Y TWO (IRENE),  
THE FINCH,  
THE TAHRIR,  
and THE STEFANO CHIRLANI,

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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4. The plaintiff, Dr. Alan J. Bauer, is an American citizen and a professional biologist. On March 21, 2002, Dr. Bauer and his young son were severely injured in a bombing attack carried out by Palestinian terrorists in Jerusalem, Israel.

5. The plaintiff has informed the United States Attorney General that the Defendant Vessels have been furnished and fitted out, and/or that attempts have been made to furnish and fit out the Defendant Vessels, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 932. Exhibit A.

6. The plaintiff is therefore an "informer" within the meaning of § 932, and thus is entitled to one half of the proceeds of the forfeiture of the Defendant Vessels.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 18 U.S.C. § 962.

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Washington, DC 20009

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20. Accordingly, the Defendant Vessels, and their tackle, apparel, and furniture, together with all materials, arms, ammunition, and stores which may have been procured for the building and equipment thereof, should be forfeited, one half to the use of the plaintiff and the other half to the use of the United States.

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RELEASED IN FULL

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 5:39 PM  
**To:** Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Dolan, JoAnn; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**SensitivityCode:** Sensitive

If true, this updated information from EMB Nicosia is very good news. Sounds like neither of the US flagged Challenger vessels (II and III) are leaving port. Let's hope this is accurate.  
Thanks, Kevin

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 5:34 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 5:34 PM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla: Clarifying information regarding Challengers II & III and Cyprus

To reduce confusion, please note the following information based on reporting from Embassy Nicosia and USCG contacts with Cypriot port authorities:

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger II has suffered extensive damages and is on the ground in Limassol. It arrived in Cyprus after showing ingress of water and will remain out of the water for at least a month.

--The U.S.-flagged Challenger III (formerly, the Greek-flagged Dimitris K) is in the water at Limassol new port, but without crew or passengers and is chained to the pier by port and marine police.

--Both vessels are U.S.-flagged. The Challenger II had previously been Greek-owned, flagged in Honduras and known as the Nitta II. The Challenger III, had previously been the Cyprus-flagged and owned Dimitris K.

--Cypriot port authorities in Limassol have told Embassy Nicosia they do not intend to let any vessel depart to participate in the flotilla.

*Terry Netos*  
Cyprus Desk Officer  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of European Affairs/Office of Southern Europe  
Tel.: +1-202-647-6760  
Fax: +1-202-647-5087

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:52 AM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

RELEASED IN PART B5

Will do, apologies. For some reason I just included those that were in the FO mtg yesterday...

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:51 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sullivan, David B; Townley, Stephen G; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** FW: US flagged vessels

Can you keep Linda and me looped in on anything flotilla related?

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: US flagged vessels

L's info, per Coast Guard, is that one of the second wave vessels is US registered/flagged.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 09:34:35 2010  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

Update -- USCG confirms that its database shows that the vessel is validly registered in Delaware. We can now be comfortable in concluding that the vessel is properly characterized as U.S. flagged. Just spoke with NEA; sounds like

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

Jim -- in case this comes up tomorrow, here is the situation as I understand it regarding the apparently US flagged vessels.

In terms of the facts --

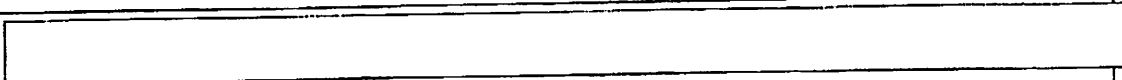
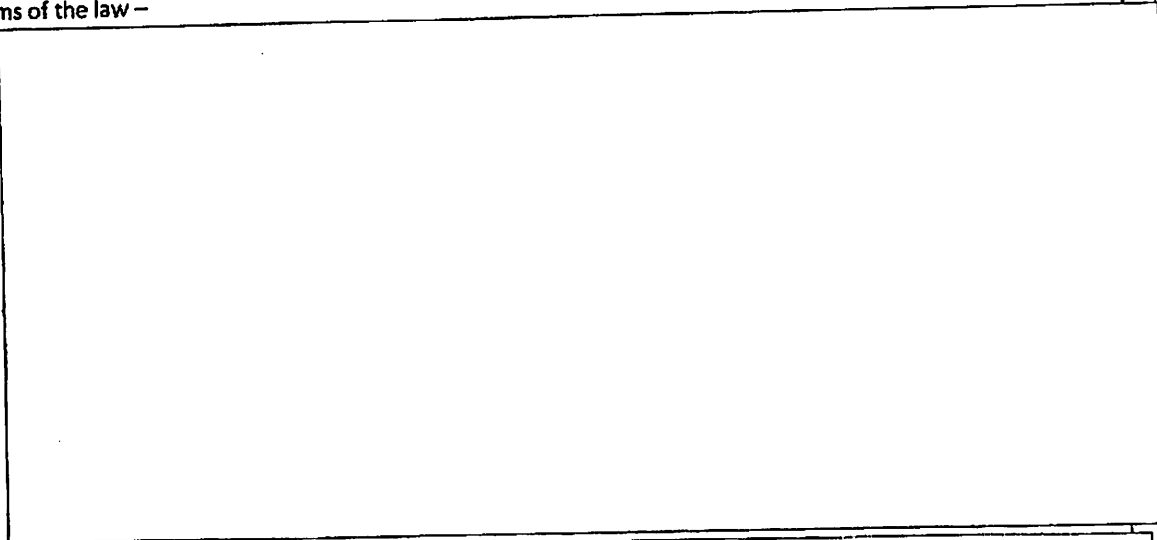
- There are two vessels -- Challenger I and Challenger II -- that have been involved in this incident and are believed to be U.S. flagged vessels. Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel. Challenger II is believed to have had mechanical difficulties and may be intended to breach the blockade in the coming days (estimates range from Wed to Saturday).

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

- We are not certain that the vessels are properly registered in the United States. Greek port authority documentation showed both vessels as having Delaware registration numbers. Coast Guard is still checking whether those registrations are still valid; we should know tomorrow. IDF reported at various times that these vessels were actually flying Greek and St. Vincent flags (after earlier suggesting we take action because they were U.S. flagged). This also raises some doubt as to their nationality.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to include any AMCITs (again based on Greek port docs). Cargo - humanitarian or otherwise - is not known. The two vessels are pleasure craft (yachts) that apparently do not tend to make international voyages. They are not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes locating them more difficult.
- Efforts were underway on Friday-Saturday to notify the vessel/owners and pass them a warning regarding potential consequences of unlawful activity. Unclear whether the vessels or owners have been reached yet (and efforts to reach Challenger II may have been aborted because it dropped out of the original flotilla). We are seeking an update on the facts.

In terms of the law -



Thanks,  
Kevin

B5

121. *The military preparations.* As previously noted, the IDF began its preparations back in February 2010, when it received the information regarding the steps taken to organize the departure of the flotilla. The Commission was provided with the operation orders of the Chief of Staff (command no. 1 and command no. 3), the naval command (no. 3), and the land command (no. 2), which were prepared by the IDF before the flotilla arrived.<sup>445</sup> The Commission also received the briefing that the Commander of the Navy gave to the commanders and soldiers on May 20, 2010, and a summary of the 'situation analysis' headed by the Commander of the Navy, which took place on May 26, 2010.<sup>446</sup>

The last Chief of Staff's operation order that was issued before the incident (hereafter: the Chief of Staff's order) defines the goal as follows: 'The IDF shall prevent unauthorized vessels reaching the Gaza Strip.'<sup>447</sup> The mission is defined as follows: 'The Navy shall enforce the naval blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and shall prevent vessels from entering the Gaza Strip, while maintaining as low a media profile as possible.'<sup>448</sup> The Chief of Staff's order reviews the deployment of forces and the division of tasks and is accompanied by seven annexes dealing with various issues, including the division of responsibility for dealing with the deportation from Israel of foreign nationals that participated in the flotilla, the seizure of equipment belonging to foreign nationals that are deported against a background of committing security offences, legal emphases and annexes that concern subjects such as operating electronic screening, IDF spokesperson's statements, teleprocessing and logistics. The annex that concerns the seizure of personal equipment belonging to the flotilla participants placed an emphasis on carrying out checks from the viewpoint of data security and states the competent authority to approve various actions with regard to the seizure of the equipment and its treatment.

445 For the most updated command, see General Staff Operational Order 3 "Winds of Heaven 7 - Situation Room Order", in response to the completion request of Nov. 7, 2010, the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 136 by the Commission [hereinafter *General Staff Operational Order 3*]; Naval Operational Order 3 "Winds of Heaven 7", the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 90 by the Commission [hereinafter *Naval Operational Order 3*]; Land Operational Order 2 "Winds of Heaven 7", in response to the completion request of Nov. 7, 2010, the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 136 by the Commission [hereinafter *Land Operational Order 2*].

446 Summary of situation analysis headed by Navy commander 'Winds of Heaven' Situation Analysis May 26, 2010 - Navy Commander's summary" (May 26, 2010), the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 90 by the Commission.

447 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at para. 5. See also para. 4 of *General Staff Operational Order 1* "Winds of Heaven - Situation Room Order", *Defense Minister's Memorandum Appendixes*, *supra* note 209 [hereinafter *General Staff Operational Order 1*].

448 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at para. 6.



The naval operation order defines the mission as follows: 'A combined force of Shayetet 13 with the assistance of "second wave" forces ... will prevent the entry of shipping vessels into the Gaza Strip "Winds of Heaven 7" while maintaining legitimacy.'<sup>449</sup> The naval order is very detailed. We shall discuss here in brief certain aspects thereof that are relevant to our concerns, mainly from the viewpoint of the use of force and the treatment of the participants of the flotilla.

From the viewpoint of deploying the forces for the naval stage of the operation, it was decided that the command level would be very senior, including the Commander of the Navy himself.<sup>450</sup> In the naval stage, the force was divided into two types: (1) the takeover force, whose function was to take control of the ships if they would not respond to the radio communications. The takeover force was made up of three independent "centers", under the command of a senior commander holding the rank of lieutenant-colonel: "center A" was designated to take control of the *Mavi Marmara*, "center B" was designated to take control of *Boat 8000* and the *Gazze*, and "center C" was designated to take control of the *Challenger 1* and the *Sofia*. An additional force was designated to take control of the *Defne Y*. Each of these "centers" was intended to be completely independent at the operation stage; in other words, it was given its own independent medical personnel, navigators and reserves.<sup>451</sup> (2) The second wave force, which would be comprised of four teams commanded by lieutenant-colonels and whose tasks were: (a) to bring the flotilla vessels to Israeli ports; (b) to make a list of the persons on board and to deal with the magnetic media that would be found on board the vessels.

In the paragraph entitled 'details of the general method,' the order states that operations should be carried out to enforce the naval blockade according to an 'order of escalation - warning / prevention / bringing

<sup>449</sup> *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at para. 4.

<sup>450</sup> As part of the presentation of the operation's principles to the Chief of Staff prior to the operation, the Chief of Staff determined that the commander of the Navy is the commander of the operation. This instruction was given as part of the Chief of Staff's Operations and Excursions of May 6, 2010; see *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400, at para. G. This instruction was incorporated into the orders, see *General Staff Operational Order 1*, *supra* note 447, at para. 8; *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at para. 13. In addition, in Operations and Excursions summary of May 13, 2010, para. E, sub-para. 4 it is mentioned that: "The Chief of Staff stressed the importance of senior command's presence at the anticipated points of friction while conducting a sensitive and measured action - responsibility of the commander of the Navy." *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400, at Para. G.

<sup>451</sup> See the testimony of the commander of Shayetet 13, "Deepening and Broadening the General Staff's experts inquiry (Sep. 20, 2010)", at 3, marked by the Commission as exhibit 104 [hereinafter *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*].

the vessels to a halt / taking control of them.' In the 'details of method' paragraph, under the operation stage dealing with 'identification, monitoring and sending messages to the vessels,' in the special instructions paragraph, it was stated that before the stage of taking control of the vessels and after receiving approval from the Navy Commander, the force commander was permitted to employ various measures to stop the vessels, including firing 'skunk bombs' or water from water cannons, forcing the vessels to change their course or stop by means of missile ships, crossing bows, firing warning shots into the air and 'white lighting' (blinding using a large projector).<sup>452</sup> The legal annex to the order contained legal emphases for the use of these measures and the manner of operating them. In this regard, it should be stated from the outset that in practice, no use was made of these measures.<sup>453</sup>

The following instructions, *inter alia*, are also outlined in the naval order:

a. Instructions regarding communications and warnings that would be transmitted by a loudspeaker system: according to the Navy's operation order, five communications were planned with ascending levels of warning as the flotilla vessels approached the area of the naval blockade. The language of the five communications, and the points at which it was determined they would be sent to the flotilla vessels, as stated in the Navy's operation order, were the following:

Communication no. 1 - first communication from the Government, intended for transmission at the time of interception (attached to the list of communications the day before the operation at the request of the Prime Minister):<sup>454</sup>

'This is the Israeli Navy. You are approaching an area of hostilities which is under a naval blockade. The Gaza area, coastal region and Gaza Harbor are closed to all maritime traffic. The Israeli government supports delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza strip and invites you to enter the Ashdod port. Delivery of the supplies in accordance with the authorities' regulations will be through the formal land crossings

<sup>452</sup> *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445.

<sup>453</sup> See Transcript of session no. 13 "close door testimony of the Chief of Staff" (Dec. 24, 2010), at 14-15. The Chief of Staff mentioned in his testimony that "the order does not obligate the use of all the means. The order mentions all the means that may be used and the considerations regarding the employment of the means are in accordance with the situation, the missions [...] there is no obligation to go through all the means, but the means suitable for the matter must be used". In this context, see explanation presented in para. 227 for the negation of the possibility of using some of the means discussed.

<sup>454</sup> See *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400, at para. D.

and under your observation, after which you can return to your home ports aboard the vessels on which you arrived.<sup>455</sup>

Communication no. 2 - intended for transmission at the time of interception:

'This is the Israeli Navy. You are approaching an area of hostilities which is under a naval blockade. The Gaza area, coastal region and Gaza Harbor are closed to all maritime traffic.

You are hereby requested to change your course and refrain from entering the area.

Delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza strip is possible through the formal land crossing between Israel and the Gaza strip, subject to prior coordination with the Israeli authorities.<sup>456</sup>

Communication no. 3 - intermediate communication:

'This is the Israeli Navy. You are approaching an area of hostilities which is under a naval blockade. The Gaza area, coastal region and Gaza Harbor are closed to all maritime traffic.

You are hereby ordered to change your course and refrain from entering the area. If you ignore this order and attempt to enter the blockaded area, the Israeli Navy will be forced to take all the necessary measures in order to enforce this blockade.

By ignoring this order, you are putting your crew members and your motor vessel at risk. You alone are responsible for the consequences of your action.

Delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza strip is possible through the formal land crossings between Israel and the Gaza strip subject to prior coordination with the Israeli authorities.<sup>457</sup>

Fourth communication - intended as a loudspeaker announcement before the vessels entered a range of 20 miles from the area of the naval blockade:

'This is the Israeli Navy. You are approaching an area of hostilities which is under a naval blockade. The Gaza area is a combat zone, by entering this zone you are putting your vessel at risk.

You are hereby ordered to change your course and refrain from entering the area. If you ignore this order and attempt to enter the blockaded area, the Israeli Navy will be forced to take all

455 *Naval Operational Order 3, supra note 445, at 54, appendix F.*

456 *Id.*

457 *Id.*, at 55.

the necessary measures including boarding your vessel in order to enforce his blockade. Be aware that you are violating a legal naval blockade and that the organizers and captains of this sail will be held responsible.

Delivery of humanitarian supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza strip is possible through the formal land crossings between Israel and the Gaza strip subject to prior coordination with the Israeli authorities.<sup>458</sup>

Optional fifth communication - after entering the area of the blockade:

"This is the Israeli Navy. You are sailing in a blockaded area according to international law. You were ordered several times to avoid entering this area. Due to your refusal to obey this order and your intent to violate a legal naval blockade, the Israeli Navy is obliged to take all necessary measures in order to enforce this blockade. By ignoring this order, you are putting your crew members and your motor vessel at risk. If you do not change your course immediately, you alone will be responsible for the consequences of your actions."<sup>459</sup>

b. The weapons that were permitted for use - the safety annex states that the combat personnel would be armed only in accordance with the instructions of the Military Advocate-General's Office and the instructions of the Chief Medical Officer's Office.<sup>460</sup> It was also decided that the commanders would ensure, after issuing the weapons, that the combat personnel would only have in their possession weapons that were permitted for use pursuant to these instructions.<sup>461</sup>

According to the operation order, the less-lethal weapons that were approved for use in the operation included the following:

- (1) A Taser gun in the form of a shocker, without firing - a device that works like a shocker, by forming an electric circuit on the target from short range. Works on batteries. Type of ammunition: electric current.
- (2) Remington 870 shotgun - a firearm that can be used, *inter alia*, as a less-lethal weapon. It is loaded manually, with a three shell internal tube magazine (in addition to one shell in the barrel). It is possible to attach sights and a device for breaking windows.

<sup>458</sup> *Id.*, at 56.

<sup>459</sup> *Id.*, at 57.

<sup>460</sup> *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 33, appendix C, para. 4(c)(1).

<sup>461</sup> *Id.*, at 33, appendix C, para. 4(c)(4).

The ammunition that was approved for using this weapon was 12 gauge bean bag shells.<sup>462</sup>

- (3) Tippman 98 paintball gun - a weapon that is designed to fill paintballs, with a semi-automatic firing capacity. It operates on the basis of a pneumatic mechanism that is operated by an air pressure canister of up to 2000 PSI. The ammunition that was approved for use in this weapon: 0.68 inch caliber paint balls.
- (4) Stun grenade 4 - a stun grenade is a grenade that when detonated creates a flare up to a distance of 30 cm from its base (i.e. a "flash bang" grenade). Delay of 1.5 seconds. It was emphasized that grenades of this kind should be used without gas and without smoke.

The order's safety annex clearly emphasized that the use of less-lethal weapons or ammunition other than those that appear in the instructions was prohibited,<sup>463</sup> and they stated that all of the combat personnel would undergo training and drills with regard to instructions for the use of the weapons,<sup>464</sup> that live ammunition would be clearly separated from less-lethal ammunition and clear operating procedures would be defined in order to prevent mistakes occurring between live ammunition and less-lethal ammunition.<sup>465</sup> Moreover, the instructions for the use of paintball guns provided that insofar as there would be any need to use them, they should be fired first at the feet, and then aimed higher if necessary (but not at the groin).<sup>466</sup> They also stated that the paintball guns should not be used if as a result 'a child under the age of 14 or women who appeared to be pregnant might be hit.'<sup>467</sup>

c. Rules of Engagement - the rules of engagement can be found in the legal annex to the land and sea operation order. The 'rules of conduct for the forces' (for the purposes of this report, these rules will be referred to as 'the rules of engagement') state that, as a matter of principle, in 'the scenario under discussion', i.e., 'dealing with foreign citizens who, according to the existing information, are not combatants' - the authority and measure that involve the use of force shall not be used

462 There are two types of shells used by the IDF which differ in the amount of gunpowder they contain: a soft bag and a hard bag, the latter of which was not used in the operation. See *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400, at para. E.

463 *Id.*, at 33, para. 4(f).

464 *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 35, appendix D, para. 6(6), 6(8).

465 *Id.*, at appendix D, para. 6(10).

466 *Id.*, at appendix C, para. 4(h).

467 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 19, appendix C, para. 2(g)(b)(9); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 62, appendix C, para. 2(g)(b)(9).

against citizens, beyond the minimum required to fulfill the mission, i.e. stopping the vessels. The general rules for the use of force provided that, in general, force would not be used, and that it would be used only as a last resort, for the purpose of 'preventing danger of injury to human beings or to deal with an attempt to thwart bringing the vessels to an Israeli port.'<sup>468</sup> It was clarified that the use of force must be minimal and proportionate, and weapons should be used on an increasing scale.<sup>469</sup> The operation order permits use of less-lethal weapons only when this use is required in order to 'neutralize a real danger to the safety or lives of human beings that comes from a specific person, and states that insofar as it is possible to neutralize the cause of the danger without using less-lethal weapons, this should be done.'<sup>470</sup> It also states that it is permissible to use less-lethal weapons if there is a real anticipation that the event could deteriorate into a situation in which a real and immediate threat to life is foreseeable, and the use of less-lethal weapons is likely to prevent this deterioration; it further states that less-lethal weapons could only be used by those who have been trained to do so, and in accordance with the operating instructions and safety designations that had been formulated.

Regarding the use of lethal weapons, the operation order also states that, as a rule, live ammunition should not be used.<sup>471</sup> The use of lethal weapons was permitted in one situation only, namely in self-defense, for the purpose of averting a real and immediate danger to life, when it is not possible to avert the danger by less harmful means. It should be noted that the definition of 'danger to life' in the operation order is: 'a real and immediate danger of the loss of human life or serious physical injury.'<sup>472</sup> It should also be noted that the order states that lethal weapons should be used only as a last resort, after warnings have been given to the person against whom a lethal weapon is going to be used. It also states, with respect to the use of lethal weapons, that if there is a real concern that the gradual action "would endanger life, then it is permissible to shoot at the one creating the danger in order to eliminate the danger immediately, even without engaging in all of the stages set forth above."<sup>473</sup> The order

468 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 17, appendix C, para. 2(g)(1)(a); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 60, appendix C, para. 2(g)(1)(a).

469 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 18, appendix C, para. 2(g)(1)(b); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 60, appendix C, para. 2(g)(1)(b).

470 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 18, appendix C, para. 2(g)(2)(b)(3); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 61, appendix C, para. 2(g)(2)(b)(3).

471 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 18, appendix C, para. 2(g)(2)(a)(2); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 61, appendix C, para. 2(g)(2)(a)(2).

472 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 16, appendix C, para. 2(g)(2)(a)(2); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 59, appendix C, para. 4(g)(2)(a)(2).

473 For an expanded version of the rules of engagement see para. 206 below.

also provides that after the danger has been averted, an attempt should be made to capture the party endangering life in another manner without the use of weapons, that harm to those not involved should be avoided, that there should be no use of force at a person who has surrendered or has ceased to constitute a threat, and that medical treatment should be given to the wounded immediately upon the cessation of use of force.

From the statements of the commanders and soldiers at all levels it can be seen that these rules were made clear to the forces that took part in the operation.<sup>474</sup> At an operational briefing on May 20, 2010, the Navy Commander said that there was no intention to injure or punish the persons on board, and he went on to say that the Israel Navy's goal was to carry out the mission 'as professionals and in accordance with IDF ethical code.'<sup>475</sup> Moreover, it was also stated at that briefing that 'opening fire should only take place in a life threatening situation, to neutralize the person presenting the danger, but nonetheless, 'where possible, the benefit of doubt should be given.'<sup>476</sup>

Thus, the first soldier who fast-roped down from the first helicopter (hereafter: the first soldier or soldier no. 1) stated in the additional investigations of the Eiland Committee that were carried out at the request of the Commission: 'In the briefings, including my personal talk with the commander of my team, it was emphasized that the use of live weapons was the last option and a response to an immediate danger to life.'<sup>477</sup> The second soldier who fast-roped down from the first helicopter (hereafter: the second soldier or soldier no. 2) also stated: 'The rules of

474 See the testimony of the commander of Shayetet 13, *Inquiry Expmnsion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 2, and see also the testimony of the commander of the Takeover Force, 1; and the testimony of Questioner 2, *Id.* It should be mentioned that from the material before the Commission it arises that the forces received extensive mental preparation which included gathering information and writing insights towards preparation, and the preparation of the commanders to perform the preparation (by the Navy's behavioral science branch); the conversation of the Shayetet commander with all the commanders in the operation; two Company Command talks with all the commanders; 2 lectures by a Masada unit combatant about ways to deal with riots (one lecture to the commanders and one to the soldiers); a talk by each center commander with the forces in the center; analysis and investigation of the model in light of mental conduct (in this context see *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400, at para. F). On the importance of this preparation in relation to the Open Fire Instructions, see also the *Chief of Staff's Open Door Testimony of 11.8.2010*, *supra* note 70, at 38.

475 The summary of meeting headed by Navy Commander "Final Briefing for Operation 'Winds of Heaven 7' - Navy commander's Summary" (summary of meeting headed by Navy Commander, Jul. 4, 2010), at para. 2(a)(5), the folder containing the exhibit has been marked as folder 90 by the Commission.

476 *Id.*, at para. 2(c)(8)(b); See also *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400, at para. F.

477 Testimony of soldier no. 1, *Id.*, at 1.

engagement were very strict, and the emphasis was that changing over to live ammunition would be a very exceptional event and only if we faced a real and immediate danger to life and it would not be possible to avoid harming him should we use live ammunition in order to neutralize the threat.<sup>478</sup>

d. Communications blackout - the instructions that were given in the operation order were to allow distress broadcasts, insofar as these did not endanger the military operation. Emphasis was also placed on the duty of care in this regard, the need to limit the blackouts insofar as possible and to terminate the blackouts when the military need ended. It was also determined that in a case of distress, insofar as a broadcast was not possible, assistance would be provided to the flotilla vessels by Navy ships.<sup>479</sup> Thus it was also determined that any electronic blackout or disruption of communications that was not one of the types of blackouts approved in the operation order required specific, separate, and detailed legal consideration, and that any such additional blackouts would be carried out only with the approval of the Chief of Staff's office.

e. Procedure for treating the injured - the medical annex to the order addresses, in its objective clause, both the treatment of combat personnel and providing medical treatment for civilians on the various flotilla vessels.<sup>480</sup> The procedure itself gives details of the medical personnel and medical equipment for the operation, the methods of evacuating and treating the injured and other professional details. The procedure relates, *inter alia*, to the subject of examining persons who are detained, a process whose purpose is to ensure that there is no medical condition that requires treatment in the emergency room.<sup>481</sup> The procedure also states that detained persons should not be examined without their consent and that if a detainee refuses an examination, a physician should explain to him the importance thereof and his refusal should be documented. In the legal annex to the order, it is stated that the injured and sick should be given medical treatment and be allowed to be evacuated from the incident site, and insofar as combat is taking place in the area where the injured are located, the evacuation should be allowed as soon as possible.<sup>482</sup>

f. Treatment of civilians - the legal annex to the operation order outlines rules of conduct for the forces and it states, *inter alia*, that

478 Testimony of soldier no. 2, *Id.*, at 1.

479 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 21-22, appendix C, para. 3(a)(4); *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 63-64, appendix G, para. 3(a)(4).

480 *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 29, appendix B, para. 1.

481 *Id.*, at appendix B, para. 6.

482 *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 17, appendix G, para. 2(c).



civilians should be treated 'at all times in a dignified and polite manner, while protecting their dignity and property.' It also states that sensitivity should be displayed to the basic needs of the civilians: where necessary, they should be given water and food, no threats should be made to them and they should not be called upon to assist in carrying out military activity. It emphasizes the prohibition of making use of civilians as a 'human shield' or as 'hostages,' and that civilian property may not be damaged or used, and that taking it constitutes a serious criminal offence.<sup>483</sup>

g. Dealing with persons suspected of military / terrorist activity or assisting such activity - the legal annex instructs the forces that when the flotilla vessels enter the territorial waters of the State of Israel, the treatment of suspects, including the question of arresting them, should be referred to the Israel Police or the Israel Prison Service. The instructions also state that persons suspected of such activity may be arrested, but for this purpose reasonable force may be used only to the extent required to carry out the arrest. The procedure goes on to emphasize that arrestees should not be harmed after they are arrested and their dignity and security should be safeguarded. The procedure also states that the circumstances of the arrest and the identity of the arrested persons should be documented.<sup>484</sup>

The instructions for the land operation define the mission as follows: "Navy - the theatre of Ashdod, in cooperation with the other forces, will prepare for receipt of the 'Winds of Heaven' vessels (cargo and passengers) and their transfer for the rest of their handling by the authorized entities." The order defines four stages in the handling of the flotilla participants: the entry of the vessels into the port; debarking of the flotilla participants into a facility for absorption and classification; the flotilla participants leaving the port area (boarding buses and arriving at a detention facility); the stage from their detention until they leave the borders of the country. The order is detailed and it specifies the tasks and the division of responsibility between the various entities including, *inter alia*, the Navy, the intelligence division, the planning division, the telecommunications division, the land command branch, the IDF spokesperson, COGAT, the chief military prosecutor command, the Military Police, the Israeli police, the Ministry of the Interior, the Foreign Ministry, the Prison Service, the Ministry of Transportation, etc.). The order contains, *inter alia*, annexes regarding security, medical care, information security, as well as an annex

<sup>483</sup> *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 59, appendix G, para. 2(b); *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 16-17, appendix C, para. 2(b).

<sup>484</sup> *Naval Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 73, appendix G, para. 2(d); *General Staff Operational Order 3*, *supra* note 445, at 17, appendix C, para. 2(d).

concerning the seizure of equipment belonging to the flotilla participants and a legal annex identical to the legal annex attached to the naval order, which defines rules of conduct for the forces.

### **The military operation for enforcing the naval blockade on May 31, 2010 - the implementation stage**

122. The military operation carried out in order to stop the aforesaid flotilla will be reviewed below according to the following stages: (1) The communications and warning stage; (2) giving the order to carry out the takeover; (3) the takeover stage and bringing the flotilla vessels to Ashdod port - first we shall review the takeover of the *Mavi Marmara*, and then we shall address, in brief, the takeover of the other vessels; (4) from arrival at Ashdod port until the deportation of the flotilla participants from Israel on June 2, 2010.

#### **The inquiry and warning stage**

123. The inquiry stage for the flotilla vessels began on May 30, 2010, at around 9:00 p.m.<sup>485</sup> The stage of transmitting communications began on May 30, 2010, at 10:40 p.m., when the flotilla vessels, which were moving close to one another, were in the area of the latitude of Sidon (Lebanon), at a distance of eighty nautical miles from the shore. This stage concluded on May 31, 2010, at 12:41 a.m., when the vessels were in the area of the latitude of Nakura (Lebanon), at a distance of eighty nautical miles from the shore.<sup>486</sup> The communications were sent by operators designated for this purpose (naval officers located on the command ship during the operation who transmitted communications to the vessels in the flotilla in accordance with the operation command). The communications were transmitted by means of a Sailor radio device (an international civilian radio device for communication between vessels at sea and between vessels and coastal stations. The Sailor device has fixed channels not subject to alteration, including the international distress channel [channel 16]).

The recordings from the radio network that were submitted to the Commission show that four communications were indeed transmitted in full and according to the prepared text. The optional fifth communication was not transmitted. As stated, the warnings emphasized the fact that

<sup>485</sup> The *Chief of Staff's Open Door Testimony of 11.8.2010*, *supra* note 70, at 24.

<sup>486</sup> "IDF Answer to Completion Request" (Nov. 7, 2010), at 5, the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 136 by the Commission [hereinafter *IDF Completion Response of 7.11.2010*].

### The Takeover of the Other Vessels

146. As stated above, five other vessels approached the coast of Israel on May 31, 2010, in addition to the *Mavi Marmara*: the boats *Boat Sfendonh 8000* (hereafter: *Boat 8000*)<sup>613</sup> and *Challenger 1*, and the ships *Defene Y*, *Gazze*, and *Sofia*. The IDF took control of these vessels after they refused to heed warnings that were transmitted to them. No loss of lives occurred on these vessels; although the soldiers encountered violence during the takeover of some of them, it was at a much lower level than they encountered on the *Mavi Marmara*. With respect to some of the vessels, force was used in order to complete the takeover. The actions to take control of these vessels are described briefly below, in the chronological order of their being taken over.

#### **Boat 8000**

147. The takeover of this boat commenced at 4:27 a.m, which carried approximately 48 participants and crew members (most of them were Europeans, and there were four Americans, a Jordanian, a Moroccan, a Lebanese and two Iranians). Nineteen soldiers boarded the deck from two Morena speedboats, which simultaneously approached the sides of the boat, after paintballs were shot at those flotilla participants who were standing on the deck and throwing various objects at the soldiers, to cause them to flee from the deck. During the takeover, the force encountered violence, including an attempt to seize a weapon from a soldier, pushing and shoving soldiers from the stairs to the lower level, physical clashes at close ranges, and barricading themselves onto the ship's bridge. During the takeover, physical force was used against the violent activists. Paintball rifles were used (157 paintballs were shot during the takeover; some of the paintball rifles were broken during the takeover operation); 4 flash bang grenades were thrown (a type of stun grenade that creates noise and temporary blindness, which is used for dispersing demonstrations and controlling disorderly conduct) and Tasers were used.<sup>614</sup> No live ammunition weapons were used during the takeover. During the takeover, four passengers were injured from hand-to-hand combat blows. These passengers refused to accept Israeli medical treatment, and they were treated by the ship's doctor while they were not

613 In the ship's documents only the name SFENDONH appears. In IDF documents it is named "Boat 8000". In order to prevent confusion this ship will be called by the name given to it in IDF documents. See *Boat 8000-Sfendonh Information Documents* located on the ship by the IDF and transferred to the Commission; marked by the Commission as exhibit 91.

614 See Navy Inquiry, marked by the Commission as folder 90.

handcuffed. Out of the flotilla participants who were on the deck of this boat, about five of the passengers were handcuffed at the time the bridge was taken over, and about three additional passengers were handcuffed at a later stage because they "tried to incite everyone [...] and they began calling out to rise up and resist, including passages in Arabic from the Koran."<sup>615</sup> According to the statement of the commander of center B, the senior commander of the force designated to take control of this boat, the handcuffing was done while the participants were sitting on plastic chairs, some of them were released during the journey to the port of Ashdod, and, with respect to others, the pressure of the plastic restraints was loosened after they complained about them.<sup>616</sup>

It should be noted that soldier no. 19 stated that, during the stage of the fast-roping from the helicopters onto the *Mavi Marmara*, this boat maneuvered in such a way that almost brought it onto a collision course with, and it also chased after, the command vessel (the *Zaharon*) for Center A (the force designated to take control of the *Mavi Marmara*). According to him, the boat reached a distance of less than twenty meters from the command vessel and, finally, after a sharp evasive maneuver, the command vessel managed to escape.<sup>617</sup>

No humanitarian supplies were found on this boat.<sup>618</sup>

### *Challenger 1*

148. The takeover of the *Challenger 1* commenced at 4:56 a.m. There were 17 crew members and passengers aboard (including six who held American passports, two who held British passports and one who held an Israeli passport). Prior to the takeover, the boat performed an evasive maneuver and the force had to conduct a pursuit in order to reach it. The Takeover Force Commander (the commander of the force which had been designated to take over the *Mavi Marmara*) further stated that the boat tried to run into the Morena speedboat carrying his force, and the Morena had to perform a maneuver to escape.<sup>619</sup> After the force reached the boat,

615 See testimony of the Commander of Center B, *IDF Completion Response of 7.11.2010*, *supra* note 486.

616 *Id.*

617 See testimony of soldier no. 19, *id.*, at 1-2.

618 See the testimony of commander of Center B, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 2. See also *Civilian Policy Regarding Gaza Strip - Part B*, *supra* note 57, at appendix L.

619 See testimony of the commander of the takeover force, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 1: "Near the challenger ship it attempts to run our vessel over, and through aggressive maneuvering we evade it". See also in the testimony of soldier no. 20, *id.*, at 1: "at this stage as I am moving fast towards the target I notice the Challenger sailing towards us quickly and trying to ram us. We performed an evasion from it and at the same time soldier no. 19 came up on the radio and told me to be careful since the challenger is

15 soldiers climbed aboard it from two Morena speedboats. On the deck of the boat, the soldiers encountered verbal violence and an attempt to push them. The dining hall was locked from the inside by the boat's passengers. During the takeover, approximately 15 paintballs were fired and Tasers were used against several flotilla participants.<sup>620</sup> The participants resisted receiving medical treatment and some were handcuffed by IDF soldiers.

No humanitarian supplies were found on the boat.<sup>621</sup>

### *Defene Y*

149. At 5:15 a.m., the takeover of this ship commenced. There were 21 passengers and crew members on board, all of whom were Turkish. Fourteen soldiers fast-roped onto the deck of the ship from a helicopter and took control, without any violent incidents being reported, other than verbal violence. It should be noted that the ship's cranes were placed in such a way that they interfered with the fast-roping from the helicopter, which required fast-roping from a greater height and a change in the fast-roping landing point (the fast-roping was conducted onto a location adjacent to the ship's bridge). It should also be noted that in the communications room that had been set up on the ship, the takeover force found movies which documented the crew members practicing the use of water hoses against a takeover. Also, cables had been strung out, and stones and metal rods had been placed along the sides of the ship. The ship's passengers were not handcuffed after the takeover.

The force commander stated:

"My general sense from the inquiry of the people and from the preparations aboard the ship was that the ship was prepared for a physical confrontation and provocation, and chose during our takeover not to do so, because they heard in real time (from the sailor) that there were wounded aboard the *Mavi Marmara* and so they were afraid."<sup>622</sup>

Humanitarian supplies were found on this ship (wheelchairs, medical equipment, sanitary items, cartons of clothing, toys, beds, carpets, blankets, etc.), as well as construction supplies (raw materials for

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headed for me. I approve the report and increase speed and manage to evade the target and approach the Marmara [...]"

620 See Navy Inquiry, *Execution Description Center C*, marked by the Commission as folder 90.

621 See *Civilian Policy Regarding Gaza Strip - Part B*, *supra* note 57, at appendix L.

622 See the testimony of commander of the Takeover Force, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 2.

buildings, construction materials for structures, sheet metal, etc.).<sup>623</sup> For a complete list of the supplies which were on this ship, see annex "E".

#### *Gazze*

150. At 5:45 a.m., the takeover of this ship commenced. There were 18 passengers aboard, all of whom were Turkish citizens. Nineteen soldiers boarded the ship from two Morena speedboats which approached the sides of the ship. The takeover of the ship did not involve violence.

The commander of center B stated:

"The field commander instructed me to advance to taking control of the *Gazze*. I updated the force and we headed to the *Gazze*. The field commander came up opposite me, while we were moving, and he told me that they had all surrendered and were on the bridge with their hands up. I boarded the ship, which was not moving at the time. All the people were gathered on the bridge and we went up, there was no resistance. The captain gave me the passenger list. There was full cooperation. We did not see any weapons or combat items of any kind. On the boat, there were about 18 people, who were very frightened."<sup>624</sup>

The ship's cargo included 1,358 units of cement and 304 units of metal girders.<sup>625</sup>

#### *Sofia*

151. At 5:45 a.m., the takeover of this ship began. Aboard this ship were 31 passengers, of whom 28 held Greek passports and three were Swedes. Eighteen soldiers boarded the ship from two Morena speedboats which approached the sides of the ship. The soldiers did not encounter violence, although several participants did not cooperate and did not heed the soldiers' instructions. The soldiers ordered the passengers to accompany them, to descend from the ship's bridge, and to come to an assembly point designated on the roof in front of the bridge, underneath a shade netting. Several participants refused to cooperate, cursed and swore at the soldiers, and agitated and incited the rest of the passengers. These participants also grabbed onto the ship's railing and the metal fencing along the edges of the ship's bridge. Force was applied and a Taser was used in order to handcuff these participants. The material before the Commission also indicates that, during the attempt to move

<sup>623</sup> *The Civilian Policy Towards the Gaza Strip - Regarding the Claims of Human Rights Organizations of 31.10.2010*, *supra* note 217, at 30-31.

<sup>624</sup> See the testimony of commander of Center B, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451.

<sup>625</sup> See *Civilian Policy Regarding Gaza Strip - Part B*, *supra* note 57, at appendix L.

these participants to the assembly point, five paintballs were fired at the lower parts of their bodies.<sup>626</sup> This matter is discussed below.

Humanitarian supplies were found aboard this ship (electric wheelchairs, medical supplies, cartons of clothing, toys, water tanks, etc.). For a complete list of the supplies found aboard this ship, see annex "E".

*Treatment of the Flotilla Participants from their Arrival in the Ashdod Port until their Deportation from Israel*

152. The vessels in the flotilla began entering the port of Ashdod at 11:00 a.m. on May 31, 2010. The *Mavi Marmara* was tied up in pier no. 1 in the port of Ashdod on May 31, 2010, at 5:19 p.m.<sup>627</sup> Upon its arrival at the Ashdod port, "the baton was handed over" (authority was transferred) from the IDF forces to the Special Central Unit force (hereafter: Yamam), (the counter-terrorism unit of the Israeli Border Police), which took authority for control over handling the ships. Afterwards, the process of debarking the flotilla participants from the ships commenced. On the ships' gangways, another "baton handover" took place between the members of Yamam and the escort force composed of both a police officer and an IDF officer or a non-Commissioned officer. It should be noted that the flotilla participants were instructed to leave their personal belongings on the vessels. The IDF forces guarded the personal belongings, and after they were examined by the bomb-squad unit, they were collected by the IDF, with each bag being fastened with a security closure ("sealed with an individual number") and documented. The personal effects were searched by the military police and collected in separate containers, in accordance with the vessel on which the participants had journeyed.<sup>628</sup> It is noted that after the event, several investigations were conducted (some of which led to indictments) concerning thefts perpetrated by some IDF soldiers during the stage when they were in charge of guarding the personal belongings of the participants. This matter will be addressed below (see below, para. 160).

According to the investigation of the Prison Service, processing the arrival of the flotilla participants on land commenced at 1:00 p.m.<sup>629</sup> Four

<sup>626</sup> See the testimony of soldier no. 18, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 4; See also summary, *id.*, at 10.

<sup>627</sup> The *CHALLENGER 1* ship entered Ashdod Port at 11:00; *Boat 8000* entered Ashdod Port at 12:00; the *DEFENE Y* ship entered Ashdod Port at 15:19; the *GAZZE* ship entered Ashdod Port at 15:30; The *SOFIA* ship entered Ashdod Port at 16:25.

<sup>628</sup> IDF completion response of 15.11.2010, *supra* note 400, at para. N.

<sup>629</sup> Operation "Winds of Heaven 7", 14 (investigative report by the Prison Service Commander, Oct. 5, 2010) marked by the Commission as exhibit 98 [hereinafter *Prison Service Investigative*

and soldier no. 3). Soldier no. 3, who had been stabbed in the abdomen, underwent surgery. Soldier no. 1 and soldier no. 6 were hospitalized for treatment in the hospital. Two IDF soldiers (soldier no. 9, soldier no. 11) were treated at Ichilov Hospital.

Post-incident events

158. All of the vessels other than the *Challenger 1* (which left the pier where it was anchored in the port of Ashdod on July 13, 2010, and is currently anchored in the naval base marina in Ashdod) left the Ashdod port and are anchored in the port in Haifa.<sup>670</sup>

With respect to the cargo that was on board the vessels, it was agreed between the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (hereafter: COGAT) and the UN Secretary General's envoy to the Middle East, Mr. Robert Serry, in accordance with COGAT's guidelines on these matters, that the humanitarian supplies and construction materials found on board the vessels would be transferred to the UN for use by its agencies in the Gaza Strip. The material furnished to the Commission indicates that, within the UN, it was agreed to divide the supplies between the various agencies in the following manner: (a) the construction materials - 70% would be transferred to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and 30% would be transferred to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); (b) the other supplies would be divided among UNRWA (which has received the supplies and materials for the benefit of the population under its care), the WHO (the World Health Organization of the UN, which has received the medical and medical-related supplies, including medicines, wheelchairs, etc.), and UNICEF (the United Nation's Children's Fund, which has received supplies and materials to distribute to children, including clothing, toys and backpacks). As of December 26, 2010, 114 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies from the flotilla's vessels that are the subject of this report had entered the Gaza Strip, in coordination with the UN agencies, from among a total of approximately 200 trucks.<sup>671</sup>

<sup>670</sup> The *Mavi Marmara* left Ashdod Port on 6.6.2010; the *Defney* and Boat 8000 left Ashdod Port on 11.6.2010; the *Sofia* left Ashdod Port on 6.11.2010; the *Gazze* left Ashdod Port on 17.6.2010; see *Flotilla to Gaza of 31/5/2010* (detail completion from The Ashdod Port Company LTD, 25.11.2010), found in folder marked by the Commission as exhibit 149.

<sup>671</sup> See *Civilian Policy Regarding Gaza Strip - Part A*, *supra* note 52, at 30; see also Appendix C of *Civilian Policy Regarding Gaza Strip - Part B*, *supra* note 58; in general 35 trucks of concrete and eight trucks of building iron were brought in for seven UNRWA projects, as well as 71 trucks carrying an assortment of equipment (motorized carts, batteries, medical equipment and medicine, two water desalination containers, generators, beds, and more). Goods not yet transferred and awaiting coordination with the UN include: (1)



159. The personal belongings of the flotilla participants were flown back to Turkey with the flotilla participants (after having been brought by naval officers to the "Ella" prison in Beer Sheva, where the prison staff refused to receive it because the flotilla participants were in the process of being transferred to Ben-Gurion airport).<sup>672</sup> Pursuant to instructions of the Ministry of Defense, 105 suitcases, which were returned by Turkey after they were not claimed, are being stored at the navy's supply base.<sup>673</sup> The magnetic media and the combat items found on the vessels were retained in Israel for further investigation.<sup>674</sup> It should be noted that, during the searches of the vessels after the event, additional personal belongings were discovered (wallets and documents), which were collected in six bags. These items were transferred to the representative of the Turkish embassy in Israel.<sup>675</sup>

It should be noted that in the prison cells in which the flotilla participants were held in the "Ella" prison, sums of cash were found in the amount of €3,500 and \$4,000. These sums are currently being held in the safe of the legal department of the Prison Service (the Commission has been informed that the Prison Service contacted the Foreign Ministry about this matter, but has not received any instructions regarding the handling of these sums).<sup>676</sup>

On September 15, 2010, the photography equipment which was collected in this event was transferred to a representative of the journalists, Mr. Danny Zaken, the chairman of the Journalists Association in Israel.<sup>677</sup>

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raw materials for UNDP projects and for two UNRWA projects; (2) three X-ray machines which the UN refuses to bring into the strip claiming there is no need for used equipment without warranty; (3) transportable structures (caravans) and the materials to construct them - as of Dec. 26, 2010 the UN has not been able to receive instructions on how to construct the transportable structures. This issue should be resolved by the UN in the next few weeks.

672 See IDF completion response of 15.11.2010, *supra* note 400, at para. N.

673 *Id.*; for a list of the equipment stored at the naval base see also appendix E, *Id.*

674 See *Complementary Information Regarding the Magnetic Media Captured During Operation "Winds of Heaven 7"* (Dec. 23, 2010), marked by the Commission as exhibit 158.

675 See IDF completion response of 15.11.2010, *supra* note 400, at para. N; see also the document signed by the Turkish representative approving the reception of the equipment, appendix D, *Id.*

676 See "The Turkish Flotilla - Cash Currency Found in the Prison Service's Possession (Prison Service Data Completion, Nov. 16, 2010), found in folder marked by the Commission as exhibit 149.

677 During the handing over of the equipment there was an exhibition of the equipment and there was also a repeated examination and physical count and comparison to the catalogues prepared; see letter from Logistical Operations and Assets Branch to the Public Commission to Examine the Maritime Incident of May 31, 2010 (Sep. 19, 2010), found in folder marked by the Commission as exhibit 165.

160. As stated, after the event, the Military Police Investigations initiated seven criminal investigations against 16 suspects for various incidents of theft of property belonging to the flotilla participants by IDF soldiers who had contact with the aforesaid property.<sup>678</sup> At the time of writing this report, three of the investigations have led to indictments against four defendants and the conducting of criminal trials (the proceedings in one have even concluded). The details of these investigations are as follows:

- a. Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, central region, file no. 67/10 - This case concerns the theft of a new laptop computer, two camera lenses and a compass which were seized on the *Mavi Marmara*, and entering into a conspiracy to commit the offenses of theft of the equipment which was seized on the *Mavi Marmara*. The investigation led to an indictment which was submitted in the military court against a recruits squad commander with the rank of corporal, who boarded the *Mavi Marmara* after it was anchored in the port of Ashdod and conducted searches aboard it. The defendant was charged with theft by a public servant, pursuant to Section 390 of the Penal Law, 5737-1977, and conspiracy to commit a crime, pursuant to Section 499(a)(1) of the foregoing law (file no. 430/10). After the indictment was submitted and as part of the plea bargain, the conspiracy charge was dismissed. On October 18, 2010, 2010, the military court sentenced the accused to the following: five months in prison (less the 39 days during which the defendant had already been imprisoned); a five months suspended sentence for three years; the maximum fine possible pursuant to Section 29 of the Military Justice Law, 5715-1955 (a sum of NIS 700 or three days imprisonment in exchange); demotion to the rank of private.<sup>679</sup>
- b. Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, central region, file no. 64/10 and Special Investigations, northern region, file no. 10/03 - This case concerns the theft of four laptop computers with a total estimated market value of approximately NIS 10,000, and their sale to another IDF soldier in consideration of a total sum of NIS 4,800. The investigation led to an indictment which

<sup>678</sup> See *IDF Response for Completion Request* (Dec. 7, 2010), the folder containing the exhibit was marked by the Commission as folder 148 [hereinafter *IDF Completion Response of 7.12.2010*]; *IDF Response for Completion Request* (Dec. 15, 2010), the folder containing the exhibit was marked by the Commission as folder 154 [hereinafter *IDF Completion Response of 15.12.2010*].

<sup>679</sup> Indictment and military court protocol in case GOC (district) 430/10, *IDF completion response of 15.11.2010*, *supra* note 400.

was submitted to the military court against the recruits platoon commander with the rank of second lieutenant, and a sergeant in the recruits platoon, who boarded the *Mavi Marmara* after it was anchored in the port of Ashdod and conducted searches on it. The two defendants were charged with the offense of theft by a public servant, pursuant to Section 390 of the Penal Law, 5737-1977, and unbecoming behavior pursuant to Section 130 of the Military Justice Law, 5715-1955.

- c. Military Police Criminal Investigation Division, central region, file no. 66/10 - This case concerns the theft of a laptop computer and computer game console and conspiring to steal laptop computers which were seized from the passengers of the *Mavi Marmara*. The investigation led to an indictment which was submitted in the military court against a recruits squad commander with the rank of corporal, who boarded the *Mavi Marmara* after it was anchored in the port of Ashdod and conducted searches on it. The defendant was charged with the offense of theft by a public servant, pursuant to Section 390 of the Penal Law, 5737-1977, and conspiracy to commit a crime, pursuant to Section 499(a)(1) of the foregoing law.
- d. Military Police Investigation, central region, file nos. 63/10, 65/10, 68/10 and Special Investigations, northern region, file no. 3/10 - These cases concern the suspected offenses of theft by a public servant and the possession of stolen property by seven soldiers, the offenses of buying stolen property, and the possession of stolen property by five additional soldiers (a total of 12 soldiers). These cases concern the suspected thefts of portable computers, which were on the *Mavi Marmara*, by several soldiers who boarded the vessel and searched it after the takeover was completed, and their sale to other soldiers. The criminal investigation of these cases has concluded and the files were transferred for review and decision by the military prosecutor. The decision of the military prosecutor about these cases is pending.

In addition to the foregoing, on December 15, 2010, the IDF informed the Commission that the military prosecutor has instructed the Military Police Investigations to initiate another investigation, concerning the suspected illegal use of the credit card of an Italian citizen who was on board the *Mavi Marmara*. A complaint was transmitted to the IDF by the Italian ambassador to Israel on behalf of the Italian citizen, whose wallet was confiscated from him after the takeover of the vessel was

completed. Upon the complainant's return to his country, he claims to have discovered that unauthorized use had been made of his credit card, which had been in his wallet when it was confiscated.<sup>680</sup>

## The Flotilla Participants and Their Activities: Additional Details

161. The Commission was also requested to examine "the activities which were undertaken by the flotilla organizers and its participants, and their identity," pursuant to section 4.c of the Government's decision on June 14, 2010. These subjects are indeed integrally related to the matters which have been described above and which will be analyzed below. Nevertheless, the Commission find it appropriate to include additional details at this point in the report. As will be apparent, this information concerning the identity of the flotilla's participants and its organizers and the actions they undertook became known only after the events had taken place and after completion of the military operation. First, we will provide details about the identity of the flotilla's organizers. We will then discuss certain details concerning the identity of the flotilla's participants. Finally, we will describe the advance preparations undertaken by some of the flotilla participants in anticipation of the confrontation with IDF soldiers, as revealed by the documents and testimony obtained by the Commission.

## The Organizers of the Flotilla

162. The flotilla itself was organized by a coalition comprised of a number of organizations, of which the leading organization was the IHH.<sup>681</sup> The IHH organization is, as stated, a humanitarian organization with a radical-Islamic orientation, which was established in 1992 and which was formally registered in Istanbul in 1995.<sup>682</sup> The organization is headed by Bülent Yildirim. The organization conducts a broad range

680 See *IDF Completion Response of 15.12.2010*, *supra* note 678. In the margins, it should be mentioned that the Commission has, by coincidence, learned of a television news story regarding the suspected theft of equipment on the vessels participating in the flotilla by some of the Ashdod Port workers, but the Commission could not locate additional information in this context.

681 See *IHH Flotilla Campaign Summary*, *supra* note 209.

682 *IICC report (May 27, 2010)*, *supra* note 83, at 1; some of these details, particularly the general details relating to the IHH organization and its activities, were known in advance of the flotilla incident, at the same time, concrete details regarding the scope of the IHH organization's involvement with the planning of the flotilla, as well as concrete details regarding the participants themselves, were only found out later.

of humanitarian activities, and, within this framework, it operates in distressed regions in the areas of food deliveries, assistance projects for orphans, establishing educational facilities, hospitals and medical clinics, programs for vocational education, supplying medicines, building mosques, and preventing human rights violations throughout the world.<sup>683</sup> The organization also operates in various European countries through its branches.<sup>684</sup> However, alongside its humanitarian activities, the IHH organization provides support to radical-Islamic and anti-Western terrorist organizations.<sup>685</sup> The organization also supports the Hamas and does not conceal the ties between the organizations.<sup>686</sup> The IICC report dated May 27, 2010, states, *inter alia*, that the IHH organization is a member of the "Union of Good" coalition, and provides assistance to the Hamas by organizing public support conferences in Turkey in which senior Hamas officials took part, by providing significant amounts of funding to Hamas institutions in the West Bank (including associations which have been banned in Israel) and operating widespread activities in the Gaza Strip.<sup>687</sup> The organization has even established a branch in the Gaza Strip, which is headed by Muhammad Kaya. In January 2008, during a meeting of the organization's delegation with Ahmed Bahar a senior Hamas activist who serves as the deputy speaker of the parliament of the Hamas government in the Gaza Strip, the organization presented the extent of the assistance it provides to the Gaza Strip, and also announced that it would double this support in the future. In January 2009, the head of the IHH organization, Bülent Yıldırım, met with Khaled Mashaal, the head of the Hamas political bureau in Damascus. At this meeting, Mashaal thanked Yıldırım for the support that the IHH organization gives to the Hamas.<sup>688</sup> In January 2010, the leader of the IHH organization visited the Gaza Strip and even met with Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas prime minister in the Gaza Strip.<sup>689</sup>

<sup>683</sup> IICC report (May 26, 2010), *id.*, at 1-2.

<sup>684</sup> *Id.*

<sup>685</sup> In this context see IICC report (Sep. 20, 2010), *id.*, at 2, which describes an interview with an Iranian investigator named Yazdan Karimi to the Iranian news agency Fars regarding the IHH organization. In the interview, Karimi states that the IHH organization was founded in 1992 by Turkey's Mujahidin (Jihad warriors), where its immediate goal was to assist Muslims fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other regions. At that time the Turkish Mujahidin asked for the assistance of the Red Crescent in order to provide aid to those injured by the war in Bosnia but their request was denied. Therefore, according to Karimi, the IHH decided to establish itself as an organization offering aid to Muslim nations in combat zones which would also aid other poor and vulnerable groups throughout various regions of the world.

<sup>686</sup> IICC report (May 27, 2010), *id.*, at 2-3.

<sup>687</sup> *Id.*

<sup>688</sup> *Id.*; see also *The Spittoon: Vivan Palestina, Mahathir and IHH*, [www.spittoon.org/archives/4168](http://www.spittoon.org/archives/4168) (2009).

<sup>689</sup> See IICC report (May 27, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 3; see also Vellecr: *Gazze'de Güz Yaşartan*

In 2008, Minister of Defense Ehud Barak declared that 36 organizations, including the IHH organization, which are members of the "Union of Good" coalition, an umbrella organization of over 50 Islamic foundations throughout the world and which transfers funds, *inter alia*, to the Hamas organization, were "prohibited associations".<sup>690</sup> In November 2009, the IHH organization sent an activist on its behalf, Mr. Izzat Shahin, to the West Bank in order to establish another branch of the organization there. In the context of his activities, Shahin raised tens of thousands of dollars for two leading Hamas associations operating in the West Bank.<sup>691</sup> Shahin was detained for investigation by the Israeli security forces in April 2010 on suspicion of financing terror and supporting the Hamas organization, and he was deported from Israel, upon the conclusion of the investigation, at the request of Turkish officials. It is further noted that on July 12, 2010, the German government also declared the IHH organization to be an "prohibited organization" because of its economic assistance and support to the Hamas, and in effect outlawed it throughout Germany.<sup>692</sup> In recent months, an American examination is being conducted to potentially declare the IHH organization as an organization that finances terror, i.e., an organization included on the "black lists" of the U.S. Treasury Department towards which economic sanctions can be imposed.<sup>693</sup>

It should also be noted that the IICC report dated May 27, 2010, states that in the past, the IHH organization maintained contacts with global Jihad elements, through which it assisted terrorist cells in Bosnia, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Chechnya, mainly by giving logistical support for transferring weapons and funding.<sup>694</sup> However, the IICC report noted

Büyük Buluşma (Video-Foto), [www.velfecr.com/gazza-de-guz-yasartan-bulusma-video-foto-1408-haberi.html](http://www.velfecr.com/gazza-de-guz-yasartan-bulusma-video-foto-1408-haberi.html) (2010).

690 Declaration 5822 by Defense Minister *Declaration of Unlawful Organization - Union of Good* 3521 (May 26, 2008) [www.mod.gov.il/pages/general/pdfs/terror.pdf](http://www.mod.gov.il/pages/general/pdfs/terror.pdf); it should also be mentioned that in May 2008 the United States officially declared the Union of Good to be an organization sponsoring terrorism and as such it was included in the "black list" by the Treasury Ministry in Washington D.C., found in the folder marked by the Commission as exhibit 149.

691 Hebron Islamic Charity Society and Al-Tadhamun organization in Nablus; see *IICC report* (May 27, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 4.

692 See the statement made by the German Minister of the Interior de Maizière, *Completion of Required Facts from the Foreign Office 1* (data completion by the Foreign Ministry, Nov. 22, 2010), in folder marked by the Commission as exhibit 149: "The IHH offers knowing and focused support to organizations directly linked to Hamas [...] and thus enables Hamas to allocate more financial resources to fund its terrorist activities. The IHH thus lends support to the increase of violence and terrorism in the Palestinian Authority's territories". Though we are dealing with two separate branches of the organization there seems to be a connection between the German branch and the Turkish branch.

693 *Id.*, at 2.

694 *IICC report* (May 27, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 5-8; Danish Institute for International Studies,

that it did not possess updated information regarding the aforesaid links of the organization.<sup>695</sup> In his closed testimony, the head of the Mossad testified that the Mossad's assessment was that some of the funds raised by the IHH organization were provided to the Islamic Jihad.<sup>696</sup>

The ICC report dated June 20, 2010 implies that there is a connection between the IHH organization and the government of Turkey. The leader of the organization, Yildirim, enjoys close relationships with the most senior members of the Turkish government, including the Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.<sup>697</sup> It should be noted in this context that the protocol of a meeting held on May 16, 2010, among representatives of the leading organizations that participated in the flotilla and several captains of vessels planning to join the flotilla (hereafter: protocol of the flotilla leadership meeting), which was taken from the computer of one of the flotilla participants, indicates that the IHH deputy president, Yavuz

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an independent research institute which deals with interdisciplinary research into international issues, in 2006 study presented the organization's connections with the Al Qaeda organization, see, Evan F. Kohlmann, *The Role of Islamic Charities in International Terrorist Recruitment and Financing*, DANISH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, (2006), available at [www.diiis.dk/graphics/Publications/WP2006/DIIS%20WP%202006-7.web.pdf](http://www.diiis.dk/graphics/Publications/WP2006/DIIS%20WP%202006-7.web.pdf).

<sup>695</sup> This study, which was conducted by senior American terrorism researcher, Dr. Evan Kohlman and dealt with the involvement of charity organizations in assisting terrorism, mentioned among other facts that in December 1997 the Turkish authorities launched an investigation regarding the IHH organization following a claim that senior members of the organization purchased automatic weapons from extremist Islamic organizations. Following this there was a raid on the organization's office in Istanbul, activists were arrested and weapons and explosives were found along with instruction on how to make bombs, a flag with a jihadist message, and various documents which reveal that the members of the organization planned to take part in jihadist activities in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya, *Id.*, at 10-11. The research also quotes a report composed by French intelligence which states that the leader of the organization, Bulent Yildirim, has directly acted in the past to recruit former members of the military to jihadist activity. The report also mentions that a number of activists were sent by the IHH to combat zones in Islamic countries with the goal of obtaining combat experience and that the IHH organization provided Muslim combatants in these countries with financial aid, weapons, and explosives. The research also mentions that an examination of the phone calls conducted by the IHH activists in Istanbul in 1996 reveals repeated interactions with an Al Qaeda hostel in Milan Italy as well as with Algerian terrorists acting in Europe, including a senior member of Al Qaeda named Abu Ma'ali (Abdelkader Mokhtari) who was active in Bosnia. It was also mentioned that following the American invasion of Iraq in 2003 Yildirim and the IHH organization served a role in anti-western incitement among Turkish Muslims, including protests, marches, and demonstrations.

*ICC report* (May 27, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 5. Regarding the IHH organization's links to organizations linked to Al Qaeda see also JEAN-LOUIS BRUGIERE, *CE QUE JE N'AI PAS PU DIRE* (Robert Laffont ed., 2009).

<sup>696</sup> Transcript of session no. 8 "Testimony of Mossad Head" (Sep. 14, 2010), at 20.

<sup>697</sup> *ICC report* (Jun. 20, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 2.

Dede, stated that the Prime Minister of Turkey and several other ministers had recently begun expressing support for the flotilla:

"Government did not announce openly support for mission at first; but last few days. Getting direct support from PM and other ministers. During F2F discussions, openly said that if we have any difficulties, gov will extend what support they can. During Dec. land convoy, although gov didn't announce support, they provided, not only to Turkish, but to all who were on the mission."<sup>698</sup>

As stated, from what is known, the IHH organization was one of the leading organizations which took part in organizing the flotilla that is the subject of this report. The IHH organization owns the *Mavi Marmara* and the *Gazze* ship.<sup>699</sup> According to the IICC report from May 27, 2010, during the months preceding the departure of the flotilla, the organization assisted the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Public Works of the Hamas administration to undertake projects in the Gaza Strip in order to prepare the port to receive the vessels taking part in the flotilla.<sup>700</sup> During the police investigations conducted after the event, some of the flotilla participants stated that the IHH organization was behind the organizing of the flotilla<sup>701</sup> and that they themselves are activists in the organization (some of them even receive salaries from

<sup>698</sup> See *IHH Flotilla Campaign Summary*, *supra* note 209; it should also be mentioned that Amir Akan, a crew member on board the *Gazze* which participated in the flotilla along with the *Marmara*, claimed in his investigation by Military Intelligence that the Turkish government approved the ship's departure towards Gaza. Due to this fact he felt relatively safe during the flotilla, see article 03/06/10/821/5062, *Military Intelligence Reports*, *supra* note 491.

<sup>699</sup> In the *Marmara's* registration certificate, which was issued on May 19, 2010, the IHH organization (*Insan Hak ve Hurriyetleri ve Insani Yardim Vakfi - Turkey*) appears as the owner, see Provisional Registration Certificate D/RC/0333/UAE (May 19, 2010), the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 92 by the Commission; likewise, the *Gazze's* registration certificate, which was issued on Apr. 1, 2010, see Certificate of Registry DM10GS0143Q254937 (Apr. 1, 2010), the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 93 by the Commission; the investigation of some of the flotilla's participants, members of the IHH, by the IDF's investigative unit, also reveals that all the vessels were purchased by the organization, see report of the investigation of Ismail Yalmez, article 03/06/10/895/5026, *Military Intelligence Reports*, *supra* note 491.

<sup>700</sup> *IICC report* (May 27, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 9.

<sup>701</sup> In total 41 participants of the flotilla on board the *Marmara* were investigated, of which 13 mentioned the connection between the flotilla and the IHH organization; this connection also came up in the investigations of about 105 flotilla participants conducted by the IDF investigative unit between the dates May 31, 2010 and Jun. 3, 2010.



it),<sup>702</sup> or that they had joined the flotilla at the request of the organization.<sup>703</sup>

702 See for example Mr. Takir Eurdnach's statements to the police, according to which he is an employee of the organization . suspect 18 statement, *Soldiers, Doctors, and Suspects Statements* (Jun. 1, 2010), the folder containing the exhibit was marked as folder 71 by the Commission [hereinafter *Soldiers, Doctors, and Suspects Police Statements*]; suspect 18's statement, *Soldiers, Doctors, and Suspects Statements* (Jun. 2, 2010) *Id.*; see also the report of Muhassan Ingin's investigation, wherein he admitted that he is an IHH activist, article 03/06/10/825/5090 *Military Intelligence Reports*, *supra* note 491; report of Yishar Kotli's investigation, wherein he admitted that he works as the IHH's secretary-general, article 03/06/10/825/5056, *Id.*; report of Mehmet Bulga's investigation, who was on the Gazze ship, wherein he admitted that he works at the IHH's archives, article 03/06/10/821/5057, *Id.*; report of Enfi Sinan's investigation, wherein he admitted that he is a member of the IHH, article 03/06/10/821/5077, *Id.*; report of Abdullah Izikiah's investigation, wherein he admitted that he started working as a volunteer for the IHH, but has been an employee of the organization for seven years, article 03/06/10/821/5069, *Id.*; report of Ismail Yımeç's investigation, according to which he has been working for the IHH organization as head of product purchasing, article 03/06/10/895/5026, *Id.*; reports of the captain of the *Mavi Marmara*, Mehmet Torel's investigation, wherein he stated that the IHH hired his services for the flotilla, articles 03/06/10/825/5080 and 03/06/10/825/5092, *Id.*; report of the captain of the Defney ship's captain Haluk Kulkwan's investigation, according to which IHH workers and cargo were on the ship, article 03/06/10/825/5081, *Id.*; reports of Hussein Uruz's investigation, according to which he has been working for the IHH organization for seven years and deals with the organization's ties to foreign organizations and the media, article 03/06/10/825/5060 and article 03/06/10/825/5050, *Id.*; report of the head of the IHH, Bülent Yıldırım's investigation, according to which three of those killed in the flotilla were IHH volunteers, article 03/06/10/825/5059, *Id.*; report of Muhammad Achmed Salam's investigation, according to which he is a reporter for the organization, article 03/06/10/825/5060, *Id.*; report of Mehmet Ozmesha's investigation, according to which he is a donor to the organization, as well as a volunteer, article 03/06/10/825/5036, *Id.*; report of Radouan Kayah's investigation, according to which he organized donations for the organization and is also a volunteer in it, article 03/06/10/825/5062, *Id.*

703 See Muchram Gonash's announcement to the police, according to which he is a volunteer at the IHH, testimony of suspect 3 of *Soldiers, Doctors, and Suspects Police Statements*, *supra* note 702; Mustafa Butran's announcement that he was employed on the ship by his uncle, who works for the IHH, testimony of suspect 7, *Id.*; Gili Muchitin's announcement that he offers humanitarian aid in different counties on behalf of the IHH, testimony of suspect 22, *Id.*; Zachariah Kaya's announcement that he took part in the flotilla which was organized by the IHH, as an employee of a humanitarian aid organization from Istanbul, testimony of suspect 24, *Id.*; Patı Klukodan's announcement that he was requested by the aid organization he works for to join the flotilla organized by Bülent Yıldırım (head of the IHH), testimony of suspect 41, *Id.*; see also the report of Manuel Vespiner's investigation according to which he was invited to the flotilla by the IHH, article 03/06/10/821/5097, *Military Intelligence Reports*, *supra* note 491; report of kukirian Guyan's investigation, whose friend wished to hire him as a crew member on board the *Marmara*, and according to whom the IHH group "controlled" the vessel and gave instructions to the passengers, the crew members, and the journalists, article 03/06/10/825/5085, *Id.*; report of Abdel Hakim Alkteibi's investigation, according to which he was invited to the flotilla by the IHH, article 03/06/10/825/5044, *Id.*; report of the head of the IHH, Bülent Yıldırım's investigation by the IDF investigative unit, according to which three of those killed in the flotilla were IHH volunteers, article 03/06/10/825/5030, *Id.*; report of Oskan Tonboyulu's investigation, according to which aside from the flotilla he took part in other IHH activities, article 03/06/10/825/5063, *Id.*; see also an interview with one of the participants of the flotilla given to an Haaretz reporter in Belfast, Noam Sheizaf *Testimony from the Deck*:

Other participants in the flotilla, who stated that they had joined the flotilla due to humanitarian motivations alone, also stated that they had responded to appeals from the IHH organization or had signed up for the flotilla through it.<sup>704</sup> Also, the transcript of the flotilla leadership meeting indicates that the IHH organization set up a command headquarters for the flotilla on land, where the deputy director of the organization, Yavuz Dade, stayed.<sup>705</sup>

163. The transcript of the flotilla leadership meeting indicates that the other organizations which took part in organizing the flotilla are as follows: the Free Gaza Movement (hereafter: FGM), the European

*Kenneth O'Keefe, Former Marine, was on board the Marmara Wishing to reach Gaza Haaretz Online 24.9.2010, as well as ICC report (Sep. 27, 2010), supra note 83.*

704 See for example the announcement of Halim Yizigi according to which he reached the flotilla following the publication and convention the IHH organization held regarding the flotilla meant to provide aid for Gaza, testimony of suspect 19 of *Soldiers, Doctors, and Suspects Police Statements*, supra note 702; the testimony of Pkar Shukri, within which he stated that Bülent Yıldırım (head of the IHH) is the flotilla organizer and that he himself joined the flotilla in order to help Gaza, following IHH publication, testimony of suspect 20, *Id.*; Police testimony by Mehmet Ali Akdniz, according to which the IHH members gave the Marmara passengers orders and "ran the show", according to his statement he joined the flotilla through the organization's website in order to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, testimony of suspect 21, *Id.*; Police testimony by Ribha Kumrok, according to which the IHH advertised an invitation to volunteer for the flotilla, see testimony of suspect 8, *Id.*; Police testimony by Pikari Krawil, according to which he joined the flotilla with the purpose of providing aid, following publication in the media and a conference held by the IHH, testimony of suspect 23, *Id.*; Police testimony by Ikhsan Shamrock, according to which he signed up for the flotilla through the organization's website in order to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, stayed at a hotel in Istanbul through the organization and departed to Antalya on a bus provided by the IHH, where he took part in a conference held by the members of the organization who wore special uniforms and got on a bus to the port provided by the IHH, testimony of suspect 25, *Id.*; Police testimony by Abdulhalim Al Mali, according to which he joined the flotilla through an IHH campaign with the purpose of providing aid to Gaza, testimony of suspect 26, *Id.*; see also the report of Adil Yuksef's investigation, who volunteered for the flotilla through the IHH, according to his statement, the *Mavi Marmara* was actually being run by the IHH, and some of the organization's members wore vests emblazoned with the organization's print, the people on the ship were briefed to act according to the IHH's instructions and at a certain stage of the flotilla the instruction was given that the boarding of the ship by IDF soldiers must be prevented at all costs, article 03/06/10/825/5094, *Military Intelligence Reports*, supra note 491; report of Achmed el Dsham's investigation, according to which he signed up for the flotilla through the IHH offices in Istanbul, and according to his statements, the head of the organization distributed instructions to the passengers, briefed the journalists, and was responsible for the whole flotilla, , article 03/06/10/821/5083, *Id.*; report of Hakan al Biraq's investigation, article 03/06/10/825/5071, *Id.*; report of Said Ibjiuhalo's investigation, article 03/06/10/825/5082, *Id.*; report of Yujel Kusa's investigation, article 03/06/10/825/5043, *Id.*; report of Adal Huna's investigation, article 03/06/10/825/5090, *Id.*; report of Adal Tuna's investigation, article 03/06/10/825/5057, *Id.*; report of Hasin Shbar's investigation, article 03/06/10/825/5047, *Id.*

705 *IHH Flotilla Campaign Summary*, supra note 209.

Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (hereafter: ECESG), the Greek Ship to Gaza Campaign, and the Swedish Ship to Gaza.

FGM is an organization registered in Cyprus as a human rights organization, with its headquarters located in Nicosia. The organization was founded in 2006, and its website states that it has 28 branches throughout the world. The organization's charter provides that its purpose is to break the siege on the Gaza Strip by means of, *inter alia*, "civil resistance and non-violent direct action", which will establish a permanent sea lane between the Gaza Strip and the rest of the world.<sup>706</sup> The organization began dispatching flotillas to the Gaza Strip in 2008, and was behind the dispatching of eight flotillas, five of which succeeded in reaching the Gaza Strip (in August 2008, in October 2008, in November 2008, and two in December 2008), whereas three were stopped by the navy (the *Dignity* yacht, which attempted to reach the Gaza Strip at the end of December 2008, and the *Spirit of Humanity* vessel, which attempted to reach the Gaza Strip in January 2009 and again in June 2009).<sup>707</sup> Another organization operates within the framework of the FGM, under the name of the "International Solidarity Movement" (hereafter: ISM), which has adopted the goal of supporting Palestinian popular resistance activities and opposing Israeli policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.<sup>708</sup>

The IICC report of June 10, 2010, notes that the FGM organization had its activists sign a declaration in which they pledge not to use physical or verbal violence against IDF soldiers.<sup>709</sup> However, in its report from September 27, 2010, IICC notes that it possesses an internal document of the organization from March 7, 2010, which was seized on the *Mavi Marmara*, which states in a section on mission strategy that the organization's working assumption is that "the only way for Israel to stop us is to use force." This document analyzes various options for how to act in such a situation, including placing obstacles (encircling the deck with metal rods; scattering sharp obstacles in order to prevent landing from the air), and barricading themselves inside the control room and the engine room.<sup>710</sup> However, it should be noted that the document's heading states that it is a draft that is not intended for distribution. Another document that was seized on the *Challenger 1* contains legal information that, apparently, was intended to be conveyed to the boat's passengers. This

<sup>706</sup> See the organization's website [www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org).

<sup>707</sup> See *Defense Minister's Memorandum Appendixes*, *supra* note 209, at appendixes Y, Z.

<sup>708</sup> See the organization's website [palsolidarity.org](http://palsolidarity.org).

<sup>709</sup> *IICC report* (Jun. 10, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 2.

<sup>710</sup> *Draft - Not for Distribution* (Free Gaza Movement report, Jul. 3, 2010); see also *IICC report* (Jun. 14, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 6-17.

- 711 *Legal Information* (Opinion by Free Gaza Movement); see also *IICC report* (Jun. 14, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 4-5.
  - 712 *IICC report* (Oct. 5, 2010), *id.*, at 5.
  - 713 *IHH Flotilla Campaign Summary, supra* note 209. From the protocol it arises that the flotilla organizers discussed several options for the way events at sea might develop, and among other options took into consideration the possibility of fire being directed at them or an arrest of the people on board the ship, as to the possibility of shooting it was written:
  - 714 "Opening fire
  - a) Just to intimidate, we keep moving forward
  - b) Need to do political and media work at the same time
  - c) Continue slowly, communicating with Israel
  - d) If shooting is more serious we will need to stop and assess. Captains will have to make decisions concerning safety of mission.
  - e) We all stay together..."
- For a detailed analysis of the national and organizational affiliations of the passengers on board the *Mavi Marmara* as well as the outlines of various organizations and activists on board the *Marmara*, see the list of passengers found on the *Mavi Marmara, IMO Passenger List* (May 27, 2010); *IICC report* (Sep. 26, 2010), *supra* note 83, at 8-104.

164. The total number of participants on the flotilla was approximately 700 passengers, from 40 countries.<sup>714</sup> On the *Mavi Marmara*, there were approximately 590 passengers from 34 different countries, including

### The Participants on the Flotilla

capitains.<sup>713</sup> the passengers' security would be left to the discretion of the vessels' and that in this forum it was decided that the question of how to protect meeting does not mention any plans for violent action against the IDF, It is further noted that the official protocol of the flotilla leadership subject of this report) is Armin Abu Rashed, a Palestinian holding a Dutch passport, who is identified with the "Muslim Brotherhood" and with organizations connected to it in Holland and Europe.<sup>712</sup> (and one of the organizers of and participants in the flotilla which is the Europe. It should be noted that one of the founders of the organization with politicians, academics, and human rights organizations throughout Israel's illegal siege of Gaza". The organization operates in cooperation governmental organizations (NGOs), whose purpose is "to bring to an end The ECSCG is an umbrella organization uniting about 30 non-citizens of other nationalities were warned "to avoid even the appearance of material support" for the Hamas or its leadership.<sup>711</sup> information explicitly states that the organization is aware of the fact that the transfer of supplies to the Hamas constitutes a crime under the laws of the United States, and also that the United Nations added the Hamas to its black list of terrorist organizations. Therefore, the Americans and citizens of other nationalities were warned "to avoid even the appearance

harsh attack which all the soldiers descending from the first helicopter experienced in addition to the two factors mentioned above, caused the soldiers to sense that a real, clear, and immediate threat was being posed to the safety and physical well being of their fellow soldiers and themselves.

215. In addition, the testimonies of the IDF soldiers indicate that there were common features to the way the IHH activists dressed, looked, and acted. They were equipped with orange life vests, body armor, and gas masks.<sup>866</sup> However, perhaps the most distinctive characteristic of each IHH activists was that they were armed with weapons such as an iron bars, clubs, axes, slingshots, knives and, in some cases, firearms. In their testimonies, the IDF soldiers expressed surprise at these persons' willingness to continue to attack even when confronted with the use of flash bang grenades and firearms.<sup>867</sup>

216. However, the fact that most of the passengers on the upper decks of the *Mavi Marmara* appeared to be part of the IHH-directed group resisting the capture of the ship does not mean every person on those decks (or those who may have resisted more passively on the other ships) were automatically direct participants in hostilities. For example, during the fighting it was noted by one soldier that on one of the lower decks towards the center and stern of the ship there were many photographers with cameras.<sup>868</sup> In this regard, there is a continuing requirement under international humanitarian law to apply the principle of distinction in order to ensure that attacks are only directed at civilians taking a direct part in hostilities. This means that every soldier had to differentiate between those persons who were direct participants in hostilities and those who were not.

#### Use of weapons by the IHH

217. The use of weapons is an important criterion in determining whether a person is taking a direct part in hostilities. It is also relevant to the issue of self-defense, since a fundamental principle of self-defense is that any use of force must be proportionate to the threat that is presented. Where law enforcement norms are applied, factors such as the level of violence caused by the individual, the injuries that the individual has inflicted on state agents, and the amount of force needed to subdue him have been considered in the assessment of whether the use of force

<sup>866</sup> See para. 166 above.

<sup>867</sup> Testimony of soldier no. 28, *IDF complementary response of 7.11.2010*, *supra* note 486, at 2.

<sup>868</sup> Testimony of soldier no. 31, *id.*, at 2.

was proportionate.<sup>869</sup> The use of "proportionate force" does not require that a proportionate response be of the same nature as the threat that is presented. For example, a person threatening the application of lethal force with an iron bar does not have to be countered with a club. Rather, the use of defensive force will be measured by the degree of force needed to effectively defend oneself or others and the means available to do so.

218. The right to use deadly force in self-defense is not limited to situations where a life is threatened; rather, the right is also applicable when serious injury can result. It is evident from the materials before the Commission that the IHH activists armed themselves with a wide array of "cold" weapons that were used in a manner which could cause death or serious bodily injury.<sup>870</sup>

The fact that the IHH activists were predominately armed with these weapons rather than firearms does not alter the fact that these weapons were "lethal". One soldier suffered a serious wound when stabbed in the stomach.<sup>871</sup> Another soldier avoided receiving a knife wound in his chest because the weapon struck the ceramic plate of his body armour.<sup>872</sup> The iron bars and other blunt force weapons caused significant head injuries to two other soldiers.<sup>873</sup> The injuries inflicted on the soldiers while they were on the ropes or as they let go of the ropes included broken or injured arms and hands,<sup>874</sup> as the soldiers used their arms to protect themselves.

869 *Bekirski v. Bulgaria*, App. No. 71420/01, Eur. Ct. H.R. (2010), at para. 135; See also C.A. 6157/04 03 *Hoch v. the State of Israel* (unpublished, Sep. 9, 2005), at para. 14g.

870 See paras. 165, 167 above.

871 Testimony of soldier no. 3, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 3. For the details of the injuries caused to soldier no. 3, see the medical reports received from Rambam Hospital and detailed in *IDF complementary response of 15.11.2010*. Among the injuries detailed: stab wound in the abdomen, facial bruise and gash in left hand, a fractured nose and torn tendon in the finger.

872 Testimony of soldier no. 5, *Id.*, at 3.

873 Testimony of soldier no. 4, *Id.*, at 2-3. For the details of the injuries caused to soldier no. 4, see the medical reports received from Tel Hashomer Hospital and detailed in *IDF complementary response of 15.11.2010*. Among the injuries and treatment detailed: compressed fracture to the skull, hematoma in right eye, seizures; the soldier was sedated and attached to respirator and received surgery to treat skull fracture. Testimony of soldier no. 1, *Id.*, at 2. For the details of the injuries caused to no. soldier 1, see the medical reports received from Rambam Hospital and detailed in the IDF's response to the Commission's request on this matter, *IDF complementary response to the Commission's Questions of 15.11.2010*, marked as exhibit 145 in the Commission's exhibits [hereinafter *IDF complementary response of 15.11.2010*]. Among the injuries detailed: a deep cut to the scalp, light internal bleeding in skull, fractured skull, injuries to the palm of his left hand (an X-ray showed that the injury was sustained in the same place as a previous fracture and therefore, his hand was put in a cast), and more.

874 Testimony of soldier no. 7, *Id.*; Testimony of soldier no. 8, *Id.*; Testimony of soldier no. 11, *IDF Completion Response of 7.11.2010*, *supra* note 486.

The soldiers were indeed protected by helmets and ceramic vests and some of them report to have been protected from grave injuries because of this equipment.<sup>875</sup> One soldier stated that his helmet had been shattered by the strikes he received during the incident (it should be noted that while all of the soldiers were equipped with helmets, which were not only strapped but fixed to their heads, some of these helmets shifted position on their heads during the fast-roping).<sup>876</sup> Further, the wide spread use of slingshots to fire iron balls, bolts, and glass marbles represented another form of force capable of causing serious bodily injury.<sup>877</sup> The attempts by the IHH activists to prevent the Israeli soldiers from boarding the *Mavi Marmara* from the Morena speedboats by cutting loose the climbing ladders represented another risk that might have caused death or serious injury.<sup>878</sup> These soldiers, who were attempting to board the *Mavi Marmara* from a smaller boat while both vessels were under way, were placed at grave risk by these actions of the IHH activists. Moreover, on two occasions when the Israeli vessels were positioning to board, two other Gaza flotilla vessels, the *Challenger 1* and *Boat 8000* maneuvered in such a way as to potentially collide with Israeli naval vessels. It required quick action by the personnel on the Israeli vessels to avoid collision.<sup>879</sup>

From the above, it is clear that the Israeli soldiers - on board the *Mavi Marmara* and on the Morena speedboats - were confronted with a large group of IHH activists who were armed with weapons capable of causing death and who were intent on causing death or serious bodily injury.

#### Use of Firearms by the IHH

219. Another issue to be addressed is whether IHH activists used firearms during the incident. Focusing on the issue of whether the IHH used firearms is misleading, since as mentioned, there is ample evidence that IHH activists used other lethal weapons in their assaults on the Israeli soldiers, which justifies the use of lethal force by those soldiers in self-defense or the defense of others. Therefore, the use of firearms is

<sup>875</sup> Testimonies of soldier no. 3, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451; and testimony of soldier no. 5, *id.*

<sup>876</sup> Testimony of soldier no. 5, *id.*

<sup>877</sup> Testimonies of soldier no. 11, soldier no. 20, soldier no. 24, soldier no. 25, soldier no. 26, soldier no. 27 and soldier no. 38, *IDF Completion Response of 7.11.2010*, *supra* note 486, indicate they were targeted with slingshots.

<sup>878</sup> Testimony of Task Force Commander, *Inquiry Expansion of 20.9.2010*, *supra* note 451, at 2-3.

<sup>879</sup> The Israeli vessels were RHIB No' 2, threatened by the CHALLENGER 1 (See Testimony of Task Force Commander, at 1, *id.*); and A Commanding Vessel, 'Zaharon', threatened by the Boat 8000 (See Testimony of soldier no. 19, at 1, *id.*; See testimony of Commander of Missile Boat A, *id.*, at 2.)

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 10:51 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sullivan, David B; Townley, Stephen G; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda; Harris, Robert K  
**Subject:** FW: US flagged vessels

Can you keep Linda and me looped in on anything flotilla related?

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Slevers, Marc J; Waters, John R  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: US flagged vessels

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 09:34:35 2010  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

Jim - in case this comes up tomorrow, here is the situation as I understand it regarding the apparently US flagged vessels.

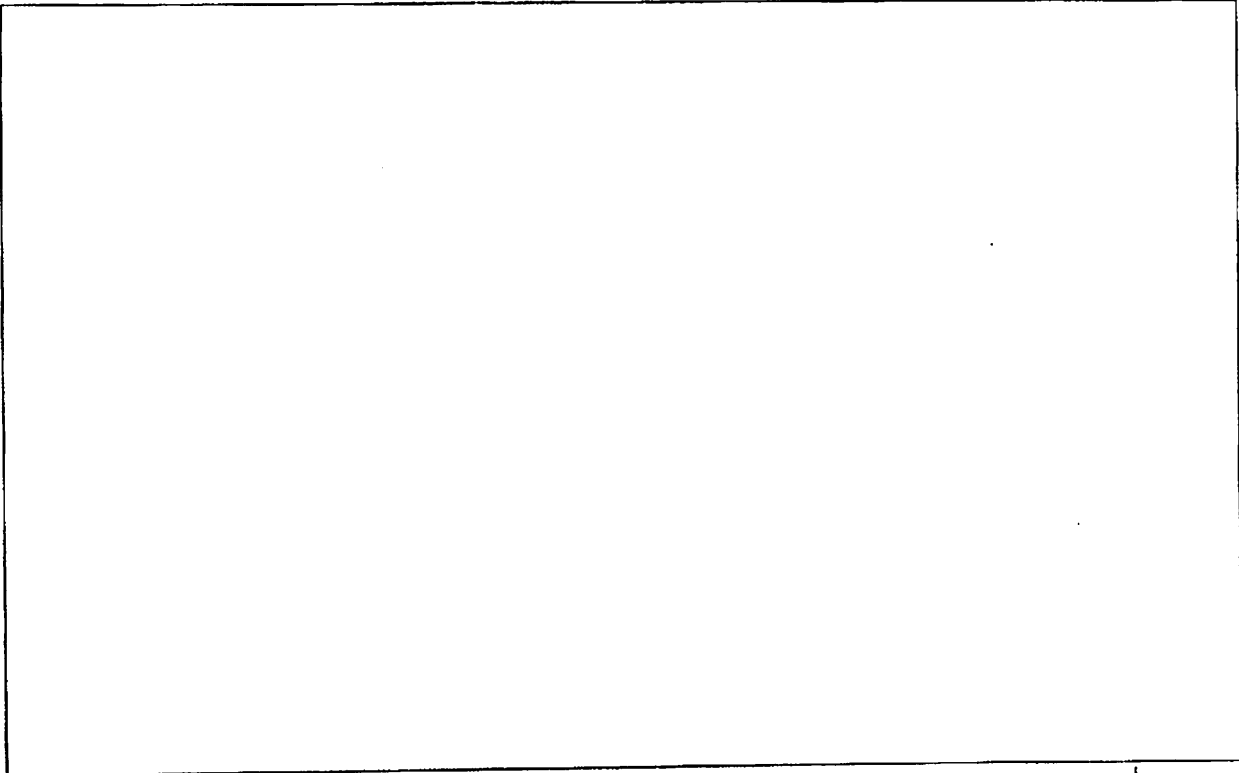
In terms of the facts -

- There are two vessels - Challenger I and Challenger II - that have been involved in this incident and are believed to be U.S. flagged vessels. Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel. Challenger II is believed to have had mechanical difficulties and may be intended to breach the blockade in the coming days (estimates range from Wed to Saturday).
- We are not certain that the vessels are properly registered in the United States. Greek port authority documentation showed both vessels as having Delaware registration numbers. Coast Guard is still checking whether those registrations are still valid; we should know tomorrow. IDF reported at various times that these vessels were actually flying Greek and St. Vincent flags (after earlier suggesting we take action because they were U.S. flagged). This also raises some doubt as to their nationality.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to include any AMCI's (again, based on Greek port docs). Cargo - humanitarian or otherwise - is not known. The two vessels are pleasure craft (yachts) that apparently do not tend to make international voyages. They are not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes locating them more difficult.
- Efforts were underway on Friday-Saturday to notify the vessel/owners and pass them a warning regarding potential consequences of unlawful activity. Unclear whether the vessels or owners have been reached yet (and efforts to reach Challenger II may have been aborted because it dropped out of the original flotilla). We are seeking an update on the facts.



B5

Thanks,  
Kevin

## I. STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

*"In international law, as in internal law, the ends do not justify the means. The state's power is not unlimited. Not all of the means are permitted." "It is when the cannons roar that we especially need the laws."*

*The Israeli Supreme Court, 11 December 2005*

### A. The international humanitarian aid convoy

In order to fully grasp the context and circumstances under which the tragedy unfolded in international waters on 31 May 2010, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the background which led to the organization of an international humanitarian aid convoy for the Gaza Strip and Israel's subsequent attack thereon.

Israel was in full occupation of the Gaza Strip between 1967 and 2005. Under the disengagement in 2005, Israel withdrew its military and civilian components from the Gaza Strip, while still maintaining effective control over this area.

Hamas' success at the legislative elections in 2006 prompted Israel to adopt policies aimed at delegitimizing Hamas. These policies picked up pace in 2007, as Hamas gained the upper hand against Fatah in the internecine struggle in the Gaza Strip.

While the makeshift rockets and mortars fired from the Gaza Strip to the southernmost areas of Israel caused few casualties and little material damage,

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they provided Israel with a pretext to take action. Israel disproportionately responded with strict measures suffocating the Gaza Strip's entire population of approximately 1.5 million, half of which are children. These measures were aimed at the movement of persons, goods and capital in and out of the Gaza Strip, as well as the provision of electricity and fuel. Meanwhile Israel also sustained its punitive military actions against the Gaza Strip, which included systematic air, naval and land operations causing many civilian deaths since 2005.

It was against such a backdrop that Israel also imposed air, maritime, and land "blockades" against the Gaza Strip.

At the end of 2008, Israel launched a full-scale military assault on the Gaza Strip. The attack caused some 1,400 deaths, mostly women and children, as well as the destruction of a substantial portion of the already weak infrastructure. The devastation was so great that an international donors' conference was convened to help Gazans rebuild their livelihoods. Despite pledges amounting to 4.5 billion USD, Israel's prohibitive policies against the Gaza Strip prevented any meaningful improvement on the ground, even bringing the United Nations projects to a standstill.

The continuing deterioration of the situation and the Gazans' plight caused ever increasing alarm and concern within the international community. As it became evident that Israel's policies would continue to hinder the provision of adequate supplies from land, attention was turned to the idea of bringing in the assistance via the sea. Ultimately, Mr. John Ging, UN Relief and Works Agency's then-

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Director of Operations in Gaza had to make a public call to the international community to bring aid to Gaza by sea.<sup>1</sup>

Attempts to assist Gaza by sea were not a novelty. The grim situation in Gaza had already led to the organization of various humanitarian missions. Following Israel's above-mentioned military operation, these attempts found a new source of inspiration in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1860 where the Council, expressing grave concern at the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and emphasizing the need to ensure sustained and regular flow of goods and people through the Gaza crossings, called for the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment; welcomed the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid; and called on Member States to support international efforts to alleviate the humanitarian and economic situation in Gaza.<sup>2</sup>

It is within such a context that a multitude of NGO's from a variety of countries came together in a coalition to help alleviate the alarming humanitarian crisis in Gaza. The principal Turkish NGO within the coalition was "İnsan Hak ve Hürriyetleri Vakfı" (the "Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms"—IHH), which enjoys consultative status within the UN ECOSOC and performs humanitarian activities in over 120 countries worldwide since 1992.

The coalition organized an international and multi-faith convoy of ships laden with certified humanitarian aid. The ships set sail in May 2010 from different

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<sup>1</sup> See John Ging's statements, Israel wants clarification about UNRWA Gaza Director's call to break the siege, *The Middle East Monitor*, 4 May 2010. <<http://www.middleeastmonitor.org.uk/news/middle-east/980-israel-wants-clarification-about-unrwa-gaza-directors-call-to-break-the-siege>> 3 February 2011  
<sup>2</sup> Security Council, United Nations, Resolution on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, S/RES/1860 (2009)

countries. The convoy consisted of passenger vessels "Mavi Marmara" (Comoros), "Sfendoni" (Togo) (referred to in some instances as the "8000"), "Challenger I" (US) and cargo vessels "Gazze I" (Turkish), "Eleftheri Mesogeio" (Greek) (also referred to in some instances as the "Sofia"), "Defne-Y" (Kiribati).<sup>3</sup> The total cargo on the six ships was in excess of 10,000 tons.<sup>4</sup>

The passengers included Members of Parliaments from different European countries as well as a Member of the Knesset, academics, journalists, former diplomats including a retired US ambassador, religious leaders, elderly people, women, and the one-year-old son of the Mavi Marmara's Chief Engineer.<sup>5,6</sup> These passengers, who came from different walks of life and backgrounds, had united behind the humane goal of helping other persons in distress.

#### **B. The vessels that departed from Turkish ports**

The Mavi Marmara left Istanbul on 22 May 2010 with a crew of 29 and a cleaning and maintenance personnel of 42.<sup>7</sup> The Port of Zeytinburnu (Istanbul), as all Turkish ports used by the vessels in the convoy, has an International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Certificate under the Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).<sup>8</sup> All crew members and passengers were subjected to x-ray checks, and customs and passport controls conforming to the pertinent international standards.<sup>9</sup> On 25 May 2010, the vessel docked at the Port of Antalya which it left on 28 May 2010 with a total of 546 passengers and 29 crew

<sup>3</sup>For photographs of the vessels, see: The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Palestine Our Route Humanitarian Aid Our Load Convoy Campaign Summary Report, p.12 <[http://www.ihh.org.tr/uploads/2010/insaniyardim-filosu-ozet-raporu\\_en.pdf](http://www.ihh.org.tr/uploads/2010/insaniyardim-filosu-ozet-raporu_en.pdf)>, (Accessed 14 July 2010)

<sup>4</sup>For a comprehensive description of the cargo, see Annex 3 (Section 1-4).

<sup>5</sup>For the crew and passenger lists of the vessels Mavi Marmara, Gazze and Defne-Y, see Annex 3 (Section 1-4).

<sup>6</sup>A video footage of the said baby is in Annex 7 (Clip19).

<sup>7</sup>For the testimony of Captain Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>8</sup>For the Statement of Compliance Documents (ISPS) of the Ports of Istanbul, Antalya, Iskenderun and Zeytinburnu, see Annex 3 (Section 5)

<sup>9</sup>For the customs records of the passengers and crew of the Mavi Marmara, see Annex 4 (Section 2 & 7)

members.<sup>10</sup> Again, all the passengers and crew were subjected to the same stringent x-ray checks as well as customs and passport controls. All personal belongings and cargo were also thoroughly inspected and cleared.<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>

The Gazze-I left the Port of Iskenderun on 22 May 2010 with a crew of thirteen and five passengers, while the Defne-Y departed the Port of Zeytinburnu, Istanbul, on 24 May 2010 with a crew of thirteen and seven passengers. Both vessels underwent similar rigorous checks and controls.

On 28 May 2010, the Mavi Marmara sailed towards the meeting point south of the island of Cyprus where all the vessels in the convoy were expected to get together. At the meeting point, Challenger-II was discovered to have become unfit to complete the rest of the planned journey. As a result, its 14 passengers were transferred to the Mavi Marmara.<sup>14</sup> The personal effects of the new arrivals were thoroughly checked by the crew of the Mavi Marmara.

The convoy sailed from the meeting point on 30 May 2010 at 16.00 on a bearing of 222°.<sup>15</sup>

### **C. Diplomatic contacts prior to the departure of the convoy**

A number of diplomatic representations were carried out by Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ankara, demanding that Turkish authorities deny the convoy departure from Turkish ports, also insisting that, should the convoy sail on as planned, the aid be routed to Israel for inspection and subsequent delivery to its destination.

<sup>10</sup> For the customs records of the passengers and crew of the Mavi Marmara, see Annex 4 (Section 2 & 7)

<sup>11</sup> For the written deposition of First Captain Mr. Mahmut Tural, see Annex 5 (Section 1/i)

<sup>12</sup> For the Statement of Compliance Documents of the Port of Antalya, see Annex 3 (Section 5)

<sup>13</sup> For the Port Authority Records of Mavi Marmara, see Annex 3 (Section 1 & 2)

<sup>14</sup> For a list the passengers who boarded the Mavi Marmara from the Challenger-II, see Annex 3 (Section 8)

<sup>15</sup> For the map of the coordinates of the vessels during the time of journey see, Annex 3 (Section 5)

wounded Israeli soldiers, was handcuffed tightly and made to kneel for three hours like the rest of the passengers.<sup>104</sup>

#### v. Attacks on the other ships

The brutal and tragic nature of the Israeli attack on the Mavi Marmara has overshadowed the raid on the remaining ships that were part of the humanitarian aid convoy. Contrary to repeated claims by Israel that the remaining ships were boarded peacefully, Israeli soldiers used force on the other vessels as well, and subjected their passengers to violent treatment.

The Sfendoni was sailing about 300-400 meters astern of the Mavi Marmara. The two ships were attacked simultaneously from zodiacs on either side.<sup>105</sup> The Captain disabled the engines and stopped the ship.<sup>106</sup> About 15 to 20 masked Israeli soldiers boarded the vessel and resorted to violence against the passengers who were engaged in passive resistance.<sup>107</sup>

Eyewitness reports are as follows:

- Bilal Abdulazziz witnessed soldiers using stun grenades and batons against activists who were merely locking arms. He was tasered in the head, legs and back. He also witnessed elderly people being beaten.<sup>108</sup>
- Dimitris Gielalis saw Israeli soldiers using plastic bullets and tasers and beating people.<sup>109</sup> He witnessed a cameraman getting hit in the eye with a rifle butt.<sup>110</sup>

<sup>104</sup> For the written deposition of Doctor Hasan Hüseyin Uysal, where he also describes how he attended to the wounded Israeli soldiers, see Annex 5 (Section 1/x)

<sup>105</sup> See paragraph 143 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>106</sup> TrishMaryHill, Dr Hasan Nowrah Convoy Massacre Survivor Clip of 1/3, [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNfgl2_PLxk&feature=related), 10 June 2010, <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNfgl2\\_PLxk&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNfgl2_PLxk&feature=related)> (9 July 2010)

<sup>107</sup> Mikael Stengård and Josefine Hökerberg, Teologen Ulf Carmesund tillbaka från Israel, [Aftonbladet](http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/article7231718.ab), 2 June 2010 <<http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/article7231718.ab>> (7 July 2010)

<sup>108</sup> Adycousins, Gaza Flotilla Testimony of Bilal Abdulazziz, [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fjh91mCbkl&feature=related), 9 June 2010, <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Fjh91mCbkl&feature=related>> (1 July 2010)

- Al Mahdi Alharati was hit with rubber bullets in the leg, beaten in the groin and over the head, hit with the back of a gun in the eye and hit with the butt of a machine gun on the back of the head.<sup>111,112</sup>
- Gene St. Onge was kicked and hit with a 'rifle or something' suffering a gash on his head. He was then restrained with handcuffs. He said their captain, who was pulled and hit, sustained a punctured eardrum along with neck and back injuries.<sup>113</sup>
- Yousser Benderbal said that the Captain's ear was torn and that he suffered injuries to his neck and leg.<sup>114</sup>
- Retired US Ambassador, the octogenarian Edward Peck said that as a result of the non-violent resistance outside the bridge, the Israeli soldiers roughly treated some people. Some ended up needing crutches, bandages and arm slings, and the Captain was in need of a neck brace.<sup>115</sup>
- Dr. Hasan Nowarah was hit by a rubber bullet. He saw Edward Peck knocked down by an Israeli soldier, and the captain lying on the floor with his face covered in blood and his arms full of cuts.<sup>116</sup>
- Television journalist Manolo Luppichini saw two people hurt by tasers.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> Robert Booth et al., Gaza convoy raid: We heard gunfire – then our ship turned into lake of blood, [guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk), 2 June 2010 <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/02/gaza-flotilla-raid-gunfire-ship-blood>> (5 June 2010)

<sup>110</sup> Elena Becatoros and Suzan Fraser, Troops boarded and ship turned into a lake of blood, [independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie), 2 June 2010 <<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/troops-boarded-and-ship-turned-into-a-lake-of-blood-2203364.html>> (5 July 2010)

<sup>111</sup> Genevieve Carbery, Irish citizen 'beaten' by Israeli forces, [theirishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com), 9 June 2010 <<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/world/2010/06/09/t224272122281.html>> (12 June 2010)

<sup>112</sup> For the medical report of Almahdi Abdulhameed Alharati, see Annex 2 (Section 2)

<sup>113</sup> Testimony of Gene St. Onge, [The Free Gaza Movement](http://www.freegaza.org), 7 June 2010 <<http://www.freegaza.org/en/testimonies-from-israeli-jail/t221-in-their-own-words-survivor-testimonies-from-flotilla-31-may-2010>> (27 August 2010)

<sup>114</sup> "We were unarmed and didn't provoke anybody" – aid convoy member, [RT](http://rt.com), 6 June 2010 <[http://rt.com/Top\\_News/2010-06-06/gaza-aid-convoy-eyewitness.html](http://rt.com/Top_News/2010-06-06/gaza-aid-convoy-eyewitness.html)> (5 July 2010)

<sup>115</sup> Interview with Edward Peck, [Democracy Now](http://www.democracynow.org), *War and Peace Report*, 2 June 2010, <[http://www.democracynow.org/2010/6/2/israels\\_explanation\\_for\\_deadly\\_gaza\\_aid](http://www.democracynow.org/2010/6/2/israels_explanation_for_deadly_gaza_aid)> (19 January 2011)

<sup>116</sup> For the testimony of Hasan Nowarah, see Annex 5 (Section 5/ii)

<sup>117</sup> Dimi Reider, Italian convoy journalist: My credit card was used after IDF confiscated it, [Haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com), 11 June 2010 <<http://www.haaretz.com/print-edition/news/italian-flotilla-journalist-my-credit-card-was-used-after-idf-confiscated-it-1.295493>> (12 June 2010)



- Manuel Zani recounted how the soldiers used tasers, truncheons, sound bombs etc. against unarmed civilians. He reported the captain being badly beaten with blood coming from his ear.<sup>118</sup>

Once the Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara began, Challenger-I attempted to flee the scene and transmit reports about the attack to the outside world. This attempt was unsuccessful because of the telecommunications blackout executed by the Israeli forces. Moreover, the ship had to slow down due to loss of oil pressure in its engines. Eyewitnesses on the ship said rubber bullets were fired before they were boarded, and many passengers were hit.<sup>119</sup>

Witnesses recounted later that Israeli soldiers used stun grenades and high-powered paintball guns, hit people with their rifle butts, pushed people onto the deck and stomped on them.

- Fintan Lane had a gun pointed in his face. He genuinely feared for his life. He saw Fiachra Ó Luain dragged around the deck.<sup>120</sup>
- Photographer Kate Geraghty was trying to take photographs when she was tasered on the upper arm, which caused her to be thrown a meter and a half and collapse vomiting on the deck.<sup>121</sup>
- Huwaida Arraf told CNN that her head was banged on the deck after she was handcuffed and hooded.<sup>122</sup> She said soldiers beat many passengers.<sup>123</sup>

<sup>118</sup> For the testimony of Manuel Zani, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xviii)

<sup>119</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>120</sup> Shane Hickey and Anita Guidera, 'I tried to reason with them, but they attacked us', *Independent* <<http://www.independent.ie/service/about-us-24072.html>> (19 January 2011)

<sup>121</sup> Abdullah Al-Qattan, Gaza heroes welcomed home, *The Kuwait Times*, 3 June 2010 <[http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read\\_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy](http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=NDg0MzQ1OTYy)> (15 January 2011)

<sup>122</sup> CNN Wire Staff, Eyewitnesses recount Israel convoy raid, *CNN*, 1 June 2010. <<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/06/01/gaza.raid.eyewitnesses>> (1 June 2010)

<sup>123</sup> axis4 peace2, Convoy Survivor says Israeli marines boarded unarmed American ship throwing grenades, *YouTube*, 2 June 2010 <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfm\\_bScn08E&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfm_bScn08E&feature=related)> (6 June 2010)

- Theresa McDermott saw a Belgian woman named Margarita (apparently, Griet Deknopper) hit in the face by a projectile which burst her nose causing heavy bleeding. She also saw Huwaida Arraf and Anne de Jong, who tried to block the stairs, thrown to the ground, their hands cuffed with plastic ties that cut into their wrists, and their faces pushed on to the deck covered with broken glass. When Theresa shouted and tried to get to the two women, a soldier put his pistol to her head and said he would shoot her if she did not do as she was told.<sup>124</sup>
- Anne de Jong recalls how they were shot at from 2-4 meters and how she was hit by 6 rubber bullets on the back, the doctor in the Israeli port of Ashdod labeling the resulting bruises as "insect bites".<sup>125</sup>
- Ewa Jasiewicz saw Huwaida Arraf held by soldiers in stress positions. Jasiewicz was insulted and had her life threatened on more than one occasion by Israeli soldiers.<sup>126</sup>
- An 80-year-old man was not allowed to go to the toilet, forcing him to soil his clothes.<sup>127</sup>

Israeli vessels closed in on the Eleftheri Mesogios at around 05.30 and warned the ship to make a starboard turn or be shot upon. The Israeli soldiers boarded the ship and shot a number of Greek passengers with rubber bullets and paintballs. Tasers were also used against a number of passengers. A few passengers were knocked to the floor by the soldiers. Dror Feiler testified he was wrestled down with his arms bent and hit. He recollects being thrown on the floor and being kicked in the ribs, an Israeli soldier standing with his boot on his

<sup>124</sup> Fear, pain and propaganda: an activist's story, The Herald Scotland, 6 June 2010  
<<http://www.heraldsotland.com/news/world-news/fear-pain-and-propaganda-an-activist-s-story-1.1033113>>  
(29 August 2010)

<sup>125</sup> For the testimony of Anne De Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

<sup>126</sup> Emine Saner, Gaza Convoy: protesters' story, guardian.co.uk, 5 June 2010  
<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2010/jun/05/gaza-flotilla-protesters-story>> (5 June 2010)

<sup>127</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xii)

face, and being kicked even more after being handcuffed. Other passengers told him he was bleeding from his ear.<sup>128</sup> Famous author Henning Mankell also recounts soldiers shooting passengers with rubber bullets and tasing them. Mankell sarcastically recalls how an Israeli soldier, claiming to have found a weapon on board, brandished Mankell's disposable razor blade.<sup>129</sup>

Zodiacs and helicopters surrounded the Gazze-I at around 06.00 and fully armed Israeli troops came aboard shortly thereafter. Bayram Kalyon was hit with rifle butts on his back and his arm.<sup>130</sup> The detainees were searched and taken for individual questioning. They remained in the galley until the ship reached Ashdod.<sup>131</sup>

The attack against the Defne-Y occurred at 06.10 when helicopters landed soldiers on the ship. Everyone was transferred to the galley. The 20 persons were kept in a 15-square-meter unventilated area until the ship reached Ashdod.<sup>132</sup>

#### **E. Mistreatment of passenger victims including journalists**

##### **i. Mistreatment on the way to Ashdod**

Israeli soldiers committed crimes not only during the attack phase. Once they assumed control of the convoy, they continuously subjected the passengers to a variety of mistreatment, which amount to no less than torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment under the pertinent international conventions. The acts

<sup>128</sup> For the testimony of Dror Feiler, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vi)

<sup>129</sup> For the testimony of Henning Mankell, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vii)

<sup>130</sup> For the testimony of Bayram Kalyon, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xiii)

<sup>131</sup> The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Palestine Our Route Humanitarian Aid Our Load Convoy Campaign Summary Report, p. 29.

<sup>132</sup> The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, Palestine Our Route Humanitarian Aid Our Load Convoy Campaign Summary Report, p. 27.

described below continued throughout the journey to Ashdod, which took some 12 hours.

Virtually all passengers, including the wounded and elderly, were handcuffed with plastic cords so tightly that these quickly caused swelling, discoloration and numbing in their hands. It should be noted that these cuffs cannot be loosened. Most passengers who complained of agonizing pain caused by the cuffs were either ignored or punished by having these even further tightened instead. The tightness of the cuffs was of such proportion that, as expressed in the Fact Finding Mission's report, over 50 passengers still suffered from medical problems months after the ordeal.<sup>133</sup>

Handcuffed passengers, including even the wounded, particularly on board the Mavi Marmara were beaten and forced to remain kneeling on the decks, exposed not only to the sun, but also to continuous seawater spray and wind gusts caused by the rotors of interchanging helicopters hovering nearby. Their already dire situation was further aggravated by almost constant physical and verbal abuse, as well as threats. Even the Chief Engineer's wife and her one year old baby were not spared<sup>134</sup>. Passengers with chronic illnesses requiring regular medication, such as diabetes and heart condition, were deprived of their medicine. Dogs were used to intimidate and taunt the passengers with at least one instance of biting. Some passengers were blindfolded while a number of others had hoods put on their heads. Many passengers also complained about not being given food and water. A number of passengers also report being filmed despite their protests. Some eyewitnesses also reported that the Israeli soldiers treated the passengers with discrimination based upon their complexion.<sup>135</sup>

<sup>133</sup> See paragraph 135 of the Report of the Fact Finding Mission, Annex 8

<sup>134</sup> For the testimony of Chief Engineer Ekrem Çetin, see Annex 5 (Section 1/iii)

<sup>135</sup> For the testimonies of Manuel Tapial and Henning Mankell, see Annex 5 (Section 5)

A general practice warranting special mention was the denial of toilet access to the passengers. Some passengers ended up publicly wetting themselves and thus humiliated. In one extreme case, one kneeling passenger who tried to move away from urine coming from his neighbour had his face pressed down into the puddle.<sup>136</sup> Those who were ultimately permitted to use the toilets were kept handcuffed and watched while in the water closet.

Below are references to just a few testimonies to illustrate the gravity of the Israeli soldiers' misconduct en route to Ashdod. These testimonies represent a mere fraction of the passengers' ordeal. Other eyewitness accounts corroborating these abound in the annexes.

Mattias Gardell described how an elderly man apparently lost an eye due to the dire circumstances on the decks of the Mavi Marmara and the lack of medical attention.<sup>137</sup>

When Musa Üzer, a passenger with a severe kidney condition, wanted to take his medication out of his pocket, he was badly beaten and was deprived of his pills until he returned to Turkey days later<sup>138</sup>.

The Spanish reporter Manuel Tapial describes how another passenger was beaten up, hooded and forced to stay "*on his knees on top of two metal cylinders; because of the wind that the helicopter was causing, it was impossible for him to stay in that position. He kept falling over, and each time he would be violently beaten up.*"<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> For the testimony, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxii)

<sup>137</sup> For the testimony of Mattias Gardell, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xvi)

<sup>138</sup> For the testimony of Musa Üzer, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxvi)

<sup>139</sup> For the testimony of Manuel Tapial, see Annex 5 (Section 5/xiii)

Hüseyin Mutlu, already suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg, recounts, "I was forced to wait under the sun for some 5 hours, as a result of which first degree burns developed on my arms, head, face and wounded leg. Throughout this period, I asked for painkillers and antibiotics, but these were not given."<sup>140</sup>

Selim Özkabakçı recalls "After asking for my handcuffs to be loosened, an Israeli soldier put his handgun against my head and mockingly cursed to me in English. Then he hit me on the head with his gun's barrel. At that moment I thought that he was going to shoot me."<sup>141</sup>

Muhammet Latif Kaya reports that he saw one of the German shepherd dogs used by the Israeli soldiers to intimidate the passengers bite a friend of his in the abdomen.<sup>142</sup>

Anne de Jong on board Challenger-I reports how she was beaten, handcuffed and hooded, denied her asthma medication, and how an elderly American man was refused toilet access and ended up wetting himself. She also reports that when asked why such treatment was being done, an Israeli soldier replied "Shut up! Your boat has been lucky."<sup>143</sup>

Again on Challenger-I, Inge Neefs recounts how the wounded were denied treatment for a long time, the hoodings, the cuffing of hands and feet, and how she was watched while in the toilet.<sup>144</sup>

Henning Mankell is one of the eyewitnesses referring to Israeli soldiers filming the passengers against their will on the way to Ashdod. In his testimony,

<sup>140</sup> For the testimony of Hüseyin Mutlu, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxvii)

<sup>141</sup> For the testimony of Selim Özkabakçı, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xlii)

<sup>142</sup> For the testimony of Muhammet Latif Kaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxxiii)

<sup>143</sup> For the testimony of Anne de Jong, see Annex 5 (Section 1/xli)

<sup>144</sup> For the testimony of Inge Neefs, see Annex 5 (Section 5/ix)

Mankell expresses suspicion that parts of these footages where passengers are shown with food, would be used to misrepresent the real circumstances on board.<sup>145</sup> Abdullah Özkaya supports this argument by stating that "*they [Israeli soldiers] put food and water in front of us, then took pictures and filmed us.*"<sup>146</sup>

## ii. Mistreatment at the Port of Ashdod

Following a journey, which lasted about 12 hours, the convoy was brought to the Israeli port of Ashdod where, some days prior to the attack, the Israeli authorities had already established a specifically designed processing center for the detained passengers.<sup>147</sup>

The passengers were subjected to severe humiliation throughout the disembarkation process. Some witnesses recount being brought ashore at gunpoint.<sup>148</sup> Some others were beaten up.<sup>149</sup> No preferential treatment was accorded to the wounded. Hüseyin Mutlu, who had been shot in the leg, had to wait about 9 hours to disembark. He ultimately got off the ship unaided.<sup>150</sup>

All the passengers were paraded before jeering hostile crowds as well as the media. At least one witness reports that Israeli soldiers had their photographs taken with the captives in what appears to be "trophy poses".<sup>151</sup>

Once ashore, the passengers were taken to the processing center composed of numerous tents. In several cases, groups of female passengers were taken into the same tent and forced to remove all their clothes in front of military personnel

<sup>145</sup> For the testimony of Henning Mankell, see Annex 5 (Section 5/vii)

<sup>146</sup> For the testimony of Abdullah Özkaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/iii)

<sup>147</sup> For the relevant footage, see Annex 7 (Clip 20)

<sup>148</sup> For the testimonies of Inge Neefs, Barış Oktay and Hayrullah Küçükaytekin, see Annex 5 (Section 5/ix & Section 4/xxvi)

<sup>149</sup> For the testimonies of Henning Mankell, Griet Deknopper and Ewa Jasiewicz, see Annex 5 (Section 5)

<sup>150</sup> For the testimony of Hüseyin Mutlu, see Annex 5 (Section 4/xxvii)

<sup>151</sup> For the testimony of Abdullah Özkaya, see Annex 5 (Section 4/iii)

RELEASED IN PART B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:41 AM  
**To:** Hale, David M; Rubinstein, Daniel H; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.gov'; Cunningham, James B; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Sievers, Marc J; Waters, John R  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: US flagged vessels

L's info, per Coast Guard, is that one of the second wave vessels is US registered/flagged.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarini, Marc F  
**Sent:** Wed Jun 02 09:34:35 2010  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

Update -- USCG confirms that its database shows that the vessel is validly registered in Delaware. We can now be comfortable in concluding that the vessel is properly characterized as U.S. flagged. [REDACTED]

B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarini, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

Jim -- in case this comes up tomorrow, here is the situation as I understand it regarding the apparently US flagged vessels.

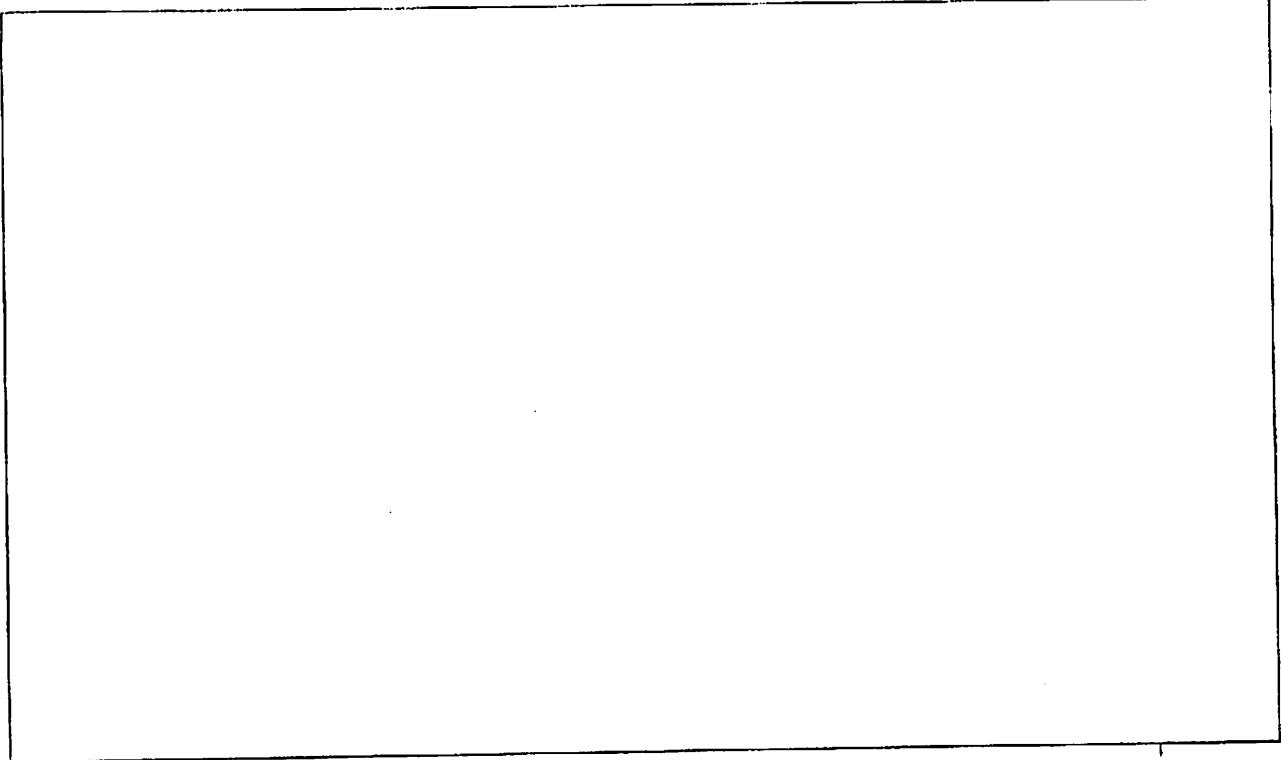
In terms of the facts --

- There are two vessels -- Challenger I and Challenger II -- that have been involved in this incident and are believed to be U.S. flagged vessels. Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel. Challenger II is believed to have had mechanical difficulties and may be intended to breach the blockade in the coming days (estimates range from Wed to Saturday).
- We are not certain that the vessels are properly registered in the United States. Greek port authority documentation showed both vessels as having Delaware registration numbers. Coast Guard is still checking whether those registrations are still valid; we should know tomorrow. IDF reported at various times that these vessels were actually flying Greek and St. Vincent flags (after earlier suggesting we take action because they were U.S. flagged). This also raises some doubt as to their nationality.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to include any AMCI's (again, based on Greek port docs). Cargo - humanitarian or otherwise -- is not known. The two vessels are pleasure craft (yachts) that apparently do not tend to make international voyages. They are not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes locating them more difficult.
- Efforts were underway on Friday-Saturday to notify the vessel/owners and pass them a warning regarding potential consequences of unlawful activity. Unclear whether the vessels or owners have been reached yet (and efforts to reach Challenger II may have been aborted because it dropped out of the original flotilla). We are seeking an update on the facts.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



B5



Thanks,  
Kevin

RELEASED IN FULL

L129

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 05, 2011 4:49 PM  
**To:** Adams, Julie D; Agor, Christina J; Baldwin, Virginia E; Baskey, Alistair C; Borodin, Sara E; Burnett, David R; Cunningham, James B; Finver, Frank J; Grubb, Jason B; Hale, David M; Harden, R. David; Higgins, Christina M; Hoyer, Kurt J; Irwin, Matthew T; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Levin, Jan X; Marchese, Gregory M; NEA-IPA-DL; Otto, Jeffrey L; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Rudman, Mara; Stettenbauer, Grace C; Sumka, Howard J; Waters, John R; Goldberger, Thomas H; Beran, Sarah M; Silverman, Robert J; Johnson, Mark C; Pütz, Amanda C; Jazyńska, Catherine B; MacWilliams, Benjamin WG; TelAvivECON  
**Subject:** NEA/IPA OI for July 5

**Categories:**

Working

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

7/5/2011

### (C) Anniversary Flotilla Update

Freedom Flotilla II has not formed and its vessels largely remain in ports in Greece, which has banned them from leaving if they are headed to Gaza. The US-flagged *Audacity of Hope* attempted to depart Piraeus, Greece on July 1, but was stopped by the Greek Coast Guard which escorted the ship back to port and took its AmCit captain into custody for setting sail in defiance of the Greek ban on the flotilla boats leaving. The captain was released July 5. Greek authorities detained nine AmCits gathered in front of Embassy Athens on July 3, and six additional AmCits who gathered in front of the U.S. Ambassador's residence July 4, to protest Greek actions to stop ships from sailing to Gaza. Both groups were released following questioning. The Greek Coast Guard also intercepted a Canadian ship on July 4 that attempted to sail for Gaza without permission. Unconfirmed media reports that a French pleasure boat associated with the flotilla left Greek territorial waters on July 4 without permission from Greek authorities.

Select: | Posted at 4:47 PM by Doutrich, Jack T | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

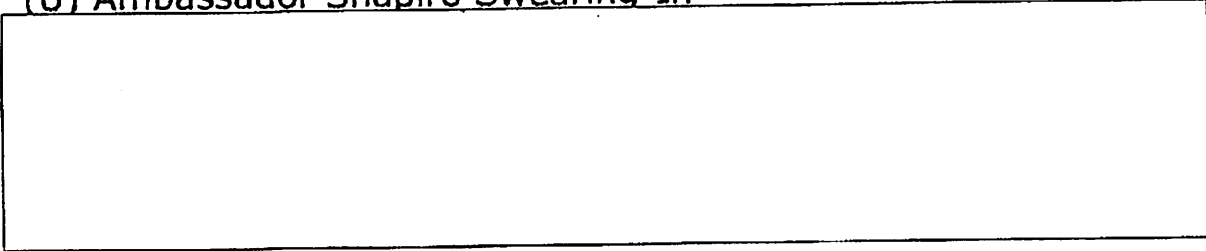
### (C) Polish MidEast Watcher on Quartet Statement and Palestinian Action at UN

In a meeting with Jack Doutrich on July 1, Polish Mideast Watcher Justyna Bartkiewicz-Godlewska said Warsaw supported U.S. MEP efforts and would back a Quartet statement that endorses the principles outlined in President Obama's May speech. Bartkiewicz-Godlewska asked if there was any chance the U.S. would accept a Quartet statement that also addressed East Jerusalem and Palestinian refugee issues. Looking ahead to possible Palestinian unilateral action at the UN in September, B-G said Poland is eager to maintain EU consensus in its role as President of the EU (Poland began its six-month term on July 1). She underscored that the next EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), slated for July 18, would likely be the last one before UNGA, limiting the opportunity for additional routinely scheduled statements from the EU.

Select: | Posted at 4:46 PM by Doutrich, Jack T | [Permalink](#) | [Email this Post](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**(U) Ambassador Shapiro Swearing-In**



NR

**Jack Doutrich**  
**Political Officer**  
NEA/IPA  
(202) 647-4132

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Sensitivity: Sensitive

Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Derived From: Derived from previous message in thread.

Declassify On: 2021/07/05

RELEASED IN FULL

I146

**Bowers, Allyson M**

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**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:47 PM  
**To:** Holmstrom, Todd; Goldberger, Thomas H; Connelly, Maura  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL; Baumert, Kevin A; Riley, Robert J; EUR-SE-DL; Maggi, Robert W; Astillero, William P; Polizzotto, Susan; Tyson, Paul H  
**Subject:** Status of the Challenger II  
**Importance:** High

Bob,

Thanks a lot for this; very helpful! They may have meant the Challenger II, since that's what everybody in the press and IC is saying. The fact that we have positively identified the vessel in port, however, is a major coup.

Thanks again,

Jim

---

**From:** Riley, Robert J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:03 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** EUR-SE-DL  
**Subject:** Ships in Cyprus

Hi Jim – Terry mentioned you left him a voicemail asking about ships in Cyprus. Post has made multiple inquiries about this, and thus far the Cypriot port authorities have said there is one ship in Limassol, US flagged, called the Challenger 3. Per our consular folks in Nicosia, the port officials say there are no Amcits aboard. Port authorities also say the GoC's position re not allowing ships to depart for the flotilla has not changed. That's what we know right now.

Robert J. Riley  
Deputy Director  
Office of Southern European Affairs (EUR/SE)  
U.S. Department of State  
Office: 202-647-5120  
Cell: 202-374-0849  
[rileyri@state.gov](mailto:rileyri@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

I308

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:44 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masiiko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandets, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warran; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Subject:** FW: Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:39 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

**ATHENS (AP)** - An activist says a U.S.-flagged vessel that is part of a pro-Palestinian flotilla planning to break Israel's sea blockade of Gaza may set sail from a Greek port without receiving official permission.

American Ann Wright repeated allegations Thursday that Israel is pressuring Greek authorities not to allow the 42 passengers and crew of the U.S. flagged Audacity of Hope to leave from a port near Athens.

But she wouldn't say how long activists would wait for the all-clear before the 33-meter (108-foot) ferry begins its journey.

Between 300 and 400 international activists aboard 10 ships had been due to sail this week to Gaza to try and break the naval blockade Israel imposed after Hamas militants overran the Palestinian territory in 2007.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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1324

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:23 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pflz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)

**Subject:** Flotilla Update

Embassy Athens – Per two Gaza flotilla websites, passengers on the U.S. Boat to Gaza, *The Audacity of Hope*, invited Greek and international media to inspect the boat on June 30 at 3:00 pm in Perama, Greece. The passengers note that they were inspected by Greek officials on Monday, June 27, but have not yet received notification of their findings. Gale Courey Toensing, a passenger on the American boat said to the media today, "Our voyage is totally transparent and we have nothing to hide. All we want to do is sail to Gaza with our cargo of letters from Americans to the people of Gaza. We are sulfur-free and ready to sail." Due to vandalism discovered Monday on the propeller of the Swedish-Greek vessel *Juliano*, flotilla participants have organized guard duty rosters for each ship that is due to sail for Gaza. The *Juliano* was towed for repairs to a shipyard at another port and should be ready to sail on July 1 pending another assessment by Greek officials. The Canadian ship, which an anonymous complaint also labeled unfit to sail, has been reinspected and received clearance as seaworthy.

**JERUSALEM (AP)** - Organizers of a Gaza-bound flotilla say Israel has sabotaged a second ship.

An activist told Israel's Army Radio that the engine of an Irish ship was damaged.

Earlier this week, activists said Israel damaged the propeller of a Swedish ship in the Greek port of Piraeus.

Israel has not commented on the allegations.

About 10 ships are due to set sail this week from Greece. It's unclear if the damaged boats will delay things.

Israel imposed a naval blockade after Hamas militants overran the Palestinian territory in 2007.

It says it will not allow the flotilla to reach Gaza.

Last year, an Israeli raid on a similar flotilla killed nine activists on a Turkish vessel. Each side blamed the other for the violence.

**ISRAEL RADIO NEWS 8:00 AM Hebrew Report**

\* *Flotilla ships:* Organizers of the Gaza flotilla have accused Israel of sabotaging the ships and said that they would guard the ships currently anchored in Greece and Turkey. One organizer said the group erred by not making plans to secure the boats. Members of Ireland's For Gaza organization will hold a press conference in Dublin. Earlier, organizers accused Israel of sabotage against the Swedish ship *Juliano*.

**Sabotage and Delay**

*Yedioth Ahronoth* (p. 6) by Menahem Gantz (Athens) -- Did Israel sabotage one of the flotilla ships currently docked in a Turkish port? Last night there were reports that the Irish ship *Saoirse* is not seaworthy and will not be able to set sail in the coming days. A variety of sources told *Yedioth Ahronoth* that "without question this was sabotage, serious sabotage that was committed in Turkey's territorial waters."

Members of the group that was supposed to set sail from the Turkish port checked the ship carefully, eventually confirming their suspicion that the incident was deliberate sabotage. It is not clear what the exact nature of the mishap was, but sources said yesterday that it was serious enough to prevent the Irish ship from taking part in the flotilla. Twenty-two people were scheduled to sail on the *Saoirse*.

1

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Flotilla spokespeople refused to confirm or deny the reports, but at the beginning of the week they pointed an accusing finger at Israel, claiming that "highly trained professionals" had attacked the boats in order to prevent the flotilla from getting under way. This followed a report on Monday that the propellers on the Swedish-owned vessel *Juliano* had been mysteriously sabotaged while anchored in Athens.

"The longer we are held up Israel believes it will be able to dampen our motivation and our spirit, but they are mistaken," said Thomas Sommer-Houdeville, the French spokesman for the flotilla and one of the senior members of the International flotilla to Gaza. "There are several parliamentarians here, from several European capitals, journalists and activists, and not one of them will back down. I hope that we'll set sail soon." But as much as Thomas and his colleagues may hope, it is unlikely the flotilla will set sail this week. It will likely be pushed off to next week.

Apart from the mysterious mishaps on the ships, the flotilla has encountered other difficulties as well. The general strike and riots in the streets of Athens, as well as other legal and administrative problems, have pushed the flotilla off. In the meanwhile activists continue to hold meetings and other gatherings, mainly in order to interest the media and to keep activists primed for a clash with IDF soldiers before they lose interest and abandon the ships.

Thomas invites me to tour the *Louise Michel*, named for the French revolutionary, a legendary figure for the French left wing. "The IDF says there are chemical agents here. You're welcome to look for them," he said before introducing me to the captain and crew members. Although the Israeli claim referred to the French ship *Dignity*, there is no question that the presence of an Israeli journalist could serve the propaganda agenda for flotilla organizers. [Several French journalists] were invited to record and report on the Israeli visiting the peace-lovers' ship and seeing for himself that there were no weapons on board.

The flotilla to Gaza was thought up by more than one person, but it is questionable whether it would have come to pass in its current format, or the format it used last year, without the involvement of Swedish-Israeli Dror Feiler (60). After the last flotilla Feiler was banned from entering Israel for 10 years. "I'm not a religious man so I can't identify with the concept of *shahid*, but I am certainly prepared to sacrifice myself for the values I believe in," Feiler said yesterday. He was with his 88-year-old mother, Pnina, who travelled from Israel to accompany her son on the flotilla.

The elder Feiler did not flinch when she heard her son say was prepared to give his life for the Palestinian people. "[In Hebrew] we call this 'sanctifying God's name.' This is exactly the same thing," said Feiler, who was born in Poland and immigrated to Palestine in 1938. "We came to Israel despite the fact that we weren't Zionists," she clarified. Asked whether she is a Zionist now, she answered with a sharp "no."

And what if the Palestinians you're fighting for betray you and kill you, the way they did to your friend Juliano Mer? "It could happen," said Dror Feiler. "But at least I'll know I acted in accordance with my principles."

Is there anything positive you could say about Israel, without reservations?

"Nope. It's in my nature to have reservations about everything," he said.

### Netanyahu to Greek Prime Minister: Stop the Flotilla

*Yedioth Ahronoth* (p. 7) by Itamar Eichner – Israel has asked the Greek authorities to prevent the departure of the flotilla from the Greek ports to the Gaza Strip. "We made it clear to the Greeks that it is inconceivable that while Turkey realizes the damage that the flotilla could cause it, and stopped its departure from Turkish territory, Greece, which is Israel's close friend, will enable the flotilla ships to set sail from its ports," said a high-ranking political official last night.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke on the matter to his counterpart, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, who is very troubled these days by the acute crisis and the severe riots that are taking place in his country—but understands well the volatile potential of the flotilla waiting in his ports. Netanyahu asked Papandreou to take action similarly to the president of Cyprus, who issued a presidential order that barred the departure of the flotilla from Cypriot ports.

The Greeks announced that after checking the legal aspects of the matter, it became clear that they were legally unable to stop the flotilla. At most, they said, they could delay its departure on various technical pretexts—but they could not prevent the ships from setting sail.

Meanwhile, the port officials in Greece have been given instructions to harass the organizers of the flotilla: Every mishap or error in registration—causes delays in granting the permits necessary for departure. The Greeks are also searching closely for every malfunction in the flotilla ships that are in their territory, including shortages of safety equipment, fire extinguishers, first aid kits and the like.

The bureaucratic delays that the Greeks are causing to the flotilla ships are not satisfactory to Israel, as is the courteous reply regarding the "legal inability" to stop the flotilla. Officials in Jerusalem made it clear to Athens that this

means that the current flotilla to Gaza would be the "Greek flotilla," and this is incompatible with the mutual interests of the two countries. "This is a flotilla of provocative terrorist elements," political officials told their Greek colleagues, "and its departure at this time could gravely damage the chances of renewing the peace process."

Nicholas Jakobson  
Political-Military Affairs Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-4386

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RELEASED IN FULL

I307

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Brownstein, David P  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:43 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-SEMEP-DL  
**Cc:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 11:39 AM  
**To:** NEWS-NEA  
**Cc:** SES-O\_Shift-II; SES-O\_OS; SES-O\_CMS  
**Subject:** Activist: U.S. boat may sail for Gaza without permit (AP)

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But she wouldn't say how long activists would wait for the all-clear before the 33-meter (108-foot) ferry begins its journey.

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NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

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I319

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Jakobson, Nicholas W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2011 8:59 AM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Wallis, Jacob; Sulphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktorla; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandels, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)  
**Subject:** Flotilla News

YNET 13:53 , 06.29.11

**Gaza-bound flotilla underway**

**French ship which departed Saturday apparently skipped Athens stop, en route to rendezvous. Jordanian activists say they purchased additional ship for \$800,000**

Aviel Magnezi

French ship Dignity which departed for the rendezvous with vessels participating in the Gaza flotilla on Saturday has apparently decided to skip the Athens stop and is en route to Gaza. Flotilla organizers refused to officially confirm the ship is approaching the region and are maintaining secrecy.

Jordanian activists said they purchased an additional ship for \$805,000 which could carry as many as 200 activists. It was said it will carry 35 Jordanian activists. The organizers said that the flotilla will set sail on Thursday but noted there may be delays.

Various reports concerning the Irish ship have also surfaced. Several elements claimed that it was heading towards the rendezvous point but soon retracted their statements. It is apparently docking at an undisclosed port in the Mediterranean to avoid delays in Greece.

"One ship was damaged and two others are being detained over bureaucratic claims," Hawida Araf of the Free Gaza movement told Ynet. "We will pass the checks as these ridiculous claims are baseless: The ships have already been checked."

The organizers say that claims against the American ship and the Greek-Swedish ship are causing the delays in Greece. The activists maintain that Israel sabotaged one ship which resulted in heavier security.

"The damage was done underwater with a machine that can cut through steel. It could not have happened accidentally. I can't say Israeli soldiers did it, but who else wants to stop us?," Araf said.

She noted that they have boosted security measures.

Meanwhile, the organizers are disappointed in the limited turnout. Less than 300 are expected to board the flotilla ships.

According to the organizers, the Italian ship Stefano Chiarim will carry the most passengers with 65 people; Canadian ship Tahrir will carry 48 passengers and the American vessel, which is currently detained in Greece, will carry 40 passengers.

An additional seven ships are expected to depart from Spain, France, Ireland, Greece, Sweden and Norway. Organizers expect 292 participants and 36 members of the press. It is highly likely not all of the vessels will be fit to travel.

1  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Meanwhile, two reserve soldiers filed a criminal lawsuit against 14 foreigners who participated in last year's flotilla with the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.**

*Aviad Glickman contributed to this report*

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Nicholas Jakobson  
Political-Military Affairs Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Tel: 202-647-4386

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

RELEASED IN FULL

I345

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 10:56 AM  
**To:** Sutphin, Paul R; Jacoby, Julia I; Doutrich, Jack T; Levinson, Jesse S; Frelich, Karlene H  
**Subject:** FW: US Ship to Gaza Fundraiser with Ann Wright Oct 17th 17:30pm Pacific time-Watch it LIVE via witnessgaza.com  
**Attachments:** att3110d.gif; att3110e.jpg  
**Categories:** Working

Supposed new flotilla being planned for February. Ann Wright was one of the Americans on the May 31 sailing and is a former FSO.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Richter, Kim B  
**Sent:** Monday, October 18, 2010 7:32 AM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: US Ship to Gaza Fundraiser with Ann Wright Oct 17th 17:30pm Pacific time-Watch it LIVE via witnessgaza.com

Apparently there will be another sailing to Gaza in Feb. 2011.

<http://ustogaza.org/>

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**From:** ann wright [mailto:microann@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 17, 2010 10:00 AM  
**To:** Gaza Delegations  
**Subject:** US Ship to Gaza Fundraiser with Ann Wright Oct 17th 17:30pm Pacific time-Watch it LIVE via witnessgaza.com

I hope you will support the US Ship to Gaza fundraiser where ever you are in the world.

[www.ustogaza.org](http://www.ustogaza.org)

Peace,

Ann

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

---

Ann Wright  
[microann@yahoo.com](mailto:microann@yahoo.com)  
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=504291178>  
 Twitter: [annwright46](#)  
 "Dissent: Voices of Conscience" [www.voicesofconscience.com](http://www.voicesofconscience.com)

--- On Sun, 10/17/10, Gail Miller <[gail@nyc.rr.com](mailto:gail@nyc.rr.com)> wrote:

I 289

Law, Rosemary C

From: Vasquez, Edgar J  
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2011 12:14 PM  
To: Sutphin, Paul R; NEA-IPA-DL  
Subject: Article on Gaza Flotilla

Categories: Working

AP has picked up on our statement...

## US steps up pressure on Gaza flotilla activists

By MATTHEW LEE - The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - (AP) The Obama administration is stepping up pressure on activists planning to challenge Israel's sea blockade of the Gaza Strip, warning that they will face action from Israeli authorities and that American participants may also be violating U.S. law.

The State Department said Friday that attempts to break the blockade are "irresponsible and provocative" and that Israel has well-established means of delivering assistance to the Palestinian residents of Gaza. It noted that the territory is run by the militant Hamas group, a U.S. designated foreign terrorist organization, and that Americans providing support to it are subject to fines and jail.

The warning is the third in as many days and follows the announcement by 36 Americans that they will sail aboard a U.S.-flagged vessel in a flotilla to Gaza.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**RELEASED IN FULL**

*I306*

**Law, Rosemary C**

---

**From:** Snipes, Christopher K  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:20 AM  
**To:** Riley, Robert J; Gregonis, Meghan E  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza Flotilla Update

Update on one of the boats in Greek docks.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:18 AM  
**To:** Snipes, Christopher K; Goodman, Ian A  
**Cc:** Cockrell, John D (Athens)  
**Subject:** Gaza Flotilla Update

FYI. Regards, Dan L.

SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 30, 2011 3:05 PM  
**To:** Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
**Subject:** Gaza flotilla update, this just in

Per two Gaza flotilla websites, passengers on the U.S. Boat to Gaza, *The Audacity of Hope*, invited Greek and international media to inspect the boat on June 30 at 3:00 pm in Perama, Greece. The passengers note that they were inspected by Greek officials on Monday, June 27, but have not yet received notification of their findings. Gale Courey Toensing, a passenger on the American boat said to the media today, "Our voyage is totally transparent and we have nothing to hide. All we want to do is sail to Gaza with our cargo of letters from Americans to the people of Gaza. We are sulfur-free and ready to sail." Due to vandalism discovered Monday on the propeller of the Swedish-Greek vessel Juliano, flotilla participants have organized guard duty rosters for each ship that is due to sail for Gaza. The Juliano was towed for repairs to a shipyard at another port and should be ready to sail on July 1 pending another assessment by Greek officials. The Canadian ship, which an anonymous complaint also labeled unfit to sail, has been reinspected and received clearance as seaworthy.

*Leah A. Martin*  
Political Officer  
U.S. Embassy Athens  
(210) 720-2382  
[MartinLA@state.gov](mailto:MartinLA@state.gov)

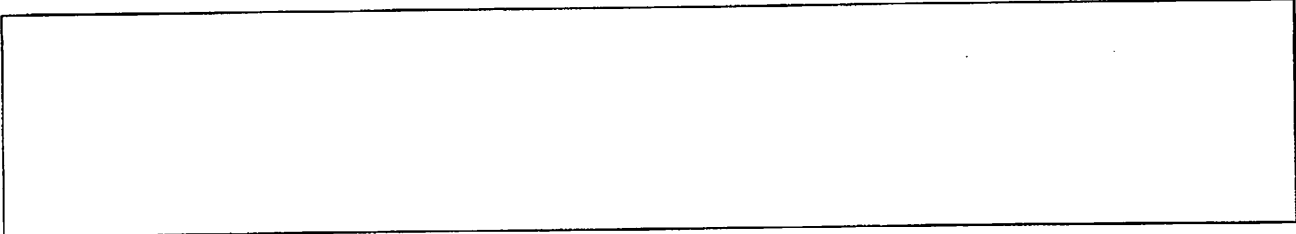
**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B1,B5,1.4(D),1.4(C),B6

18

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:29 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location



B5

Marc

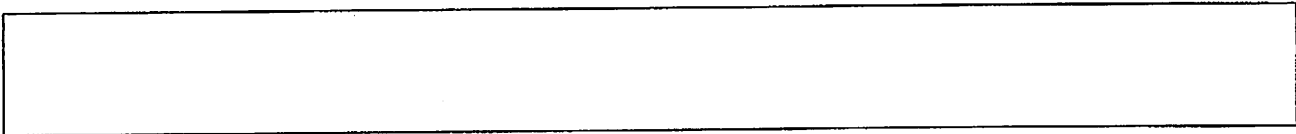
Classification Extended on : 11/28/2012 ~ Class: SECRET ~ Authority: DSCG 11-1 ~ Declassify on: 6/3/2035

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:19 PM  
**To:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

Roger that -- one and the same.

**From:** Guarin, Marc F  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:16 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L; Pomper, Stephen; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

James-



Marc

**From:** Pomper, Stephen  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:02 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

L/PM will take a look at this and get back with additional thoughts

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 1:20 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Guarin, Marc F; Pomper, Stephen; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location

Jim -- Adding others in L here (and this issue is mainly in L/PM's lane). Here are my understandings:

[Redacted]

B5

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin  
L/OES

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:39 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Connelly, Maura; NEA-IPA-DL; Ko, Selene S; Maggi, Robert W; Tyson, Paul H; Shampaine, Nicole D; Struwe, Rebecca L  
**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

SECRET//NOFORN

Kevin,

[Redacted]

1.4(D)  
B1

Thanks,

Jim

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:15 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M  
**Subject:** RE: (S/NF) Corrie Location (SECRET)

B6  
B3 DOD-CP

Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

Mr. Sindle,



Attached is a powerpoint slide showing [REDACTED]

Very Respectfully

[REDACTED]

B3 DOD-CP

B6

**From:** Sindle, James M [mailto:SindleJM@state.gov.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:23 AM  
**To:** J2 ADDI JCS; Williams, Richard A.; Loewy, Benjamin D.; Clay, Andreia; Szekely, Peter M. PB3; JAC IDWM MWA; Pruce, Joseph L. LT; Suldo, Joseph GG-14; Schlereth, LCDR Frank G.; McGrory, James P; Sanford, Lara N; Glese, Ashton K  
**Subject:** (S/NF) Corrie Location  
**Importance:** High

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET/NOFORN

Folks,

[REDACTED]

B5

1.4(D)

B1

By the way, Embassy Nicosia informed me today that the Challenger II, according to Cypriot authorities, is in the port of Limassol, Cyprus. Cypriots have also said they are not allowing it to leave.

V/R,

Jim Sindle

*Pol-Mil Officer*

Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Department of State

Phone: 202-647-4386

ClassNet: SindleJM@state.gov.gov

OpenNet: SindleJM@state.gov

Unless otherwise noted, this email is classified SECRET per E.O. 12958, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d). Declassify 10 years from date sent.

Attachment Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR  
Classification: SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR

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

I 124

**Bowers, Allyson M**

**From:** SMART Core [svcSMARTHBTSRctSPrec@state.sgov.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2011 11:14 AM  
**Cc:** Doutrich, Jack T; Buzbee, John R; Tsou, Leslie M; Sutphin, Paul R; Sachar, Alon; Irwin, Matthew T; Eilts, Colin C; Pickett, Margarita; Rubinstein, Arriel J; Jimenez, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif  
**Categories:** Archival

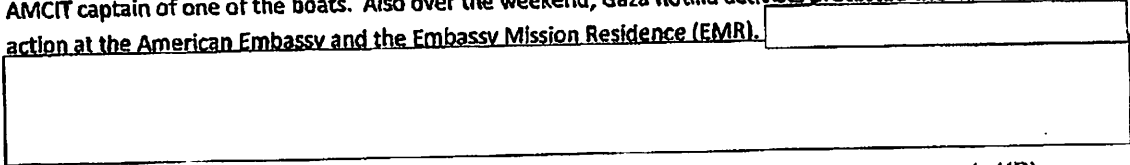
**CONFIDENTIAL**



**Info Office:** POLITICAL, PRINCIPALS

**MRN:** 11 ATHENS 407  
**Date/DTG:** Jul 06, 2011 / 061512Z JUL 11  
**From:** AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 13526  
**TAGS:** PREL, PHUM, PHSA, PTER, KCSY  
**Reference:** A) 11 ATHENS 383  
 B) 11 ATHENS 349  
**Pass Line:** AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
 AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
 AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
 AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
 AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
 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  
**Subject:** Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

1. (C) SUMMARY: The Greek government's decision on July 1 to prohibit the departure of ships from Greek ports intended for Gaza was a significant shift from Greece's previous, less visibly confrontational, approach towards "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" Gaza vessels and activists. Over the July 4 weekend two boats attempting to depart Greek ports, in violation of the ban, were intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard, resulting in the arrest of the AMCIT captain of one of the boats. Also over the weekend, Gaza flotilla activists protested the Coast Guard action at the American Embassy and the Embassy Mission Residence (EMR).



**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

Greek Ban on Departure of Ships to Gaza

2. (SBU) On July 1, the Ministry of Citizen Protection released a notice to flotilla participants that the departure of ships with Greek and foreign flags from Greek ports to the maritime area of Gaza was prohibited, and that the Hellenic Coast Guard would take all appropriate measures to enforce the decision. Despite the departure ban by the Greek government (as well as an order to remain in port due to unresolved questions about the vessel's documentation and seaworthiness), the American-flagged vessel "Audacity of Hope" attempted to depart the Greek port of Perama, near Piraeus on July 1. The Hellenic Coast Guard intercepted the vessel and after a standoff at sea, the ship consented to return to port.
3. (SBU) The American captain was arrested by Greek authorities upon the ship's return to port. Embassy Athens provided regular consular services to Amcit members of this year's "Flotilla II – Stay Alive" US Boat to Gaza organization both before and after the captain's arrest. On June 24, American Citizens Services (ACS) Chief and Counsel General met with AMCIT flotilla participants to provide a consular briefing and ACS Chief had regular contact with the captain and his attorney, including a meeting on July 5 to verify that he was in good health, understood his arrest, had legal representation, and that authorities were treating him well. The captain was released on July 6 without bail. There will be a trial at some point, but the captain will not have to return to Greece.
4. (C) On July 4, the Canadian boat "Tahrir" was intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard five kilometers off shore when it attempted to leave the eastern port of Aghios Nikolaos on the island of Crete. The boat carrying 50 Gaza activists and medicine was towed back to an undisclosed location on Crete. According to reports, no arrests were made. According to Embassy sources, a total of nine ships intending to participate in the flotilla docked around Greece. Two of those, the "Audacity of Hope" and "Tahrir", defied the departure ban, prompting Coast Guard action. Seven have remained docked.
5. (SBU) On July 1 some 35 demonstrators assembled outside the American Embassy to protest on behalf of the Gaza flotilla. On the evening of July 3, a group of eight people from the US Boat to Gaza organization assembled at the American Embassy and presented a letter calling for U.S. officials to defend their rights to sail out of Greece to Gaza and to request 50 tickets to the Embassy's upcoming Independence Day celebration. On both occasions the protestors dispersed peacefully. On July 4, nine demonstrators assembled outside the EMR. The demonstrators were taken into custody briefly for identification checks after stating they planned to sleep on the sidewalk in front of the EMR. The demonstrators spent under two hours in the station and were released. They were never placed under arrest.
6. (SBU) In addition to the group's regular website updates and Tweets, the Embassy has received roughly 500 calls and emails since July 1 asking the USG to put pressure on Greece to allow the flotilla to proceed to Gaza.

Greek Proposal to Deliver Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

7. (SBU) PM Papandreou spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas on July 3. According

to reports, Abbas positively viewed a Greek government proposal to facilitate the transport of humanitarian aid to Gaza, in cooperation with the United Nations. The proposal was confirmed later in the day when the MFA released a statement announcing Greece's intention to undertake the task of transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza through "appropriate channels." The statement also reiterated Greece's ban on departure from Greek ports primarily to protect human life and stressed Greece's concurrent view that the naval blockade should be lifted. The MFA announced plans to liaise with all concerned parties, while flotilla organizers and activists decied both the Greek government's intent and Abbas' alleged backstabbing collusion with the Greek

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

8. (C) Late July 5, MFA [redacted] provided the Ambassador an update. [redacted]

[redacted]

COMMENT

9. (C) On June 22, the Greek MFA issued a strongly worded statement discouraging its citizens from participating in the flotilla [redacted]

[redacted]

Signature: SMITH

---

Classified By: Name: Daniel B. Smith, Title: Ambassador  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)  
Declassify on: 2021/07/06  
Drafted By: ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
Cleared By: POL:Cockrell, John D (Athens)  
POL:Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
Brandeis, Charles D (Athens)  
Smith, Stuart M (Athens)  
Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
Brandeis, Katherine (Athens)

RELEASED IN PART B6

I268A

Name of Ship	Point of Departure	Country/Flag	Known Amcits on Board
MV Rachel Corrie	Ireland	Cambodia/Cambodia	Dublin reports no Amcits on board
Challenger 1	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Challenger 2	Crete	Greece?/USA?	
Mavi Marmara	Istanbul	Turkey/Turkey	
Gazze	Antalya	Turkey/Turkey	
Defne	Antalya	Turkey/Turkey	
			Ed Peck?,
Boat 8000	Athens?	unknown	
			Ed Peck?,
Eleftri Mesogelos	Athens?	unknown	

B6

(Listed Below are possible ones provided by Greece, but are not on the Israeli list of ships)

			Ed Peck?,
(unreadable) Ocean?	Athens	Marshall Is.	
			Ed Peck?,
Novorosysk Star?	Athens	Malta	
			Ed Peck?,
Kykladdes?	Athens	Panama	
			Ed Peck?,
Kallavan?	Athens	Marshall Is.	
			Ed Peck?,
Ocean Star?	Athens	Malta	
			Ed Peck?,
Shenandoah Highway?	Athens	Panama	

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

To: Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Waller, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah  
Subject: Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

B6

[redacted] and Tweets from participants confirm US Audacity of Hope returning to port.

From: Eussen, Matthew

To: Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Waller, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; 'melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] <melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] >; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah  
Sent: Fri Jul 01 19:59:24 2011  
Subject: Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

US to Gaza organizers post a prepared set of responses to boarding on website. It includes protests at Israeli missions in the U.S.

<http://ustogaza.org/emergency-support-actions/>

From: Eussen, Matthew

To: Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Waller, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; 'melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] <melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] >; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah  
Sent: Fri Jul 01 19:54:01 2011  
Subject: Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

Israeli press report: <http://www.jpost.com/Israel/Article.aspx?id=227498>

Twitter feed from participant says passengers on US Audacity of Hope preparing to resist Hellenic CG boarding [redacted] requesting US contact captain to urge he comply with CG's orders.

From: Eussen, Matthew

To: Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Waller, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; 'melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] <melissa.h.russell@' [redacted] >; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Sent: Fri Jul 01 19:25:55 2011  
Subject: Re: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

[redacted] confirmed to us that Greek authorities worked in coord with Israel to prevent departure of flotilla ships.

From: Doutrich, Jack T

To: Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Levin, Jan;

Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov' <Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov>; Eussen, Matthew; 'Melissa Russell' <melissa.h.russel@nss.eop.gov>; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN); Berns, David B

B6

Sent: Fri Jul 01 18:40:19 2011

Subject: RE: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

Further to the report AP report below, Embassy Athens POL is reporting that "The Audacity of Hope" is returning to the Port of Athens at the instruction of Greek authorities.

*FYI, I just spoke with Ops concerning the Audacity of Hope, the U.S. Gaza flotilla ship at Piraeus. News reports indicated it left port late this afternoon, and Ops called for a status update. I spoke with Joe Hicks, who tracked down some info, which I conveyed via telephone to Ops.*

The ship did leave port, without the permission of the Hellenic Coast Guard, which had forbidden the ship to depart due to questions of seaworthiness. The Greek authorities had instructed the vessel not to leave port.

At present, the Coast Guard has instructed the vessel to return to port, and "it is being returned to port," according to the info Joe had. It was NOT boarded by Hellenic Coast Guard. Greeks estimate 25 PAX, including media, on board!

JD.

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

**From:** Doutrich, Jack T

**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 11:00 AM

**To:** Doutrich, Jack T; Jakobson, Nicholas W; NEA-IPA-DL; EUR-SE-DL; NEA-Egypt; PM-CPMS; SES-O; Vasquez, Edgar J; Grubb, Jason B; Levin, Jan; Silverman, Robert J; Walles, Jacob; Sutphin, Paul R; Richter, Kim B; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Masilko, Barbara J (USUN); Marchese, Gregory M; Blome, Donald A; Waters, John R; Pilz, Amanda C; Miller, Walter R; 'Prem\_G\_Kumar@nss.eop.gov'; 'Melissa Russell'; Jacobson, Michael N; Bilge, Kerem S; CA-OCS-Duty; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Rodriguez, Hugo F; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Greene, Elisa; George, Leah; Daniels, Cherrie S; Slakey, Monica M; Rudman, Mara; Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar; Bitar, Maher B; Norman, Marc E; Nardi, Margaret H; Smith, Daniel B (Athens); Miller, Thomas S (Athens); Lawton, Daniel J (Athens); Cockrell, John D (Athens); McKeever, Matthew X (Athens); Brandeis, Katherine L (Athens); Bass, Warren; Ried, Curtis R (USUN)

**Subject:** RE: Additional Flotilla Update - July 1 Open Source

Additional Media reports for July 1, 2011:

CNN Turk and NTV reporting that Greece is not letting Greek ships in the flotilla depart - on the scroll.  
Permission was not given to depart the port in Athens.

---



**RELEASED IN PART B5**

*I 3lelo*

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:41 PM  
**To:** Connelly, Maura  
**Cc:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Below is L/OES's legal views regarding how we might deal with Challenger II. Highlighted portion describes the option we're currently looking at.

Jim

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 8:24 PM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Maxwell, Raymond D; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta; Polizzotto, Susan; 'Frederick.J.Kenney@uscg.mil'; Darr, Charles  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

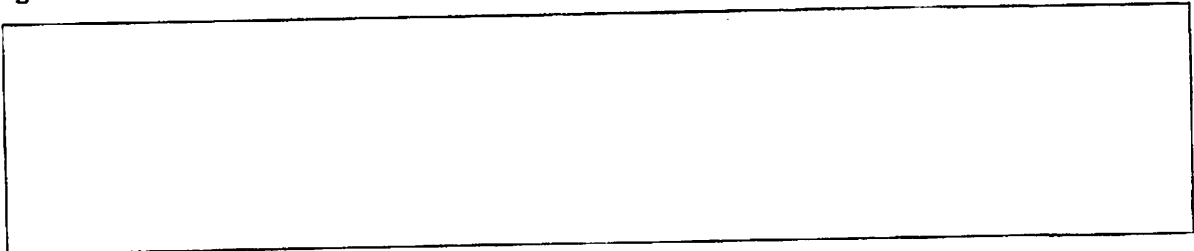
Pasted below are some factual/legal bullets, which L/FO provided informally to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor....some of which respond to questions posed in the email string below. Also, I'm copying USCG colleagues, since some of the legal angles are in their lane (and they are of course invited to correct or amplify, as appropriate).

Thanks,  
Kevin

**Factual Issues**

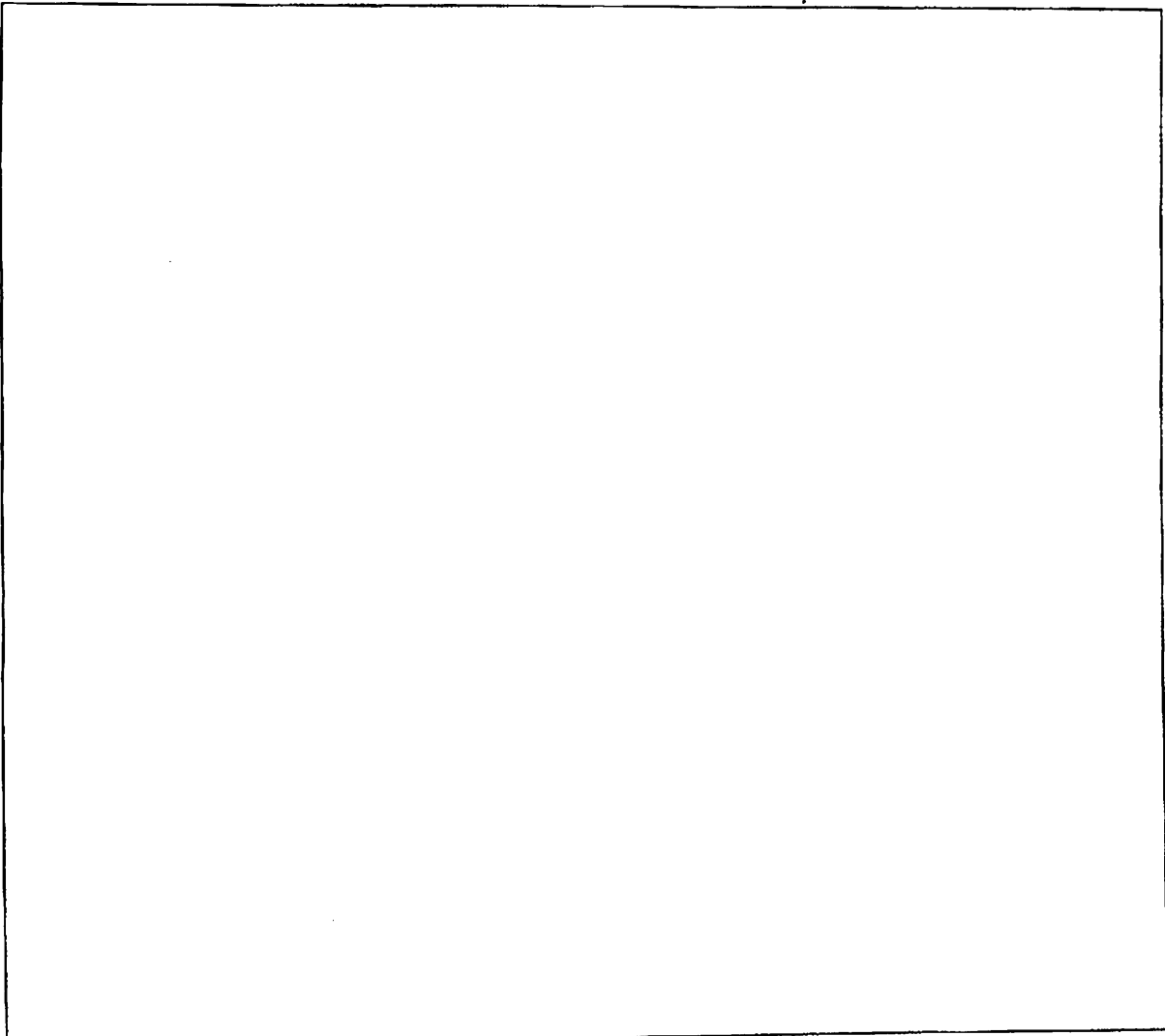
- There are two vessels – Challenger I and Challenger II – that have been involved in this incident and are confirmed as U.S. flagged yachts (Delaware registered). Challenger I is believed to have been part of the flotilla that was intercepted on Monday by the IDF, although there were no violent confrontations with this vessel.
- Although the facts are uncertain, Challenger II is believed to be currently in the Cypriot port of Limassol, with the likely intent of breaching the blockade in the coming days. Cypriot authorities have stated that they are not allowing ships to depart for the blockade.
- It appears there are 12-20 persons on each vessel; Challenger II does not appear to have any AMCITs on board. As a pleasure craft, it is not equipped with identification/tracking gear, which makes it harder to track its location.

**Legal issues and possible courses of action**



B5

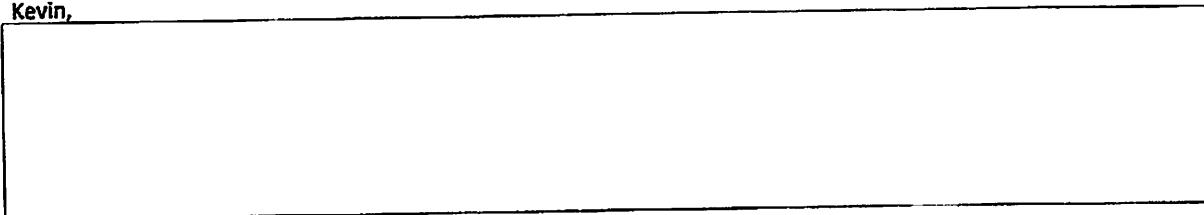
**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:12 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Maxwell, Raymond D; 'Cook, Kevin RDML'; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta; Polizzotto, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Kevin,



Thanks,

**Jim Sindle**  
Pol-Mil Officer  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State

Unclassified: SindleJM@state.gov  
Classified: SindleJM@state.sgov.gov

202-647-4386 (office)

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:59 AM  
**To:** Maggi, Robert W  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Sindle, James M; Maxwell, Raymond D; 'Cook, Kevin RDML'; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta  
**Subject:** RE: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

[Redacted]

B5

---

**From:** Maggi, Robert W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 11:49 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** PM-Counter-Piracy-DL; Countryman, Thomas; Sindle, James M; Maxwell, Raymond D; Cook, Kevin RDML; Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D; Kirshner, Amy Coletta  
**Subject:** FW: U.S. flagged vessels in the second wave of the GAZA Flotilla

Kevin, thanks!

[Redacted]

Best  
turk

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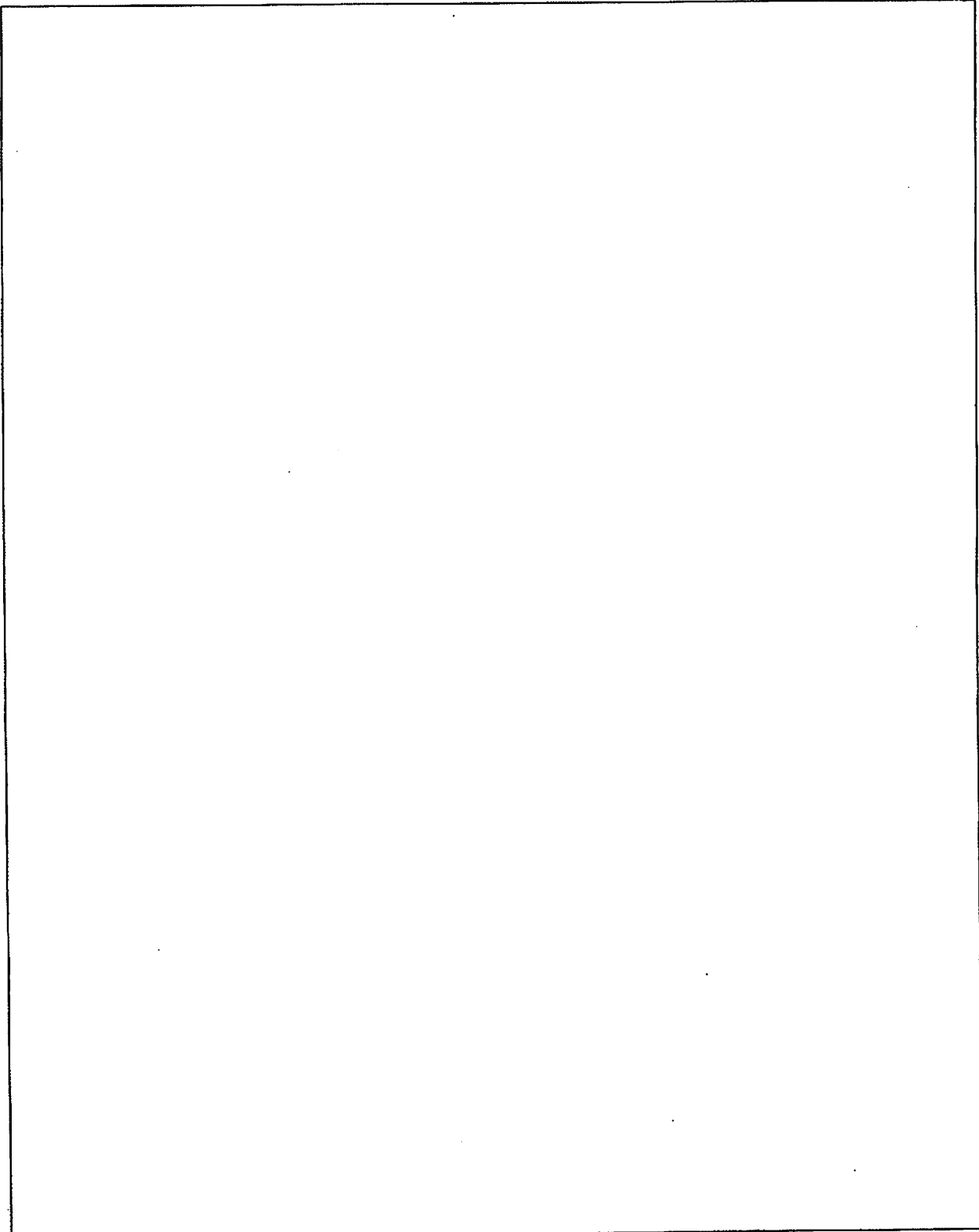
**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 9:36 AM  
**To:** Sindle, James M; Polizzotto, Susan; Warner, Trent (OES-OPA); Johns, Terry M; O'Brien, Gregory J (OES); Frederick, Jeffrey D  
**Subject:** RE: US flagged vessels

[Redacted]

---

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 12:08 AM  
**To:** Thessin, James H  
**Cc:** Townley, Stephen G; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Harris, Robert K; Sullivan, David J; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
**Subject:** US flagged vessels

B5



Thanks,

Kevin

LJUBLJANA-SMARTS; MADRID-SMARTS; KYIV-SMARTS; Ottawa-SmartS; HELSINKI-SMARTS; ASTANA-SMARTS; TiranaSMARTS; Bishkek, SMARTS; LONDON-SMARTS; BRATISLAVA-SMARTS; PRAGUE, SMARTS; HAMBURG-SMARTS; Riga, SMARTS; USEU-SMARTS; ROME, SMARTS; KRAKOW-SMARTS; BERLIN-SMARTS; LUXEMBOURG-SMARTS; NAPLES, SMARTS; Copenhagen-SMARTS; MUNICH-SMARTS; CHISINAU-SMARTS; Pristina, SMARTS; Ashgabat, SMARTS; USUN, SMARTS; BUCHAREST-SMARTS; VIENNA-SMARTS; PMAT (Pol-Mil Action Team); cklotter@fbi.sgov.gov; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; [redacted]@incirlik.af.smil.mil; [redacted]@dia.smil.mil; [redacted]@dia.smil.mil

B6

Subject: Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

CONFIDENTIAL



MRN: 11 ATHENS 407  
Date/DTG: Jul 06, 2011 / 061512Z JUL 11  
From: AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PHSA, PTER, KCSY  
Reference: A) 11 ATHENS 383  
B) 11 ATHENS 349  
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMEMBASSY ROME PASS TO AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK  
AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PASS TO AMEMBASSY MINSK  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG 1.4(B)  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG 1.4(D)  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG B1  
Subject: Greece Bans Departure of Flotilla Vessels to Gaza, Offers to Deliver Aid

- (C) SUMMARY: The Greek government's decision on July 1 to prohibit the departure of ships from Greek ports intended for Gaza was a significant shift from Greece's previous, less visibly confrontational, approach towards "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" Gaza vessels and activists. Over the July 4 weekend two boats attempting to depart Greek ports, in violation of the ban, were intercepted by the Hellenic Coast Guard, resulting in the arrest of the AMCIT captain of one of the boats. Also over the weekend, Gaza flotilla activists protested the Coast Guard action at the American Embassy and the Embassy Mission Residence (EMR). [redacted]

[redacted]

Greek Ban on Departure of Ships to Gaza

2. (SBU) On July 1, the Ministry of Citizen Protection released a notice to flotilla participants that the departure of ships with Greek and foreign flags from Greek ports to the maritime area of Gaza was prohibited, and that the Hellenic Coast Guard would take all appropriate measures to enforce the decision. Despite the departure ban by the Greek government (as well as an order to remain in port due to unresolved questions about the vessel's documentation and seaworthiness), the American-flagged vessel "Audacity of Hope" attempted to depart the Greek port of Perama, near Piraeus on July 1. The Hellenic Coast Guard intercepted the vessel and after a standoff at sea, the ship consented to return to port.

3. (SBU) The American captain was arrested by Greek authorities upon the ship's return to port. Embassy Athens provided regular consular services to Amcit members of this year's "Flotilla II - Stay Alive" US Boat to Gaza organization both before and after the captain's arrest. On June 24, American Citizens Services (ACS) Chief and Counsel General met with AMCIT flotilla participants to provide a consular briefing and ACS Chief had regular contact with the captain and his attorney, including a meeting on July 5 to verify that he was in good health, understood his arrest, had legal representation, and that authorities were treating him well. The captain was released on July 6 without bail. There will be a trial at some point, but the captain will not have to return to Greece.

4. 1.4(D)  
B1

According to Embassy sources, a total of nine ships intending to participate in the flotilla docked around Greece. Two of those, the "Audacity of Hope" and "Tahrir", defied the departure ban, prompting Coast Guard action. Seven have remained docked.

5. (SBU) On July 1 some 35 demonstrators assembled outside the American Embassy to protest on behalf of the Gaza flotilla. On the evening of July 3, a group of eight people from the US Boat to Gaza organization assembled at the American Embassy and presented a letter calling for U.S. officials to defend their rights to sail out of Greece to Gaza and to request 50 tickets to the Embassy's upcoming Independence Day celebration. On both occasions the protestors dispersed peacefully. On July 4, nine demonstrators assembled outside the EMR. The demonstrators were taken into custody briefly for identification checks after stating they planned to sleep on the sidewalk in front of the EMR. The demonstrators spent under two hours in the station and were released. They were never placed under arrest.

6. (SBU) In addition to the group's regular website updates and Tweets, the Embassy has received roughly 500 calls and emails since July 1 asking the USG to put pressure on Greece to allow the flotilla to proceed to Gaza.

Greek Proposal to Deliver Humanitarian Aid to Gaza

7. (SBU) PM Papandreou spoke by phone with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas on July 3. According to reports, Abbas positively viewed a Greek government proposal to facilitate the transport of humanitarian aid to Gaza, in cooperation with the United Nations. The proposal was confirmed later in the day when the MFA

released a statement announcing Greece's intention to undertake the task of transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza through "appropriate channels." The statement also reiterated Greece's ban on departure from Greek ports primarily to protect human life and stressed Greece's concurrent view that the naval blockade should be lifted. The MFA announced plans to liaise with all concerned parties, while flotilla organizers and activists decried both the Greek government's intent and Abbas' alleged backstabbing collusion with the Greeks.

8. (C) [redacted] [redacted] 1.4(B)  
[redacted] 1.4(D)  
B1

COMMENT

9. (C) On June 22, the Greek MFA issued a strongly worded statement discouraging its citizens from participating in the flotilla, [redacted]

[redacted]

Signature: SMITH

---

Classified By: Name: Daniel B. Smith, Title: Ambassador  
Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)  
Declassify on: 2021/07/06  
Drafted By: ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)  
Cleared By: POL:Cockrell, John D (Athens)  
POL:Lawton, Daniel J (Athens)  
Brandeis, Charles D (Athens)  
Smith, Stuart M (Athens)  
Miller, Thomas S (Athens)  
Brandeis, Katherine (Athens)  
Approved By: EXEC:Smith, Daniel B (Athens)  
Released By: ATHENS:Martin, Leah A (Athens)



RELEASED IN PART B1,B3 CIA-PO,B5,B3 CIA-SM,1.4(D),1.4(C),B6

J57

**Logg, Cristina A**

From:

[Redacted]

B6

Sent:

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 1:16 AM

To:

Ricciardone, Francis J; Silliman, Douglas A; Witmer, Kami A

1.4(C)

Subject:

[Redacted]

1.4(D)

Attachments:

B1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Ambassador, this is the latest I have on the Freedom Flotilla. The fourth ship listed below, the Challenger, [Redacted]

B5

Vr,

[Redacted]

B6

-----Original Message-----

[Large Redacted Area]

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B6

Subject: [REDACTED]  
(SECRET)

Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

Good morning J2 -

B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)

[redacted] will continue to provide daily updates.

B6

Request all addrees continue to please feed updates to USEUCOM theater all-source fusion analysis center at [redacted] This will help to ensure accuracy, timeliness, relevancy, and dissemination to senior leadership at all levels.

B6

Convention: Blue is new.

[redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(U) The international "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" will include 10 ships, at least two of which are cargo boats carrying aid, while the rest are passenger ships carrying hundreds of people, among them, politicians, MEPS, writers, religious faith representatives, people of arts and culture and activists. Press releases indicates many TV crews will be also on board (CNN, NBC, Al-Jazeera, et al) as well as journalists sent by various world media and newspapers. "Stay Human" was selected in honor of 36-year old Italian pro-Palestinian activist Vittorio Arrigoni, who was killed 14 Apr 2011 after being kidnapped in Gaza City by Salafist radicals.

SITREP follows:

BLUF: As of this writing, the Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) has not formed i.e., ships have NOT commenced southbound transit towards Gaza.

[redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

**Page Denied**

[Redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(U) Political Developments:

- (U) On 28 Jun, Israel Defense Ministry proposed confiscating the ships that attempt to break the naval blockade to Gaza, a move aimed at deterring future flotillas. Israeli press reporting indicates IDF claims they have intelligence showing some flotilla participants are planning to use violence and possibly chemical weapons against the troops. Flotilla members claim this is an attempt to justify IDF violence. (Source: Jerusalem Post)

[Redacted]

- (U) On 27 Jun, the Israeli "Lawfare" Group took responsibility for lodging the complaint against flotilla ship AUDACITY OF HOPE. Free Gaza Movement (FGM) organizers and AUDACITY OF HOPE passengers believe the complaint was frivolous and are now confident the Greek government will allow them to depart Greece.

- (U) On 27 Jun, the "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" press conference occurred in Athens but no specific ship names, departure dates, launch times, or rendezvous date, time, or area were revealed. Organizers also withheld the length of time the flotilla would remain at the rendezvous area before heading south. In short, FF2 spokespersons stated the flotilla will press forward with their departure plans despite Israel's warnings.

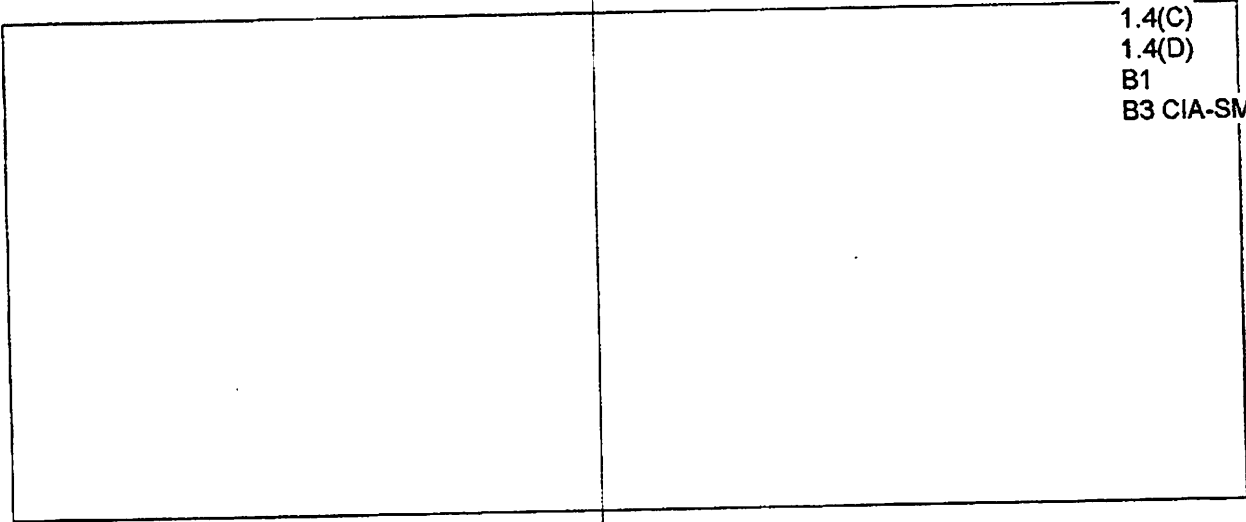
- (U) On 27 Jun, after two days of closed-doors meetings, the Israeli ministers committee on security affairs voted in favor of the navy plans to stop the FF2 flotilla from breaching the Israeli-imposed naval blockade on the Palestinian territory, giving the army authority to use "all necessary means" during the operation. The Israeli cabinet has ordered Israeli troops to operate with "maximal restraint and avoid clashes with activists on board the vessels."

[Redacted]

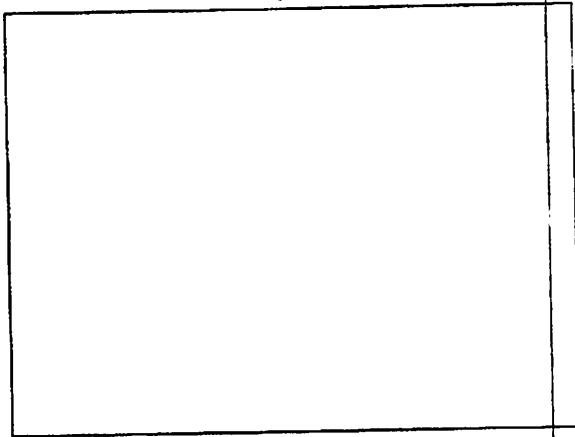
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

- (U) On 22 Jun, US STATE Dept warned US citizens against taking part in the flotilla and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip, citing threats to themselves as well as US interests.  
(STATE)

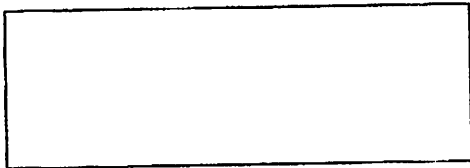
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM



JAC Molesworth will continue to keep ALCON informed.



B6



B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B3 CIA-PO

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

RELEASED IN PART B1, B3  
CIA-SM, 1.4(D), 1.4(C), B6

J58

**Logg, Cristina A**

**From:**

[Redacted]

B6

**Sent:**

Tuesday, July 05, 2011 7:31 AM

**To:**

Ricciardone, Francis J

**Cc:**

Silliman, Douglas A; Wilmer, Kami A

**Subject:**

[Redacted]

1.4(C)

**Attachments:**

1.4(D)

**Categories:**

Working

B1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

1.4(C)

Ambassador, [Redacted]

1.4(D)

B1

[Redacted]

B3 CIA-SM

Thanks, [Redacted]

B6

-----Original Message-----

[Large Redacted Area]

B6

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



**Page Denied**

B6

[Redacted]

Subject: [Redacted]

B1  
1.4(C)  
1.4(D)

Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

Classification: SECRET  
Caveats: NOFORN

Sir,

Please find today's updated FF2 update.

[Redacted]

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

Request all continue to please feed updates to USEUCOM theater all-source fusion analysis center at (jac.watch.swo@jac.eucom.smil.mil). This will help to ensure accuracy, timeliness, relevancy, and dissemination to senior leadership at all levels.

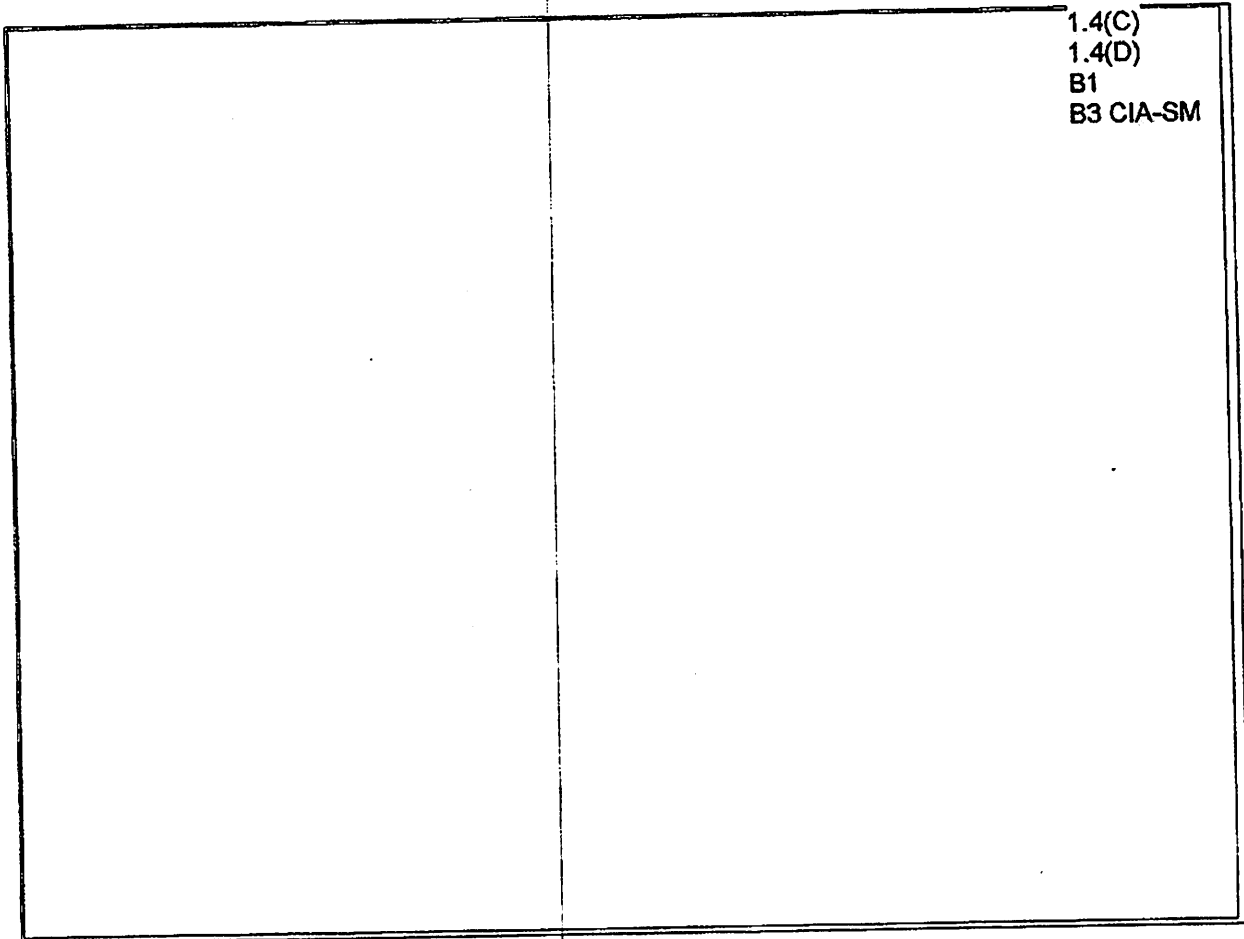
[Redacted]

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(U) The international "Freedom Flotilla III (FF2) - Stay Human" will include 10 ships, at least two of which are cargo boats carrying aid, while the rest are passenger ships carrying hundreds of people, among them, politicians, MEPs, writers, religious faith representatives, people of arts and culture and activists. Press releases indicates many TV crews will be also on board (CNN, NBC, Al-Jazeera, et al) as well as journalists sent by various world media and newspapers. "Stay Human" was selected in honor of 36-year old Italian pro-Palestinian activist Vittorio Arrigoni, who was killed 14 Apr 2011 after being kidnapped in Gaza City by Salafist radicals.

SITREP follows:

BLUF: As of this writing, Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) has not formed and all vessels are in port. The M/V TAHRIR departed its berth in Crete on the evening of 4 July, but was stopped shortly thereafter by the Hellenic coast guard and forced to return to Crete. After all passengers on the TAHRIR claimed they were the vessel's captain, the Hellenic Coast Guard detained everyone onboard. The Captain of the AUDACITY OF HOPE, which was detained on 1 July after attempting to sail from Greece without permission, is scheduled to appear in Greek court today, charged with endangering the lives of the AUDACITY's passengers. The M/V LOUISE MICHEL staged a symbolic departure on 4 July, revving its engines and honking its horn; however, the vessel did not actually get underway. Open source reporting indicates two unidentified vessels linked with FF2, ostensibly French, are operating in international waters off Greece; the plans and intentions of these vessels are unknown. Additional open source reporting indicates that remaining FF2 participants are tentatively scheduled to set sail around 5-6 July.



**Page Denied**

	1.4(C) 1.4(D) B1
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B3 CIA-SM

(U) Political Developments:

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- (U//FOUO) According to USG publically available maritime databases, the M/V AUDACITY OF HOPE has been confirmed as a US flagged vessel, licensed in Delaware, registration number DL2894AF. The vessel has been assigned SCORUM R33479. The vessel is not US Coast Guard documented, nor has it been inspected by USCG. (ONI, USCG)

- (U) According to open source information, passengers onboard M/V AUDACITY OF HOPE, sponsored by the US Boat to Gaza, followed through on their claim that the vessel could set sail even if it did not receive permission to leave port from Hellenic officials. 01 July the vessel did, in fact, attempt to depart Piraeus, Greece although was stopped by the Hellenic Coast Guard and forced to return to port. Earlier, complaints were lodged against the vessel necessitating proof of seaworthiness. (CBS News, Twitter, A US Boat to Gaza website)

- (U) According to open source information, the Israeli Navy (INF) has established two operating rooms within the mess decks of INF surface combatants to help deal with casualties that could occur while interdicting "Freedom Flotilla 2" vessels. The INF also expects to have military Med-Evac flights available and on stand-by to evacuate any personnel to shore, and the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Medical Corps will deploy onboard ships and to Ashdod port. (Haaretz)

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[Redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

- (U) On 29 Jun number of expected participants reportedly went from 1,500 to 350. The Israeli government was hopeful that a continued delay of the launch of the Gaza-bound flotilla will lead to a further drop in the number of vessels and participants. The more the "organizers and participants have to run in place in Athens," the better is for Israel, one official said. Bureaucratic delays, strikes at Greek ports and damaged ships continue to delay the flotilla, which was originally scheduled to set sail at mid-week. (Source: JPost.com)

- (U) On 29 Jun Defense Minister Ehud Barak tried downplaying Israeli worries about Gaza flotilla. Barak told a local television channel that while he has directed the IDF to stop the flotilla by force, if necessary, he believed that while pockets of resistance were possible the flotilla participants this year would be less violent than last year's. According to the open source, political and military leaders are in fact more worried about the implications of the state comptroller's report on the raid on 2010's Gaza flotilla, a draft of which was recently submitted to senior officials. (Source: Haaretz.com)

[Redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1

- (U) On 28 Jun, Israel Defense Ministry proposed confiscating the ships that attempt to break the naval blockade to Gaza, a move aimed at deterring future flotillas. Israeli press reporting indicates IDF claims they have intelligence showing some flotilla participants are planning to use violence and possibly chemical weapons against the troops. Flotilla members claim this is an attempt to justify IDF violence. (Source: Jerusalem Post)

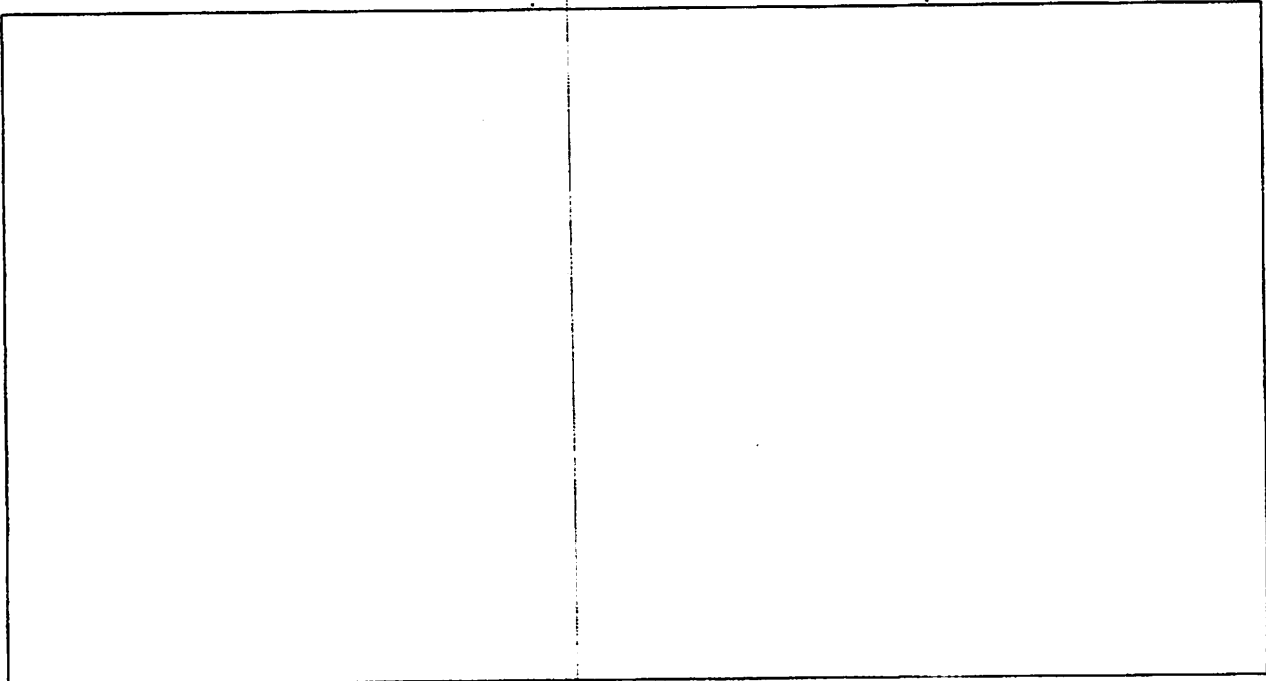
[Redacted]

	1.4(C) 1.4(D) B1 B3 CIA-SM
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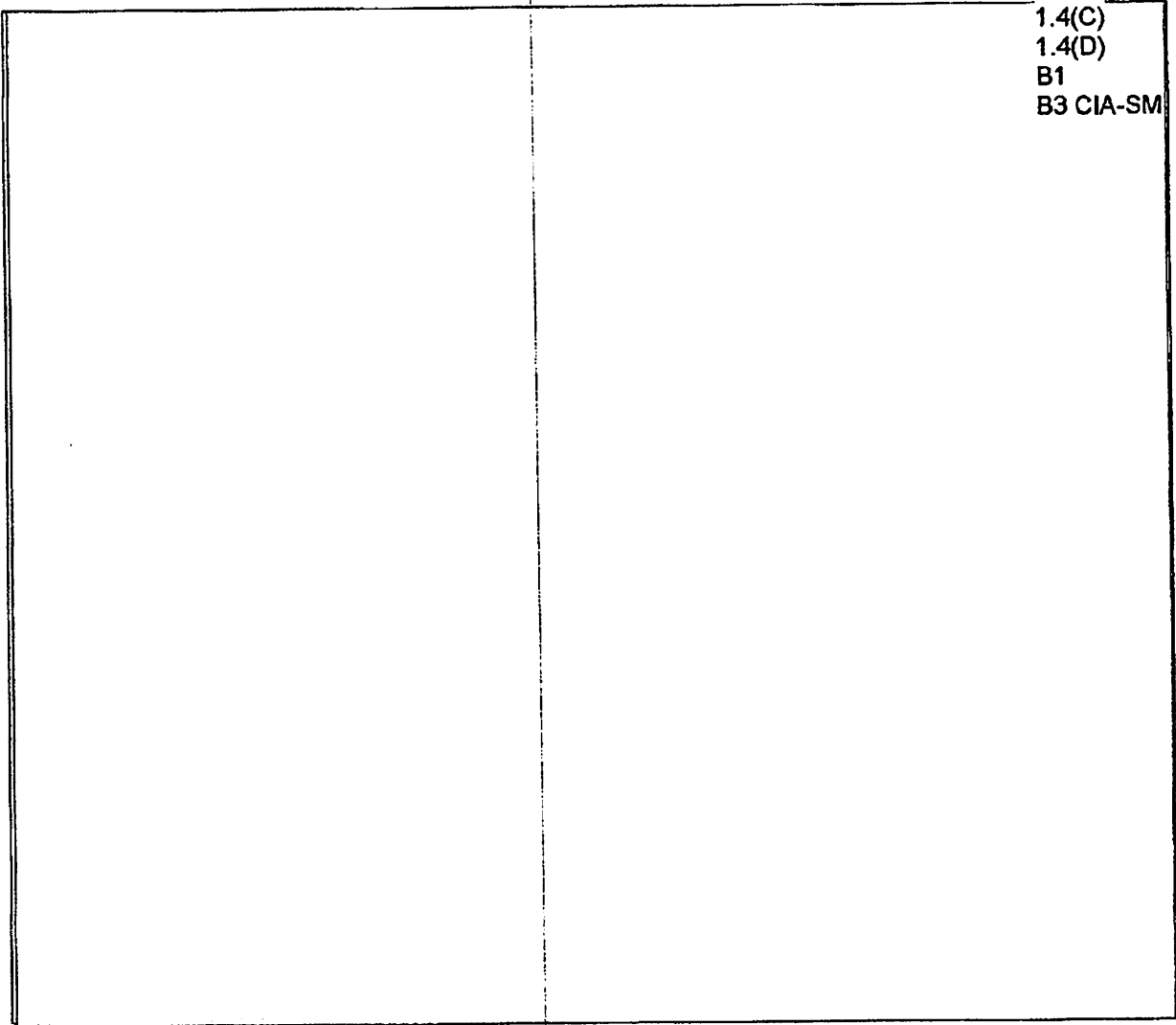
- (U) On 27 Jun, the Israeli "Lawfare" Group took responsibility for lodging the complaint against flotilla ship AUDACITY OF HOPE. Free Gaza Movement (FGM) organizers and AUDACITY OF HOPE passengers believe the complaint was frivolous and are now confident the Greek government will allow them to depart Greece.

- (U) On 27 Jun, the "Freedom Flotilla II (FF2) - Stay Human" press conference occurred in Athens but no specific ship names, departure dates, launch times, or rendezvous date, time, or area were revealed. Organizers also withheld the length of time the flotilla would remain at the rendezvous area before heading south. In short, FF2 spokespersons stated the flotilla will press forward with their departure plans despite Israel's warnings.

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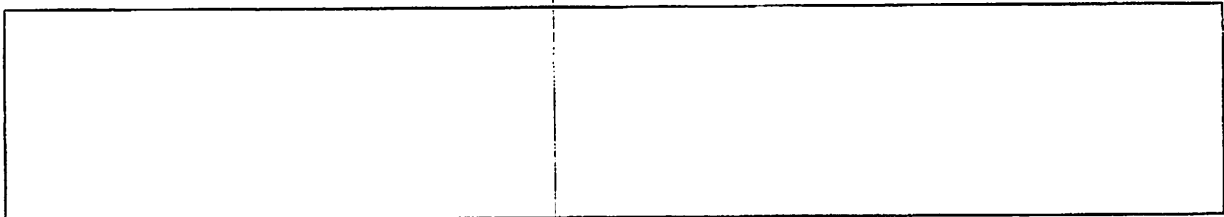
- (U) On 22 Jun, USDOS warned US citizens against taking part in the flotilla and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip, citing threats to themselves as well as US interests. (STATE)



1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

(S) US Navy Forces

- USS MONTEREY (CG-61) remains inport Souda Bay, Greece through 8 Jul.





[Redacted] 1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

V/r,

[Redacted]

B6

[Redacted]

1.4(C)  
1.4(D)  
B1  
B3 CIA-SM

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B3

DOD-CP,B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 4:21 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Guthrie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call  
**Attachments:** RE: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

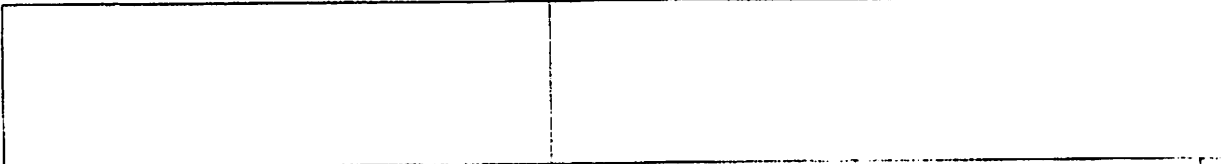
Call in info here, in case anyone else is going to join.  
BRIDGE NUMBER: 202-395-6392  
CONFEE PASSCODE: 420 8141

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Guthrie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

NSC is hosting a lawyers call focused on issues related to the US flagged vessel(s). Would others like to join?

**From:** Egan, Brian J. [mailto:Brian.J.Egan@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil; david.grimord@dot.gov; Kenney, Frederick CAPT; Baumert, Kevin A; Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov; [redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

B3 DOD-CP



B5

Brian Egan  
Deputy Legal Adviser  
National Security Staff  
202/456-9116

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A **RELEASED IN PART B5,B6**  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** Deeks, Ashley S; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Ashley, Marc, Linda [redacted]  
[redacted]

B5

Thanks,  
Kevin

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarletelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin [redacted]  
[redacted]

Wes

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarletelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes [redacted]  
[redacted]

Thanks,  
Kevin

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A

Cc: Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
Subject: FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - [REDACTED]

B5

Thanks!  
Wes

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Correction from Israel Navy -  
Vessels departed Greece and are currently on the way to Cyprus.

V/R,  
LCDR Frank Schlereth  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: schlerethfg@state.gov

**From:** Schlereth, Frank G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Burgess, Richard J; Chere, John E  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

The Israel Navy is inquiring about two vessels -Challenger I and Challenger II that they believe have departed Cyprus as a part of the Flotilla and reportedly are now flying American flags. They have asked if there is any way to confirm this. I will reach out to our POCs in Cyprus, but appreciate any insight folks may have on this topic. I have trouble believing they would be legitimately sailing under an American flag, but if so for some reason, potentially complicates the situation more. Thanks.

R/

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Naval Attaché  
US Defense Attaché Office  
US Embassy, Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972 3 519 7486  
Email: [REDACTED]

B6

----- Original Message -----

From: Donoghue, Joan E  
To: Jacobson, Linda; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:21:26 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

On the self- defense rationale, what has GOI said and do we know the facts?

----- Original Message -----

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: McLeod, Mary (USUN); Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Dolan, JoAnn; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:05:35 2010  
Subject: Re: Humanitarian flotilla

Including others working on this.

----- Original Message -----

From: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Pomper, Stephen E; Sullivan, David J; Donoghue, Joan E; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:57:46 2010  
Subject: Humanitarian flotilla

All--Assume you all are working on this. I know Todd and Harold are in Kampala and bbs aren't working. I am rushing back to NYC to try to make the SC meeting, currently scheduled for 1. Anticipate much interest in legal issues focused on Israeli claims they were acting in self-defense and that the flotilla was violating international law.

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Friday, June 04, 2010 6:53 AM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Guthrie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** RE: Readout -- NSC Gaza flotilla conference call

RELEASED IN PART B3  
DOD-CP, B5

Re: Challenger vessels, below is what Emb Nicosia reports based on info provided by "Cypriot Marine Police".

- Challenger III remains in Limassol, is seriously damaged and will take an estimated month to repair. There are currently no captain, crew or passengers aboard the ship. As they have stated previously, Cypriots have no intention of allowing ship depart for Gaza.
- Challenger II, a different ship, is damaged and anchored in the Med outside of Cypriot territorial waters. Cypriot marine police do not believe it is seaworthy.
- Previously, upon learning of the Challenger III's potential for involvement with the Gaza Flotilla, Embassy Consular Officers asked Cypriot authorities for a briefing on the ship's status, crew and passengers to protect any Amcits potentially aboard. It was then that the Cypriots informed Embassy that there were no Amcits on board and the GoC had no intention of allowing the ship to depart for Gaza. Embassy officers of course agreed with the GoC's course of action and thanked them for the briefing.

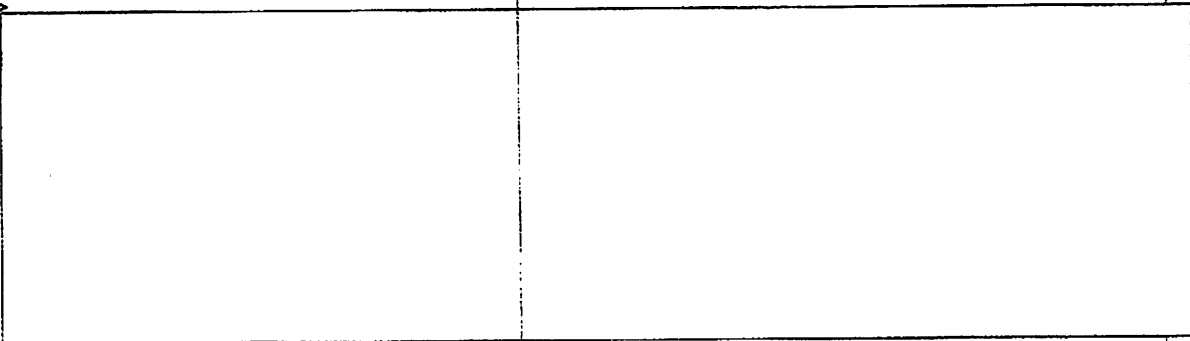
**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 9:19 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Guthrie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** Readout -- NSC Gaza flotilla conference call

Pasted below is Brian Egan's readout of the 4:30 interagency lawyers call. Though it was probably useful for Brian, it was otherwise not so illuminating and mainly a rehashing of conversations we've had with USCG.

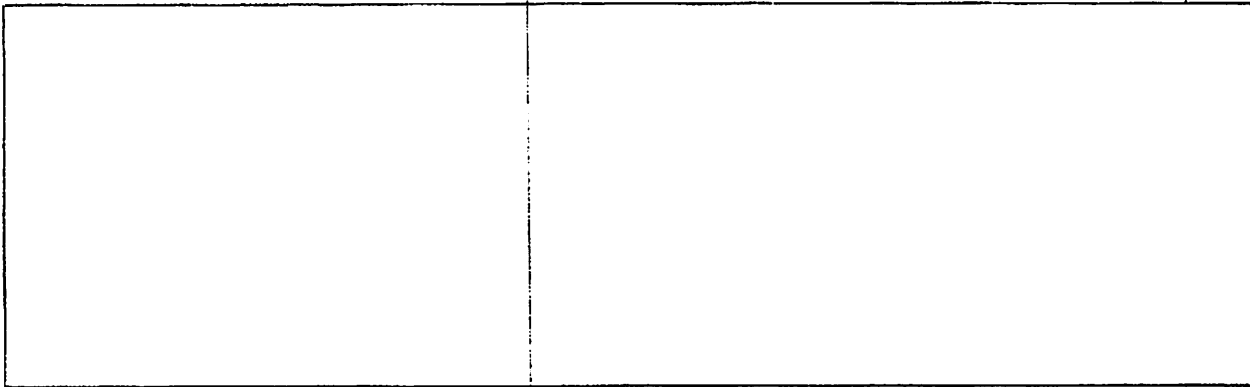
It is also worth noting that the factual picture regarding the existence and location of US flagged vessel is murkier than ever - Challenger II has variously been reported to be (1) out of the water in Cyprus for a month of repairs (Cyprus port authorities), (2) in the Cyprus port of Limassol, (GoC, Emb Nicosia), (3) "underway" flying a foreign flag with location unknown (US Navy), and (4) receiving repairs in a port on the Turkish side of Cyprus (press account). Adding to the confusion is the emergence of a possible "Challenger III" that has an unknown flag and location. None of these vessels is equipped with identification/tracking gear, due to their small size and typical recreational usage.

Thanks, Kevin

>>



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



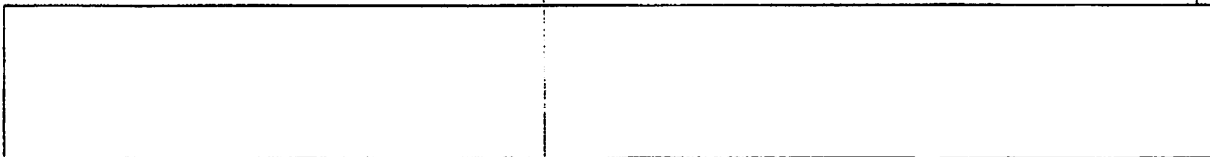
B5

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 3:05 PM  
**To:** Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Thessin, James H; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda; Townley, Stephen G; Dolan, JoAnn; Gutherie, Peter A  
**Cc:** Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** FW: 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

NSC is hosting a lawyers call focused on issues related to the US flagged vessel(s). Would others like to join?

**From:** Egan, Brian J. [mailto:Brian\_J.\_Egan@nss.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 2:38 PM  
**To:** Charles.V.Darr@uscg.mil; david.grimord@dot.gov; Kenney, Frederick CAPT; Baumert, Kevin A; Sean.Thornton@do.treas.gov; [redacted] DoD OGC; Mortlock, David JL; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Bahar, Michael  
**Subject:** 4:30 pm Gaza flotilla conference call

B3 DOD-CP



B5

Brian Egan  
Deputy Legal Adviser  
National Security Staff  
202/456-9116

To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:18:29 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

B5

Kevin  
L/OES

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:50:27 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:47 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Connelly, Maura; Schlicher, Ronald L; 'Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov>  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 17:37:00 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 9:13 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H



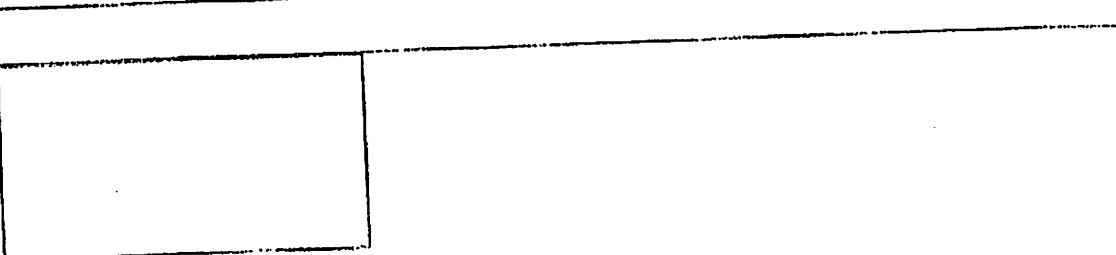
Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP  
B3 DODFGI

Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific Highlights

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- ~~M/V MAVI MARMARA~~ expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

B3 DOD-CP



-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DI; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey

B3 DOD-CP

Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from Gen. [redacted] who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

B6

[redacted] reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

B6

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning [redacted] made the following calls/contacts:

B6

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take. Injuries occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives. Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in Intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

B3 DOD-FGI

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-FGI

Jeffrey D  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010  
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

From: Levin, Jan  
Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Stevers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew  
To: Gubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [Redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maurya; Felman, [Redacted]

----- Original Message -----

Sent from my BlackBerry  
David thru this am.

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amct's as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Sorry its trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to davutgu this am.

Jeffrey D  
cc: Dennis B. Ross@nsc.eop.gov; Dshapiro@who.eop.gov  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Stevers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; [Redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
Gubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [Redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maurya; Felman, [Redacted]

----- Original Message -----

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

--Turkish FM and MOD [Redacted] Erakat, Fayad, and Hussain al Sheikh He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

B6

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP, B3  
DODFGI, B5, B6

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:55 AM  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Knopf, Payton L; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Connelly, Maura  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:48 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Knopf, Payton L; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara  
(Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; [Redacted]  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP

B3 DOD-CP

Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific High B3 DODFGI

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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StateDept004173

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- 30 Civilians Wounded
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B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

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To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Ian; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubby, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, J  
D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.gop.gov'  
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[redacted] reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

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--Turkish FM and MoD [redacted] Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh [redacted] He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM

To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman,

Jeffrey D

Cc: 'Dennis B. Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan

To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman,

Jeffrey D

Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010

Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

[redacted] B3 DODFGI

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.  
-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.

-- [redacted] told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders [redacted] B3 DODFGI were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.  
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Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B3  
DODFGI,B5,B6

From: Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:52 PM  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Pomper, Stephen E  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; 'pomper\_andersen@hotmail.com'; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Donoghue, Joan E; Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

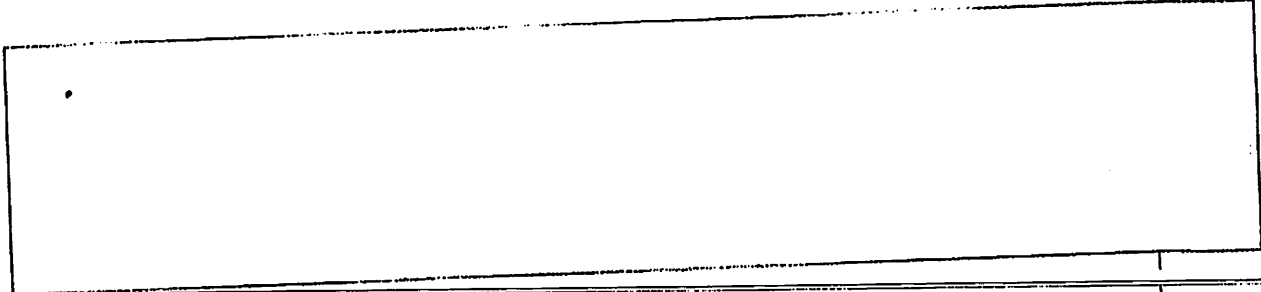
Israeli Briefing excerpts I circulated earlier say interaction occurred 70NM out. For those not familiar with Interim Agreement full text with further links to annexes is at <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace+Process/Guide+to+the+Peace+Process/THE+ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN+INTERIM+AGREEMENT.htm>

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:40 PM  
To: Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; 'pomper\_andersen@hotmail.com'; Pomper, Stephen E; McLeod, Mary (USUN); Donoghue, Joan E  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

-----Original Message----- **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

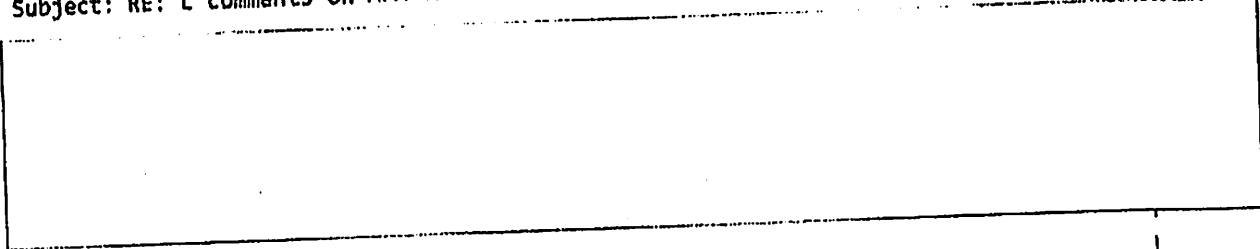
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To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Perina, Alexandra H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; 'pomper\_andersen@hotmail.com'; Pomper, Stephen E  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>



Marc

-----Original Message-----

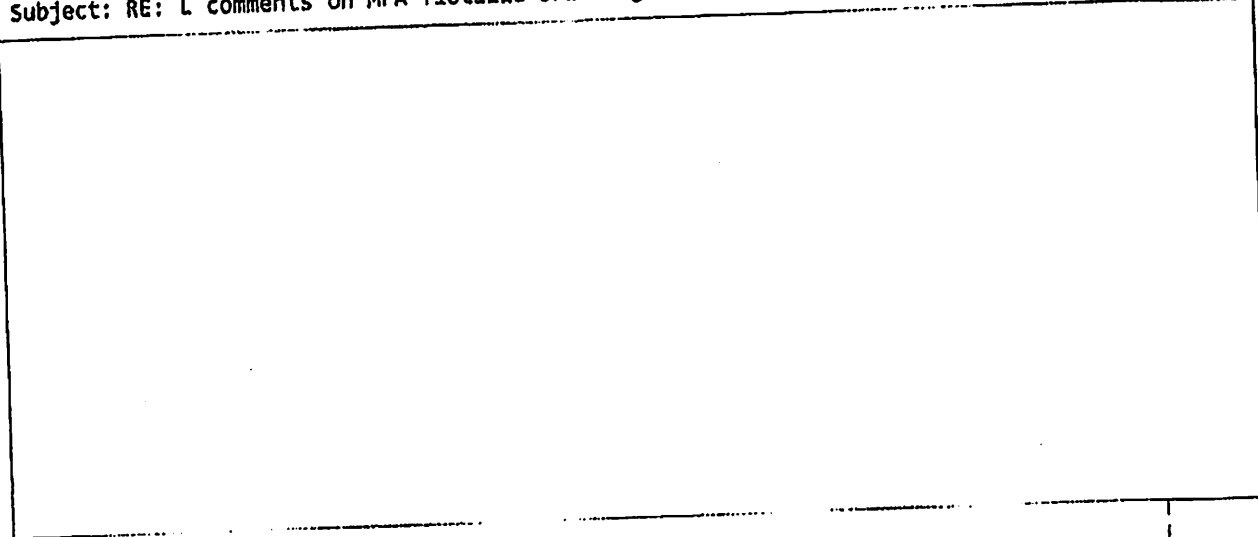
From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:02 PM  
To: Perina, Alexandra H; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; 'pomper\_andersen@hotmail.com'; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>



jon

-----Original Message-----

From: Perina, Alexandra H  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:56 PM  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; 'pomper\_andersen@hotmail.com'; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>



B5

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:17 PM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:40 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:34 AM  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[Redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:20:32 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[Redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M



B5

Sent: Mon May 31 11:18:29 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

Kevin  
L/OES

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:50:27 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:47 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

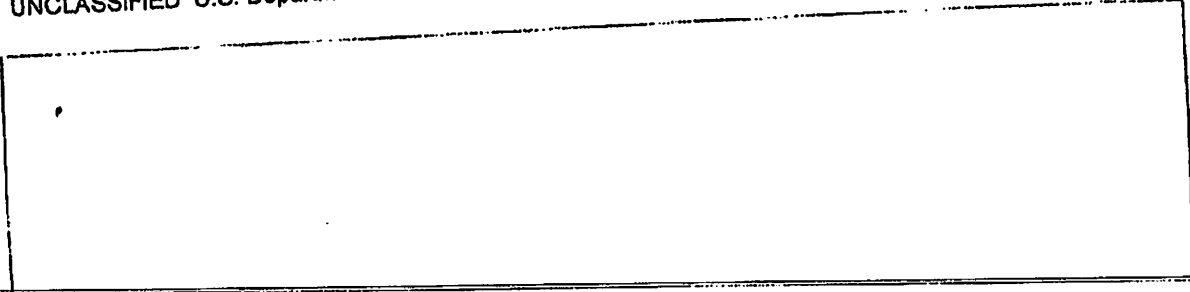
From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Connelly, Maura; Schlicher, Ronald L; 'Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B.\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov>  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 17:37:00 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

See below from Jonathan pls.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 9:13 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Cc: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Dolan, JoAnn; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Subject: Fw: MFA flotilla briefing

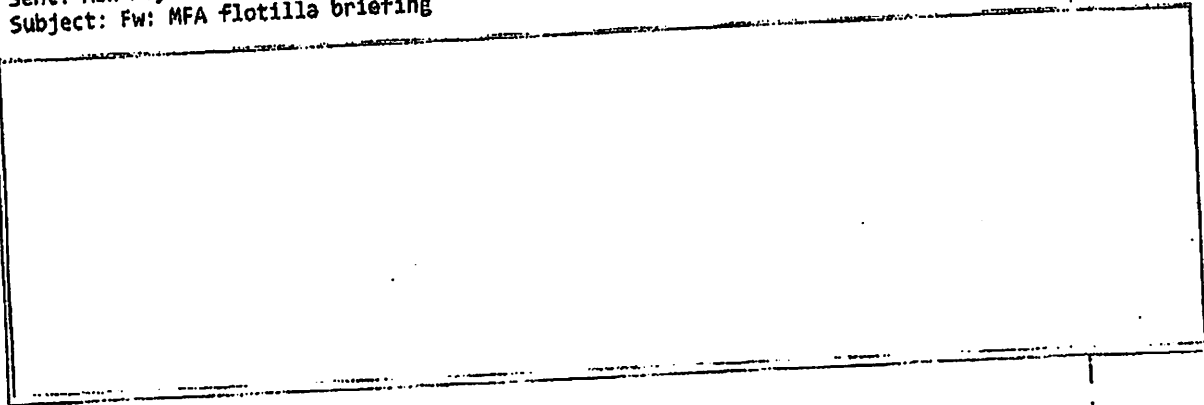
B5



Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
To: Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Cc: Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:05:16 2010  
Subject: Fw: MFA flotilla briefing

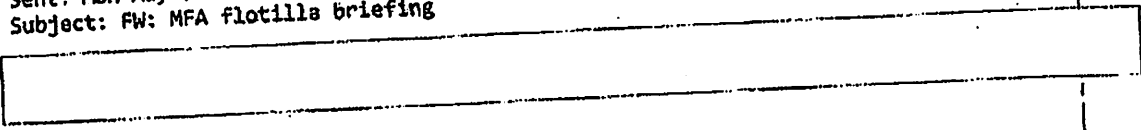


B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing



B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; Pica, Tolan M; Levin, Jan; [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP

[Redacted]  
Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific H[Redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
B3 DODFGI

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

[Redacted]  
B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DI; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [Redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jef B3 DOD-CP  
D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from [Redacted] who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am. B6

[Redacted] reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning [Redacted] made the following calls/contacts: --Turkish FM and MoD [Redacted] Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh [Redacted] He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is [Redacted] and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of B6

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP, B3  
DODFGI, B5, B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:46 AM  
**To:** Cunningham, James B  
**Cc:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

B5

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:43 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:39:39 2010  
**Subject:** RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:34 AM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
**Subject:** Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Cc:** Aswad, Evelyn M  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:20:32 2010  
**Subject:** Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A

**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:18:29 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

B5

Kevin  
L/OES

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:50:27 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:47 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Connelly, Maura; Schlicher, Ronald L; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov>  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 17:37:00 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

See below from Jonathan pls.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 9:13 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H

Cc: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Dolan, JoAnn; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
To: Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Cc: Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:05:16 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; [redacted] Levin, Jan; [redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

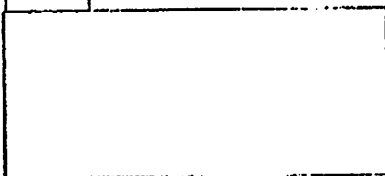
B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

[REDACTED] B3 DOD-CP  
Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific High [REDACTED] B3 DODFGI

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

[REDACTED] B3 DOD-CP



-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [REDACTED] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Je [REDACTED] B3 DOD-CP  
D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from [REDACTED] B6  
[REDACTED] who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

[REDACTED] reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. B6  
Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning [REDACTED] made the following calls/contacts: B6

B6

--Turkish FM and MOD [redacted] Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh [redacted]. He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.  
Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan  
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] B3 DOD-CP  
Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010  
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.  
-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.  
-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.  
-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.



RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP, B3 DODFGI, B5, B6

**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:55 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Jonathan B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Knopf, Payton L; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Connelly, Maura  
**Subject:** RE: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schwartz, Jonathan B  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 8:48 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Knopf, Payton L; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Subject:** Re: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
**Subject:** FW: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Redacted]  
**To:** Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; [Redacted] Levin, Jan; [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010  
**Subject:** RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP

B3 DOD-CP

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B3 DOD-CP

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM

To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Je

D

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Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

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Dangot reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

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B6

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To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C;  
Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted]  
[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman B3 DOD-CP  
Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis B. Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
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From: Levin, Jan  
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted]  
[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
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Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

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Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP, B3  
DODFGI, B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

From: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:20 AM  
To: Jacobson, Linda  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Have a safe flight! I'm sure we'll be in touch over the coming days.

----- Original Message -----

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:07:18 2010  
Subject: Fw: MFA flotilla briefing

Fyi, I am in Israel en route to airport so will be out of commission.

----- Original Message -----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Knopf, Payton L; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:47:48 2010  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Marla  
(Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; [Redacted] Levin, Jan; [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010 REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific High [redacted] B3 DOD-CP B3 DODFGI

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L
- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

[redacted] B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
 To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, J  
 Cc: 'Dennis\_B. Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
 Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from [redacted] B6

[redacted] reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense. B6

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

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RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP, B3  
DOD-FGI, B5, B6

Law, Rosemary C

From: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:20 AM  
To: Jacobson, Linda  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Have a safe flight! I'm sure we'll be in touch over the coming days.

----- Original Message -----

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: McLeod, Mary (USUN)  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:07:18 2010  
Subject: Fw: MFA flotilla briefing

Fyi, I am in Israel en route to airport so will be out of commission.

----- Original Message -----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Knopf, Payton L; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:47:48 2010  
Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J;  
Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
John R; Amodio, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Marla  
(Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; [Redacted] Levin, Jan; [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

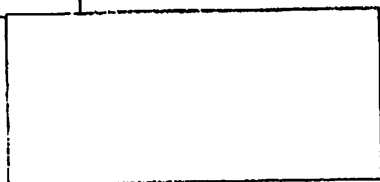
B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010 [REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer]  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

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[redacted] B3 DOD-CP



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 Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
 To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J;  
 Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters,  
 John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, J  
 D  
 Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
 Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

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rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B

Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM

To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R;

[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

Subject: Re: MFA flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan

To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R;

[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010

Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.

-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.

-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.

-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.



RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B6,B3  
DODFGI

Law, Rosemary C

**From:** Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 2:13 PM  
**To:** Jacobson, Linda; Deeks, Ashley S; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Reisser, Wesley J; Perina, Alexandra H; Meier, Michael W  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Jane Dalton worked extensively on the blockade law issues surrounding Georgia; it would be worth locating those files for general knowledge (Kevin maybe you have some of the papers?) though it's not clear that questions about our view of the legality of Israel's blockade are necessarily going to come up here (let's hope not).

**From:** Jacobson, Linda  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 2:05 PM  
**To:** Deeks, Ashley S; Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Heinemann, Thomas B  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Reisser, Wesley J; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Subject:** Re: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

[redacted] Israel's position is that it is engaged in armed conflict w Hamas and it's actions to seal Gaza's maritime borders are acts of self-defense.

B5

**From:** Deeks, Ashley S  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Reisser, Wesley J; Perina, Alexandra H; Pomper, Stephen E  
**Sent:** Thu May 27 11:04:23 2010  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Looping in AP for the Israeli angle and SP for the blockade angle, based on his Georgia work.

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** Deeks, Ashley S; Guarin, Marc F; Jacobson, Linda  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Reisser, Wesley J  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Thanks,  
Kevin

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:36 AM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - We are still trying to get confirmation from Greece on the 2 ships. They are yachts and may actually be U.S. registered.

Wes

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Wes - It is definitely worth pursuing more factual information as to which vessels are actually doing what. I suspect they are not US flagged vessels, and might not even be Greek flagged (may just be Greek owned, but who knows).

Thanks,  
Kevin

**From:** Reisser, Wesley J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Cc:** Dolan, JoAnn; Goodman, Ilan A; Scariatelli, Adam W; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** FW: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

Kevin - We have a whole bunch of ships headed towards Gaza right now to "break the Israeli blockade." The Israeli Navy will probably interdict them this weekend, board the ships, haul them to port and deport all of the foreign nationals (they did this last summer). However, we have a slight hitch this time in that two of the boats, after leaving Greece, are now supposedly flying American flags rather than Greek ones. Embassy Athens is looking into this to find out if the boats are registered in Greece or the U.S. The Israeli Embassy has contacted us about this, and they have been contacted by the Greek Ambassador here, who has stated these ships are flying U.S. flags (although he did not tell the Israelis if the boats are American or Greek registered).

soon.  
Thanks!  
Wes

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 26, 2010 11:06 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Desiree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa;  
**Cc:** Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Subject:** RE: [Redacted]

B3 DODFGI

B3 DOD-CP

B3 DOD-CP

B3 DODFGI

B3 DODFGI

B5

B3 DOD-CP

[Redacted]

V/R,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:51 PM

To: Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Deslree A; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; [Redacted]

Cc: Reisser, Wesley J; Goldberger, Thomas H

Subject: RE: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

R/

[Redacted]

From: Reisser, Wesley J

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 5:06 PM

To: Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Sindle, James M; Struwe, Rebecca L; Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Mendel, Teresa S; Sievers, Marc J; Levin, Jan; Burnett, David R; Baron, Deslree A; Adams, Julie D; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

Waters, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Towry, Debra J; Hanania, Vera V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Lewis, Glenn K; Beran, Sarah; Greengrass, Sara D; Kaplan, Dean; Walker, Carolee B; Finver, Frank J; Manning, Nicholas J; Tyson, Paul H; Maggi, Robert W; Frederick, Jeffrey D; Falls, Eric G; Reed, Julia G; Davison, Kees C; Ogle, Karen L; Keen, Daniel G; Howard, Jeremiah "Jerry"; Parra, Yolanda A; Dilworth, Allison E; Osman, Amany A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Taylor, Victoria J; Riley, Robert J; Dayton, Win (Istanbul); Marsh, Denise M; Bally, Jess L; Tomlinson, Christina (Istanbul); Abeyta, Susan K (Istanbul); Givold, Lisa C (Istanbul); Parker, Andrew C; Silliman, Douglas A; Rosenstock, Matthew S

Subject: Israel Navy on Free Gaza

(SBU) Courtesy Embassy Tel Aviv, a message on how the navy intends to handle this:

*"The Israel Navy has expressed to me that they intend to respond to this situation as peaceful as possible; however they have been directed by the GOI to prevent the vessels from arriving in Gaza. Their intention is to ensure the ships arrive in Ashdod, process the individuals to be deported and deliver any legitimate humanitarian aide to Gaza via land. It should be noted, that GOI has made it clear that although they have directed a peaceful response, those participating are viewed as individuals deliberately attempting to provoke the Israel Navy and appropriate action to prevent arrival in Gaza will be taken."*

Wesley J. Reisser, Ph.D.  
Desk Officer - NEA/IPA  
Office of Israel & Palestinian Affairs

Phone (202) 647-2647  
Fax (202) 736-4461

This message is UNCLASSIFIED/SBU according to the definitions provided by E.O. 12958.

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP, B3 DODFGI, B6

1. Law, Rosemary C

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:14 AM  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing  
Attachments: Legal Aspects.ppt

[Redacted]

B6

-----Original Message-----

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 3:08 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); [Redacted] Murphy, Michael P; [Redacted] Levin, Jan; [Redacted]  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

B3 DOD-CP

B3 DOD-CP

Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific High [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP  
B3 DODFGI

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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Cc: 'Dennis\_B.\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

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B6  
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To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C;

Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted]

[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman; Jeffrey D

B3 DOD-CP

Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'

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From: Levin, Jan

To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted]

[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D

Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010

Subject: MFA Flotilla briefing

Law, Rosemary C

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-CP,B3  
DODFGI,B6,B6

From: Pomper, Stephen E  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:02 PM  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Perlina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Goldberger, Thomas H;  
Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; [redacted] Guarin, Marc F; B6  
Donoghue, Joan E  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: Perlina, Alexandra H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A;  
Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; [redacted] B6  
[redacted] Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
Sent: Mon May 31 12:58:16 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[redacted]

----- Original Message -----

From: Perlina, Alexandra H  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann,  
Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J; [redacted] B6  
[redacted]; Pomper, Stephen E; Guarin, Marc F  
Sent: Mon May 31 12:55:35 2010  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 12:17 PM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

-----Original Message-----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:40 AM  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Jacobson, Linda; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
Subject: RE: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

-----Original Message-----

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 11:34 AM  
To: Jacobson, Linda; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M; Sullivan, David J  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

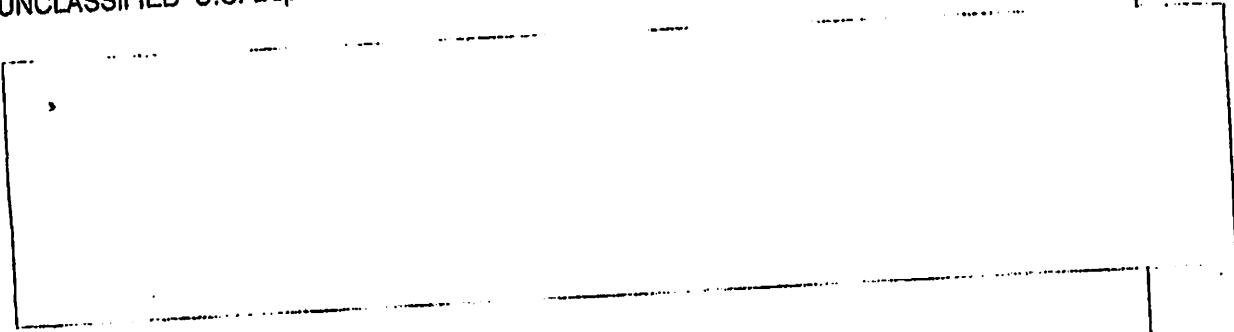
----- Original Message -----

From: Jacobson, Linda  
To: Baumert, Kevin A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:20:32 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

----- Original Message -----

From: Baumert, Kevin A  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda; Perina, Alexandra H  
Cc: Aswad, Evelyn M  
Sent: Mon May 31 11:18:29 2010  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing>

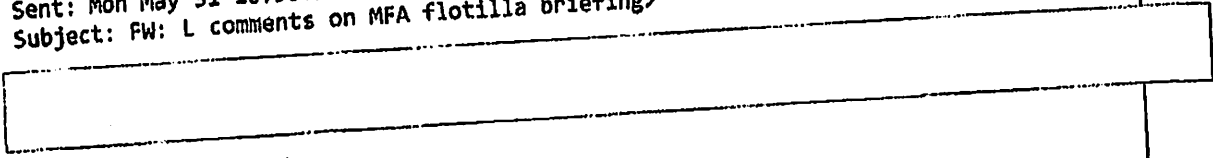




Kevin  
L/OES

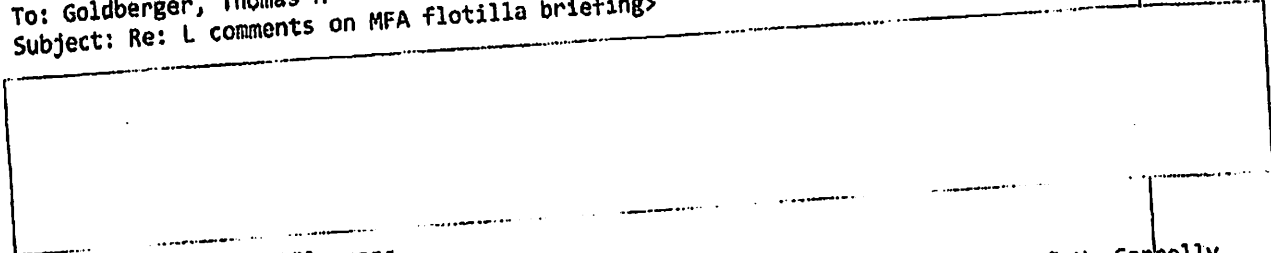
----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Schwartz, Jonathan B; Baumert, Kevin A; Heinemann, Thomas B; Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Sent: Mon May 31 10:50:27 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing



-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 10:47 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Subject: Re: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing



----- Original Message -----

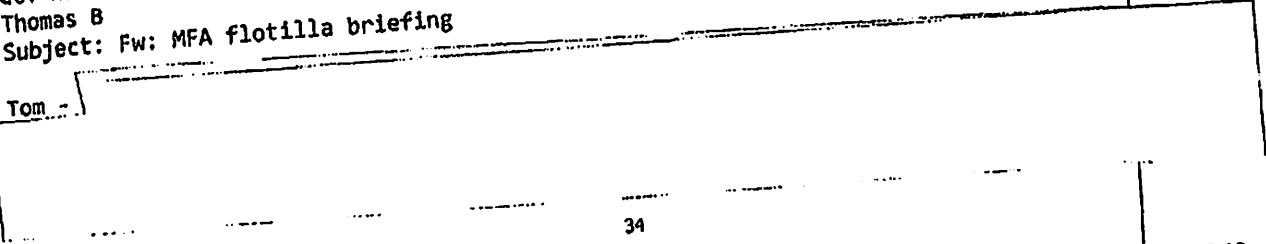
From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Cunningham, James B; Hale, David M; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Connelly, Maura; Schlicher, Ronald L; 'Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov' <Daniel\_B\_Shapiro@nsc.eop.gov>  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Jacobson, Linda; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 17:37:00 2010  
Subject: FW: L comments on MFA flotilla briefing

See below from Jonathan pls.

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 9:13 AM  
To: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Cc: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Dolan, JoAnn; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Subject: Fw: MFA flotilla briefing

Tom -



[Redacted]

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Schwartz, Jonathan B  
To: Perina, Alexandra H; Heinemann, Thomas B  
Cc: Baumert, Kevin A; Harris, Robert K; Donoghue, Joan E; Dolan, JoAnn  
Sent: Mon May 31 09:05:16 2010  
Subject: Fw: MFA flotilla briefing

Alexandra/Tom -Are either of you in a position to assist L/OES?

[Redacted]

B5

Jon

----- Original Message -----

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: Dolan, JoAnn; Jacobson, Linda  
Cc: Holmstrom, Todd C; Schwartz, Jonathan B; Knopf, Payton L  
Sent: Mon May 31 08:24:00 2010  
Subject: FW: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B5

----- Original Message -----

From: [Redacted]  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D; Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Burgess, Richard J; Murphy, Michael P; [Redacted] Levin, Jan; [Redacted], [Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

Sent: Mon May 31 08:08:22 2010  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-CP

Many of the details briefed have already been provided via other means. Specific High B3 DODFGI

- Ongoing Operation
- Two Ships in Ashdod to include the CHALLENGER I
- M/V MAVI MARMARA expected in port between 1700L and 1800L

- All ships will be in port by later today
- 10-14 Civilians Seriously Injured or Killed
- 30 Civilians Wounded
- 10 IDF wounded to include 1 serious and 1 with "medium" wounds
- Turkish Ambassador to Israel recalled
- Interaction occurred approx 70 NM from coastline. IDF confident in International Law because of intent by flotilla to breach the blockade. (See Attached Slides)

B3 DOD-CP

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 2:46 PM  
To: Cunningham, James B; Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey  
D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: RE: MFA flotilla briefing

This may largely repeat at this point what is out in other places and/or others have heard from me, but just to assure that various reporting lines have same info, this is from Gen. Dangot, the COGAT, who also spoke with the UN's Serry, among others, this am.

Dangot reported that when Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship, they met with what he described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. Military who boarded were attacked with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked by dozens; He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 "maybe more". He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital - by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning he and Barak made the following calls/contacts:  
--Turkish FM and MoD (Barak); Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh (Dangot). He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.

(PIC seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.)

-----Original Message-----

From: Cunningham, James B  
Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 1:38 PM  
To: Levin, Jan; Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew G;  
Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted]  
[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman B3 DOD-CP  
Jeffrey D  
Cc: 'Dennis\_B\_Ross@nsc.eop.gov'; 'Dshapiro@who.eop.gov'  
Subject: Re: MFA Flotilla briefing

Our Consular people are in contact with MFA and Ashdod to get info on amcits as soon as it's available. UN had been approached by COGAT last week to help in forwarding cargo from ships in Ashdod. Serry is trying to send a couple of observers to Ashdod, has told cogat that assisting deliveries of humanitarian goods, much of which is destined for Hamas, is problematic but he'll see. Barak just gave a press conference, and appears to have spoken to Davotuglu this am.  
Sent from my BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Levin, Jan  
To: Operations Center; Jeffrey, James F; Cunningham, James B; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew G; Grubb, Jason B; NEA-IPA-DL; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Waters, John R; [redacted]  
[redacted] Amodeo, Salvatore A (Istanbul); Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem); Connelly, Maura; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
Sent: Mon May 31 13:20:31 2010  
Subject: MFA flotilla briefing

MFA DG Yossi Gal and IDF Col. Assaf Orion, Dir. Of Dept of Strategic Coordination, briefed foreign ambassadors at 12:30 local time today.

Highlights - Identification of dead and wounded taking time. MFA will reach out proactively to Embassies as IDs are done, with location and status of citizens. The uninjured will be processed and escorted to airport for deportation. Unclear how long this will take.  
-- Most violence occurred on ship Mavi (Blue) Marmara. As far as is currently known, all injuries occurred on this ship.  
-- Col. Orion told Ambassador that activists on Mavi Marmara were prepared for boarders and were armed. Unclear if they had firearms in advance or took them from IDF boarding party. One IDF soldier nearly beaten to death with metal bar. Activists also had knives.  
-- Events took place in international waters. Israel asserted it had the legal right to intercept in intl waters because there is a military blockade under the law of armed conflict between Israel and Hamas.

Ambassador Cunningham requests that Embassy Tel Aviv clear Dept guidance on this issue, thank you.

**RELEASED IN PART B5**

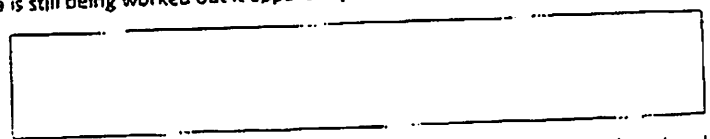
**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Baumert, Kevin A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 4:14 PM  
**To:** Dolan, JoAnn; Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

I've passed this to USCG, which needs to be involved in the first bullet since it is a US flagged vessel.

**From:** Dolan, JoAnn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:41 PM  
**To:** Pomper, Stephen E; Townley, Stephen G; Guarin, Marc F; Baumert, Kevin A; Perina, Alexandra H; Aswad, Evelyn M; Banos, Mariano H; Gorove, Katherine M; Sullivan, David J  
**Cc:** Harris, Robert K; Jacobson, Linda  
**Subject:** PC on Flotilla Thursday evening

Israel Desk has just called to alert us that NSC is scheduling a PC for Thursday evening to which S plans to attend. While agenda is still being worked out it apparently includes such items as:



B5

Apparently the [redacted] has been tasked to NSC/Legal and Desk assumed that we were already working with them and was looking for a point of contact to help them prepared the annotated agenda for S. Has anyone else heard about this and can I give Jeff Giaouque a point of contact on that issue. It sounds like an L/HRR and L/UNA task in preparation for HCR, but cannot be sure.

B5

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**



### Activity Summary Report

Title: Participation In Freedom Flotilla  
 Activity ID: 3759971  
 Activity Start Time: 06/07/2010 10:58:00 AM  
 Originating Unit: SEC DelwrBy  
 Owner Unit: SEC DelwrBy  
 Controlling Unit: SEC DelwrBy  
 Activity Type: Vessel Inspection/PSC  
 Team Lead: [REDACTED]  
 Status: Closed - Administrative Action  
 Status Date: 06/07/2010

Operating Organization Name  
 FREE GAZA MOVEMENT

Address City Corporation State Zip Country Province  
 F.G. Human Rights Projects, Ltd (Free Gaza Movement) c/o Centaur Trust 2 Apostolos Varnavas Street 2571 Nisou, Nicosia, CY

#### Vessel Information

Vessel Name: CHALLENGER I VIN: DL8171AC Flag: UNITED STATES Length: 66 Tonnage(GRT/ITC):  
 Year Completed: 1977 Vessel Type: Recreational-Motor Propelled Vessels-Yacht, Trawler Type Propulsion Type: Diesel  
 Engine Compartment: Unknown Fuel Compartment: Unknown Construction: Unknown

#### Activities Conducted:

Type	Date	Unit
------	------	------

#### Associated/Involved Parties:

Party Name	Party Role	Contact Information
[REDACTED]	Owner	
FREE GAZA MOVEMENT	Primary Operator	www.freegaza.org/ +357 99 081 767
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS LLC	Work	Owner (302) 447-9800
[REDACTED]	Operator Primary	

#### Inspection Results

System	Date	Results
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#### Inspection Results - Deficiencies

(None)

#### Documents and Certificates:

Certificates: Document Description	Issue Date	Expire Date
---------------------------------------	------------	-------------

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(a)(1)(A) + (b)(7)(C)

**Documents and Certificates:**  
(Continued)

**Documents:**

Name:	Description
Challenger I Delaware Registration Application.pdf	
Greek Directorate of Customs and Excise.pdf	

**Narrative Summary:**

The M/V CHALLENGER I (aka SAMOUD (Arabic for Steadfast)) is the former Greek registered M/V GOLDEN FLAME. Its Greek registration number was 7024 and it was owned by [REDACTED] of Marinos, [REDACTED].

The vessel was sold to Western Mediterranean Trips (WMT) LLC on February 24, 2010 for 130,000 euro. Ms. [REDACTED] accepted the vessel on behalf of WMT. Ms. [REDACTED] was an Australian school teacher, a human rights activist and an organizer for the Free Gaza Movement (FGM) (www.freegaza.org).

Ms. [REDACTED] registered the vessel with the State of Delaware on April 1, 2010. Assisting with the application was Delaware Registry Limited at 3511 Silverside Road, Wilmington DE 19810, who provided the Delaware registered address for WMT.

The CHALLENGER I was boarded by the Greek General Directorate of Customs and Excise on April 28, 2010 (page six and seven of the Custom Form attached in the documents section of this activity). Mr. [REDACTED] was identified on the Cyprus Transit Log. [REDACTED] (UK) was identified as the Master. The Passenger and Crew List identified four crewmen however none were US citizens. At least three of the passengers were US citizens. The rest of the passengers were a mix of nationalities including German, British, Canadian and Brazilian.

The vessel, along with the CHALLENGER II, sailed from Heraklion Crete to meet the FGM sponsored Freedom Flotilla in May 2010. The Freedom Flotilla was an attempt to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. The flotilla's flagship was the M/V MAVI MARMARA and the voyage was noteworthy for the Israeli response which resulted in the non-compliant boarding of the MAVI MARMARA and the death of nine activists.

The CHALLENGER I and the CHALLENGER II never made contact with the Israelis. Instead, both vessels experienced steering casualties that forced them to seek refuge in a Cyprus port. The CHALLENGER II problems appeared to more severe in that the vessel took on water after the bilge pump suddenly stopped working and the activists had to be transferred at sea to the MAVI MARMARA 70 NM off the coast of Cyprus. The Greek side of Cyprus denied the CHALLENGER I request to enter port therefore it sailed to the Port of Famagusta on the Turkish side of the island.

The CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II are undergoing repairs in Cyprus and they will try to rejoin the Freedom Flotilla at the next opportunity.

**Activity Action Log:**

Eff. Date	Unit	Individual	Description
08/07/2010	SEC DetwrBy	[REDACTED]	Activity Created. Status: "Open - In Progress"
08/07/2010	SEC DetwrBy	[REDACTED]	Status Changed to "Closed - Administrative Action"

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)(C)

*W. Ch...*

*NOV*

```

04/01/10          * * * * BOAT REGISTRATION SYSTEM * * * *
08:32:09          MODIFY REGISTRATION                      BRMU1020

REGNO DL8171AC  DECAL NO 24172  FEE 60.00 EXEMPT N COMPANY (Y/N) Y
NAME LAST FIRST MIDDLE / CORP      A/O      SOCIAL SECURITY NO
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS LLC
CHALLENGER 1

LIENHOLDER
EMAIL
PHONE 302 447 9800
MAIL ADDRESS 3511 SILVERSIDE RD SUITE 106
CITY WILMINGTON ST DE ZIP 19810 COUNTY 1
ADDRESS
CITY ST ZIP COUNTY
INS CODE INSURED BY
MAKE TEC YEAR 1977 LENGTH 6602 HULL 1 PROP 2 USE 1
TYRE 2 FUEL 2 SANIT DEV 3 HULL IDENT DLZ127040710
ISSUE DATE 4 / 1 / 2010 EXP YR 2010 AGENT ID
PREVIOUS REG# PREVIOUS OWN

ENTER 'N' FOR NO PRINT or 'ENTER' TO CONTINUE KW8W
Enter PF1--PF2--PF3--PF4--PF5--PF6--PF7--PF8--PF9--PF10--PF11--PF12--
HELP MENU QUIT
4-0 1 8688-1 172.16.16.3 #96/80

```

Date: 4/1/2010 Time: 8:32:31 AM



DO NOT MARK IN THIS SPACE. OFFICE USE ONLY. DL #

81712c

PLEASE FILL OUT ENTIRE FORM

STATE OF PRINCIPAL USE DELAWARE

DLZ 1224 D 710

HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (17 DIGITS) C 66 18

HULL:

- 1.  WOOD
- 2.  METAL
- 3.  INFLATABLE
- 4.  FIBERGLASS
- 5.  OTHER

PROPULSION:

- 1.  OUTBOARD
- 2.  INBOARD
- 3.  STERN
- 4.  OTHER

USE:

- 1.  PLEASURE
- 2.  DOCUMENTED
- 3.  DEALER FOR DEMO USE
- 4.  COMMERCIAL PASSENGER
- 5.  COMMERCIAL FISHING
- 6.  COMMERCIAL OTHER
- 7.  RENTAL
- 8.  OTHER

TYPE:

- 1.  OPEN
- 2.  CABIN
- 3.  HOUSE
- 4.  OTHER
- 5.  ALEX-SAIL
- 6.  KAYC
- 7.  PONTON/ON
- 8.  BILGE/ON

16V  
60<sup>HP</sup>

FUEL:

- 1.  GASOLINE
- 2.  DIESEL
- 3.  OTHER

MARINE SANITATION DEVICE:

- 1.  TYPE I - NO VESSEL SOLID WASTE
- 2.  TYPE II - FLOW BACK SOLID WASTE
- 3.  TYPE III - HOLDING TANK
- 4.  MARINE PORTA POTTIE

MANUFACTURED:

- 1.  FACTORY BUILT
- 2.  HOME BUILT

LENGTH OVERALL 66 FT. 29 IN.

MARINE SAFETY CONTROL YEAR BUILT ITALY, 1972

REGISTRATION NUMBER [REDACTED]

NAME MANUFACTURER [REDACTED]

OWNER'S NAME WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS LLC

MAILING ADDRESS 351 SILVERSIDE ROAD, SUITE 105

CITY WILMINGTON STATE DE ZIP 19810

REGISTRATION NUMBER [REDACTED]

OWNER'S SIGNATURE (IN INK) [REDACTED]

SOCIAL SECURITY # FOR EACH OWNER OR TAX # FOR COMPANY OR PASSPORT NUMBER [REDACTED]

DATE OF TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]


THE VESSEL'S NEW NAME IS "CHALLENGER J" CHALLENGER I

OWNER NAME: WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS LLC

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)(C)

ΕΝΤΥΠΟ Τ-01.02 ΑΥΟ Α 257/19923-2-2000

ΑΝΤΙΤΥΠΟ 1 (ΣΤΕΛΛΟΜΕΝΟ)

 ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ HELLENIC REPUBLIC ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ MINISTRY OF FINANCE ΓΕΝΙΚΗ Δ/ΝΣΗ ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΩΝ & ΕΦΚ GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΑΚΗ ΑΡΧΗ ΑΘΗΝΑ CUSTOMS AUTHORITY	ΗΜ/ΝΙΑ: 23-04-10 DATE: 23-04-10	Αριθ. Δελτίου: 08 Document Number: 08
	ΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΗ/LIMITED EXCISE VALIDITY ΑΠΟ/ FROM: _____ ΜΕΧΡΙ/ UNTIL: _____	
	ΠΑΡΑΤΑΣΗ ΙΣΧΥΟΣ EXTENSION OF VALIDITY	
	1. ΑΠΟ/ FROM: _____ ΜΕΧΡΙ/ UNTIL: _____ 2. ΑΠΟ/ FROM: _____ ΜΕΧΡΙ/ UNTIL: _____ 3. ΑΠΟ/ FROM: _____ ΜΕΧΡΙ/ UNTIL: _____	

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΚΙΝΗΣΗΣ<sup>(1),(2)</sup>  
TRANSIT LOG

ΗΜΕΡΑ: DLZ 1203 DZIO  
 ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ: CHALLENGER  
 ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΠΛΩΜΑΤΟΣ: DL 8172 AC  
 ΔΕΣΦΑ/ALL SIGN: K.O.X: 198 41 GT: NET 9493  
 ΤΥΠΟΣ ΠΛΩΜΑΤΟΣ: ΜΥ ΕΙΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΜΕΥΜΕΝΕ 1976 ΜΗΚΟΣ 20,36 m  
 ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ, ΤΥΠΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΟΔΥΝΑΜΗ ΜΗΧΑΝΩΝ: 2 DTU x 900 BHP

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ: 3511 SILVERSIDE RD WILMINGTON 19810 DE  
 ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: ΔΟΥ: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ: [REDACTED]  
 ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
 ΔΟΥ: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ: [REDACTED]

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ: [REDACTED]  
 ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
 ΔΟΥ: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ: [REDACTED]

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ: [REDACTED]  
 ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
 ΔΟΥ: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ: [REDACTED]

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)(C)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟ ΑΙΜΕΝΑΡΧΕΙΟ ΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑΣ  
ΑΙΜΕΝΑΡΧΕΙΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΝΙΑΣ  
ΑΙΜΕΝΑΡΧΕΙΟ ΠΥΛΑΓΚΙΟΥ

ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΕΠΙΒΑΤΩΝ & ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
PASSENGER AND CREW LIST

DEMOCRACY OF GREECE  
PIREAEUS PORT AUTHORITY  
PORT POLICE  
COAST GUARD

Ο/Σ CHALLENGER ΤΙΣΗΜΑΙΑ USA ΝΗΣΟΣ  
YACHT FLAG PORT OF REGISTRY ΑΡ. ΝΗΣΟΣ Κ.Ο.Χ.  
ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΟΒΕΒΑΤΩΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΚΥΠΡΟ Κ.Κ.Χ.  
DURING THE VOYAGE FROM ΤΟ ΤΥΠΟΣ ΣΚΑΦΟΥΣ ΜΕΤΡΑ  
ΤΥΡΟΣ ΒΩΤΩΝ METERS

ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ - CREW

1) Master	[REDACTED]	6) Ναύτης Sailor	[REDACTED]
2) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	7) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3) Μηχαν. Engineer	[REDACTED]	8) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	9) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	10) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

ΕΠΙΒΑΤΕΣ - PASSENGERS

Α/Α No	ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ Full Name	ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ Address	ΑΡ. ΔΙΑΒΑΤ. PASSPORT No	ΕΘΝΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ NATIONALITY
1	[REDACTED]	Holland	[REDACTED]	Dutch
2	[REDACTED]	Belgium	[REDACTED]	BELGIUM
3	[REDACTED]	NORWAY	[REDACTED]	Norway
4	[REDACTED]	NORWAY	[REDACTED]	Norway
5	[REDACTED]	NORWAY	[REDACTED]	Norway
6	[REDACTED]	ENGLAND	[REDACTED]	United Kingdom
7	[REDACTED]	Ireland	[REDACTED]	Ireland
8	[REDACTED]	Australia	[REDACTED]	Australia
9	[REDACTED]	England	[REDACTED]	United Kingdom
10	[REDACTED]	England	[REDACTED]	United Kingdom
11	[REDACTED]	Malaysia	[REDACTED]	Malaysia
12	[REDACTED]	Belgium	[REDACTED]	Belgium
13	[REDACTED]	IRELAND	[REDACTED]	IRISH
14	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
16	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
18	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
19	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
21	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
22	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
23	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
24	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
25	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
26	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
27	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
28	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
29	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
30	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

25/05/2010  
Ημερ/Date

ΘΕΩΡΗΘΗΚΕ Ο ΠΛΟΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
THE MASTER

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)(C)

Παρονομασία Γραμμών  
ΑΓΙΑ ΤΡΑΠΙΖΑ

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ Δ/ΝΣΗ ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΩΝ & ΕΦΚ  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF  
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE  
ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΑΚΗ ΑΡΧΗ  
CUSTOMS AUTHORITY

ΑΝΤΙΤΥΠΟ 1 (ΣΤΑΘ. ΕΙΣ.) 1/5

ΗΜ/ΝΙΑ / DATE: 26-04-10  
Αριθ. Δελτίου / Document Number: 09

ΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΗ / LIMITED VALIDITY (1)  
ΑΠΟ / FROM: 26-04-10 ΜΕΧΡΙ / UNTIL: 27-05-10

ΠΑΡΑΤΑΞΗ ΙΣΧΥΟΣ  
EXTENSION OF VALIDITY

1. ΑΠΟ/ΑΠΟΜΕΧΡΙ / FROM-UNTIL  
2. ΑΠΟ/ΑΠΟΜΕΧΡΙ / FROM-UNTIL  
3. ΑΠΟ/ΑΠΟΜΕΧΡΙ / FROM-UNTIL

ΕΚΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΙΣΧΥΟΣ (2)  
ΕΚΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΙΣΧΥΟΣ (2)

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΚΙΝΗΣΗΣ (1),(4)  
TRANSIT LOG

1. ΟΝΟΜΑΤΙΔΙΟ ΟΥΣΙΑΣ / NAME: CHALLENGER 1 USA

ΛΙΜΕΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΚΗΛΟΛΟΓΙΟΥ / PORT OF REGISTRY AND REGISTRATION NUMBER: DL 8171 AC  
ΔΕΙΞ/ΟΛΤ. ΣΗΜΑ: K.O.X. GTI 4334

ΤΥΠΟΣ ΠΛΟΙΟΥ / TYPE OF SHIP: 114 GOS KATAΣΤΑΣΗ 1977 114nos GG last 02 mchas  
ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ, ΤΥΠΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΠΠΟΔΥΝΑΜΗ ΜΗΧΑΝΩΝ / ENGINES, TYPE AND NUMBER, H.P.: 2 x 650 BHP

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ / HOME ADDRESS: 3511 SILVERSIDE RD SUITE 105 WILMINGTON DE 19810

ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ / TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: FAX: E-MAIL:

ΑΦΜ: ΔΟΥ: FAX: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ / HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ / TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: FAX: E-MAIL:

ΑΦΜ: ΔΟΥ: FAX: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ / HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ / TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: FAX: E-MAIL:

ΑΦΜ: ΔΟΥ: FAX: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ / HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ / TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: FAX: E-MAIL:

ΑΦΜ: ΔΟΥ: FAX: ΑΔΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(a)(1) & (b)(4)(c)



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟ ΔΙΜΕΝΑΡΧΕΙΟ ΠΕΡΙΛΙΟΣ  
ΔΙΜΕΝΙΚΗ ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ  
ΛΙΜΕΝΙΚΟ ΘΥΛΑΚΙΟ

ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΕΠΙΒΑΤΩΝ & ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
PASSENGER AND CREW LIST

DEMOCRACY OF GREECE  
FIDEAS PORT AUTHORITY  
PORT POLICE  
COAST GUARD

YACHT Challenger 1 ΣΗΜΑΙΑ USA ΠΟΡΤ ΟΡΕΓΙΣΤΡΥ ΑΤΣΠ. ΜΙΧΟΛΑΟΥ ΑΡ. ΝΗΟΣ Κ.Ο.Χ.  
REG. No Κ.Κ.Κ.  
ΚΑΤΑΤΗΝ ΑΠΟΒΛΟΥ ΑΠΟ ΚΥΡΟΣ ΤΥΠΟΣ ΣΚΑΦΟΥΣ 20  
DURING THE VOYAGE FROM ΚΥΡΟΣ ΤΥΠΟΣ ΜΕΤΡΑΣ 20

ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ - CREW

1) Κίτης Master		2) Ναύτης Sailor	
3) Μηχανικός Engineer		7) "	
4) "		8) "	
5) "		9) "	
		10) "	

ΕΠΙΒΑΤΕΣ - PASSENGERS

Α/Α S/N	ΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ SURNAME	ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ADDRESS	ΑΡ. ΔΙΑΤΑΞ. PASSPORT No	ΧΡΩΣΗ NATIONALITY
1	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
2	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
3	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
4	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
5	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
6	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
7	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	American
8	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	Serbia
9	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
10	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
11	[REDACTED]	Canada	[REDACTED]	Canada
12	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	Brazil
13	[REDACTED]	ENGLAND	[REDACTED]	BRITISH
14	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
16	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

This information is being provided under 5 USC Section 552(a)(1) & (2)(D)

Α/Α ΔΙΑΤΑΞΗΣ / ΠΛΑΤΑ 2510512010  
Πημ/α / Data

ΟΛΟΓΡΩΘΗΚΕ ΑΠΟ ΤΟΝ ΚΑΠΙΤΑΝΟ  
THE MASTER



### Activity Summary Report

Title: Participation in Freedom Flotilla  
 Activity ID: 3760058  
 Activity Start Time: 08/07/2010 12:22:00 PM  
 Originating Unit: SEC DelwrBy  
 Owner Unit: SEC DelwrBy  
 Controlling Unit: SEC DelwrBy  
 Activity Type: Vessel Inspection/PSC  
 Team Lead: [REDACTED]  
 Status: Closed - Administrative Action  
 Status Date: 08/07/2010

Operating Organization Name  
 FREE GAZA MOVEMENT

Address	City	Corporation State	Zip	Country	Province
F.G. Human Rights Projects, Ltd (Free Gaza Movement)	c/o Centaur Trust	2 Apostolos Varnavas Street	2571 Nicosia, Nicosia,		CY

#### Vessel Information

Vessel Name:	VIN:	Flag:	Length:	Tonnage(GRT/ITC):
CHALLENGER II	DL8172AC	UNITED STATES	69	
Year Completed:	Vessel Type:			Propulsion Type:
1977	Recreational-Motor Propelled Vessels-Yacht, Trawler Type			Diesel
Engine Compartment:	Fuel Compartment:	Construction:		
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		

#### Activities Conducted:

Type	Date	Unit

#### Associated/Involved Parties:

Party Name	Party Role	Owner
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS PLUS LLC	Web Site Primary Fax Phone Number	www.delreg.com (302) 477-8800 (302) 477-8811 1-800-321-2677
FREE GAZA MOVEMENT	Operator Web Site Phone Number Other Primary	www.freegaza.org/ +357 89 081 787

#### Inspection Results

System	Date	Results

#### Inspection Results - Deficiencies

(None)

#### Documents and Certificates:

Certificate:	Issue Date	Expire Date
Document Description		

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(7)(C)

**Documents and Certificates:**  
(Continued)

**Documents:**

Name:	Description
Greek Directorate of Customs and Excise.pdf	
Challenger II Delaware Registration Application.pdf	

**Narrative Summary:**

The M/V CHALLENGER II [possible aka AMAL (Arabic for Hope)] is the former Honduran registered M/V NITTA II. Its Honduran registration number was RHL-043392 and it was owned by Anmar Shipping Company S. DE R.L.

The vessel was sold to Western Mediterranean Trips Plus (WMT Plus) LLC on March 4, 2010 for 120,000 euro. Ms. [REDACTED] accepted the vessel on behalf of WMT Plus. Ms. [REDACTED] was an Australian school teacher, a human rights activist and an organizer for the Free Gaza Movement (FGM) (www.freegaza.org).

Ms. [REDACTED] registered the vessel with the State of Delaware on April 1, 2010. Assisting with the application was Delaware Registry Limited at 3511 Silverside Road, Wilmington DE 19810, who provided the Delaware registered address for WMT.

The CHALLENGER II was boarded by the Greek General Directorate of Customs and Excise on April 23, 2010 (page four and five of the Custom Form attached in the documents section of this activity). Mr. [REDACTED] was identified on the Cyprus Transit Log. The Passenger and Crew List identified four crewmen however none were US citizens. The passengers were a mix of nationalities including Irish, UK, Norwegian, Australia, Belgium and Malaysia. There were no US citizens on board.

The vessel, along with the CHALLENGER I, sailed from Heraklion Crete to meet the FGM sponsored Freedom Flotilla in May 2010. The Freedom Flotilla was an attempt to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. The flotilla's flagship was the M/V MAVI MARMARA and the voyage was noteworthy for the Israeli response which resulted in the non-compliant boarding of the MAVI MARMARA and the death of nine activists.

The CHALLENGER I and the CHALLENGER II never made contact with the Israelis. Instead, both vessels experienced steering casualties that forced them to seek refuge in a Cyprus port. The CHALLENGER II problems appeared to more severe in that the vessel took on water after the bilge pump suddenly stopped working and the activists had to be transferred at sea to the MAVI MARMARA 70 NM off the coast of Cyprus. The CHALLENGER II sailed to Limassol for repairs.

The CHALLENGER I and CHALLENGER II are undergoing repairs in Cyprus and that they will try to rejoin the Freedom Flotilla at the next opportunity.

**Activity Action Log:**

Eff. Date	Unit	Individual	Description
08/07/2010	SEC DelwrBy	[REDACTED]	Activity Created. Status: "Open - In Progress"
08/07/2010	SEC DelwrBy	[REDACTED]	Status Changed to "Closed - Administrative Action"

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(4)(c)

*W/ Chark*

04/01/10  
08:58:50

\*\*\* BOAT REGISTRATION SYSTEM \*\*\*  
MODIFY REGISTRATION

BRM1020

REGNO DL8172AG DECAL NO 24173 FEE 80.00 EXEMPT N COMPANY (Y/N) Y  
NAME LAST FIRST MIDDLE / CORP A/O SOCIAL-SECURITY-NO  
WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS  
PLUS LLO

LIENHOLDER

EMAIL

PHONE

MAIL ADDRESS CHALLENGER II 3611 SILVERSIDE RD  
CITY WILMINGTON ST DE ZIP 19810 COUNTY 1  
ADDRESS  
CITY ST ZIP COUNTY

INS CODE INSURED BY  
MAKE CANT YEAR 1977 LENGTH 6608 HULL 1 PROP 2 USE 1  
TYPE 2 FUEL 2 SANIT DEV 3 HULL IDENT DL212705D710  
ISSUE DATE 4 / 1 / 2010 EXP YR 2010 AGENT ID  
PREVIOUS REG# PREVIOUS OWN

ENTER 'Q' FOR NO PRINT OR ENTER 'C' TO CONTINUE  
Enter PF1--PF2--PF3--PF4--PF5--PF6--PF7--PF8--PF9--PF10--PF11--PF12--  
HELP MENU QUIT

4-c 1 3885-1 172-10-10.3 #95/30

Date: 4/1/2010 Time: 8:57:11 AM



DO NOT MARK IN THIS SPACE. OFFICE USE ONLY. DL #

8172K

PLEASE FILL OUT ENTIRE FORM

STATE OF ORIGINAL USE: DELAWARE

DUG 127050710

HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (12 DIGITS)

ON 333316

HULL:

- 1.  WOOD
- 2.  METAL
- 3.  INFLATABLE
- 4.  FIBERGLASS
- 5.  OTHER

PROPULSION:

- 1.  OUTBOARD
- 2.  INBOARD
- 3.  STEER
- 4.  OTHER

TYPE:

- 1.  OPEN
- 2.  CABIN
- 3.  HOUSE
- 4.  OTHER
- 5.  ALG-SKE
- 6.  PWC
- 7.  PONTOON
- 8.  INFLATABLE

14V  
60

USE:

- 1.  RECREATION
- 2.  DOCUMENTED
- 3.  DEALER (FOR DEMO USE)
- 4.  COMMERCIAL PASSENGER
- 5.  COMMERCIAL FISHING
- 6.  COMMERCIAL OTHER
- 7.  RENTAL
- 8.  BOATY

FUEL:

- 1.  GASOLINE
- 2.  DIESEL
- 3.  OTHER

MANUFACTURED:

- 1.  FACTORY BUILT
- 2.  HOME MADE

MARINE SANITATION DEVICE:

- 1.  TYPE I - NOISEL SOLID WASTE
- 2.  TYPE II - SUSPENDED SOLID WASTE
- 3.  TYPE III - HOLDING TANK
- 4.  PORTABLE TOILET

LENGTH OVERALL: 66 FEET 80 IN

MAKE OF VESSEL: CAPTIVE DELIVERY YEAR BUILT: ITALY 1977

PREVIOUS OWNER (S): AM MACK SHIPPING COMPANY S. DE LA. APHONOUS

NUMBER PREVIOUSLY SERVED: P.H.C. - 04392

LIEN HOLDER: INSURANCE CO.

OWNER(S) NAME: WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS PLUS LLC

MAILING ADDRESS: 3511 SILVERSIDE ROAD, SUITE 105

CITY: WILMINGTON STATE: DE ZIP: 19810

OWNER(S) SIGNATURE(S) IN INK

SOCIAL SECURITY # FOR EACH OWNER OR TAX # FOR COMPANIES OR PASSPORT NUMBER

DAYTIME TELEPHONE NUMBER


THE VESSEL'S NEW NAME IS CHALLENGER II  
CHALLENGER II

OWNER NAME: WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN TRIPS PLUS LLC

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(4) & (c)

ΕΝΤΥΠΟ Τ-01.01, ΑΥΘ Α 287/10/23-2-2000

ΑΝΤΙΤΥΠΟ 1 (ΣΤΕΛΕΧΟΣ)

  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
ΓΕΝΙΚΗ Δ/ΝΣΗ ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΩΝ & ΕΦΚ  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF  
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE  
ΤΕΛΩΝΕΙΑΚΗ ΑΡΧΗ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ  
CUSTOMS AUTHORITY

ΗΜΕΡΙΑ: 23-04-10 Αριθ. Δελτίου: 08  
DATE: 23-04-10 Document Number: 08  
ΕΞΥ/VALIDITY  
ΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΗ/UNTIL  
ΑΠΟ/FROM: ΜΕΧΡΙ/UNTIL  
ΠΑΡΑΤΑΣΗ ΕΣΧΥΟΣ  
EXTENSION OF VALIDITY  
1. ΑΠΟ/FROM ΜΕΧΡΙ/UNTIL  
2. ΑΠΟ/FROM ΜΕΧΡΙ/UNTIL  
3. ΑΠΟ/FROM ΜΕΧΡΙ/UNTIL  
ΟΡΙΣΜΕΝΗ/VALIDITY  
ΑΠΟ/FROM ΜΕΧΡΙ/UNTIL

ΔΕΛΤΙΟ ΚΙΝΗΣΗΣ<sup>(1),(2)</sup>  
TRANSIT LOG

HULL NO: DLZ 10703 DZLO  
NAME: CHALLENGER II USA  
ΔΙΜΗΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ ΝΗΟΛΟΓΙΟΥ: DL 8172 AC  
PORT OF REGISTRY AND REGISTRATION NUMBER:  
ΔΑΣ/CALL SIGN: K.O.X: 128 41 GI: NET 9493  
ΤΥΠΟΣ ΠΛΟΙΟΥ: U/Y ΕΤΟΣ ΚΑΤΑΣΤΡΕΥΣΗΣ 1976 ΜΗΚΟΣ 20,36m  
ΤΥΠΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΙΠΠΟΔΥΝΑΜΗ ΜΗΧΑΝΩΝ  
ENGINES, TYPE AND NUMBER, H.P.: 2 DTU x 900 BHP.

ΟΝΟΜΑΤΑ ΤΩΝ  
OWNER'S NAME: WALTER AND GENEVA WILKINS  
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ:  
HOME ADDRESS: 3511 SILVERSIZE RD WILMINGTON 19810 DE  
ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: ΛΑΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ  
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: ΛΑΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΟΝΟΜΑΤΑ ΤΩΝ  
OWNER'S NAME: [REDACTED]  
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ  
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: ΛΑΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

ΟΝΟΜΑΤΑ ΤΩΝ  
OWNER'S NAME: [REDACTED]  
ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ  
HOME ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
ΤΗΛΕΦΩΝΟ: FAX: E-MAIL:  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: ΔΟΥ: ΛΑΤ ή ΔΙΑΒΑΤΗΡΙΟ:

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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟ ΛΙΜΕΝΑΡΧΕΙΟ ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ  
ΝΑΥΤΙΚΗ ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ  
ΑΜΦΙΠΙΚΕΣ ΘΥΛΑΚΙΕΣ

2  
ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΕΠΙΒΑΤΩΝ & ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
PASSENGER AND CREW LIST

DEMOCRACY OF GREECE  
PIREAEUS PORT AUTHORITY  
PORT POLICE  
COAST GUARD

Ο/Σ ΣΧΑΛΑΚΗΣ Γ. Β. ΤΣΙΜΜΑΛΑ USA ΝΗΣΟΣ  
YACHT FLAG POINT OF ORIGIN  
ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΟΔΡΑΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΝ ΚΥΠΡΟΣ ΚΟΧ  
DURING THE VOYAGE FROM ΤΟ ΜΕΤΡΑ  
TYPE OF BOAT ΜΕΤΡΑ  
METERS

ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ - CREW

1) Master	[REDACTED]	6) Ναύτης	[REDACTED]
2) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	7) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3) Μηχανικός	[REDACTED]	8) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	9) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	10) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

ΕΠΙΒΑΤΕΣ - PASSENGERS

Α/Α S/N	ΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ SURNAME	ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ADDRESS	ΑΡ. ΠΑΣΠΟΡΤΙΟΥ PASSPORT NO	ΕΘΝΙΚΟΤΗΤΑ NATIONALITY
1	[REDACTED]	HOLLAND	[REDACTED]	Dutch
2	[REDACTED]	Belgium	[REDACTED]	BELGIUM
3	[REDACTED]	NORWAY	[REDACTED]	Norway
4	[REDACTED]	NORWAY	[REDACTED]	Norway
5	[REDACTED]	NORWAY	[REDACTED]	Norway
6	[REDACTED]	ENGLAND	[REDACTED]	United Kingdom
7	[REDACTED]	Ireland	[REDACTED]	Ireland
8	[REDACTED]	Australia	[REDACTED]	Australia
9	[REDACTED]	England	[REDACTED]	United Kingdom
10	[REDACTED]	England	[REDACTED]	United Kingdom
11	[REDACTED]	Malaysia	[REDACTED]	Malaysia
12	[REDACTED]	Belgium	[REDACTED]	Belgium
13	[REDACTED]	IRELAND	[REDACTED]	IRISH
14	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
15	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
16	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
18	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
19	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

25/05/2010  
Ημερ/Date

ΘΕΩΡΗΘΗΚΕ Ο ΠΛΟΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
THE MASTER

This information is being withheld under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b)(1) 6+(b)(4)(C)





ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ  
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΟ ΛΙΜΕΝΑΡΧΕΙΟ ΠΑΡΑΛΟΣ  
ΛΙΜΕΝΙΚΗ ΑΣΤΥΝΟΜΙΑ  
ΛΙΜΕΝΙΚΟ ΘΥΛΑΚΙΟ

ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΕΠΙΒΑΤΩΝ & ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
PASSENGER AND CREW LIST

PIERRE RACY OF GUILLEC  
PIERRE RACY PORT POLICE  
PORT POLICE  
COAST GUARD

YACHT Challenger 1 ΣΗΜΑΙΑ USA ΜΗΔΑ USA ΑΡ. ΜΗΔΑ REG No ΚΟΧ. KOK  
YACHT Challenger 1 ΣΗΜΑΙΑ USA ΜΗΔΑ USA ΑΡ. ΜΗΔΑ REG No ΚΟΧ. KOK  
ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΠΟΒΙΒΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΑΓΙΟ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟ ΠΡΟΣ ΚΥΡΟΣ ΚΕΚ. KOK  
DURING THE VOYAGE FROM ΑΓΙΟ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟ TO ΚΥΡΟΣ ΚΕΚ. KOK  
ΤΥΠΟΣ ΣΚΑΦΟΥΣ 20 ΜΕΤΡΑ 20  
TYPE OF BOAT METERS

ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑ - CREW

1) Κ/της Master	6) Ναύτης Sailor
2) " " "	7) " " "
3) Μ/της Engineer	8) " " "
4) " " "	9) " " "
5) " " "	10) " " "

ΕΠΙΒΑΤΕΣ - PASSENGERS

Α/Α S/N	ΟΝΟΜΑΤΕΠΩΝΥΜΟ NAME	ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ADDRESS	ΑΡ. ΔΙΑΒΑΤ. PASSPORT No	ΧΩΡΗΓΟΤΗΤΑ NATIONALITY
1	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
2	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
3	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
4	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
5	[REDACTED]	Germany	[REDACTED]	German
6	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
7	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	American
8	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	Serbia
9	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
10	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
11	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	American
12	[REDACTED]	Canada	[REDACTED]	Canada
13	[REDACTED]	U.S.A.	[REDACTED]	Brazil
14	[REDACTED]	ENGLAND	[REDACTED]	BRITISH
15	[REDACTED]	??	[REDACTED]	??
16	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
18	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
19	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
20	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

This information is being provided under a E.U.C. Section 82(1)(b) & (c)

Από: / Place ΑΓΙΟ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟ  
Ημερ: / Date 25/05/2010

ΘΕΛΩΦΟΝΙΚΟΣ ΜΕΤΡΩΝ ΛΟΙΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
LIFE MASTER

**Gaza Maritime Area**

All U.S. vessels and mariners are advised that Israel is currently enforcing a blockade in the "Gaza Maritime Area." The area is closed to all maritime traffic and the blockade is being enforced by the Israeli Navy. The Gaza Maritime Area is enclosed by the following coordinates:

31°35.71'N, 34°29.46'E

31°46.80'N, 34°10.01'E

31°19.39'N, 34°13.11'E

31°33.73'N, 33°56.68'E

U.S. vessels and mariners intending to enter the area are likely to face enforcement action by the Israeli Navy. The Department of State has also advised against travel by U.S. citizens to Gaza by any means, including by sea. Previous attempts to enter Gaza by sea have resulted in violent incidents and the detention and deportation those involved.

U.S. mariners are also reminded that procedures exist for the delivery of humanitarian cargo to Gaza via the Israeli port of Ashdod or the Egyptian port of El-Arish, where cargo can be screened.

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Fl - Flashing  
G - Green  
HAZ - Hazard to Navigation  
HBR - Harbor  
HOR - Horizontal Clearance  
HT - Height

NW - Notice Writer  
OBSCU - Obscured  
OBST - Obstruction  
OBSTR - Obstruction  
Oc - Occulting  
ODAS - Anchored Oceanographic Data Buoy

TRLB - Temporarily Replaced by Lighted Buoy  
TRLT - Temporarily Replaced by Light  
TRUB - Temporarily Replaced by Unlighted Buoy  
W - White  
Y - Yellow

**Additional Abbreviations Specific to this LNM Edition:**

AHOP Above Head of Passes  
BHOP Below Head of Passes  
HSC Houston Ship Channel  
MRGO Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet  
HWY Highway  
IHNC Inner Harbor Navigation Canal  
F/V Fishing Vessel

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**SECTION I - SPECIAL NOTICES**

This section contains information of special concern to the Mariner.

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**Coast Pilot 5 - New Edition**

PUBLICATION - National Ocean Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - U.S. Coast Pilot 5, Gulf of Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands, 39th Edition, is ready for issue and may be obtained from:

Federal Aviation Administration  
Aero Nav Products  
Printing & Distribution Group, Distribution Team  
10201 Good Luck Road  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769-9700

and authorized NOAA chart agents. Price \$30.00.  
The 2011 Edition cancels the preceding 2010 Edition.

All corrections to the previous edition issued in Notices to Mariners are incorporated in this edition.

Mariners are encouraged to use the convenient RECORD OF CHANGES form on Page V of this book. All Coast Pilot changes published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Notice to Mariners, and on the internet at <http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm> are serially numbered (i.e., Change No. 1, Change No. 2, etc.) to assist you in tracking the changes.

LNM: NOAA

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) encourages the maritime public to report information concerning suspicious activity to their local Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) Office, [www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm), or to other appropriate authorities. Individuals can contact the DHS Watch and Warning Unit, at (202) 323-3205, or toll free at 1-888-585-9078, or by E-Mail to [nipc.watch@fbi.gov](mailto:nipc.watch@fbi.gov). The U.S. Coast Guard reminds the maritime industry that they may also report information concerning suspicious activity to the National Response Center (NRC), at 1-800-424-8802.

LNM: DPW

**GAZA MARITIME AREA**

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RIF

 centerforconstitutionalrights  
on the front lines for social justice

February 11, 2011

Ms. Teresa McHenry, Chief  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Human Rights and Special Prosecution Section  
Criminal Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Sent via Federal Express and Email (hrstips@usdoj.gov)

Re: Meeting Request (b) (6) killed on  
the *Mavi Marmara* on May 31, 2010

Dear Ms. McHenry:

I write on behalf of (b) (6) killed aboard  
the *Mavi Marmara* in international waters on May 31, 2010. (b) (6) will be travelling to the  
United States later this month for the purpose of meeting with U.S. government officials to  
discuss his son's killing and actions that the United States has taken or can take to assist in  
seeking justice and accountability for his son's death. (b) (6) will be in Washington, D.C.  
on February 22, 2011 and the morning of February 23, 2011 and would like to meet with  
you or representatives from your Section to discuss his son's killing. I note that efforts to  
secure a meeting for (b) (6) with representatives of the United States Embassy in Ankara,  
Turkey have been unavailing, prompting him to make this trip to the United States. See  
Enclosure A.

(b) (6) seeks to discuss with yourself or representatives of your office various ways your  
office can assist him in seeking justice for his son's death, and particularly in relation to criminal  
prosecutions. Specifically, (b) (6) seeks to discuss opening a war crimes investigation  
pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2441 and/or an investigation into (b) (6) murder on international  
waters under the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States (see 18 U.S.C.  
§§ 7, and particularly sub-sections (1) and (7), 18 U.S.C. § 1111). He also seeks to discuss the  
ways in which the U.S. DOJ can assist the Turkish prosecutor's office in the ongoing criminal  
investigation pending in Turkey.

As you may be aware, (b) (6) was among the sixteen United States citizens  
who were part of the Gaza-bound flotilla attacked in international waters on May 31, 2010. At  
the time of his death, (b) (6) (b) (6)  
(b) (6) was shot  
five times, including twice in the head, once in the back, in the left leg and foot. All of the entry  
wounds were to the back of his body, except the shot to his face, which was delivered at point-  
blank range. See Enclosure B. An English-translation of the autopsy report for (b) (6) is  
attached. See Enclosure C.

666 Broadway, 7th fl. New York, NY 10012  
t 212 614 6464 f 212 614 6499 www.CCRjustice.org



DOJCrDiv0034


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Meeting Request: Ahmet Doğan  
February 11, 2011  
Page 2 of 2

~~In addition, United States citizens were beaten, and their property, which includes video and photographic evidence, was seized and appropriated by Israel and has not been returned. The U.S. citizens were forcibly taken from international waters to Israel, including the five U.S. citizens who were on the "Challenger I," a U.S.-registered vessel, further triggering the jurisdiction of your office as such acts involve crimes falling under the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. See, e.g., 18 U.S.C. §§ 113, 1201, 2111. The U.S. passengers have urged the State Department to assist in securing the return of their property and safeguarding evidence for a criminal investigation, but those requests for assistance have thus far been largely unavailing. See Enclosure D. Particularly relevant to any criminal investigations your Section might undertake or assist, the evidence which was seized by the Israeli government and which remains in its possession includes the video-camera (b) (6) was holding at the time that the Israeli commandos rappelled onto the *Mavi Marmara*.~~

I appreciate your urgent attention to this matter and look forward to your prompt response. Please feel free to contact me at 212-614-6445 or [kgallagher@ccrjustice.org](mailto:kgallagher@ccrjustice.org) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Katherine Gallagher  
Senior Staff Attorney

- Encl. A. Letters exchanged between the Elmadağ Law Office and the Embassy of the United States – Ankara
- B. Excerpt from the United Nations Human Rights Council Report Fact-Finding Mission on the Flotilla Attack, September 27, 2010, A/HRC/15/21
- C. Autopsy Report for (b) (6)
- D. Letter from U.S. passengers, (b) (6) to Secretary of State Clinton, October 6, 2010

cc: Lanny A. Breuer, Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division, Department of Justice

Michelle Bernier-Toth, Director  
Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management

Ramazan Aritürk, Elmadağ Law Office, Istanbul, Turkey

DOJCrDiv0035



**Human Rights Council**  
Fiftieth session  
Agenda item 1  
Organizational and procedural matters

**Report of the international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance\***

**Summary**

This report was prepared by the fact-finding mission established by the Human Rights Council in resolution 14/1 of 2 June 2010 to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, resulting from the interception by Israeli forces of the humanitarian aid flotilla bound for Gaza on 31 May 2010 during which nine people were killed and many others injured.

The report sets out background information relating to the interception of the flotilla as well as the applicable international law.

The fact-finding mission conducted interviews with more than 100 witnesses in Geneva, London, Istanbul and Amman. On the basis of this testimony and other information received, the Mission was able to reconstruct a picture of the circumstances surrounding the interception on 31 May 2010 and its aftermath. The report presents a factual description of the events leading up to the interception, the interception of each of the six ships in the flotilla as well as a seventh ship subsequently intercepted on 6 June 2010, the deaths of nine passengers and wounding of many others and the detention of passengers in Israel and their deportation.

The report contains a legal analysis of facts as determined by the Mission with a view to determining whether violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, took place.

The fact-finding mission concluded that a series of violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, were committed by the Israeli forces during the interception of the flotilla and during the detention of passengers in Israel prior to deportation.

\* Late submission.

RIF

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board the vessels by force. This belief persisted among many less-experienced passengers right up to the moment of the interception, notwithstanding the precedent of the *Spirit of Humanity* in 2009. Many passengers told the Mission that they did not really believe that the Israelis would attempt to board until the first boats approached the *Mavi Marmara* on the morning of 31 May...

*Preparation and planning on the Mavi Marmara*

99. The full realization that the Israelis were serious about commandeering the flotilla spread through the passengers on the *Mavi Marmara* during the course of 30 May. There is clear evidence that some people on board the *Mavi Marmara*, including senior IHH leaders, were prepared actively to defend the ship against any boarding attempt. Video evidence shows a meeting of about 50 to 100 passengers on the ship on 30 May at which the IHH President and a number of other prominent passengers spoke with some bravado about preventing an Israeli takeover of the ship. The pressure of the water hoses was seen being tested on the decks the day before the interception.

100. Following radio communication with the Israeli Navy and the sightings of the Israeli vessels, it became apparent that a boarding of the ship was an imminent reality. Passengers were instructed to put on their life jackets. Although there does not seem to have been a coordinated plan involving all passengers, some individuals grouped together with the intention of defending the ship. There is little evidence of any unified command to coordinate the defence of the ship.

101. During the night of 30 to 31 May, some passengers took electric tools from the ship's workshop, which was not kept locked and sawed sections of railings into lengths of approximately one and a half metres, apparently for use as weapons. Lengths of metal chains from between the railings were also removed. When the ship's crew discovered this, the tools were confiscated and locked in the radio room on the bridge. A number of the passengers were also provided with gas masks to counter the effects of tear gas. However, the Mission notes that the ship's standard fire-fighting equipment would have included breathing apparatus. Furthermore, the fact that some passengers engaged in last minute efforts to fashion rudimentary weapons shortly prior to the interception confirms the findings of the Mission that no weapons were brought on board the ship.

*Preparation and planning on the Challenger 1, Svendoni, Eleftheri Mesogios and the Rachel Corrie*

102. Passengers and crew on the *Challenger 1* underwent training in passive resistance techniques, non-violence and what to do if detained in Israel (including contacting a lawyer before embarkation). Witnesses said discussions took place in advance amongst the passengers on how to respond to an Israeli attempt to board the ship during which the crew had insisted that there should be no attempts to repel boarders with physical force. The captain and crew opposed a suggestion that access to the bridge should be blocked, as it was feared this would incense the soldiers. The intention, according to witnesses, was to show a symbolic resistance to the soldiers sufficient to demonstrate that the boarding was unwanted. The planned response to a boarding of the *Challenger 1* was in part informed by the experience of some of the passengers on previous boats which had been intercepted by the Israelis.

103. Witnesses aboard the *Svendoni* and the *Eleftheri Mesogios* confirmed similar discussions aboard their vessels. On the *Eleftheri Mesogios*, it was also decided that water hoses could be misconstrued as weapons and hence should not be used. On the *Svendoni*, passengers intended to sit on the decks and slow down any attempt to take control of the bridge through passive resistance.

RIF

104. The passengers on board the *Rachel Corrie* agreed and notified the Israelis before boarding that no resistance would be offered to the Israeli forces.

*Preparation and planning on the Gaza I and Defne Y*

105. There is no information to suggest that any specific preparations were made by the crew or passengers of *Gaza I* and *Defne Y* to defend against a possible boarding.

**B. The interception of the Gaza flotilla by the Israeli Navy on 31 May 2010**

**1. Factual description and findings**

106. The Mission found the following facts to have been established to its satisfaction.

**(a) Contacts between the Israeli Navy and the vessels of the flotilla**

107. The flotilla left the rendezvous point at 1554 hours on 30 May 2010 and proceeded in a south-westerly direction on course 222 degrees. This course was altered to 185 degrees, approximately due south, at 2330 hours upon drawing level with the coast of Israel and in order to maintain a course roughly parallel to the coast. The flotilla maintained a distance of 70 nautical miles from the coast since a NAVTEX (Navigational Telex) advisory had warned that the Israeli military were conducting exercises up to 68 nautical miles from the coast.

108. The first radio contact with the Israeli Navy was at approximately 2230 hours. Each vessel was contacted by the Israeli Navy, one after the other, on Channel 16 and requested to switch to an alternative channel. Each vessel refused to switch in order that the conversation could be monitored by all shipping. The Israeli Navy requested each vessel to identify itself and state its destination. It then warned each vessel, with some variations, it was approaching an area of hostilities which is under a naval blockade, that the Gaza maritime area is closed to all vessels and that they must change course to deliver their supplies to the Port of Ashdod in Israel. In some of the messages, the captain of each vessel was warned that he would be held personally responsible for any consequences of a failure to comply with the Israeli request. The Israeli Navy's contacts were similar to those in relation to previous Free Gaza Movement efforts to enter Gaza by sea.

109. In response, the captains of the various vessels stated that their destination was Gaza and the purpose was to deliver humanitarian aid. They also asserted that the Israeli forces did not have the right to order the vessels to change course and that the blockade referred to was illegal. A representative of the Free Gaza Movement spoke to the Israelis on behalf of the whole flotilla, reiterating that the passengers were unarmed civilians delivering humanitarian aid and that none of the ships should be considered as any form of threat to Israel. At no stage was a request made by the Israeli Navy for the cargo to be inspected. Contacts with the Israeli Navy continued until around 0200 hours when communication equipment was jammed by the Israeli forces, cutting them off to all external communications. However, the vessels in the flotilla were able to maintain contact with one another via handheld two-way radios.

110. In early June 2010, audio recordings were released by the Israeli authorities of apparent exchanges between the Israeli Navy and the *Defne Y* which included insulting references by unknown persons referring to "Auschwitz" and the 11 September 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. However, the Mission is not satisfied that these recordings are authentic, nor has the Government of Israel made this material available to the Mission for appropriate examination. The Mission was given positive evidence that no such statements were made by anyone involved in communications on the flotilla.

111. The crew and passengers of the six vessels became visually aware of the presence of Israeli naval vessels some time after the initial communications, between 2300 hours and midnight, both through sightings and two-way radio communication between the vessels. The larger Israeli ships and helicopters came into view of the crew of the vessels at approximately 0100 hours on 31 May. Similar sightings were made by other vessels in the flotilla at around the same time.

(b) *Events on board the M.V. Mavi Marmara*<sup>67</sup>

(i) Initial attempt to board the Mavi Marmara from the sea

112. Israeli zodiac boats made a first attempt to board the *Mavi Marmara* from the sea shortly before 0430 hours. Several zodiac boats approached the ship at the stern from both the port and starboard sides. The approach was accompanied by the firing of non-lethal weaponry onto the ship, including smoke and stun grenades, tear-gas and paintballs. Plastic bullets may also have been used at this stage; however, despite some claims that live ammunition was also fired from the zodiac boats, the Mission is not satisfied that this was the case. The smoke and tear gas were not effective due to the strong sea breeze and later due to the downdraft from helicopters.

113. The Israeli forces attempted to board the ship through attaching ladders to the hull. Passengers engaged in efforts to repel the attempted boarding using the ship's water hoses<sup>68</sup> and the throwing of various items at the boats including chairs, sticks, a box of plates and other objects that were readily to hand. This initial attempt to board the ship proved unsuccessful. It is the view of the Mission that the Israeli forces should have re-evaluated their plans when it became obvious that putting their soldiers on board the ship may lead to civilian casualties.

(ii) Landing of soldiers from helicopters onto the Mavi Marmara

114. Just minutes after soldiers from the zodiac boats had made initial unsuccessful attempts to board, the first helicopter approached the ship at approximately 0430 hours, hovering above the top deck. At this point between 10 and 20 passengers were located in the central area of the top deck, although this number increased as other passengers learned of events on the top deck. The Israeli forces used smoke and stun grenades in an attempt to clear an area for the landing of soldiers. The first rope that was let down from the helicopter was taken by passengers and tied it to a part of the top deck and thereby rendered ineffective for the purpose of soldiers' descent. A second rope was then let down from the

<sup>67</sup> For the purposes of this report, the following terms are used to describe the various decks of the *Mavi Marmara*: top deck – the roof of the ship where the satellite tower and funnel are located, bridge deck – the deck below the top deck which gives access to the bridge, bow deck – lowest open deck with access to the front of the ship. Live television broadcasts were made from an open deck area at the back of the bridge deck.

<sup>68</sup> It is worth noting that in accordance with the International Maritime Organization's circular "Guidance to ship owners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships" of June 2009, the use of water hoses is recommended as a means to prevent an attempted boarding by pirates and armed robbers. IMO Circular Misc./Circ.1334, date 23 June 2009, Annex, para. 57 states as follows: "The use of water hoses should also be considered though they may be difficult to train if evasive manoeuvring is also taking place. Water pressures of 80 lb per square inch and above have deterred and repulsed attackers. Not only does the attacker have to fight against the jet of water but the flow may swamp his/her boat and damage engines and electrical systems. Special fittings for training hoses could be considered which would also provide protection for the hose operator. A number of spare fire hoses could be rigged and tied down to be pressurized at short notice if a potential attack is detected".

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helicopter and the first group of soldiers descended. The Mission does not find it plausible that soldiers were holding their weapons and firing as they descended on the rope. However, it has concluded that live ammunition was used from the helicopter onto the top deck prior to the descent of the soldiers.

115. With the available evidence it is difficult to delineate the exact course of events on the top deck between the time of the first soldier descending and the Israeli forces securing control of the deck. A fight ensued between passengers and the first soldiers to descend onto the top deck that resulted in at least two soldiers being pushed down onto the bridge deck below, where they were involved in struggles with groups of passengers who attempted to take their weapons. The equipment jacket of at least one soldier was removed as he was pushed over the side of the deck. A number of weapons were taken from the soldiers by passengers and thrown into the sea: one weapon, a 9-mm pistol, was unloaded by a passenger, a former U.S. Marine, in front of witnesses and then hidden in another part of the ship in an attempt to retain evidence.

116. A number of the passengers on the top deck fought with the soldiers using their fists, sticks, metal rods and knives.<sup>69</sup> At least one of the soldiers was stabbed with a knife or other sharp object. Witnesses informed the Mission that their objective was to subdue and disarm the soldiers so that they could not harm anyone. The Mission is satisfied on the evidence that at least two passengers on the bridge deck also used handheld catapults to propel small projectiles at the helicopters. The Mission has found no evidence to suggest that any of the passengers used firearms or that any firearms were taken on board the ship. Despite requests, the Mission has not received any medical records or other substantiated information from the Israeli authorities regarding any firearm injuries sustained by soldiers participating in the raid. Doctors examined the three soldiers taken below decks and no firearm injuries were noted. Further, the Mission finds that the Israeli accounts so inconsistent and contradictory with regard to evidence of alleged firearm injuries to Israeli soldiers that it has to reject it.<sup>70</sup>

(iii) Deaths of 9 passengers and wounding of at least 30 other passengers

117. During the operation to secure control of the top deck, the Israeli forces landed soldiers from three helicopters over a 15-minute period.<sup>71</sup> The Israeli forces used paintballs, plastic bullets and live ammunition, fired by soldiers from the helicopter above and soldiers who had landed on the top deck. The use of live ammunition during this period resulted in fatal injuries to four passengers,<sup>72</sup> and injuries to at least 19 others, 14 with gunshot wounds. Escape points to the bridge deck from the top deck were narrow and restricted and as such it was very difficult for passengers in this area to avoid being hit by live rounds. At

<sup>69</sup> The Mission has found no evidence of knives being taken on board by passengers except for one traditional ceremonial knife. However, the *Mavi Marmara* had six kitchens, each of which was stocked with usual culinary knives.

<sup>70</sup> In his testimony to the Turkel Committee, held in Israel on 11 August 2010, Chief of General Staff Ashkenazi refers to one soldier being "shot in his abdomen by one of the activists" and that "in the course of the battle, five soldiers [were] wounded by stabbings, blows and shooting". However, at the urgent debate of the Human Rights Council held during its fourteenth session, on 1 June 2010, the Permanent Representative of Israel stated that passengers "shot two Israeli soldiers". In contrast, in the State's response at the habeas corpus hearing, held on 2 June 2010 (petition HCJ 4913/10 before the Supreme Court in Jerusalem, sitting as the High Court of Justice; unofficial translation), no specific reference was made to any Israeli soldiers being shot.

<sup>71</sup> In his testimony to the Turkel Committee on 11 August 2010, Chief of General Staff Ashkenazi stated that the first helicopter carried 15 soldiers, the second carried 12 soldiers and the third carried 14 soldiers.

<sup>72</sup> Fahri Yaldiz, Furkan Dogan, Ibrahim Bilgen and Ali Haydar Bengi.



least one of those killed was using a video camera and not involved in any of the fighting with the soldiers. The majority of gunshot wounds received by passengers were to their upper torsos in the head, thorax, abdomen and back. Given the relatively small number of passengers on the top deck during the incident, the Mission is driven to the conclusion that the vast majority were in receipt of gunshot wounds.

118. Israeli soldiers continued shooting at passengers who had already been wounded, with live ammunition, soft baton charges (beanbags) and plastic bullets. Forensic analysis demonstrates that two of the passengers killed on the top deck received wounds compatible with being shot at close range while lying on the ground: Furkan Doğan received a bullet in the face and Ibrahim Bilgen received a fatal wound from a soft baton round (beanbag) fired at such close proximity to his head that parts such as wadding penetrated his skull and entered his brain. Furthermore, some of the wounded were subjected to further violence, including being hit with the butt of a weapon, being kicked in the head, chest and back and being verbally abused. A number of the wounded passengers were handcuffed and then left unattended for some time before being dragged to the front of the deck by their arms or legs.

119. Once the Israeli forces had secured control of the top deck they undertook measures to move down to the bridge deck below in order to take over the ship's bridge and thus take control of the ship. In relation to this operation, a series of shooting incidents occurred centred on the portside doorway which gives access to the main stairwell on the bridge deck. This door is near to the hatch and ladder, which allows access from the top deck to the bridge deck.

120. Israeli soldiers fired live ammunition both from the top deck at passengers on the bridge deck below, and after they had moved down to the bridge deck. At least four passengers were killed<sup>79</sup> and at least nine injured (five with firearms injuries) during this phase. None of the four passengers who were killed, including a photographer who at the time of being shot was engaged in taking photographs and was shot by an Israeli soldier positioned on the top deck above, posed any threat to the Israeli forces. There was considerable live fire from Israeli soldiers on the top deck and a number of passengers were injured or killed whilst trying to take refuge inside the door or assisting other to do so. Wounded passengers were brought into the ship through the stairwell and through the ship's bridge room and were helped downstairs where they could be given some form of medical treatment by doctors and others on board.

121. One witness described the circumstances in which one passenger was killed on the bridge deck:

I saw two soldiers on top of the roof standing there holding their guns down at something on the roof that I couldn't see. There were two guys hidden underneath a walkway of the ship to the right hand side and I was screaming at them not to move. The two passengers were below the soldiers. They could not see the soldiers and the soldiers could not see them while they were hidden under the walkway. Then the guys moved out, making themselves visible as they tried to run towards the metal door. One man made it to open the door and got inside. The other man must have been shot. I think he was shot in the head from the way he looked, he wasn't moving at all. He was 20 or 30 metres away from me. When the second man got shot, the first man opened the door and using it as a shield tried to reach out for the second man. He managed to reach him and was pulling him by his right arm. I couldn't see any blood, but he wasn't moving at all.

<sup>79</sup> Cowdat Kılıçlar, Cengiz Songür, Cengiz Akyüz and Çetin Topçuoğlu.

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122. A group of up to 20 passengers, some holding sticks and rods and wearing gas masks, were located on or around the stairwell inside the ship. One passenger standing just inside the door was shot through the broken porthole in the door by a soldier standing a few metres away on the bridge deck outside.

123. During the shootings on the bridge deck and as it became apparent that a large number of passengers had become injured, Bulent Yildirim, the President of IPH and one of principal organizers of the flotilla, removed his white shirt which was then used as a white flag to indicate a surrender. This does not appear to have had any effect and live firing continued on the ship.

124. Israeli forces moved down to the bridge deck and moved rapidly to take over the bridge room towards the front of the ship. The doorway and windows of the bridge room came under fire and the captain ordered that the ship's engines be cut. Israeli soldiers entered the bridge room through the door and broken window. The crew were made to lie on the ground at gunpoint. The captain remained standing but was held at gunpoint.

(iv) Shootings at the bow deck, the release of the Israeli soldiers and end of the operation

125. During the initial fighting on the top deck three Israeli soldiers were taken under control and brought inside the ship. While some passengers wished to harm the soldiers, other passengers ensured that they were protected and able to receive rudimentary medical treatment from doctors on board. Two of the soldiers had received wounds to the abdomen. One of the soldiers had a superficial wound to the abdomen, caused by a sharp object, which penetrated to the subcutaneous tissue. None of the three soldiers had received gunshot injuries, according to doctors who examined them. All three soldiers were in a state of shock and were suffering from cuts, bruises and blunt force trauma.

126. As the seriousness of incidents on the outer decks became apparent, there was growing concern among some of the flotilla organizers that holding the captured Israeli soldiers may have serious implications for the security of all passengers on board.<sup>24</sup> It was decided that the soldiers should be released and they were taken to the bow of the lower deck. Once on the bow deck two of the soldiers jumped into the sea and were picked up by Israeli boats. The third soldier did not jump and was rapidly joined by Israeli soldiers who came down from the top deck.

127. At least four passengers were injured on the bow of the ship, both before and around the time that the Israeli soldiers were released. At least two passengers received wounds from live ammunition, while others received injuries from soft baton charges, including one doctor who was tending to injured passengers.

128. The Israeli forces stated that the active phase of the Israeli forces operation concluded at 0517 hours,<sup>25</sup> once the ship was under their control and the three soldiers were released. During the 45-50 minute operation, nine passengers were killed, more than 24 passengers had received serious injuries caused by live ammunition and a large number of other passengers had received injuries caused by plastic rounds, soft baton charges (bean-bags) and other means.

<sup>24</sup> It also appears that the Israeli forces were planning to enter the ship's cabins in order to locate the three soldiers. In his testimony to the Turkel Committee on 11 August 2010, COGS Ashkenazi stated that at the time when the Israeli forces spotted the three soldiers on the bow deck: "The force commander [was preparing] to rush the passengers' area in order to locate the missing soldiers."

<sup>25</sup> As stated by COGS Ashkenazi in his testimony to the Turkel Committee on 11 August 2010.

**Table - Deaths of flotilla participants****Deaths occurring on the top deck (roof)****Furkan Doğan**

Furkan Doğan, a 19-year-old with dual Turkish and United States citizenship, was on the central area of the top deck filming with a small video camera when he was first hit with live fire. It appears that he was lying on the deck in a conscious, or semi-conscious, state for some time. In total Furkan received five bullet wounds, to the face, head, back, thorax, left leg and foot. All of the entry wounds were on the back of his body, except for the face wound which entered to the right of his nose. According to forensic analysis, tattooing around the wound in his face indicates that the shot was delivered at point blank range. Furthermore, the trajectory of the wound, from bottom to top, together with a vital abrasion to the left shoulder that could be consistent with the bullet exit point, is compatible with the shot being received while he was lying on the ground on his back. The other wounds were not the result of firing in contact, near contact or close range, but it is not otherwise possible to determine the exact firing range. The wounds to the leg and foot were most likely received in a standing position.

**Ibrahim Bilgen**

Ibrahim Bilgen, a 60-year-old Turkish citizen, from Sirt in Turkey, was on the top deck and was one of the first passengers to be shot. He received a bullet wound to the chest, the trajectory of which was from above and not at close range. He had a further two bullet wounds to the right side of the back and right buttock, both back to front. These wounds would not have caused instant death, but he would have bled to death within a short time without medical attention. Forensic evidence shows that he was shot in the side of the head with a soft beton round at such close proximity and that an entire bean bag and its wadding penetrated the skull and lodged in the brain. He had a further bruise on the right flank consistent with another beanbag wound. The wounds are consistent with the deceased initially being shot from soldiers on board the helicopter above and receiving a further wound to the head while lying on the ground, already wounded.

**Fahri Yıldız**

Fahri Yıldız, a 42-year-old Turkish citizen from Adiyaman, received five bullet wounds, one to the chest, one to the left leg and three to the right leg. The chest wound was caused by a bullet that entered near the left nipple and hit the heart and lungs before exiting from the shoulder. This injury would have caused rapid death.

**All Heyder Bengt**

According to the pathology report, All Heyder Bengt, a 38-year-old Turkish citizen from Diyarbakir, received six bullet wounds (one in the chest, one in the abdomen, one in the right arm, one in the right thigh and two in the left hand). One bullet lodged in the chest area. None of the wounds would have been instantly fatal, but damage to the liver caused bleeding which would have been fatal if not stemmed. There are several witness accounts which suggest that Israeli soldiers shot the deceased in the back and chest at close range while he was lying on the deck as a consequence of initial bullet wounds.

**Deaths occurring on the bridge deck, portside****Cevdet Kılıçlar**

Cevdet Kılıçlar, a 38-year-old Turkish citizen from Istanbul, was on the *Mavi Marmara*, in his capacity as a photographer employed by IHH. At the moment he was shot he was standing on the bridge deck on the port side of the ship near to the door leading to the main stairwell and was attempting to photograph Israeli soldiers on the top deck. According to

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the pathology reports, he received a single bullet to his forehead between the eyes. The bullet followed a horizontal trajectory which crossed the midline of the brain from front to back. He would have died instantly.

*Cengiz Akyüz and Cengiz Songür*

Cengiz Akyüz, 41, from Hatay and Cengiz Songür, 46, from Izmir, both Turkish citizens, were injured on the bridge-deck in close succession by live fire from above. They had been sheltering and were shot as they attempted to move inside the door leading to the stairwell. Cengiz Akyüz received a shot to the head and it is probable that he died instantly.

The pathology report shows four wounds: to the neck, face, chest and thigh. Cengiz Songür received a single bullet to the upper central thorax below the neck, shot from a high angle, which lodged in the right thoracic cavity injuring the heart and aorta. Unsuccessful efforts were made by doctors inside the ship to resuscitate him through heart massage.

*Cetin Topcuoglu*

Cetin Topcuoglu, a 54-year-old Turkish citizen from Adana had been involved in helping to bring injured passengers inside the ship to be treated. He was also shot close to the door on the bridge deck. He did not die instantly and his wife, who was also on board the ship, was with him when he died. He was shot by three bullets. One bullet entered from the top the soft tissues of the right side of the back of the head, exited from the neck and then re-entered into the thorax. Another bullet entered the left buttock and lodged in the right pelvis. The third entered the right groin and exited from the lower back. There are indications that the victim may have been in a crouching or bending position when this wound was sustained.

*Deaths and seriously wounded occurring in unknown locations*

*Neçdet Yıldırım*

The location and circumstances of the shooting and death of Neçdet Yıldırım, a 31-year-old Turkish citizen from Istanbul, remain unclear. He was shot twice in the thorax, once from the front and once from the back. The trajectory of both bullets was from top to bottom. He also received bruises consistent with plastic bullet impact.

*Wounding of Uğur Süleyman Süylemez (in a coma)*

The serious nature of wounds to Uğur Süleyman Süylemez, a 46-year-old Turkish citizen from Ankara, which include at least one bullet wound to the head, have left the victim in a coma in an Ankara hospital. He remains in a critical condition with a serious head injury.

(v) Treatment of Injured on the Mavi Marmara

129. Whilst the Israeli operation was still under way, efforts were made to tend to wounded passengers inside the ship by other passengers, amongst whom were around 15 doctors, nurses and others with medical training, including an ophthalmologist and orthopaedic specialist. Prior to the attack, the doctors had met and agreed to use the ship's small medical room, but there was no anticipated or preparation for the nature of injuries that transpired. The limited medicines and lack of appropriate equipment made it very difficult to properly treat wounded persons, particularly those who had received live fire injuries and required immediate surgery. By the end of the Israeli operation more than thirty persons were being treated inside the cabins, primarily in the lower deck in makeshift surgery areas, twenty of whom were in a critical condition.

130. The flotilla organizers and other passengers engaged in efforts to request the Israeli forces to provide the necessary treatment to the wounded persons. One organizer used the ship's intercom to request assistance in Hebrew and persons also communicated directly

through the cabin windows or by placing signs, written in English and Hebrew, in the ship's windows. These attempts proved unsuccessful and it was up to two hours before the Israeli forces took out the wounded persons. However, the wounded were required to leave the cabins themselves, or taken outside in a rough manner, without apparent concern for the nature of their injuries and the discomfort that this would cause.

131. The wounded passengers were taken to the front of the top deck where they joined other passengers injured during the operation on the top deck and where the bodies of persons killed during the operation had been left. Wounded passengers, including persons seriously injured with live fire wounds, were handcuffed with plastic cord handcuffs, which were often tied very tightly causing some of the injured to lose sensitivity in their hands. These plastic handcuffs cannot be loosened without being cut off, but can be tightened. Many were also stripped naked and then had to wait some time, possibly as long as two-three hours, before receiving medical treatment. Medical treatment was given to a number of wounded persons on the top deck by the Israeli forces.<sup>76</sup>

132. Over several hours the wounded passengers were then airlifted by Israeli forces helicopters from the ship to hospitals in Israel.<sup>77</sup> However, some of the wounded remained on board the *Mavi Marmara*, at least one of whom had injuries caused by live ammunition and did not receive appropriate medical treatment until after the ship's arrival at the port of Ashdod in Israel many hours later.

(v) Search and initial detention of *Mavi Marmara* passengers

133. All other passengers on the *Mavi Marmara* were taken one by one from the cabin areas and onto the external deck areas and were searched. The vast majority of passengers, including the ship's captain and crew, were then handcuffed with plastic handcuffs and forced to kneel on the various decks for some hours. Some women, elderly men and persons from Western countries were not handcuffed, or were temporarily handcuffed and then uncuffed after a relatively short period of time and were then permitted to sit on the benches. Most of those kneeling were drenched by water from the blades of the helicopter and were thus also in wet clothing throughout this period and were very cold. Other passengers exposed on open decks received serious sun-burn to their skin as a result of many hours exposure; medical reports show that at least 13 passengers received first-degree burns as a consequence. During the course of the 12-hour journey to the port of Ashdod in Israel, the passengers were brought inside the ship and allowed to sit on the available seating.

134. In the process of being detained, or while kneeling on the outer decks for several hours, there was physical abuse of passengers by the Israeli forces, including kicking and punching and being hit with the butts of rifles. One foreign correspondent, on board in his professional capacity, was thrown on the ground and kicked and beaten before being handcuffed. The passengers were not allowed to speak or to move and there were frequent instances of verbal abuse, including derogatory sexual remarks about the female passengers. Passengers were denied access to toilet facilities or made to wait for lengthy periods before being escorted to the toilet and then forced to use the toilet with Israeli soldiers watching and while handcuffed. Some passengers were in serious discomfort as a result, while others used makeshift receptacles, such as plastic bottles and others still were

<sup>76</sup> According to the testimony of COGS Ashkenazi to the Turkel Committee on 11 August 2010, field surgeries were performed on 14 passengers on board the ship.

<sup>77</sup> Also according to the above testimony, 31 wounded passengers and 7 wounded Israeli soldiers were airlifted from the ship utilizing "approximately 40 helicopter evacuations" and all wounded had been evacuated by 1230 hours.

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forced to urinate on themselves. The Israeli forces also employed dogs and some passengers received dog-bite wounds. Some witnesses who suffer from chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes or heart conditions, were not provided access to their required medicines, which were taken by Israeli soldiers.

135. The manner in which plastic handcuffs were attached to the wrists of passengers caused severe pain and discomfort. There was widespread misuse of the handcuffs by the Israeli soldiers who tightened the plastic handcuffs to an extent that caused pain, swelling, a loss of blood circulation in the hands and the loss of sensitivity in their hands and fingers. Most passengers who requested that the handcuffs be loosened were ignored or it resulted in the handcuffs being further tightened. A number of passengers are still experiencing medical problems related to the handcuffing three months later and forensic reports confirm that at least 54 passengers had received injuries, transversal abrasions and bruises, as a result of handcuffing on board the *Mavi Marmara*.

(c) *Events aboard the Challenger 1*

136. Passengers and crew on the *Challenger 1*, the smallest and fastest vessel in the flotilla, were able to witness the first moments of the assault on the *Mavi Marmara*. Once it became apparent that the Israelis intended to commandeer the ships, the decision was made for the *Challenger 1* to accelerate out of the formation of the flotilla to allow more time for the journalists aboard to transmit news of the assault to the outside world via the boat's satellite Internet connection, which remained in operation, but also in the hope that at least one boat might still be able to reach Gaza. The boat was chased by one of the Israeli corvette boats which it was unable to outrun. Eventually the starboard engine lost oil pressure and the captain, concerned the Israelis might ram the boat, shut down the engines.

137. The boat was intercepted by two Israeli boats and a helicopter. Passengers on the board said that at least one stun grenade was launched at the boat by the Israelis before they attempted to board. Passengers on the decks had decided in advance to employ passive resistance techniques to resist symbolically the Israeli soldiers boarding the boat. The passengers stood unarmed side-by-side blocking the path of the soldiers. Soldiers opened fire with paintballs and rubber bullets as they boarded, hitting and injuring one woman in the face with either a plastic bullet or a paintball. Another woman was bruised on her back by from rubber bullets.

138. Once on board, the soldiers moved to take control of the fly bridge. Passengers obstructing access were forcibly removed. On entering the fly bridge, the soldiers were met with no resistance, but a female journalist sustained burns on her arms from an electroshock weapon fired by an Israeli soldier. Witnesses said that the primary concern of the soldiers seemed to be the confiscation of photographic equipment and media.

139. The passive resistance offered by the passengers was met with force. One woman's head was hit against the deck of the boat and then stepped on by an Israeli soldier. Passengers were handcuffed very tightly with plastic ties behind their backs, while the woman injured in the face was left unattended.

140. Several passengers said that it was clear that the Israeli soldiers knew who was on board as they referred to some passengers by name. A plasticized booklet recovered from a soldier on the *Mavi Marmara*, and filmed, identified specific passengers on several boats with names and photographs, including on the *Challenger 1*.

141. One crew member observed that the soldiers were very young, seemed frightened and that were initially poorly organized. Soldiers behaved aggressively from the outset towards the passengers. Passengers were handcuffed with plastic ties and denied access to the toilet. One elderly man was obliged to urinate in his clothes because he was refused access to the toilet. There was an attempt to forcibly eject one woman from the boat into

Free Gaza Flotilla

(U) Purpose: Provide OAS an update on Israel Defense Forces engagement with the Free Gaza Flotilla on 31 May 10 in preparation for please call from LTC Asthouszi.

- Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak and Chief of Staff G. Asherzan press releases.
- "We express our regret over injuries... organizations' points are fully responsible"
- "ISR wants peace; don't allow incident to disrupt priority talks"
- "Violence encountered necessitated acts of self-defense"

Background: The Free Gaza Flotilla was established to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza as well as publicize the effort across the region. This is the 4th Free Gaza Movement Flotilla to challenge the Israeli Navy.

(b)(1), Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- OAS, J5 and JS reviewed situation, determined no basis for action by DoD forces as no identifying numbers were being displayed.
- (U) Proposed COA was to attempt contact with US companies and vessels to issue an advisory of the situation and recommendation to comply with all laws in effect from appropriate authorities. NSS and State advised this is not possible.

(b)(3) 50 USC 403-11

(b)(3) 50 USC 403-11

- (U) ISR has stated from the beginning they would not allow the ships to enter Gaza but would divert to port the flotilla to the Port of Ashdod, where the goods would be off-loaded, security checked and transported to Gaza by other means (overland).
- (U) The IDF operation was aimed at preventing an unsupervised infiltration of people and cargo to Gaza.
- Current Situation:
  - At approx 310130Z May, Israeli Defense Forces boarded Turkish M/V MAVI MARA MARA, lead ship in the flotilla; intercept occurred in international waters (between Turkey and Gaza). IDF commandos boarded via Israeli MACKAWA rope drops under cover of darkness.
  - (U) Approx 30 activists on board MAVI MARA MARA had cameras and reported that IDF Commandos started shooting "live rounds" their first...

(No Doc) Videos were immediately posted online. BPCIA Jobs are reported. Israeli Army confirmed at least 10 deaths, more recent news reports have death toll as high as 15; WIA injuries (including IDF) as high as 50; (U) Turkey's PM has condemned the attack; large protests (over 100,000) have begun in Turkey. Several nations are summoning the Israeli AMBA.

- (U) At 0800Z Israel's Dep FM held a press conference, claiming weapons were on board the ships and prepared to retaliate against Israeli forces.
- Flotilla may include several high profile AMBITO to include Ambassador Edward Rice, former Chief of Mission in Mauritania and Iraq. In total, approx 750 activists got off from Iceland, Greece, and Turkey reportedly carrying 10,000 tons of humanitarian supplies.
- (U) Danny Ayalon, Israeli Dep FM, delivered remarks via CNN to counter expected allegations of Israeli aggression against the humanitarian relief workers. ISR maintains they offered Free Gaza the opportunity to bring in "approved" goods via the port of Ashdod to Gaza. However Free Gaza did not accept this offer as many of the supplies they want to bring in are on the list of 200C banned items (includes cement, paper, water filtration systems, etc).
- (U) In Turkey, anti-Israeli protests have taken place at the Israeli Embassy in Ankara, IL; Turkey's security forces responded and are maintaining control.

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(b), Sec. 1.4(d)

- (U) The last vessel has made it to Ashdod. One US flagged/borned yacht, Challenger 1, is part of the flotilla and is expected to enter Ashdod as well.
- (U) Turkey has cancelled upcoming military exercises with ISR. The IDF's prior claim (youths) might jeopardize previously unpoliticized bilateral exercises.

- Way Forward:
  - Additional Free Gaza Movement vessels e.g., M/V RACHEL CORRIE (currently close to Malta) approach Gaza. IDF will again intercept.
  - Hamas' role will explain incident to public and in public light and demonstrate Israeli "blockade" as reason for hardships in Gaza. May demonstrate Israeli's likely. (HAMAS may join Syria or other threatened states in calling for retaliation; HAMAS is unlikely to break cease-fire over this incident).
  - Seek clarification on why boarding happened in international waters.
  - Encourage ISR to work with Turkey as relationship is already strained.
  - Seek information regarding US-owned/US-registered vessels and status of American citizens involved.

(b)(3) 10 USC 8424 working with DoS to determine status of AMOC's. Express concern for possible 2nd and 3rd order effects of incident (e.g. tensions in S. Lebanon; Hezbollah; rocket attacks, attacks on Israeli embassies worldwide, etc.).

(b)(3) 10 USC 424