FM OSC RESTON VA
TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV
UNCLAS

QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 265153

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS

SERIAL: GMP20100506739005

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, IRELAND

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN, EU

SUBJ: ISRAEL: TURKS SAID HELPING HAMAS PREPARE GAZA PORT FOR 'PROTEST FLOTILLA' ARRIVAL (U)

SOURCE: BET EL ARUTZ SHEVA ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0936 GMT 06 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY HILEL FENDEL: "TURKS HELP HAMAS WELCOME ANTI-ISRAEL SHIPS" (U)

INTERNET

OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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TURKISH AID IS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING HAMAS CLEAN AND PREPARE THE GAZA PORT, IN PREPARATION FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE ANTI-ISRAEL PROTEST FLOTILLA LATER THIS MONTH. PRO-PLO ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE THAT HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH HAMAS ARE PLANNING A FLOTILLA OF AID TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE COORDINATORS OF WHAT SOME CALL THE "SHIP INTIFADA" WANT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION WITH EGYPT, BUT APPEAR TO BE SEEKING A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ISRAELI NAVY, BACKED BY MEDIA AND DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGNS.

THIS PAST JANUARY, A SENIOR HAMAS OPERATIVE IN BRITAIN NAMED MUHAMMAD SAWALHA, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN LAUNCHING THE PREVIOUS FLOTILLA, SAID THE NEXT CONVOY WILL AVOID THE TYPE OF CONFRONTATION THAT OCCURRED THE PREVIOUS TIME WITH EGYPT, AND THAT NEXT TIME, "THE CONFRONTATION WILL BE DIRECTLY WITH THE ZIONIST ENEMY ITSELF ON THE HIGH SEAS." SWISS MP JOSEF ZISYADIS, ONE OF SEVERAL EUROPEAN MPS AND UN PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE ON THE SHIPS, TOGETHER WITH NEARLY 600 OTHERS, THREATENED THAT "IF ISRAEL TRIES TO STOP THE SHIPS, WE WILL SUE HER IN EUROPEAN COURTS."

THE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONALITIES INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THE FLOTILLA ARE 1HH, AN ISLAMIC-ORIENTED HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN TURKEY; A EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION NAMED THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN TO END THE SIEGE ON GAZA; AND THE INTERNATIONAL "FREE GAZA" ORGANIZATION THAT RAILS AGAINST THE ISRAELI "BLOCKADE" OF GAZA, IN ADDITION, THE INTELLIGENCE AND TERRORISM INFORMATION CENTER (ITIC), BASED IN RAMAT HASHARON, ISRAEL, STATES THAT PRO-PLO ACTIVISTS FROM SWEDEN AND GREECE HAVE PURCHASED TWO SHIPS FOR THE FLOTILLA, AND HAMAS SUPPORTERS IN BRITAIN -- INCLUDING MP GEORGE GALLOWAY - ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THE UPCOMING FLOTILLA AND OTHERS.

ARUTZ-7'S HAGGAI HUBERMAN REPORTS THAT TURKISH ELEMENTS ARE HELPING TO CLEAN AND DEEPEN THE PORT, IN PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIPS. "FREE GAZA" AND IHH ARE COORDINATING AMONG THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE TAKING PART IN THE FLOTILLA AND ACCOMPANYING PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

THE SHIPS PLAN TO DELIVER BUILDING MATERIALS, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL BRIEFCASES AND EVEN CARAVANS -- MOBILE HOMES WITHOUT WHEELS -- FOR THE HAMAS-RUN ENTITY IN GAZA. ONE OF THE SHIPS, FROM MALAYSIA, WILL BE LOADED IN IRELAND WITH ITEMS DONATED BY CITIZENS IN IRELAND, SCOTLAND, BRITAIN AND ELSEWHERE. IT WILL LEAVE IRELAND NEXT WEEK, AND WILL MEET UP WITH THE OTHER SHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, FROM WHERE THEY WILL CONTINUE ON TOWARDS GAZA.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BET EL ARUTZ SHEVA ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF ARUTZ 7 SETTLER NEWS SERVICE; URL: HTTP://WWW.ISRAELNATIONALNEWS.COM

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000021

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

### CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 415848

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: EUP20100531034010

/\*\*\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*\*/

CLASS

**UNCLAS** 

DOCNO

SERIAL: EUP20100531034010

BODY

COUNTRY: BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

SUBJ: HUNDREDS PROTEST IN BOSNIAN CAPITAL AGAINST ATTACK ON

GAZA-BOUND AID FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: SARAJEVO ONASA IN ENGLISH 1141 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"Sarajevo: Protests Against Israeli Attacks on Humanitarian Convoy to Gaza" -- ONASA headline (U)

**News Agencies** 

**OSC Transcribed Text** 

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SARAJEVO, May 31 (ONASA) -- Hundreds of Palestinians, Turkish and B-H citizens held a peaceful protest in Sarajevo today on the occasion of Israel's attacks on international humanitarian convoy carrying aid for the <u>Gaza</u> Strip.

According to one of the coordinators of the protest Edvin Cudic, protesters gathered at Bascarsija whence they came in front of B-H Parliament, where they, shouting slogans and supporting the Palestinian people, stayed shortly. "This is a spontaneous gathering of citizens, so we do not have the organizer of the protests. Here we do not only have the citizens of Palestine, Turkey and Bosnia, but other countries too, such as Czech Republic and Poland, because it is high time to show the world that New Srebrenica is happening in Gaza," said Cudic, adding that the protest is largely responded by students.

Protesters stressed that this peaceful protest does not have a religious sign, and called on B-H citizens to "boycott Israeli products and anything that comes out of this country, which has been terrorizing the Palestinian people for years."

The demonstrators were carrying flags of Turkey, Palestine and B-H and said that soon the massive protests could again be organized in Sarajevo on the same occasion.

At least 15 people were killed and 30 wounded when members of the Israeli forces invaded the Turkish ship in the composition of fleet of the international humanitarian aid that was sailing toward the Gaza Strip.

Members of the Israeli navy units fired when they were attacked by some members of the fleet with axes and knives, reported a private Israeli television. The TV station did not indicate whether there are dead and wounded among the Israeli soldiers, while Israeli army confirmed that in the intervention "at least ten passengers" of the fleet were killed.

International fleet, which was transporting hundreds of pro-Palestinian activists and aid to <u>Gaza</u> took off the Palestinian territories on Sunday 30 May afternoon.

The fleet was organized by pro-Palestinian groups and Turkish human rights organization. Turkey has demanded from Israel a

human rights organization. Turkey has demanded from Israel a free pass, saying that the flee is carrying 10,000 tons of humanitarian aid.

Israel does not recognize a humanitarian crisis in <u>Gaza</u>, claiming that food, medicines and medical assistance are provided on a regular basis and that the blockade is necessary to prevent delivery of weapons.

Description of Source: Sarajevo ONASA in English -- privately owned press agency in Sarajevo

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Source Metadata

Source Name: ONASA

Source Type(s): News Agencies

Source City: Sarajevo

Source Country: <u>Bosnia</u> and Herzegovina Source Start Date: 1141 GMT 31 May 10 Source End Date: 1141 GMT 31 May 10

Language(s): English

Article Metadata

Document ID: EUP20100531034010
Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Text

Precedence: Routine

Country(s): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gaza Strip, Israel

Region(s): Europe, Middle East Subregion(s): Balkans, Middle East

/\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 \*\*\*\*\*\*
CITE OSC RESTON VA 415848

Topic(s): INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL

POLITICAL

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

### ADMIN

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311455Z MAY 10

FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

CONTROLS

UNCLAS QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 416388

WARNING: TOPIC: DISSENT, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

POLITICAL, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100531735014

CLASS

UNCLAS

DOCNO

SERIAL: GMP20100531735014

BODY

COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJ: ISRAELI ARAB YOUTHS PELT JOURNALISTS WITH ROCKS, MK'S COMMENT ON FLOTILLA AFFAIR (U)

REF: 1. MINISTER URGES POLICE TO SHOW RESTRAINT WITH ISRAELI ARABS 'IN THE COMING DAYS' GMP20100531735011 VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B HEBREW 0000 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 1400 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

Radio

**OSC Translated Text** 

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Youths hurled rocks at press correspondents at Umm al-Fahm junction. The correspondents were there to cover the demonstration that is slated to take part in the city in another 90 minutes. This was reported by our correspondent Orli Alqaļay.

Dozens of residents of <u>Haifa</u>'s outlying suburbs are demonstrating at Tzabar junction in support of the IDF. Our correspondent Doron Shefer reports that the rally was organized by the Qiryat Motzqin municipality.

Several MK's also commented on the affair. Likud MK Yariv Levin said that Israel could not allow the flotilla to reach its destination and called for harsh action against the forces operating against Israel from within the country. He said that these forces were exploiting Israel's democracy, particularly MK

60-1-

Hanin Zu'abi, whose behavior, Levin said, disgraced the entire Knesset.

MK Levin said that the flotilla constituted solidarity with terrorism and claimed that the passengers had knowingly put themselves at risk and therefore should bear the consequences.

MK Sa'id Nafi from Balad said that the flotilla was aimed at providing humanitarian aid for the residents of the <u>Gaza</u> Strip. Apparently, however, one of Israel's leaders had made a disastrous decision in order to show who was the boss, as he put it. Nafi said that the IDF could have operated differently but killed 19 people and perpetrated what he called a crime against humanity. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Shay Zilber.

Description of Source: Jerusalem Voice of Israel Network B in Hebrew -- State-funded radio, independent in content

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#### Source Metadata

Source Name: Voice of Israel Network B

Source Type(s): Radio Source City: Jerusalem Source Country: Israel

Source Start Date: 1400 GMT 31 May 10 Source End Date: 1400 GMT 31 May 10

Language(s): Hebrew

#### Article Metadata

Document ID: GMP20100531735014
Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Translated Text

Precedence: Priority
Country(s): Israel
Region(s): Middle East
Subregion(s): Middle East

Topic(s): DISSENT, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

POLITICAL, URGENT

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

#### ADMIN

BT #5039 118C

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R 271046Z MAY 10
FM OSC RESTON VA
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UNCLAS
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 395138

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MEDIA

SERIAL: GMP20100527735012

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, EGYPT, WEST BANK

# SUBJ: COMMENTARY: GAZA FLOTILLA 'CYNICAL' TURKISH MOVE TO BREAK ISRAELI SIEGE OF GAZA (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL TO STOP SHIPS FROM REACHING GAZA, RELAY HUMANITARIAN AID THROUGH UN GMP20100527735005 HAARETZ.COM ENGLISH 0000 GMT 27 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW 27 MAY 10 P 3(U)

TEXT:

ARTICLE BY ALEX FISHMAN: "TURKISH MANEUVER." THIS PRODUCT IS PROVIDED BY THE COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT ISRAEL NEWS TODAY, JERUSALEM, AND HAS NOT BEEN COORDINATED WITH OTHER US GOVERNMENT COMPONENTS. OSC IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDITORIAL STANDARDS OF THIS TRANSLATION. (U)

**PUBLICATIONS** 

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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THIS IS NOT A NAIVE STORY OF PURE HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE GAZA STRIP. THIS IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, A CYNICAL POLITICAL STORY OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE HUMANITARIAN ELEMENT IN ORDER TO BREAK THE POLICY OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT TOWARDS HAMAS.

THE FLOTILLA THAT IS MAKING ITS WAY TOWARDS THE SHORES OF GAZA IS THE LARGEST AND MOST SERIOUS ATTEMPT MADE SO FAR TO BREAK THE SIEGE ON THE GAZA STRIP AND FORCE ISRAEL--AND EGYPT--TO ADOPT THE TURKISH APPROACH, WHICH VIEWS HAMAS AS A LEGITIMATE AND RECOGNIZED PARTNER AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE TURKISH EMPIRE IS TRYING TO REMOVE THE TOOL OF A BLOCKADE FROM THE HANDS OF ISRAEL AND EGYPT--THE TOOL THAT IS ONE OF THE MAIN LEVERS THAT ENABLES THEM TO INFLUENCE HAMAS'S CONDUCT ACCORDING TO THEIR INTERESTS. ISRAEL HAS NO REASON TO YIELD TO THIS TURKISH DICTATE. WITH ALL DUE REGRET, EVEN 500 WHEELCHAIRS--WHICH ARE UNDOUBTEDLY VITAL IN THE GAZA STRIP--WILL NOT MAKE UP FOR THE CYNICISM OF THE TURKISH MANEUVER.

THIS FLOTILLA IS NOT SIMILAR IN ANY WAY TO PREVIOUS EVENTS OF THIS KIND. WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE PLACED HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES ON A FEW YACHTS AND GONE OUT TO SAVE THE WORLD. THIS FLOTILLA IS BACKED BY IHH, A TURKISH ORGANIZATION THAT IS AN EXTENSION OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN TURKEY. THE IHH IS BACKED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS NOT EVEN TAKING THE TROUBLE TO OBSCURE ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THIS DISPLAY, WHICH IS SOLELY INTENDED TO BRING DISGRACE UPON THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THIS IS THE REASON THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT REFUSED THE ISRAELI COMPROMISE OFFERS, WHICH PROPOSED TO UNLOAD THE GOODS IN ASHDOD AND TRANSFER THEM, AFTER EXAMINATION, TO GAZA. THE TURKS WANT A CONFRONTATION. THEY WANT IMAGES OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS TAKING OVER SHIPS AND BEATING CIVILIANS. IT IS CONVENIENT FOR THEM TO USE THE IHH, SO THAT IF AND WHEN A CLASH TAKES PLACE ON THE SHIPS, IT WILL NOT APPEAR AS A DIRECT CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO STATES.

IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT WHEN THE FLOTILLA LEFT ISTANBUL ON MAY 22, THE PERSON WHO STOOD BESIDE THE ORGANIZER OF THE FLOTILLA, BULENT YILDIRIM--WHO SERVES AS THE LEADER OF THE TURKISH BRANCH OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD--WAS THE LEADER OF THE NORTHERN CHAPTER OF OUR "VERY OWN" MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, SHEIKH RAED SALAH. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE LEADER OF THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S SISTER MOVEMENT IN JORDAN.

OF APPROXIMATELY 800 PASSENGERS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOTILLA, THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY MORE THAN A FEW WELL-MEANING IDEALISTS. IF THESE WERE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN QUESTION, IT MIGHT CERTAINLY BE WORTH CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF LETTING THEM THROUGH AND SPARING SOME OF THE HUGE PR DAMAGE THAT AWAITS US. BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE TURKS SPEAK EXPLICITLY ABOUT OPENING A PERMANENT NAVAL LINE BETWEEN TURKEY AND GAZA WITHOUT ISRAELI SUPERVISION. IF THIS FLOTILLA PASSES, THE WAY WILL BE OPENED, AND THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY MEANING TO THE CLOSURE OF THE CROSSINGS.

THE POLICY OF THE BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP MAY BE A MISTAKE—IN BOTH HUMAN AND POLITICAL TERMS--BUT IT IS ISRAELI SOCIETY THAT MUST DECIDE ON THIS. THEREFORE, WHEN THE FORUM OF SEVEN DECIDED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO NOT TO LET THIS FLOTILLA PASS, IT WAS, IN EFFECT, A FOREIGN POLICY DECISION: NOT TO BOW TO TURKISH PRESSURE.

YESTERDAY, THE CHIEF OF STAFF WAS GIVEN ANOTHER BRIEFING ON THE MILITARY PLANS TO STOP THE FLOTILLA. THE ISRAELI FLEET IS PREPARING. IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE ALREADY LOST THE PR BATTLE—EVEN BEFORE THE SHIPS HAVE ARRIVED. THEREFORE, THE HANDLING OF THE SHIPS SHOULD BE FIRM AND MAINLY SWIFT. IF THERE IS NO WAY TO AVOID THE UNFLATTERING IMAGES, AND THE LIVE BROADCASTS FROM SEA SHOULD AT LEAST BE AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YEDI'OT AHARONOT IN HEBREW -- INDEPENDENT, CENTRIST, LARGEST CIRCULATION HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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## DTG

311344Z MAY 10

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

## CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 6 QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 416001

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: EUP20100531085020

/\*\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*\*/

## BODY

COUNTRY: <u>ISRAEL</u>, GAZA STRIP, GREECE, TURKEY, SAUDI ARABIA, PAKISTAN, BELGIUM, AUSTRIA, GERMANY, DENMARK, NORWAY, IRELAND, NETHERLANDS, ITALY

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: EU, UN

SUBJ: EUROPEAN, INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

**News Agencies** 

**OSC Summary** 

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Between 0749 and 1305 GMT on 31 May Paris-based AFP (North European Service) carried the following reports on European and international reactions to the Israeli raid on the Gaza support flotilla:

Greece summons Israeli ambassador over deadly Gaza ship raid

Athens, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Greece summoned <a href="Israel">Israel</a>'s ambassador Monday to demand an "immediate" report on the safety of about 30 Greeks on board an aid ship <a href="Israel">Israel</a> bound for Gaza targeted in a deadly raid by Israeli commandos.

The foreign ministry said in a statement it had requested "immediate information concerning the safety of Greek citizens on board the boats... and stressed the need to take the necessary measures to ensure their security."

Ambassador Ali Yahya was called in for talks from 0700 GMT with Greek deputy foreign minister Dimitris Droutsas, said the text.

Irish FM condemns 'totally unacceptable' Israeli action

DUBLIN, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin condemned Israel's raid Monday on a flotilla of aid ships bound for Gaza as a "totally unacceptable response" and summoned the Israeli ambassador.

"I am gravely concerned at the reports emerging of the storming of a Turkish ship this morning by Israeli commandos," Martin said, after the raid left at least 10 people dead.

He added: "The reports of up to 15 people killed and 50 injured, if confirmed, would constitute a totally unacceptable response by the Israeli military to what was a humanitarian mission attempting to deliver much needed supplies to the people of Gaza."

Martin "summoned the ambassador Zion Evrony to the ministry this afternoon", a foreign ministry spokesman told AFP.

Ireland was trying to confirm the safety of eight Irish nationals and one Irish-Turkish national who were on board vessels in the <a href="flotilla">flotilla</a>, which is carrying pro-Palestinian activists to deliver supplies to Gaza, Martin said.

Some of the Irish activists are aboard a 1,200-ton cargo ship Rachel Corrie, named after an American who was crushed to death by an Israeli army bulldozer in Gaza in 2003, which set sail from Dundalk in northeast Ireland to join to <a href="floatila">flotilla</a>.

Greece cancels visit by Israeli air force chief

ATHENS, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Greece cancelled a visit by the Israeli air force chief scheduled for Tuesday following a deadly Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla of aid ships, the Greek foreign ministry said Monday.

Deputy foreign minister Dimitris Droutsas summoned <u>Israel</u>'s ambassador, Aly Yahya, and demanded "an official account about the Israeli army's acts against the <u>flotilla</u>," spokesman Grigoris Delavekouras said after the meeting.

Droutas also informed the ambassador that "the visit by the Israeli air force's chief of staff scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled and the Greek-<u>Israel</u> exercise underway has been interrupted," he added.

Earlier Defence Minister Evangelos Venizelos ordered the Greek chiefs of staff to halt the air force exercises with <a href="Israel">Israel</a>, codenamed Minoas 2010, which started in Crete last Tuesday. The war games were to finish on Thursday.

Norway summons Israeli ambassador over Gaza flotilla raid

Oslo, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Norway on Monday summoned the Israeli ambassador over the "unacceptable" Gaza flotilla raid in which Israeli troops killed more than 10 people, Norwegian Prime Minsiter Jens Stoltenberg said, adding his government was "shaken" by the attack.

Denmark summons Israeli ambassador over Gaza boat attack

Copenhagen, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Danish Foreign Minister Lene

Espersen said Monday she had summoned the Israeli ambassador in Copenhagen after reports that 19 people died in an Israeli raid on aid-carrying ships bound for Gaza.

"The information about this confrontation is very worrying. We must have full openness around what happened," Espersen said in response to a question from AFP.

"That is why I have asked that the Israeli ambassador be summoned to the ministry to explain the circumstances" surrounding this operation, she said.

Denmark's centre-right government would like to see <u>Israel</u> allow humanitarian aid to reach Gaza, she said.

"It is a Danish priority that the Gaza Strip is immediately opened to receive humanitarian aid, reconstruction material and the circulation of people," she stressed.

Israeli television reported 19 pro-Palestinian activists were killed when Israeli naval forces stormed the aid <u>flotilla</u> in international waters before dawn on Monday.

Greek ship in aid convoy hit in Israeli raid: NGO

ATHENS, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Israeli forces in helicopters and inflatable boats fired on a Greek vessel in the aid convoy attacked while heading for Gaza, a Greek non-government organisation said Monday.

The Boat For Gaza group said the Sfendoni was attacked alongside the Turkish vessel Mavi Marmara.

"There was an attack with real bullets against the Greek boat Sfentoni and the Turkish boat Mavi Marmara, with helicopters and inflatable boats," the Greek organisation said in a statement.

It said the attack took place in international waters about 80 nautical miles from the coast.

UN rights chief shocked at Gaza aid flotilla violence

Geneva, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - UN human rights chief Navi Pillay said Monday she was shocked that an aid flotilla bound for the Gaza Strip was "met with violence," after Israeli forces stormed convoy ships.

"Today I am also registering my shock at reports that humanitarian aid was met with violence early this morning, reportedly causing death and injury as the convoy approached the Gaza coast," she said during a speech to the UN Human Rights Council.

Up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists were killed when Israeli naval forces stormed the aid <u>flotilla</u> in international waters before dawn on Monday.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was giving an overview of human rights concerns around the world as the council opened its latest session in Geneva.

Pillay reiterated her broader concerns about the human rights situation in and around the Gaza Strip, including an Israeli blockade of the Palestinian territory that has been enforced since 2007.

"In the Gaza Strip the blockade keeps undermining human rights on a daily basis," she said.

Despite a "marginal" increase in deliveries allowed into the territory, "the current situation falls far short of what is necessary for the population to lead normal and dignified lives," Pillay added.

The ships, carrying more than 700 passengers, were on the last leg of a high profile mission to deliver some 10,000 tonnes of supplies to Gaza as part of a protest against the blockade.

<u>Israel</u> had said the attempt to break the Gaza blockade was illegal and warned that it would intercept the ships and detain the activists before deporting them.

It labelled the convoy a media stunt, insisting the humanitarian situation is stable in Gaza despite reports to the contrary from aid agencies.

Islamic states condemned the military intervention and called on <u>Israel</u> to immediately release the boats and those on board.

"We strongly condemn today's Israeli attacks on the boat convoy carrying humanitarian aid and supplies to the people of occupied Gaza," Pakistani diplomat Marghoob Saleem Butt said on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"This is yet another example of Israeli disregard of all international norms and laws," he told the Human Rights Council.

"We demand that Israeli authorities immediately release all the boats and arrested people and take action against those responsible for these attacks and killing," he added.

<u>Israel</u> has accused activists on some of the boats of initiating the deadly bloodshed by attacking its military boarding force with live fire, knives and clubs.

Saudi Arabia called <u>Israel</u>'s move a "very serious violation of all international law."

Netherlands 'shocked' by deadly Israeli raid on aid ships

The Hague, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - The Netherlands expressed shock over the Israeli army's deadly raid on aid ships bound for Gaza Monday and said it would ask <u>Israel</u> for "clarifications" about the incident which has triggered worldwide condemnation.

"I am going to ask today for clarifications from the Israeli ambassador to The Hague," said Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen in a statement.

"I am very shocked over the deaths which are deplorable. The Netherlands wants an inquiry to determine exactly how this could have happened," Verhagen said.

The latest toll from the raid was 19 passengers killed and 36 injured, according to Israeli television.

"What happened today, while the Israelis and Palestinians were just starting to relaunch talks, will not bring them closer to peace," the Dutch minister added. "I hope that it will not lead to another deadlock in the talks."

Foreign ministry spokesman Bart Rijs told AFP he did not know if any Dutch citizens were on board the ships carrying aid to the Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory.

Italy 'deplores' killing of civilians in Gaza <u>flotilla</u> raid: Frattini

Rome, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Italy on Monday "deplored" the loss of civilian life in <a href="Israel">Israel</a>'s raid on aid ships bound for Gaza in which up to 19 people were killed and called on the European Union to take part in an international probe.

"I absolutely deplore... the killing of civilians" in the assault on Monday, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini told

64-5 10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000238 reporters, describing the Israeli pre-dawn military action as "really serious."

"An investigation must discover the truth about what happened," he said. "We demand a serious and detailed investigation, and I think the EU must be involved so that it is directly informed of the findings."

Israeli naval forces stormed the aid <u>flotilla</u> in international waters, killing up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists, most of them reportedly Turkish nationals.

The bloody ending to the high-profile mission to deliver supplies to the besieged Gaza Strip plunged <u>Israel</u> into a diplomatic crisis on the eve of talks between President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Earlier Monday, Alfredo Mantica, undersecretary of state for foreign affairs in Italy's centre-right government, described the bid to bust the Israeli blockade on Gaza as "pure provocation with a precise political goal."

He said "this type of spectacular action can only worsen the situation and make dialogue more difficult."

Belgium 'invites' Israeli ambassador to 'explain' Gaza raid

BRUSSELS, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Belgium's foreign minister on Monday "invited" <u>Israel</u>'s ambassador to "explain" the decision to storm a Gaza-bound aid <u>flotilla</u>, killing up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists, his spokesman said.

Steven Vanackere "invited the Israeli ambassador to explain to him this afternoon how events unfolded," and also to provide news of five Belgian nationals who were on board the flotilla, spokesman Bart Ouvry told AFP.

The five included four women and a cameraman for Al Jazeera television news, Ouvry said.

Belgium takes over the European Union's chair at the beginning of July.

EU calls for 'full inquiry' into Israeli Gaza flotilla raid

BRUSSELS, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton on Monday demanded Israeli authorities mount a "full inquiry" into the killing of at least 10 people in a raid on a flotilla of aid ships bound for Gaza.

Ashton "extends her sympathies to the families of the dead and wounded and is demanding a full inquiry into the circumstances of how this event happened," said a spokesman.

The EU's high representative also reiterated a longstanding demand for "an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of

64-6 10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000239 the crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to an d from Gaza," the spokesman underlined.

"She reiterates the European Union's position regarding Gaza -the continued policy of closure is unacceptable and politically counterproductive."

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, who has announced three days of mourning, termed the raid "a massacre."

A Turkish charity said at least 15, mostly Turkish nationals, died.

The bloody ending to the high-profile mission to deliver supplies to Gaza came on the eve of a meeting in Washington between President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"From an initial report, more than 10 passengers were killed," an Israeli army spokesman told AFP in what was the first official confirmation of deaths on board the convoy.

He said live ammunition was used by both sides.

According to <u>Israel</u>'s private channel 10 television, Israeli marine commandos opened fire after being attacked with axes and knives by a number of the passengers on board the aid ships, the television said, without giving the source of its informat ion.

Belgian Development Minister Charles Michel, whose country will assume the rotating EU presidency on July 1, deplored "the apparent disproportional use of force by the Israeli army during this intervention which left many dead."

Some lawmakers from national parliaments within the EU, acting on an individual basis, were aboard the <u>flotilla</u> bringing aid to the Gaza Strip.

"The use of lethal force against civilians on these ships is unacceptable," said Martin Schulz, head of the socialists and democrats grouping in the EU parliament.

"The international community must make its revulsion clear to the Israeli authorities," he added.

Meanwhile the co-heads of the Greens in the EU parliament, Louis Michel and Isabelle Durant, said they "condemn with the greatest strength" the Israeli naval action.

The Israeli mission to the EU published a "background sheet" on the <u>flotilla</u> to Gaza.

"This <u>flotilla</u> is essentially a politically-motivated media event, initiated by anti-<u>Israel</u> activists and extreme Islamic elements, under the guise of an act the organisers are attempting to depict as a humanitarian operation," the Israeli statement

said.

<u>Israel</u> has offered the organisers of the <u>flotilla</u> to transfer their cargo to Gaza via the Israeli port of Ashdod, it added.

In a separate statement the Israeli mission said that "during the intercept of the ships, the demonstrators onboard attacked the IDF (Israeli army) naval personnel with live fire and light weaponry including knives and clubs. Additionally one of the weapons used was grabbed from an IDF soldier,"

EU ambassadors call emergency talks on Israel

BRUSSELS, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Ambassadors from the 27 EU countries are to hold emergency talks in Brussels on Monday after Israeli naval forces stormed a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, killing 19 pro-Palestinian activists.

A European Commission spokesman said the ambassadors -- a number of whom had already called in their Israeli counterparts in protest at the raid in international waters -- would meet during the afternoon.

National officials from EU countries in Israeli missions were in contact with the Israeli authorities on the ground beforehand, the spokesman underlined.

EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton earlier on Monday demanded Israeli authorities mount a "full inquiry" into the deaths on the flotilla of aid ships bound for Gaza.

The president of the European parliament, Jerzy Buzek, also issued a statement criticising "an unjustified attack."

"It is a clear and unacceptable breach of international law, especially the fourth Geneva Convention," he said, demanding that <a href="Israel">Israel</a> explain its actions "with the utmost transparency."

Germany says Gaza raid appears disproportionate

Berlin, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Germany said <u>Israel</u>'s raid Monday on a convoy carrying Palestinian activists and aid to Gaza appeared disproportionate, in an unusually strong statement against its traditional ally.

"Every German government has always recognised and supported the right of <u>Israel</u> to defend itself, but this right must of course be within the boundaries of proportionality," Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman told reporters.

"This basic tenet is a key part of international law ... At first glance it does not look like this basic rule was adhered to."

The spokesman, Ulrich Wilhelm, added: "But one should not draw conclusions just from preliminary appearances and a comprehensive clarification of the facts is needed."

For historical reasons, Germany has traditionally been a close ally of <u>Israel</u> and reluctant to criticise the Jewish state's actions.

"Germany is shocked by the serious incident that took place in international waters off Gaza," Wilhelm told a regular government briefing. "The German government is deeply disturbed by the loss of life."

He added: "The European Union already stated in December 2009 that the blockade of the Gaza Strip was unacceptable and politically counterproductive.

"The German government continues to share this assessment and calls on the Israeli government to end this blockade without delay, as demanded by the United Nations Security Council."

He added however that the European Union also demands that the Islamist militant group Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip, recognises Israel's right to exist.

A foreign ministry spokesman said that it also had to be determined what goods the ships were carrying, "and whether, for example, weapons could have been on board."

Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said that he believed six people living in Germany were on board ships in the convoy, including two members of parliament from the far-left Die Linke party. Berlin was attempting to locate them, he said.

According to <a href="Israel">Israel</a>'s Channel 10 TV, 19 passengers were killed and 36 wounded in the raid before dawn on Monday.

The Israeli army said more than 10 people had died in the operation and said between 15 and 30 passengers were wounded.

Austria summons Israeli ambassador over flotilla raid: ministry

Vienna, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Austria's foreign ministry summoned Israel's ambassador on Monday for "explanations" over a raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla, in which up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists were killed. Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger ordered the Israeli ambassador to be summoned, "to press for an explanation of the situation," the ministry said in a statement.

"I am dismayed by the bloody escalation of events on board the main ship of the 'Freedom <u>Flotilla</u>' for Gaza," Spindelegger was quoted as saying.

"Such bloodshed is shocking and I expect a prompt and comprehensive clarification," he added.

Spindelegger also called on the Israeli government to show restraint and prevent further violence.

"Israel must end the counter-productive blockade policy towards the Gaza Strip, as the UN Security Council in New York and the European Union have emphatically and repeatedly demanded," he noted.

The ministry could not confirm reports that Austrians were on board the aid <u>flotilla</u> but said its embassy in Tel Aviv was verifying these claims.

Israeli commandos stormed six Gaza-bound aid ships in international waters in a dawn raid on Monday, reportedly killing up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists and sparking global outrage.

According to organisers, the "Freedom Flotilla" was carrying about 10,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid, including medical aid, food, clothing, prefabricated homes, iron bars and cement, in defiance of Israel's blockade against Hamas-controlled Gaza.

More than 700 people were also aboard the ships, mostly from international non-governm ental organisations, but also European MPs, writers and journalists.

EU's Ashton calls Israel over Gaza, seeks inquiry

WARSAW, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said Monday she called <u>Israel</u>'s top diplomat to express concern after Israeli forces stormed a Gaza-bound aid <u>flotilla</u>, killing up to 19 pro-Palestinian activists.

"During the course of this morning I have spoken to Minister (Avigdor) Lieberman, the foreign minister of <u>Israel</u>. I expressed my deepest concern about the tragedy that has happened. I said that we needed an inquiry by <u>Israel</u> into the circumstances," Ashton told reporters during a visit to Poland.

"I have also taken the opportunity to point out, having visited Gaza, the importance of opening the crossings for humanitarian aid to go through to ensure that ordinary people have a better existence than that which I saw," she said.

"We will continue to coordinate with member states. And of course I express our condolences to the families of those who lost their lives," she added.

Amnesty urges probe into 'excessive' Israeli raid

LONDON, May 31, 2010 (AFP) - Amnesty International called Monday for an independent investigation into a deadly Israeli raid on an aid convoy to Gaza, accusing the Jewish state of using "excessive force".

"Israeli forces appear clearly to have used excessive force," said Malcolm Smart, the rights organisation's director for the Middle East and north Africa.

"Israel says its forces acted in self-defence, alleging that they

were attacked by protestors, but it begs credibility that the level of lethal force used by Israeli troops could have been justified.

"It appears to have been out of all proportion to any threat posed."

Amnesty called for an "immediate, credible and independent investigation" into the raid, which left up to 19 people dead, as well as for the immediate lifting of the blockade on Gaza.

"The blockade constitutes collective punishment under international law and must be lifted immediately," Smart said.

Description of Source: Paris AFP in English -- North European /\*\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 \*\*\*\*\*\*

Service of independent French press agency Agence France-Presse

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#### Source Metadata

Source Name: AFP (North European Service)

Source Type(s): News Agencies

Source City: Paris
Source Country: France
Source Start Date: 31 May 10
Source End Date: 31 May 10
Language(s): English

#### Article Metadata

Document ID: EUP20100531085020

Content Type: Summary
Processing Ind: OSC Summary

Precedence: Priority

Country(s): <u>Israel</u>, Gaza Strip, Greece, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Belgium, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Norway,

Ireland, Netherlands, Italy

Region(s): Middle East, Europe, Asia

Subregion(s): Middle East, Balkans, South Europe, North

Europe, Central Europe, South Asia

Intl Org(s): EU, UN

Topic(s): INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY,

URGENT

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

## **ADMIN**

BT #4735 5072

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UNCLASSIFIED

## UNCLASSIFIED

## DTG

311050Z MAY 10

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

## CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 414688

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: SEP20100531166002

/\*\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*\*/

## BODY

COUNTRY: MALAYSIA, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

SUBJ: MALAYSIA: HARAKAH REPORTS <u>ISRAEL</u>'S PLANNED <u>OPERATION</u> TO

STOP AID SHIPS (U)

SOURCE: KUALA LUMPUR HARAKAH ONLINE IN MALAY 30 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

Unattributed report: "Israel Ready To Attack Gaza Humanitarian

Armada" (U)

Internet

**OSC Translated Text** 

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Kuala Lumpur, 30 May -- Now under direct supervision and order from the government of the illegitimate country, the armed forces of the Israel are now ready for the mission named Sky Wind Operation to attack and arrest activists of Freedom Flotilla -- the humanitarian aid armada to Gaza -- which will be moving toward Gaza soon.

A source from <u>Israel</u> reported that the Navy had been ready with everything to take over the ships, by force if necessary, in an attempt to prevent the convoy from porting at the coast of Gaza.

Haluan Palestin website today reported that the <u>operation</u> was led directly by Major General Eliezer Marom, the commander of the Israeli Navy.

The planned attacks include four stages:

First, warning stage. The Navy will invariably try to stop any ship from coming close to the borderline that they have fixed and categorized as the red line. When there is any ship transgressing the fixed line, they will be issued a warning that they have "violated the law".

Second, to stop and guard the ships. If the ships fail to comply with the order from the Israeli Navy, the Navy will attack and seize the eight ships carrying nearly 800 activists. The ships will be taken to Asdod Port and the activists will be detained in a big camp put up for this purpose.

Third, isolation and deport. The Israeli military and police will instruct the detained activists to sign a statement to accept being deported to their home country, and they will be deported by air at Ben Gurion Airport.

Fourth, arrest before deport. If any activist is reluctant and refuses to sign the statement for deport to their home country, they will be arrested, sent for medical check-up, and then transferred to Brigade Nahason owned by the Israeli Prison Administration before they are sent to Be'er Sheva Prison and possibly other prisons.

Next, they will be tried and deported.

About 600 as published human rights activists on the eight humanitarian aid ships heading toward Gaza said that they were determined to arrive at Gaza, without being bothered by the threats from Israel.

Greta Berlin, spokesperson for the Free Gaza Movement, said: "Nothing can stop these ships. The human rights activists are determined to break through the siege and blockage by <u>Israel</u> on more than 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza, and we will carry on our mission to deliver the humanitarian aid."

Description of Source: Kuala Lumpur Harakah Online in Malay -Official media outlet of the opposition Pan-Malaysian Islamic
Party (PAS). It carries news and information, caters mainly to
party members and sympathizers, and has an anti-government and
anti-Western editorial policy; URL: http://www.harakahdaily.net

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## OSC usage policy and the original copyright. (U)

Source Metadata

Source Name: Harakah Online

Source Type(s): Internet Source City: Kuala Lumpur Source Country: Malaysia Source Start Date: 30 May 10 Source End Date: 30 May 10

Language(s): Malay

## Article Metadata

## /\*\*\*\*\* BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 \*\*\*\*\*\*

Document ID: SEP20100531166002
Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Translated Text

Precedence: Routine

Country(s): Malaysia, Gaza Strip, Israel

Region(s): Asia, Middle East

Subregion(s): South East Asia, Middle East

Topic(s): HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL,

MILITARY

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

## **ADMIN**

BT #3611 18C9

NNNN

**UNCLASSIFIED** 

## UNCLASSIFIED

## DTG

311125Z MAY 10

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

#### CONTROLS

UNCLAS QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 414985

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100531017037

## BODY

COUNTRY: CHILE, ISRAEL, TURKEY, UNITED STATES

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

SUBJ: TURKISH FM DAVUTOGLU CONDEMNS ISRAELI ATTACK, SAYS PM

ERDOGAN RETURNING EARLY (U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 1106 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

## TEXT:

"DAVUTOGLU REGARDS ISRAELI ATTACK ON TURKISH HUMAINITARIAN RELIEF SHIP AS 'INHUMANE ACT OF PIRACY'" -- AA headline (U)

**News Agencies** 

OSC Transcribed Text

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ANKARA - 31.05.2010 - Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Monday that Israeli attack on Turkish ships carrying humanitarian relief material to Gaza was an inhumane act of piracy and had no legitimacy.

Davutoglu told state-run TRT TV channel on his way to the U.S, that Israel violated the international law and human values and owed an apology to Turkish nation and the international

community.

Davutoglu said that Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan was returning to Turkey upon hearing the attack. He said Turkey called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, and he was on his way to New York to attend this meeting.

Davutoglu also said Turkey was recalling its ambassador to Israel.

Early on Monday, Israeli navy forces raided a convoy of aid ships of IHH --a Turkish humanitarian relief organization -- carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza, killing more than 10 people and injuring 30 others.

Turkish Foreign Ministry protested Israel.

The flotilla, which includes three cargo ships and three passenger ships, was trying to draw attention to Israel's three-year blockade of the Gaza Strip. The boats were carrying items such as electric-powered wheelchairs, prefabricated homes and water purifiers.

Description of Source: Ankara Anatolia in English --Semi-official news agency; independent in content

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#### Source Metadata

Source Name: Anatolia

Source Type(s): News Agencies

Source City: Ankara

Source Country: Turkey

Source Start Date: 1106 GMT 31 May 10 Source End Date: 1106 GMT 31 May 10

Language(s): English

Article Metadata

Document ID:

GMP20100531017037

Content Type: Translation/Transcription Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Text

Precedence:

Priority

Country(s):

Chile, Israel, Turkey, United States

Region(s): Americas, Middle East, Europe

Subregion(s): South Americas, North Americas, Middle East,

South Europe

Intl Org(s):

UN

Topic(s):

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY.

URGENT

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

ADMIN

BT #3857 3A1B

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

## UNCLASSIFIED

## DTG

311241Z MAY 10

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

#### CONTROLS

UNCLAS QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 415610

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100531737003

#### BODY

COUNTRY: TURKEY, ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

SUBJ: ARINC SAYS TURKEY TO WITHDRAW ENVOY, CANCEL 3 JOINT EXERCISES, URGE UNSC TO MEET (U)

REF: 1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR RECALLED FROM ISRAEL OVER FLOTILLA ATTACK GMP20100531017031 ANATOLIA ENGLISH 1029 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

2. TURKEY: MINISTER ARINC CONDEMNS ISRAEL, SAYS SEVEN SOLDIERS KILLED IN PKK ATTACK GMP20100531017038 ANATOLIA ENGLISH 1109 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: ISTANBUL HURRIYET DAILY NEWS.COM IN ENGLISH 31 MAY 10 (U)

### TEXT:

Unattributed report: "Turkey withdraws envoy to Israel, calls urgent UN meeting, deputy PM says" (U)

**Publications** 

**OSC Transcribed Text** 

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Turkey's deputy prime minister said Turkey was withdrawing its

ambassador to Israel, canceling three joint military exercises and calling on the U.N. Security Council to meet urgently over Israeli action against Gaza aid ships.

Bulent Arinc said Turkey was withdrawing its ambassador on Monday, saying that Israel's actions were equal to "piracy," The Associated Press reported.

Israeli commandos raided parts of the flotilla early Monday morning, killing at least 10 passengers. Arinc said about 400 out of 581 passengers on the main aid ship, the Mavi Marmara, are Turks.

"Not only Turkish citizens but the whole world will condemn Israel's bloody attack on peace and humanitarian values," Arinc said in televised remarks Monday.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu called on the U.N. Security Council for an urgent meeting.

Arinc also said Turkish Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul called Ehud Barak, his Israeli counterpart, and listed the following demands:

- Security and repatriation of Turkish citizens
- Treatment for the wounded
- Return of the ships

"We want to treat the wounded in Turkey and emergency helicopters are ready for the task," Arinc said. "Israel's assault is a sort of piracy in the open sea. Israel should lift the embargo and deliver the aid to the Palestinian people."

Description of Source: Istanbul Hurriyet Daily News.com in English -- Website of Hurriyet Daily News and Economic Review, pro-secular daily, with English-language versions from other Dogan Media Group dailies; URL: http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/

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## Source Metadata

Source Name: Hurriyet Daily News.com

Source Type(s): Publications Source City: Istanbul Source Country: Turkey Source Start Date: 31 May 10 Source End Date: 31 May 10 Language(s): English

#### Article Metadata

Document ID: GMP20100531737003

Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Text

Precedence: Priority

Country(s): Turkey, Israel, West Bank, Gaza Strip

Region(s): Europe, Middle East

Subregion(s): South Europe, Middle East

Intl Org(s): UN

Topic(s): INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, MILITARY,

URGENT

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

## ADMIN

BT #4397 BE9A

NNNN

**UNCLASSIFIED** 

## **UNCLASSIFIED**

#### DTG

311141Z MAY 10

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

## CONTROLS

UNCLAS QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 415142

WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: IAP20100531950068

#### BODY

COUNTRY: IRAN, ISRAEL

SUBJ: ANGRY PEOPLE RAID ISRAELI CONSULATE IN ISTANBUL (U)

SOURCE: TEHRAN FARS NEWS AGENCY IN ENGLISH 1120 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

**News Agencies** 

**OSC Transcribed Text** 

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Angry People Raid Israeli Consulate in Istanbul

TEHRAN (FNA)- Angry Turkish people raided Israel's consulate in Istanbul and seized the building for a while in response to Israel's Monday morning raid on a humanitarian cargo bound for the Gaza Strip.

According to FNA dispatches, thousands of people gathered in front of the consulate to voice their anger at the Israeli attack against the six-ship aid flotilla.

The aid flotilla were on the last leg of an aid mission to deliver

some 10,000 tons of supplies to Gaza which has been under a crippling Israeli blockade since 2007.

The ships, carrying more than 750 passengers from 40 countries, had started heading towards Gaza from international waters of Cyprus on Sunday, with organizers saying they hoped to enter Gaza waters during the daylight hours.

Turkish television stations say police have blocked dozens of stone-throwing protesters who tried to storm the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul over the Israeli attack on the aid convoy in international waters, which led to the killing of 20 human-rights activists.

CNN-Turk and NTV televisions showed dozens of angry protesters scuffling with the Turkish police, guarding the Consulate in downtown Istanbul.

Turkey's foreign ministry warned that the raid on the flotilla, which included Turkish vessels, may lead to "irreparable consequences" in bilateral ties.

"We strongly condemn these inhumane practices of Israel," a written statement said.

"This deplorable incident, which took place in open seas and constitutes a fragrant breach of the international law, may lead to irreparable consequences in our bilateral relations," it said.

Witnesses said Israeli soldiers supported by military choppers boarded a Turkish ship that was leading the six-ship flotilla.

More than 100 Israeli commandos were involved in the raid that has sparked fury from the Islamic World, international circles and Palestinian leaders.

Reports from Hamas's Al Aqsa television said up to 20 passengers had been killed, of whom nine were Turkish nationals.

Description of Source: Tehran Fars News Agency in English -hardline pro-Ahmadinezhad news agency; headed as of December 2007 by Hamid Reza Moqaddamfar, who was formerly an IRGC cultural officer; www.fars.ir

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Source Metadata

Source Name: Fars News Agency Source Type(s): News Agencies

Source City: Tehran Source Country: Iran

Source Start Date: 1120 GMT 31 May 10

Source End Date: 1120 GMT 31 May 10

Language(s): English

Article Metadata

Document ID: IAP20100531950068
Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Text

Precedence: Routine
Country(s): Iran, Israel
Region(s): Middle East
Subregion(s): Middle East

Topic(s): DOMESTIC POLITICAL, MILITARY

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

## ADMIN

BT #3990 377A

NNNN

**UNCLASSIFIED** 

# UNCLASSIFIED

## DTG

311046Z MAY 10

#### FROM

FM OSC RESTON VA

## CONTROLS

UNCLAS QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 414648

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100531017030

## BODY

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

SUBJ: TURKEY CALLS FOR UNSC EMERGENCY MEETING ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON AID CONVOY (U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 1009 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"TURKEY CALLS FOR UN SECURITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING" -- AA headline (U)

**News Agencies** 

**OSC Transcribed Text** 

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ANKARA (A.A) - 31.05.2010 - Turkey has called for an emergency meeting of <u>United Nations</u> Security Council after Israeli operation on a convoy carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza on Monday.

Diplomatic sources said that Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu cancelled his meetings in Washington, D.C. and would proceed to New York for UN Security Council meeting.

Early on Monday, Israeli navy forces raided a convoy of aid ships of IHH --a Turkish humanitarian relief organization-- carrying humanitarian aid for Gaza, killing more than 10 people and injuring 30 others.

Turkish Foreign Ministry protested Israel.

The <u>flotilla</u>, which includes three cargo ships and three passenger ships, was trying to draw attention to <u>Israel</u>'s three-year blockade of the Gaza Strip. The boats were carrying items such as electric-powered wheelchairs, prefabricated homes and water purifiers.

Description of Source: Ankara Anatolia in English --Semi-official news agency; independent in content

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### Source Metadata

Source Name: Anatolia Source Type(s): News Agencies

Source City: Ankara Source Country: Turkey

Source Start Date: 1009 GMT 31 May 10 Source End Date: 1009 GMT 31 May 10

Language(s): English

#### Article Metadata

Document ID: GMP20100531017030
Content Type: Translation/Transcription
Processing Ind: OSC Transcribed Text

Precedence: Priority
Country(s): Israel, Turkey
Region(s): Middle East, Europe

Subregion(s): Middle East, South Europe

Intl Org(s): UN

Topic(s): INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, URGENT

CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

#### ADMIN

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 835447

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERIAL: GMP20100809739002

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

# SUBJ: REUT INSTITUTE PAPER SAYS ISRAEL FAILED TO UNDERSTAND SIGNIFICANCE OF FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV REUT INSTITUTE IN ENGLISH 08 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT: INTERNET OSC SUMMARY

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ON 8 AUGUST, THE REUT INSTITUTE DISSEMINATED "VERSION A" OF A "CASE STUDY," ENTITLED "THE GAZA FLOTILLA: THE COLLAPSE OF ISRAEL'S POLITICAL FIREWALL." THE STUDY HAD BEEN "INITIATED AND COMMISSIONED BY THE JULIS FOUNDATION FOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY THINKING."

THE STUDY'S INTRODUCTION STATES: "THIS CASE-STUDY DEALS WITH A STRATEGIC POLITICAL STRIKE AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL THAT WAS PLANNED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION SINCE FEBRUARY 2009 AND MATERIALIZED ON MAY 31, 2010. KNOWN AS THE GAZA FLOTILLA, THIS LATEST EFFORT EXCEEDED THE EXPECTATIONS OF ITS ORGANIZERS IN CAUSING TANGIBLE AND SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO ISRAEL.

"PLANNING OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA WAS CARRIED OUT OVER THE INTERNET AND IN PUBLIC CONFERENCES BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) PRIMARILY OPERATING FROM MAJOR CITIES OF COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL, INCLUDING LONDON, DUBLIN OR SAN FRANCISCO.

"IN THE BROADER CONTEXT, THE GAZA FLOTILLA WAS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. IT IS ONE INCIDENT OUT OF MANY IN A CAMPAIGN ENTITLED 'LIFELINE TO GAZA' DESIGNED TO BREAK THE 'SIEGE' OF GAZA. THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF IS ONE OF SEVERAL BEING WAGED AGAINST ISRAEL. OTHERS INCLUDE AS THE BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, SANCTIONS (BDS) MOVEMENT, THE 'LAWFARE' STRATEGY, AND THE DURBAN CONFERENCES. TOGETHER, THESE CAMPAIGNS AND OTHERS FORM A GLOBAL SYSTEMATIC AND SYSTEMIC ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL AND ITS POLITICAL-ECONOMIC MODEL. THEIR FORM CONTINUALLY SHIFTS AND ADAPTS AND THEIR MOMENTUM IS GAINING. THEIR ULTIMATE AIM IS TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL IN ORDER TO PRECIPITATE ITS IMPLOSION, INSPIRED BY THE COLLAPSES OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION AND APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA."

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100809739002001.PDF) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE 9-PAGE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION IN PDF FORMAT.

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100809739002002.PDF) CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL 53-PAGE HEBREW-LANGUAGE PAPER IN PDF FORMAT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV REUT INSTITUTE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF NONPARTISAN, NONPROFIT STRATEGIC POLICY GROUP THAT "SUPPLIES ITS SERVICES PRO-BONO SOLELY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL;" URL: HTTP://WWW.REUT-INSTITUTE.ORG

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100715738002

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

SUBJ: IDF RELEASES EILAND REPORT'S VIDEO TIMELINE OF 31 MAY FLOTILLA INCIDENT (U)

REF: 1. ISRAELI ARMY PROBE INTO 31 MAY MAVI MARMARA RAID FINDS 'MISTAKES, NOT FAILURES' GMP20100712739009 THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE ENGLISH 1403 GMT 12 JUL 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN FNGLISH 0856 GMT 15 JUL 10 (U)

TFXT:

PRESS RELEASE: "VIDEO TIMELINE OF FLOTILLA INCIDENT AS PRESENTED BY EILAND TEAM OF EXPERTS (ENGLISH VERSION) ON 13 JULY 2010." FOR A COPY

OF THE VIDEO, CONTACT (b)(3):50 USC § 3507

(b)(3):50 USC § 3507

INTERNET

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BELOW ARE VIDEOS OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT AS PRESENTED BY THE EILAND TEAM OF EXPERTS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES. THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO AND THROUGHOUT THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT ARE RECOUNTED IN THE VIDEO, AS PRESENTED BY THE TEAM OF EXPERTS LED BY MAJ. GEN. (RES.) GIYORA EILAND IN THE IDF'S INTERNAL INQUIRY. (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100715738002001.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW 08:34-MINUTE PART 1, (ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20100715738002002.WMV) CLICK HERE TO VIEW 08:52-MINUTE PART 2

IN LIGHT OF WEAPONS SMUGGLING ATTEMPTS, A MARITIME CLOSURE WAS ESTABLISHED DURING THE 2008-2009 GAZA OPERATION. UNDER THE GUISE OF PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID, A NUMBER OF SHIPS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REACH THE GAZA STRIP, SOME PERMITTED TO ENTER, WHILE OTHERS WERE STOPPED.

DUE TO THESE ATTEMPTS, THE IDF GENERAL STAFF AND NAVY OUTLINED ORDERS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE ATTEMPTS TO BREAK THE CLOSURE, AND IN PREPARING FOR THE MAY 31ST FLOTILLA, THE IDF PLANNED FAR IN ADVANCE WITH EXTENDED DISCUSSION, AND VARIOUS SIMULATION MODEL SCENARIOS. IDF ATTACHES ABROAD AND FOREIGN ATTACHES TO ISRAEL WERE ALL BRIEFED IN ADVANCE.

IN ADDITION, THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, LT. GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI SENT A LETTER TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZING THE FOLLOWING: "COOPERATION BETWEEN NATION MINISTRIES IS REQUIRED AND THE MILITARY OPTION WHICH INCLUDES SEIZING, CONFISCATING AND DETAINING THE SHIP'S ACTIVISTS IS A LAST RESORT AND AT A LOW PRIORITY."

THE VIDEO GOES ON TO DESCRIBE THE VARIOUS SHIPS IN THE FLOTILLA AND THE COURSES OF THEIR ATTEMPTED JOURNEY TO THE GAZA STRIP, AS WELL AS THE NUMBER AND EXTENT OF ISRAELI RESPONSE SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, AND ABSORPTION CENTER FOR THE SHIPS' PASSENGERS. THE VIDEO ALSO OUTLINES THE ORDERS GIVEN TO THE IDF SOLDIERS BOARDING THE FLOTILLA SHIPS, INCLUDING THE POLICY OF USING GRADUAL FORCE, AND USING LIVE WEAPONS ONLY IN LIFE THREATENING SCENARIOS.

THE FIRST PHASE OF THE OPERATION: THE IDF RELAYED THE MESSAGE THAT THE FLOTILLA SHIPS WERE IN AN AREA OF A MARITIME CLOSURE, AND OFFERED THE SHIPS TO TRANSFER THEIR CARGO FROM THE ASHDOD PORT TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE SOFIA SHIP DID NOT RESPOND AT ALL, WHILE THE OTHER SHIPS RESPONDED WITH REFUSAL AND/OR PROFANITY.

THE IDF FORCES WERE DIVIDED AND EACH GROUP BOARDED A DIFFERENT SHIP. THE SOLDIERS ARRIVED AT THE MAVI MARMARA AT 4:28 AM, BUT COULD NOT BOARD THE SHIP DUE TO METAL OBJECTS BEING THROWN AT THEM, AND ELECTRIC BUZZ SAWS USED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS TO SLICE THE LADDERS IDF SOLDIERS NEEDED TO BOARD THE MARMARA. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO BOARD THE SHIP BY SMALLER BOATS, A HELICOPTER ARRIVED AT 4:30 AM WITH 15 IDF SOLDIERS. THE FIRST ROPE DROPPED BY THE HELICOPTERS WAS TIED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS TO THE DECK OF THE SHIP IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE SOLDIERS' DESCENT.

SOLDIERS THAT DESCENDED DOWN THE SECOND ROPE WERE MET BY 2-4 DEMONSTRATORS EACH WHO WIELDED KNIVES, AXES, AND METAL POLES. THE SECOND SOLDIER TO DESCEND WAS SHOT IN THE STOMACH BY A DEMONSTRATOR. THE SOLDIERS WHO WERE IN DANGER OF THEIR LIVES WERE FORCED TO USE THEIR LIVE WEAPONS. FIVE SOLDIERS WERE INJURED BY STABBING, BLOWS AND LIVE FIRE BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. WITHIN SECONDS OF BOARDING THE SHIPS, THREE SOLDIERS WERE THROWN OFF THE DECK BY DEMONSTRATORS. THE INJURED WERE DRAGGED TO THE HULL OF THE SHIP.

A REINFORCEMENT OF SOLDIERS ARRIVES FROM A SECOND HELICOPTER, WHICH IS ALSO ATTACKED BY DEMONSTRATORS, AND THE SOLDIERS ARE MET WITH VIOLENCE WHEN THEY ATTEMPT TO ACCESS THE LOWER DECK OF THE SHIP.

AT 4:46 AM A THIRD HELICOPTER ARRIVES TO THE MAVI MARMARA, AND THE TWO GROUPS OF SOLDIERS COMBINE FORCES ON THE SHIP ROOF AND DESCEND TO THE OTHER PARTS OF THE SHIP, WHERE THEY ARE ALSO MET WITH LETHAL VIOLENCE, AND THUS RESPOND WITH LIVE FIRE.

MANY OF THE DEMONSTRATORS ENTER INSIDE OF THE SHIP AS THE SMALLER BOATS ARRIVE AT THE SIDE OF THE SHIP, HOWEVER SOME STILL VIOLENTLY ATTACK THE INCOMING BOATS AND THE SOLDIERS RESPOND WITH LIVE FIRE.

THE COMMANDER OF THE SPECIAL NAVY FORCES BOARDS THE SHIP, AND WHILE EVALUATING THE FORCES, IT IS DISCOVERED THAT THREE SOLDIERS ARE MISSING. THE MISSING AND INJURED SOLDIERS ARE DISCOVERED TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY A NUMBER OF VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS. WHO ABANDON THE SOLDIERS AND RUN BACK INTO THE SHIP WHEN FIRED AT.

TWO OF THE INJURED SOLDIERS JUMP OFF THE SHIP SO THAT THEY CAN BE PICKED UP BY THE IDF BOATS. THE THIRD INJURED SOLDIER IS ON THE BOW OF THE BOAT AND SLIPPING OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS. IDF SOLDIERS REMAINING ON THE BOAT COME TO HIS AID.

AT 5:17 AM THE SITUATION IS EVALUATED AND SOME OF THE FINDINGS: LIVE FIRE WAS USED BY DEMONSTRATORS TOWARDS IDF SOLDIERS WHO WERE ON THE SHIP, INCLUDING ONE SOLDIER WHO DESCENDED DOWN THE ROPE AND WAS SHOT IN THE ABDOMEN. LIVE FIRE BY THE DEMONSTRATORS WAS ALSO AIMED AT THE SOLDIERS ON THE SMALL ISRAELI NAVY BOATS NEXT TO THE MARMARA. THE FIRST OCCURRENCE OF LIVE FIRE WAS THAT USED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS. IN ADDITION, A GUN WITH EMPTIED MAGAZINES WAS FOUND IN THE HULL OF THE SHIP.

IDF FORCES HAD BOARDED THE OTHER SHIPS WITHOUT INCIDENT. TREATMENT AND EVACUATION WAS CARRIED OUT FOR THE INJURED SOLDIERS AND DEMONSTRATORS ALIKE. 38 INJURED WERE AIRLIFTED, 7 OF THEM SOLDIERS.

THE THREE SOLDIERS WHO HAD BEEN ATTEMPTED TO BE KIDNAPPED AND WERE TAKEN TO THE HULL OF THE SHIP WERE WITNESS TO AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS, AND OTHER PASSENGERS OF THE MARMARA WHO ASKED THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS TO CEASE THEIR VIOLENT ACTIVITY. SOME 24 OF THE INJURED PASSENGERS WERE DIAGNOSED AT THE ASHDOD PORT AND TREATED IN HOSPITALS IN ISRAEL.

AFTER THE OPERATION ENDED, THE SHIPS ARRIVED AT THE ASHDOD PORT ACCOMPANIED BY ISRAELI NAVAL FORCES. AN INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT FOUND THAT 40 OF THE 1HH ACTIVISTS PREVIOUSLY BOARDED THE MARMARA SHIP FROM ISTANBUL BEFORE JOINING THE OTHERS.

THE 8 OF THE 9 DEMONSTRATORS KILLED WERE MEMBERS OF THE IHH OR OTHER ALLIED GROUPS. AROUND HALF OF THOSE KILLED HAD DECLARED IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILIES THEIR ASPIRATION TO DIE AS MARTYRS ("SHAHIDS"). FOOTAGE ON THE MARMARA SHOWS THAT THE VIOLENCE HAD BEEN PREPARED: METAL POLES AND CHAINS WERE

PREPARED, SLINGSHOTS, BUZZ SAWS, GAS MASKS, TEAR GAS, BULLETPROOF VESTS, KNIVES, AND MORE. A BRIEFING HAD TAKEN PLACE BEFORE THE IDF HAD BOARDED THE SHIP, WITH THE LEADER OF THE VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS TELLING THE GROUP TO ATTACK THE IDF SOLDIERS AT ANY COST.

THERE WERE 718 TOTAL PASSENGERS OF THE FLOTILLA SHIPS. MOST WERE RELEASED WITHOUT UNDERGOING ANY INVESTIGATION. THE LAST PASSENGER LEFT ON JUNE 6TH.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH -- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE; URL: HTTP://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, LEADER

SERIAL: GMP20100805738006

COUNTRY: ISRAEL

# SUBJ: ISRAELI GENERAL: IDF TO BLAME FOR FLOTILLA FIASCO; BARAQ-ASHKENAZI TENSION FLARES (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL: BARAQ, ASHKENAZI FEUD OVER ACCESS TO COPY OF EILAND'S FLOTILLA REPORT GMP20100726738010 HAARETZ.COM ENGLISH 0000 GMT 26 JUL 10 (U)

2. IDF PROBE REPORTEDLY SHARPLY CRITICIZES IDF PLANNING OF RAID AGAINST FLOTILLA GMP20100708736007 YNETNEWS ENGLISH 1534 GMT 08 JUL 10 (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 05 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY AMOS HAR'EL: "IDF, NOT POLITICIANS, TO BLAME FOR FLOTILLA RAID FIASCO" (U)

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAY'S BOTCHED RAID ON A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA RESTS WITH THE IDF, NOT THE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE EILAND COMMITTEE, THE IDF'S IN-HOUSE INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENT. "RESPONSIBILITY CAN'T BE PUSHED OFF ONTO THE GOVERNMENT," BRIG. GEN. AVIV KOKHAVI REPORTEDLY TOLD THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE AT A CLOSED MEETING WHERE THE PANEL'S REPORT WAS PRESENTED. "AS AN ARMY, WE PRESENTED OUR CAPABILITIES AND SAID IT WOULD WORK. IN REALITY, IT DIDN'T WORK." THIS REMARK BY KOKHAVI, WHO UNTIL RECENTLY SERVED AS HEAD OF THE GENERAL STAFF'S OPERATIONS BRIGADE, WAS INCLUDED IN AN UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF THE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN TEL AVIV ON 22 JULY, 10 DAYS AFTER EILAND'S REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI. HAARETZ HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF THE SUMMARY, AND PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING -- TO WHICH ONLY THE KNESSET COMMITTEE'S SEVEN MOST SENIOR MKS WERE INVITED -- CONFIRMED TO HAARETZ THAT THE QUOTES ARE ACCURATE. PASSAGE OMITTED

IT IS NOT CLEAR WHO ORIGINALLY PREPARED THE SUMMARY, BUT IT APPEARS THAT IT WAS LEAKED AS PART OF THE ONGOING BATTLE BETWEEN THE BUREAUS OF DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAQ AND ASHKENAZI. THAT BATTLE HAS RECENTLY INTENSIFIED, NOT ONLY DUE TO THE FLOTILLA INCIDENT BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE TWO MEN ARE AT ODDS OVER WHEN THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT CHIEF OF STAFF SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED. BARAQ'S OFFICE SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE MINISTER WILL BEGIN INTERVIEWING CANDIDATES IN THE COMING DAYS. THE STATEMENT SAID THIS WAS BEING DONE "WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S OFFICE." BARAQ ACTUALLY MET WITH TWO OF THE CANDIDATES LAST WEEK: DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF BENNY GANTZ AND ISRAEL'S MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, GADI SHAMNI. THE OTHER CANDIDATES ARE THE HEADS OF THE THREE TERRITORIAL COMMANDS: GADI EISENKOT (NORTHERN), AVI MIZRAHI (CENTRAL) AND YO'AV GALANT (SOUTHERN). BARAQ WILL MEET WITH MIZRAHI TODAY. IT IS UNCLEAR WHO BARAQ WILL PICK, BUT THE THREE LEADING CANDIDATES ARE GALANT, GANTZ AND EISENKOT.

THE TENSION BETWEEN BARAQ AND ASHKENAZI ERUPTED IN APRIL, WHEN BARAQ ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NOT EXTEND ASHKENAZI'S TERM FOR ANOTHER YEAR. SINCE THEN, ASHKENAZI HAS BEEN FIGHTING

TO POSTPONE THE DATE ON WHICH HIS SUCCESSOR WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN ORDER TO REDUCE HIS TIME AS A LAME DUCK. ASHKENAZI WANTS THE DECISION PUT OFF UNTIL NOVEMBER, THREE MONTHS BEFORE HIS FOUR-YEAR TERM ENDS. BUT IT SEEMS BARAQ PLANS TO DECIDE EITHER THIS MONTH OR NEXT. TWO WEEKS AGO, HAARETZ REPORTED THAT ASHKENAZI HAD REFUSED FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO GIVE BARAQ A COPY OF THE EILAND REPORT, FINALLY HANDING IT OVER ONLY AFTER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM BARAQ'S OFFICE. ONE VETERAN SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIAL TERMED THE BARAQ-ASHKENAZI RELATIONSHIP THE WORST IN DECADES BETWEEN A CHIEF OF STAFF AND DEFENSE MINISTER. THEIR ANTIPATHY, HE ADDED, HARMS NATIONAL SECURITY BY IMPEDING THE CONDUCT OF THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT'S DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS. AT THE MEETING ON JULY 22, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE IDF AND FROM BARAQ'S OFFICE, EILAND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE FAR MORE CRITICAL OF THE IDF THAN THEY HAD BEEN AT THEIR JULY 12 PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE REPORT.

ASKED ABOUT THE RAID'S APPROVAL PROCESS, KOKHAVI TOLD THE MKS, "THERE WAS NO PROBLEM WITH APPROVAL. IT WAS PRESENTED TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER AND THE SEPTET (OF TOP CABINET MINISTERS), AND THE PRIME MINISTER INSTRUCTED THE DEFENSE MINISTER TO COORDINATE THE MATTER. THE MINISTER SUMMONED (REPRESENTATIVES OF) ALL THE MINISTRIES AND THE IDF, AND THE FEELING AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION WAS THAT EVERYTHING WAS READY." THE IDF DID NOT PRESENT WORST-CASE SCENARIOS, AS IT SHOULD HAVE, KOKHAVI CONTINUED. AND WHILE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE IS WEAK, THERE WAS NO EXCUSE FOR ITS FAILURE TO TAKE EVEN THE MINIMAL STEP OF TRACKING STATEMENTS MADE BY BULENT YILDIRIM, HEAD OF THE TURKISH GROUP THAT SPONSORED THE FLOTILLA, IHH, IN THE PRECEDING TWO MONTHS. IF IT HAD, HE SAID, IT "WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS GOING ON." "THE SADDEST PART, IN MY VIEW, WAS THE LACK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NAVY AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE," HE ADDED. ANOTHER EILAND COMMITTEE MEMBER, BRIG. GEN. (RES. ) YUVAL HALAMISH, SAID THAT "WITH MORE EFFORT," IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO GET AN AGENT ABOARD THE SHIP.

BUT WHILE KOKHAVI'S STATEMENTS COULD BE SEEN AS ACQUITTING THE CABINET OF RESPONSIBILITY, THIS CONCLUSION IS PROBLEMATIC BECAUSE THE EILAND COMMITTEE DID NOT EXAMINE THE CABINET'S CONDUCT. ITS MANDATE WAS SOLELY TO PROBE THE IDF, AND IT HAD NO ACCESS TO SOME OF THE RELEVANT CABINET DOCUMENTS. IN FACT, SENIOR GENERAL STAFF OFFICERS WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF HOW PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU, AND ESPECIALLY BARAQ, HANDLED THE AFFAIR. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GIYORA EILAND DEFENDED THE DECISION NOT TO RECOMMEND PUNISHING ANY OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED, SAYING THE FLOTILLA FAILURE WAS BALANCED BY "ASTONISHING" SUCCESSES OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, OF WHICH PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE. THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE CONTENT OF KOKHAVI'S REMARKS, BUT SAID IT REGRETTED THAT THE SECURITY OF "ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY CLASSIFIED FORUMS IN THE KNESSET" HAD BEEN VIOLATED, AS SUCH LEAKS DAMAGE STATE SECURITY.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 992365

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT

SERIAL: CPP20081230968128

COUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, WEST BANK

SUBJ: XINHUA TOLD: 'FREE GAZA MOVEMENT' SAYS ISRAELI NAVY STOPS VESSEL CARRYING AID (U)

REF: 1. XINHUA TOLD: INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO SAIL WITH 'FREE GAZA MOVEMENT' SHIP CPP20081230968122 XINHUA ENGLISH 0724 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U) SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0816 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U)

TEXT:

UPDATED VERSION: ADDING URGENT TAG, UPGRADING PRECEDENCE, REWRITING SUBJECT LINE; XINHUA BY ISRAELI NAVY: ""FREE GAZA MOVEMENT" CONFIRMS ITS SHIP STOPPED BY ISRAELI NAVY" (U)

**NEWS AGENCIES** 

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JERUSALEM, DEC. 30 (XINHUA) -- A SHIP CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID ON ITS WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP WAS STOPPED TUESDAY MORNING BY THE ISRAELI NAVY AND WAS STARTING TO RETURN TO CYPRUS, AN INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS GROUP SAID.

THE SPOKESWOMAN OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT ANGELA GODFREY-GOLDSTEIN TOLD XINHUA THAT THE SHIP WAS SURROUNDED VESSEL WHEN IT SAILED IN THE INTERNATIONAL SEA BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER OF THE GAZA STRIP.

"THE SHIP WAS BADLY DAMAGED," SHE ADDED.

SIXTEEN PEOPLE INCLUDING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, DOCTORS AND JOURNALISTS BOARDED THE SHIP AT THE CYPRIOT PORT OF LARNACA LATE AFTERNOON MONDAY, FROM WHERE THEY WILL MAKE A "SYMBOLIC" ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE BORDER INTO GAZA ON AN EMERGENCY MISSION TO HELP EASE THE SUFFERING OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE COASTAL AREA.

THE SPOKESMAN OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY YIGAL PALMOR STRESSED THAT THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES DIDN'T INTEND TO ATTACK THE SHIP, EXPLAINING THAT "THE PATROL BOAT OF THE IDF WAS TRYING TO PREVENT IT FROM ENTERING THE COMBAT ZONE OF GAZA."

"THE PATROL BOAT APPROACHED THE SHIP AND SENT A WARNING BY RADIO, BUT RECEIVED NO REPLY. SUDDENLY, THE SHIP MADE A DANGEROUS BYPASS AND COLLIDED WITH THE PATROL BOAT," SAID PALMOR. "THE SHIP NOW IS BEING ESCORTED THE ISRAELI PATROL BOAT ON THE WAY BACK TO CYPRUS."

HOWEVER, SOURCES CLOSE TO THE ACTIVISTS ON THE SHIP OF FREE GAZA MOVEMENT CLAIMED IT DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH THE ISLAND.

THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT FIRST MADE THE CROSSING IN AUGUST TO HIGHLIGHT THE PLIGHT OF THE IMPOVERISHED TERRITORY'S 1.5 MILLION PALESTINIAN RESIDENTS.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH -- CHINA'S OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AUDIENCES (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 996640

WARNING: TOPIC: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC,

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SERIAL: GMP20081231966002

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA, CYPRUS, ISRAEL, LEBANON, WEST BANK

#### SUBJ: THE DAILY STAR: GAZA-BOUND AID VESSEL LIMPS INTO TYRE (U)

SOURCE: BEIRUT THE DAILY STAR ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0113 GMT 31 DEC 08 (U)

TEXT:

"GAZA-BOUND AID VESSEL LIMPS INTO TYRE" -- THE DAILY STAR HEADLINE (U) OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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TYRE: AN ISRAELI WARSHIP COLLIDED ON TUESDAY WITH A BOAT CARRYING ACTIVISTS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT WAS TRYING TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA, FORCING IT TO DIVERT TO THE PORT OF TYRE IN LEBANON. PASSENGERS ON BOARD THE 20-METER DIGNITY SAID THE ISRAELI PATROL BOAT RAMMED THEIR VESSEL, CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE, BUT ISRAEL CLAIMED THE TWO BOATS COLLIDED AS THE ISRAELI NAVY WAS TRYING TO CONTACT ITS CAPTAIN.

TELEVISION PICTURES OF THE BOAT ENTERING THE PORT OF TYRE SHOWED A LARGE GASH IN THE BOW OF THE VESSEL ON THE PORT SIDE, WITH PIECES OF WOOD AND BROKEN GLASS COVERING THE DECK. THE BOAT WAS STRUCK A "MASSIVE" BLOW, SAID AUSTRALIAN PASSENGER RENEE BOWYER. "THE GLASS SHATTERED OVER TOP US. I WAS THROWN ACROSS THE ROOM. THE TABLES AND BENCHES BROKE AROUND ME," BOWYER TOLD AFP. "WE WERE ALL PRETTY SURE WE WERE BEING SHOT AT AND THAT WE'D SINK," SHE ADDED.

ANOTHER ACTIVIST ON THE GAZA-BOUND BOAT, FORMER AMERICAN CONGRESSWOMAN CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, SAID THE ISRAELI ACTIONS HAD BEEN DELIBERATE. "OUR MISSION OF SOLIDARITY AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF WAS DETERRED BY THE ISRAELIS PURPOSEFULLY TO KEEP US FROM DELIVERING THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO GAZA," MCKINNEY TOLD AFP. SHE DESCRIBED THE EXPERIENCE AS "ABSOLUTELY HARROWING."

NO ONE WAS INJURED IN THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE PATROL BOAT AND DIGNITY - OPERATED BY THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT - WHICH WAS TRYING TO TAKE THREE TONES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES INTO GAZA ON DAY FOUR OF ISRAELI AIR STRIKES ON THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY.

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN YIGAL PALMOR TOLD AFP THAT THE NAVAL VESSEL TRIED TO CONTACT THE AID BOAT BY RADIO FOR IDENTIFICATION AND TO INFORM IT THAT IT COULD NOT ENTER GAZA. "AFTER THE BOAT DID NOT ANSWER THE RADIO, IT SHARPLY VEERED AND THE TWO VESSELS COLLIDED, CAUSING ONLY LIGHT DAMAGE," PALMOR SAID.

HOWEVER, THE BOAT'S CAPTAIN, BRITON DENIS HEALEY, 54, SAID ON ARRIVING IN TYRE THAT THE ISRAELI NAVY HAD MADE "NO CONTACT" WITH THE DIGNITY. "TWO ISRAELI GUNBOATS WERE ON OUR PORT SIDE DISTRACTING US WITH THEIR BRIGHT LIGHTS WHEN ANOTHER ISRAELI GUNBOAT WITH ITS LIGHTS TURNED OFF RAMMED US FROM THE FRONT. I THINK THEY WERE DISTRACTING US FROM THE PORT SIDE," HEALEY TOLD AFP. "THE BOAT INITIALLY TOOK IN A LOT OF WATER," ADDED HEALEY, WHO SAID HE WAS "A BIT FRAZZLED."

THE ISRAELI SPOKESMAN ACCUSED THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISTS OF "SEEKING PROVOCATION MORE THAN EVER."

THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, WHICH HAS RUN THE BLOCKADE SIX TIMES SINCE AUGUST TO TAKE HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES INTO GAZA, SAID THE VESSEL COULD STILL SAIL AFTER THE RAMMING.

PAUL LARUDEE, ONE OF THE GROUP'S FOUNDERS, SAID THE DIGNITY HAD BEEN "SURROUNDED" IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS ABOUT 70 KILOMETERS OFF THE ISRAELI COAST AND 135 KILOMETERS FROM GAZA. "IT WAS SURROUNDED BY 11 ISRAELI NAVAL VESSELS," HE SAID. "THEY ORDERED THE BOAT TO STOP, AND WE DIDN'T. THEY BEGAN FIRING OVER OUR BOAT AND INTO THE WATERS NEXT TO THE BOAT. WHEN THE BOAT WOULDN'T TURN BACK, ONE OF THE NAVAL VESSELS RAMMED THE BOAT, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO DISABLE THE BOAT."

ON ITS WEBSITE, THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT SAID THE DIGNITY WAS ON A "MISSION OF MERCY" CARRYING THREE TONS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES "DONATED BY THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS," FROM WHERE IT SET OFF ON MONDAY.

THE DIGNITY WAS GIVEN A ROUSING WELCOME WHEN IT ARRIVED IN TYRE, WITH HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS RIDING ABOARD FISHING BOATS TO GREET THE ACTIVISTS WITH CHEERS AND A COLORFUL DISPLAY OF LEBANESE FLAGS AS WELL AS THOSE OF HIZBULLAH AND AMAL. AS IT DOCKED, SEVERAL HUNDRED FLAG-WAVING PALESTINIANS FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN TYRE GATHERED TO WELCOME THE ACTIVISTS.

PRESIDENT MICHEL SLEIMAN HAD ANNOUNCED EARLIER THAT THE BOAT WAS WELCOME TO DOCK IN ANY LEBANESE PORT AND THAT AN ESCORT WOULD BE PROVIDED ONCE IT REACHED TERRITORIAL WATERS. - AFP

TAGS: ISRAEL, LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIRUT THE DAILY STAR ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF THE INDEPENDENT DAILY, THE DAILY STAR; URL: HTTP://DAILYSTAR.COM.LB

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

R 301001Z DEC 08
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CITE OSC RESTON VA 992675

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: EUP20081230431005

COUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

### SUBJ: ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CYPRUS SAYS SS DIGNITY HIT ISRAELI VESSEL (U)

REF: 1. CYPRIOT MP SAYS PASSENGERS ON BOAT DESTINED FOR GAZA 'WELL' EUP20081230431001 CNA ENGLISH 0615 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U)

SOURCE: NICOSIA CNA IN ENGLISH 0925 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U)

TEXT:

"ISRAEL SAYS SS DIGNITY HIT ISRAELI VESSEL"--CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY HEADLINE (U)

**NEWS AGENCIES** 

OSC TRANSCRIBED TEXT

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NICOSIA, DEC 30 (CNA) - THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN CYPRUS HAS ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE, COMMUNICATED BY AN ISRAELI NAVY SPOKESPERSON, SAYING THAT THE SS DIGNITY, CARRYING MEDICAL AID FROM CYPRUS TO GAZA, HIT AN ISRAELI VESSEL, WHICH HAD HAILED IT TO TURN ROUND.

"THE SS DIGNITY SET SAIL FROM CYPRUS ON DECEMBER 29 TOWARDS THE GAZA STRIP. DURING THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING THE SHIP, ISRAELI NAVAL VESSELS APPROACHED IN ORDER TO INFORM IT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE GAZA STRIP, WHICH IS A WAR ZONE AND UNDER CLOSURE." THE PRESS RELEASE SAYS.

IT ADDS THAT "THE DIGNITY DID NOT ANSWER THE ISRAELI HAIL AND RESPONDED BY MAKING A SHARP TURN" AND THAT "THE ISRAELI VESSEL WAS FORCED TO EXECUTE EMERGENCY MANEUVERS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DIGNITY."

"THE DIGNITY CONTINUED SAILING AND HIT THE ISRAELI VESSEL. BOTH VESSELS SUFFERED LIGHT DAMAGE," IT SAYS.

THE PRESS RELEASE NOTES THAT, "FOLLOWING THIS INCIDENT, THE DIGNITY ANSWERED THE ISRAELI HAIL AND BEGAN MOVING TOWARDS CYPRUS."

"ISRAELI NAVAL SHIPS ARE ESCORTING THE DIGNITY AND EXTENDING ANY ASSISTANCE REQUIRED ON ITS WAY TO THE CYPRIOT PORT OF LARNACA. THE ISRAELI NAVY OFFERED ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE SHIP AND WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY," IT SAYS.

IT ADDS THAT "THE FACT THAT JOURNALISTS WERE AMONG THOSE ABOARD THE DIGNITY INDICATES THAT THE PURPOSE AND BEHAVIOUR OF THE SHIP WAS PRIMARILY TO CREATE A MEDIA EVENT."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: NICOSIA CNA IN ENGLISH - GOVERNMENT AFFILIATED CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 300946Z DEC 08 FM OSC RESTON VA TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV UNCLAS QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 992601

WARNING: TOPIC: URGENT, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: CPP20081230968134

COUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, WEST BANK

# SUBJ: XINHUA TOLD: 'FREE GAZA MOVEMENT' SAYS AID SHIP 'BADLY DAMAGED' BY ISRAELI NAVY (U)

REF: 1. XINHUA TOLD: 'FREE GAZA MOVEMENT' SAYS ISRAELI NAVY STOPS VESSEL CARRYING AID CPP20081230968128 XINHUA ENGLISH 0816 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U)

2. XINHUA TOLD: INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO SAIL WITH 'FREE GAZA MOVEMENT' SHIP CPP20081230968122 XINHUA ENGLISH 0724 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U)

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 0911 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U)

TEXT:

XINHUA: ""FREE GAZA" SHIP APPROACHING LEBANESE TERRITORIES: AL-JAZEERA" (U) NEWS AGENCIES

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BEIRUT, DEC. 30 (XINHUA) -- THE "FREE GAZA" SHIP RAMMED BY AN ISRAELI PATROL VESSEL ON WATERS NEAR GAZA EARLY TUESDAY IS NOW APPROACHING LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATER, OATAR'S AL-JAZEERA TV REPORTED.

ACCORDING TO THE TV REPORT, THE SMALL CABIN CRUISER "DIGNITY" WOULD REACH SOUTHERN LEBANESE PORT OF TYRE IN FOUR HOURS FROM NOW.

LEBANESE PRESIDENT MICHEL SULEIMAN HAS GIVEN ORDERS TO RESCUE THE AID SHIP ONCE IT REACHES LEBANESE WATER.

EARLIER, PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT ISRAELI GUNBOATS ON TUESDAY HIT THE FRONT OF A SHIP, CARRYING PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES, WHEN IT APPROACHED THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE GAZA STRIP AND TURNED THE BOAT BACK.

IT IS THE FIRST TIME THE ISRAELI NAVY PREVENTS THE BOAT, CHARTERED BY THE U.S.-BASED FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, AFTER IT HAS COMPLETED FIVE SUCCESSFUL VOYAGES TO BREAK ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE ON GAZA BETWEEN AUGUST AND DECEMBER.

"THE GUNBOATS CAUSED DAMAGE TO THE BOAT, WHICH SAILED FROM CYPRUS, AND FORCED IT BACK AMID FEARS THAT IT WILL SINK DUE TO THE DAMAGE," SAID AMJAD ALSHAWA. A PALESTINIAN NGO WORKER.

DOCTORS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES WERE ONBOARD, TRYING TO REACH GAZA WHERE ISRAEL HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT UNPRECEDENTED AREAL OFFENSIVE SINCE SATURDAY. KILLING MORE THAN 350 PALESTINIANS AND WOUNDING MORE THAN 1,500 PEOPLE.

THE SPOKESWOMAN OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT ANGELA GODFREY-GOLDSTEIN TOLD XINHUA THAT THE SHIP WAS SURROUNDED BY ISRAELI NAVY VESSEL WHEN IT SAILED IN THE INTERNATIONAL SEA BEFORE ENTERING THE WATER OF THE GAZA STRIP.

"THE SHIP WAS BADLY DAMAGED," SHE ADDED.

SIXTEEN PEOPLE INCLUDING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, DOCTORS AND JOURNALISTS BOARDED THE SHIP AT THE CYPRIOT PORT OF LARNACA LATE AFTERNOON MONDAY, FROM WHERE THEY WILL MAKE A "SYMBOLIC" ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE BORDER INTO GAZA ON AN EMERGENCY MISSION TO HELP EASE THE SUFFERING OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE COASTAL AREA.

THE SPOKESMAN OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY YIGAL PALMOR STRESSED THAT THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES DIDN'T INTEND TO ATTACK THE SHIP, EXPLAINING THAT "THE PATROL BOAT OF THE IDF WAS TRYING TO PREVENT IT FROM ENTERING THE COMBAT ZONE OF GAZA."

"THE PATROL BOAT APPROACHED THE SHIP AND SENT A WARNING BY RADIO, BUT RECEIVED NO REPLY. SUDDENLY, THE SHIP MADE A DANGEROUS BYPASS AND COLLIDED WITH THE PATROL BOAT," SAID PALMOR. "THE SHIP NOW IS BEING ESCORTED THE ISRAELI PATROL BOAT ON THE WAY BACK TO CYPRUS."

AN ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN APPEARED ON AL-JAZEERA SAYING THAT ITS NAVY PREVENTED THE SHIP FROM APPROACHING BECAUSE IT IS FULL OF JOURNALIST AND IT IS "AN ACT OF PROVOCATION AND PROPAGANDA."

"THIS IS A PROPAGANDA MESSAGE WHICH WE REFUSE." THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

AL-JAZEERA REPORTED THAT ISRAELI PATROL VESSELS SAILED AWAY AS THE SHIP STARTED TO APPROACH LEBANESE TERRITORIAL WATER.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BELJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH -- CHINA'S OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AUDIENCES (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY)

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 300640Z DEC 08

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 991780

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20081230738003

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, CYPRUS

SUBJ: ISRAELI NAVY BOAT COLLIDES WITH AID SHIP HEADED FOR GAZA, NO CASUALTIES REPORTED (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW 0600 GMT 30 DEC 08 (U) TEXT:
RADIO
OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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THE ISRAELI NAVY PREVENTED A SHIP CARRYING AID THAT SAILED FROM CYPRUS FROM REACHING GAZA'S SHORES. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THAT THE SHIP TRIED TO OVERTAKE THE ISRAELI MISSILE BOAT IN MID-SEA. THE TWO VESSELS COLLIDED AND SUSTAINED DAMAGE, OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT NOTES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES. ISRAEL RADIO'S MONITOR MEYTAL DAHAN REPORTS THAT THE SHIP'S CREW CLAIM THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH CYPRUS AND THAT THE SHIP MAY BE ON ITS WAY TO LEBANON.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM VOICE OF ISRAEL NETWORK B IN HEBREW -- STATE-FUNDED RADIO, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 150938Z JUN 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 509777

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, TERRORISM, PROLIFERATION

SERIAL: GMP20100615739008\_

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, CYPRUS

#### SUBJ: SHIN BET CHIEF: LIFTING GAZA SIEGE 'DANGEROUS' FOR ISRAEL; HAMAS HAS 4,000 ROCKETS (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH 0907 GMT 15 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY JONATHAN LIS: "SHIN BET CHIEF: LIFTING GAZA SIEGE WOULD HAVE DANGEROUS RESULTS" (U)

INTERNET

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SHIN BET SECURITY SERVICE DIRECTOR YUVAL DISKIN WARNED ON TUESDAY THAT LIFTING THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON GAZA COULD HAVE DANGEROUS REPERCUSSIONS. SPEAKING AT THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING, DISKIN SAID THAT LIFTING THE BLOCKADE, PUT IN PLACE THREE YEARS AGO WHEN HAMAS WRESTLED POWER OVER THE GAZA STRIP IN A BLOODY COUP, WOULD BE A "DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT FOR ISRAEL." "IT WOULD BE A HUGE SECURITY BREACH, EVEN IF SHIPS ARE INSPECTED ALONG THE WAY IN INTERNATIONAL PORTS EN ROUTE TO GAZA," HE WARNED. THE PORT OF NICOSIA WAS MENTIONED DURING THE MEETING, AS IT WAS THE PORT WHERE THE SHIPS OF THE GAZA-BOUND AID FLOTILLA DOCKED LAST MONTH BEFORE ISRAELI NAVY COMMANDOS CLASHED WITH ACTIVISTS ABOARD ONE OF THE SHIPS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

DISKIN ADDED THAT TERROR ORGANIZATIONS IN GAZA ARE CONTINUING TO ARM THEMSELVES AND GAIN STRENGTH, BOTH BY INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS AND BY SMUGGLING. "THE HAMAS AND THE ISLAMIC JIHAD ARE IN POSSESSION OF 5,000 ROCKETS IN THE GAZA STRIP, WITH A RANGE OF UP TO 40 KILOMETERS," DISKIN EXPLAINED. "OF THOSE ROCKETS, 4,000 BELONG TO HAMAS." "HAMAS ALSO POSSESSES SEVERAL ROCKETS THAT CAN REACH CENTRAL ISRAEL," DISKIN WENT ON TO SAY.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE SHIN BET ALSO ADDRESSED ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO EASE THE GENERAL BLOCKADE ON GAZA, SAYING THAT "THERE IS NO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE GAZA STRIP. I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH EASING THE TRANSFER OF GOODS FROM ISRAEL. BUT WEAPONS ARE BEING SMUGGLED RIGHT NOW FROM SINAL."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH – WEBSITE OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF HA'ARETZ, LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY OF RECORD; URL: HTTP://WWW.HAARETZ.COM

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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER

SERIAL: GMP20100523739006

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION: UN

### SUBJ: ISRAEL: UNRWA HEAD IN GAZA SUPPORTS 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' TO BREAK 'SIEGE' (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL NOT TO ALLOW SOLIDARITY FLOTILLA TO ENTER GAZA STRIP COAST 'NEXT WEEK' GMP20100518740011 MA'ARIV HEBREW 0000 GMT 18 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0631 GMT 23 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "UNRWA HEAD IN GAZA VOICES SUPPORT FOR FLOTILLA" (U)

INTERNET

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AS THREE OF THE EIGHT SHIPS IN THE 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' HEADED FOR GAZA LEFT ISTANBUL, THE HEAD OF THE UNITED NATION'S RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY (UNRWA) IN THE GAZA STRIP, JOHN GING, VOICED SUPPORT FOR THE ACTION. "WE RECOMMEND THE WORLD SEND SHIPS TO THE SHORES OF GAZA, AND WE BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT STOP THESE VESSELS BECAUSE THE SEA IS OPEN," GING SAID. "MANY HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PREVIOUS SIMILAR STEPS, AND PROVED THAT BREAKING THE SIEGE ON GAZA IS POSSIBLE," HE CONTINUED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL

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FM OSC

# Turkish Aid Convoy to Gaza Said May Cause Tension With Egypt (U)

GMP20100411017005[0] Istanbul Sunday's Zaman Online in English 11 Apr 10 (U)

[Report by Ayse Karabat: "Upcoming Aid Ship Convoy May Stoke Tensions Between Turkey and Egypt" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

The Turkish Humanitarian Aid Foundation (IHH), together with several other international nongovernmental organizations, is planning to sail to Gaza with seven aid ships to draw attention to the embargo on the besieged area, but Egyptian and Palestinian diplomatic sources warn that such a move could create diplomatic problems and may not actually be beneficial to the people of Gaza.

The diplomatic sources recalled that a similar move by the Viva Palestina convoy last December caused problems and said this time the problems could be even more severe.

The December convoy, which carried British, Arab and Turkish aid to Gaza, first went to Aqaba, situated far from Gaza. Egyptian authorities did not allow the convoy to cross Egypt and directed it to El Arish, the closest harbor to Gaza. Demonstrations against Cairo were held in Turkey at that time.

IHH spokesman Salih Bilici said their goal this time is to enter Gaza via the Gaza harbor and that while they are aware of possible problems, they don't have an alternative plan. "We don't have a plan B, C or D. We have decided to reach to Gaza by sea and enter via its port," he told Sunday's Zaman.

He said they bought two ships for this purpose, one passenger vessel with a 1,083-person capacity, and a cargo vessel that can hold 3,500 tons. British NGOs will contribute two ships to the fleet, Greece one ship and Irish NGOs will send another. It is expected that five ships carrying aid to Gaza will set sail near the end of May.

Bilici said that in addition to medical aid, the ships would carry construction materials. "We are taking construction materials as a symbolic gesture. Since the war, construction materials have not been allowed in; there are many government buildings, schools and hospitals in Gaza that were devastated. We want to convey the message that 'they are destroying, we are rebuilding'," Bilici said.

Bilici claims that Israel does not have any right to prevent them from entering Gaza's port but said that Israel might find an excuse: "They could find some pretexts, like holding military exercises, for not letting us reach Gaza. But we will. We will enter Gaza by sea via the Gaza port. We are determined," he said. According to Israeli sources, it is not possible to enter Gaza by sea, and additionally construction materials are not allowed in under any circumstances.

"We think those kinds of convoys are political. They are more directed at political propaganda and less directed at humanitarian aid," Amit Zarouk, a spokesperson at the Israeli Embassy in Ankara, told Sunday's Zaman.

He claimed that there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza now, that electricity to the area is supplied by Israel, that exports are allowed from Gaza, that hundreds of trucks carrying food enter Gaza every day and that all sorts of medical aid is free to enter Gaza.

"But there are well-known ways to do this, and these are the ways used by the UN aid agencies, other international organizations and the Turkish Red Crescent. There are two gates to Gaza, Karni and Kerem Shalom. The sea route is not acceptable for us," he said.

Zarouk underlined that the cement and iron will not be allowed to enter Gaza under any circumstances. "Those kinds of materials, instead of making houses for people, are used for building bunkers and reinforcing the armed capacity of Hamas and also constructing tunnels for smuggling weapons," he said. When he was asked what would happen if the ships tries to enter Gaza, Zarouk answered that he couldn't say at the moment.

"This propaganda is not acceptable, and we will deal with it accordingly," he said.

In the past, Israel had two tactics: Either the Israeli Navy would force ships to dock at the Port of Ashdod in Israel, unload the aid and after inspecting it send to Gaza or force ships to turn back to open sea. According to Palestinian Ambassador to Turkey Nabil Maarouf, Israel would never let such an aid fleet enter Gaza, and the fleet will be forced to alter its route to dock at the El-Arish port. If this is the case, the ambassador noted, such a situation could create diplomatic problems.

Egyptian Ambassador to Turkey Abderahman Salaheldin told Sunday's Zaman that the rules are very clear on sending humanitarian aid to Gaza: "First of all they need to notify us ahead of time about their plans and give us details of their humanitarian aid. Medical supplies will go to the Refah crossing, but the non-medical assistance has to be coordinated with Israel," he said and added that so far they had not received any request from the IHH or the other NGOs.

The Egyptian ambassador recalled that any initiative aiming to help the Palestinian cause should remember that Israel wants to make the division of Palestine at Gaza and the West Bank in order to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Ambassador Salaheldin added that they are constantly sending aid to Gaza and working for the reconciliation of Palestine, which would be in the best interests of the Palestinians.

"To supply humanitarian aid is only one part of efforts to help our Palestinian brothers. We should be working hand-in-hand for peace and an independent Palestine state. If

*コ*ンフ*- ユ* 10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000690 the Turkish public is not well educated in the situation, we will lack the support of this very energetic public for this cause," he said and added that everybody should understand the laws and international obligations of Egypt and no one should put Egypt in the same boat with Israel the occupier.

The IHH 's Bilici said that they were aware of the fact that both Israel and Egypt might try to prevent them from entering but argued that since their motive is humanitarian and they have the support of 42 countries' NGOs, these two countries will be obliged to step back.

"Last time Egypt was criticized by the international community, especially by the Arab and Islamic media. We don't think they will repeat this," Bilici said. When he was asked if they had ever communicated with Israeli and Egyptian authorities about their planned trip, he said no.

Last time Egyptian authorities directed the convoy to the port of El Arish, where scuffles broke out between members of the convoy and the Egyptian police after part of the convoy was barred from entering Gaza. Violence erupted during solidarity protests held by Palestinians in Gaza awaiting the convoy's arrival, resulting in the death of an Egyptian policeman. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed About Gheit described the aid convoy as "farcical" and said the country would no longer allow such solidarity convoys and that from now on all aid to Gaza must be handled by the Red Crescent at El Arish.

Ambassador Maarouf warned that the same scenes could be repeated, that such a move might cause diplomatic problems and that the Palestinians might not be benefit from the aid.

"I have another proposal, and I am discussing it with the NGOs," Ambassador Maaruf said and explained his suggestion as follows: "I am suggesting we gather the Turkish, Palestinian and Egyptian Red Crescents, form a convoy, but not of ships, raise the three flags and coordinate it together and enter Gaza. This way the ultimate aim of helping Gaza will be achieved. The three Red Crescents can directly distribute food to the people. This will also serve to enhance relations between Egypt and Turkey, instead of creating problems in Ankara-Cairo relations."

When Bilici was asked about this suggestion, he said their journey aims to enter Gaza via the Gaza seaport. "We are not calculating anything but to enter Gaza. We are determined to do it, because by sea it is possible to carry more aid than over land. Secondly we want to show the world that it is possible to break the embargo for humanitarian reasons." he said.

[Description of Source: Istanbul Sunday's Zaman Online in English -- Website of

Sunday edition of Today's Zaman, published by the Zaman media group, supported by Nurcu Sect leader Fethullah Gulen; URL: http://www.sundayszaman.com]

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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20110426738011

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, CYPRUS, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL: ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT AID FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL INVITES GAZA AID FLOTILLA TO UNLOAD CARGO AT ASHDOD PORT GMP20100527738002 ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY ENGLISH 0000 GMT 27

MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: ISRAEL -- OSC SUMMARY IN ENGLISH 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

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OSC SUMMARY

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THE ISRAELI MEDIA ON 28 MAY CONTINUES TO REPORT ON ISRAEL'S PREPARATIONS FOR BLOCKING THE IHH FLOTILLA THAT SAILED OUT FROM ISTANBUL EN ROUTE TO BREAK THE SIEGE ON THE GAZA STRIP.

ARMED COMMANDOS SET TO INTERCEPT FLOTILLA, CYPRUS WON'T LET 5HIPS ANCHOR

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20110426738011001.JPG) HAARETZ MAP SHOWS ROUTE OF AID FLOTILLA HEADING FOR GAZA STRIP

TOVA LAZAROFF REPORTS IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH: "NAVY COMMANDOS WILL BOARD THE NINE INTERNATIONAL AID SHIPS SAILING TOWARD GAZA CITY IF THEY DON'T TURN BACK, AND THE COMMANDOS WILL BE ARMED IN CASE TERRORISTS ARE HIDING ABOARD, DEFENSE OFFICIALS SAID ON THURSDAY. THE SHIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO TRY TO BREAK THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP ON SATURDAY. THEY ARE CARRYING AROUND 750 ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, AS WELL AS ABOUT 10,000 TONS OF SUPPLIES. TOP IDF OFFICERS SAID ON THURSDAY THAT THE NAVY WILL NOT 'TAKE ANY CHANCES' IF AND WHEN IT BOARDS THE SHIPS, AND WILL IMMEDIATELY INSPECT THEM FOR EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING USING BOMB-SNIFFING DOGS FROM THE IDF'S OKETZ K9 UNIT. THE NAVY PLANS TO BOARD THE SHIPS IF THEY REFUSE TO TURN AROUND.

"THE SHIPS WILL RECEIVE A NUMBER OF WARNINGS FROM THE NAVY AS THEY BEGIN TO MAKE THEIR APPROACH TO THE GAZA STRIP, STARTING FROM A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 65 KILOMETERS. IF THE SHIPS ARE COMMANDEERED, THEY WILL BE SAILED TO THE ASHDOD PORT, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET UP TENTS TO HOLD THE ACTIVISTS. THE ACTIVISTS WILL BE TAKEN INTO THE TENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY VOLUNTARILY. IF THEY REFUSE, THEY WILL BE ARRESTED AND TRANSFERRED TO THE CUSTODY OF THE PRISONS SERVICE AND THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL BE PRESENT TO HANDLE THE DIPLOMATS WHO ARE ON BOARD THE SHIPS, WHILE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JOURNALISTS."

"IDF SOURCES SAID THE MILITARY WAS PLANNING ON NOT HAVING TO USE ANY FORCE DURING THE OPERATION BUT WAS PREPARED FOR ANY SCENARIO THAT COULD DEVELOP, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SHIPS HAVE BEEN RIGGED WITH EXPLOSIVES BY TERRORISTS. 'UNTIL WE ARE ON BOARD, WE WILL NOT KNOW FOR SURE WHO AND WHAT ARE ON THE SHIPS,' A SENIOR OFFICER SAID. THE OPERATION WILL INVOLVE THOUSANDS OF IDF AND SECURITY PERSONNEL, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF ELITE UNITS, TRAINED IN NON-LETHAL CROWD DISPERSION TACTICS THAT WILL BE USED, IF NEEDED, WHEN BOARDING THE VESSELS.

"LATE THURSDAY EVENING, CYPRIOT OFFICIALS ASSURED ISRAEL THAT CYPRUS WOULD NOT LET THE FLOTILLA ANCHOR NEAR ITS SHORES, SAIL IN ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS OR USE ITS PORTS."

IDF WORRIED ABOUT RIOTING IN HOLDING AREAS AFTER DISEMBARKATION

(ATTACHMENT NOT INCLUDED: GMP20110426738011002 IPG) 10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000693

ISRAELI NAVY BOATS INVITE FLOTILLA FOR CAKE AND COFFEE "AT MA'ASIYAHU PRISON" (HAARETZ CARTOON BY ERAN WOLKOWITZ)

ANSHEL PFEFFER AND YUVAL AZULAY REPORT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: "DEFENSE SOURCES EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT RIOTING IN THE HOLDING AREA, SO THIS SPACE WILL BE OFF LIMITS TO THE MEDIA. THERE ARE ALSO WORRIES THAT THE ACTIVISTS, TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO EXPEL THEM, WILL DESTROY THEIR PASSPORTS AND REFUSE TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES."

ISRAELI ADVOCACY GROUP TO GREET FLOTILLA WITH OWN DEMONSTRATION

ZOE FOX REPORTS IN THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE: "THE EUROPEAN 'FREEDOM FLOTILLA' MAKING ITS WAY TO GAZA BEARING HUMANITARIAN AID AND ACTIVISTS MAY HAVE A SURPRISE WAITING WHEN IT REACHES ISRAEL'S SOUTHERN WATERS ON FRIDAY. ISRAEL ADVOCACY GROUP STANDWITHUS PLANS TO GREET THE EUROPEAN CONVOY WITH ITS OWN DEMONSTRATION AT SEA. A FLEET OF PRIVATELY OWNED ISRAELI BOATS WILL LEAVE THE ASHDOD AND HERZLIYYA MARINAS IN HOPES OF SURPRISING THE EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS. FRIDAY AT 1 P.M.

"THE COUNTER-FLOTILLA SHIPS WILL BE COVERED IN 'FREE GAZA FROM HAMAS' BANNERS AND BOAT OWNERS WILL WEAR BLOODSTAINED T-SHIRTS, REPRESENTING HAMAS'S TERROR RECORD. STANDWITHUS AND INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS WILL FUND THE DEMONSTRATION. 'WHAT THE OTHER ANTI-ISRAEL FLOTILLA IS DOING IS IGNORING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND FOCUSING ON A FAKE SITUATION,' MICHAEL DICKSON, STANDWITHUS'S ISRAEL DIRECTOR, TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST THURSDAY. DICKSON BELIEVES THE EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS CARE MORE ABOUT HURTING ISRAEL THAN HELPING THE PALESTINIANS IN GAZA."

COMPLEX SYSTEM OF MIDEAST ALLIANCES SEEN EMERGING, TURKISH GROUP INVOLVEMENT NOT COINCIDENTAL

AMOS HAR'EL AND AVI ISSACHAROFF REPORT IN LEFT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT TEL AVIV HAARETZ.COM IN ENGLISH: "THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TIME THE NAVY HAS HAD TO TAKE OVER SUCH SHIPS TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE GAZA STRIP, BUT THIS TIME THE FLOTILLA IS LARGER THAN BEFORE. IN PREVIOUS CASES, THE GOVERNMENT OF EHUD OLMERT ALLOWED SHIPS TO ENTER THE GAZA STRIP. A YEAR AGO, UNDER BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, A SHIP WAS STOPPED BY FORCE AND ITS CREW WAS ARRESTED AND DEPORTED. THIS TIME THE CONFRONTATION IS EXPECTED TO BE LARGER, LOUDER AND WILL REQUIRE MORE CAREFUL AND PROFESSIONAL HANDLING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE TOP MILITARY BRASS.

"IN THE APPROACHING CLASH, THE COMPLEX SYSTEM OF ALLIANCES AND COUNTER-ALLIANCES OF THE MIDDLE EAST IS BEGINNING TO EMERGE. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE COINCIDENTAL THAT THE ISLAMIST GOVERNING PARTY IN TURKEY IS INVOLVED, BEHIND THE SCENES, IN DISPATCHING THE FLOTILLA, IN COORDINATION WITH HAMAS IN THE GAZA STRIP. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT IT IS COINCIDENTAL THAT THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE HELD THIS WEEK EXERCISES WITH GREECE, THE TRADITIONAL RIVAL OF TURKEY, OF THE SORT THAT TWO YEARS AGO WERE CARRIED OUT MOSTLY IN TURKEY.

"THE FLOTILLA IS NOT EXPECTED TO ALTER IN ANY SUBSTANTIAL WAY THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP. IT IS MOSTLY A BATTLE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS THAT IS MEANT TO STRIKE A BLOW AT ISRAEL. PERHAPS IF ISRAEL WAS LESS EAGER TO CONFRONT THE ACTIVISTS, SOME OF THE MEDIA ATTENTION WOULD HAVE DISSIPATED. HAD THE FLOTILLA BEEN ALLOWED IN, HAMAS WOULD HAVE ITS DAY, AND THE ENTIRE AFFAIR WOULD EVAPORATE QUICKLY.

"HOWEVER, THE BASIC PROBLEM FACED BY ISRAEL GOES FAR BEYOND THIS FLOTILLA. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BLAMES ISRAEL FOR ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THE GAZA STRIP -- MORE OR LESS. IF IN THE WEST BANK THE OCCUPATION IS THE SOURCE OF ALL EVIL, THEN IN THE GAZA STRIP THE ISRAELI SIEGE OF THE TERRITORY IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE CENTRAL PROBLEM."

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.



R 241823Z OCT 10

FM OSC RESTON VA TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 381756

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, CRIME SERIAL: GMP20101024739015 COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

#### SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMY CHIEF GOES BEFORE TURKEL CTTEE FOR 2D TIME, NOTES TROOPS' RESTRAINT (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH 0830 GMT 24 OCT 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY HANAN GREENBERG: "ASHKENAZI GOES BEFORE TURKEL CTTEE AGAIN" (U)

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AFTER HIS APPEARANCE TWO MONTHS AGO, IDF CHIEF OF STAFF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL GABI ASHKENAZI APPEARED BEFORE THE TURKEL COMMITTEE, INVESTIGATING THE RAID ON MAY'S GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA ON SUNDAY, FOR THE SECOND TIME. COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JUDGE JACOB TURKEL PRAISED THE ARMY'S COOPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE BUT INTIMATED THAT NEVERTHLESS, ADDITIONAL MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE CALLED TO TESTIFY.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF BEGAN HIS STATEMENTS BY NOTING THAT THE LEVEL OF DETAIL INCLUDED IN THE INTERNAL REPORTS HANDED TO THE PANEL BY THE ARMY WAS UNPRECEDENTED: "THE REPORTS ENHANCE MY SENSE OF PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE SOLDIERS. IT REAFFIRMED THE CONCLUSIONS AND ILLUSTRATED THE VIOLENT PREPARATION AND OUR MEASURED RESPONSE," HE SAID.

ASHKENAZI STRESSED THAT "THE SOLDIERS DID NOT IMMEDIATELY OPEN FIRE AND EVEN RISKED THEMSELVES TO A GREAT EXTENT.
ONE OF THEM, WHO WAS BEING STRANGLED, USED A NEARBY SHOCK GRENADE TO RESCUE HIMSELF." HE STRESSED THAT THE
COMMANDOS ACTED IN A RESTRAINED MANNER AND DID NOT HURT THOSE "WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN HURT."

DURING THE TESTIMONY, TURKEL TURNED TO ASHKENAZI AND ASKED: "WHY WEREN'T SHOCK GRENADES USED WHEN THE HELICOPTERS WERE HOVERING OVER THE SHIP AND THE SOLDIERS WERE BEING LOWERED DOWN?" ASHKENAZI REPLIED: "IT'S NOT EASY HOVERING OVER ANOTHER SHIP AND LOWERING DOWN SOLDIERS. IT'S NOT THE SAME AS OVER A BUILDING ROOF. WE USED SHOCK GRENADES BEFORE SOLDIERS WERE LOWERED DOWN."

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE NOTED: "YOU HURLED THEM AND IT DID NOT HAVE ANY EFFECT."

#### LOOTING CLAIMS

THE IDF CHIEF ALSO ADDRESSED THE LOOTING CLAIMS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SAID, "THESE ARE WILD WEEDS WHO DAMAGED THE IDF'S REPUTATION. WE SHALL DEAL WITH THE MATTER TO THE FULL EXTENT OF THE LAW."

HE NEVERTHELESS ASKED TO REPEAT BEFORE THE PANEL THE WORDS OF A TURKISH JOURNALIST WHO WAS ON BOARD THE SHIP. "HIS STATEMENTS ATTEST TO THE FAIR TREATMENT THE IDF SOLDIERS SHOWED THE FLOTILLA PARTICIPANTS," ASHKENAZI SAID.

IN HIS FIRST TESTIMONY IN AUGUST, THE IDF CHIEF TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ARMY'S ACTIONS AND SAID HE WAS "PROUD" OF THE SOLDIERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE RAID.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH – CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA GROUP; URL: HTTP://WWW.YNETNEWS.COM

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P 141204Z JUN 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 503941

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, TERRORISM

SERIAL: GMP20100614746001

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, WEST BANK

## SUBJ: IDF TO EXAMINE EFFORTS TO COLLECT INTEL ON TERROR ORGANIZATIONS IN TURKEY (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0119 GMT 14 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY YA'AQOV KATZ: "IDF PROBE CONSIDERS TURKEY INTEL NEEDS" (U)

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THE INTERNAL IDF INQUIRY INTO THE NAVY'S RAID ON THE INTERNATIONAL AID FLOTILLA THAT WAS STOPPED TWO WEEKS AGO WILL INVESTIGATE THE INTELLIGENCE FLAWS THAT LED TO THE OPERATION'S OUTCOME AND WILL LIKELY SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ISRAELI EFFORTS TO COLLECT INTELLIGENCE ON TERROR ORGANIZATIONS IN TURKEY, THE JERUSALEM POST HAS LEARNED.

LAST WEEK, IDF CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF LT.-GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI APPOINTED FORMER HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MAJ.-GEN. (RES.) GIORA EILAND TO HEAD AN INTERNAL MILITARY PROBE INTO THE NAVY'S OPERATION TO STOP THE FLOTILLA.

DURING THE BOARDING OF THE TURKISH PASSENGER SHIP MAVI MARMARA, NAVY COMMANDOS FROM FLOTILLA 13 -- KNOWN AS THE SHAYETET -- KILLED NINE PASSENGERS WHO HAD BRUTALLY ATTACKED THEM AND WHO THE IDF SAID WERE MERCENARIES.

ACCORDING TO SENIOR OFFICERS, THE PROBE WILL FOCUS ON FOUR MAIN ISSUES. THE FIRST IS WHETHER THE SHAYETET WAS THE RIGHT UNIT TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN OPERATION. THE SECOND RELATES TO THE TACTICAL LEVEL, INCLUDING THE WAY THE SHIP WAS BOARDED -- NAVY COMMANDOS FAST-ROPED ONTO THE SHIPS FROM HELICOPTERS -- AND WHETHER THERE WERE OTHER VIABLE ALTERNATIVES FOR STOPPING THE FLOTILLA. THE THIRD ISSUE PERTAINS TO THE INTERNAL MILITARY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS LEADING UP TO THE OPERATION, AND THE FOURTH DEALS WITH INTELLIGENCE MATTERS.

"NO AGENCY IN ISRAEL, INCLUDING THE MOSSAD, CURRENTLY COLLECTS INTELLIGENCE ON TERROR ORGANIZATIONS IN TURKEY," A SENIOR DEFENSE OFFICIAL SAID ON SUNDAY.

"ONE QUESTION THAT WILL NEED TO COME UP IS WHETHER THIS SHOULD REMAIN THE CASE OR WHETHER THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE."

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL, THERE ARE OTHER REASONS, IN ADDITION TO THE FLOTILLA AND THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN FINANCING THE MERCENARIES, TO POSSIBLY BEGIN TURNING ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES' FOCUS TO TERROR ORGANIZATIONS IN TURKEY.

"THERE IS A RADICAL PROCESS SWEEPING THROUGHOUT TURKEY RIGHT NOW," THE OFFICIAL SAID. "IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHERE THINGS ARE HEADING THERE AND HOW THIS WILL AFFECT ISRAEL."

ASHKENAZI SAID ON SUNDAY THAT WHILE THE IDF WAS PROBING THE OPERATION, HE HAD NO DOUBT THAT THE NAVY COMMANDOS OPERATED APPROPRIATELY WHEN BOARDING THE MAVI MARMARA.

"THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE COMMANDOS AND THE TERRORISTS ON THE SHIP IS PART OF A CONTINUED EFFORT TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL," ASHKENAZI SAID.

MEANWHILE SUNDAY, DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK CANCELED PLANS TO TRAVEL TO PARIS TO OPEN THE ISRAELI PAVILION AT THE EUROSATORY DEFENSE EXPO.

HIS OFFICE SAID THAT BARAK DECIDED TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL WHILE THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES A COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE RAID ON THE GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA.

BARAK WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HIGH-RANKING FRENCH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER BERNARD KOUCHNER AND DEFENSE MINISTER HERVE MORIN.

PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS HAD THREATENED TO TRY TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST BARAK AND OTHER ISRAELI OFFICIALS UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION. THIS PRINCIPLE ALLOWS THE PROSECUTION OF SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS IN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE EVENTS.

IN ADDITION, FORMER NAVY COMMANDER AND SHIN BET (ISRAEL SECURITY AGENCY) HEAD AMI AYALON CALLED ON BARAK TO "ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DECISION TO RAID LAST WEEK'S GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA."

SPEAKING ON ISRAEL RADIO, AYALON SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOWED "POOR DECISION MAKING" AND THAT "THE BLOCKADE BECAME THE POLICY OBJECTIVE INSTEAD OF THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE."

HE CRITICIZED BARAK FOR SPEARHEADING ISRAEL'S STRONGARM POLICY WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

R 141324Z DEC 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 689521

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, LEADER SERIAL: GMP20101214739013

COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJ: ISRAEL ARMY CHIEF NOTES FAITH IN SUCCESSOR, TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FLOTILLA (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 0816 GMT 14 DEC 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY JPOST.COM STAFF: "ASHKENAZI: GALANT HAS ALL THE NECESSARY SKILLS, EXPERIENCE" (U)

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IDF CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF LT.-GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI EXPRESSED HIS FULL FAITH IN MAJ-GEN. YOAV GALANT ON TUESDAY MORNING, SAYING THAT HIS REPLACEMENT HAS "ALL OF THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE TO TAKE THE IDF WHEREVER IT NEEDS TO GO." SPEAKING TO ARMY RADIO, ASHKENAZI ADDED THAT GALANT SHOULD "EXPECT A GREAT DEAL OF WORK AND CHALLENGES THAT ARE NOT SIMPLE," BUT ADDED THAT HE BELIEVES HIS SUCCESSOR "UNDERSTANDS HIS JOB AND IS MAKING SERIOUS PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW ROLE."

DISCUSSING THE GALANT DOCUMENT, A FORGED LETTER DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE NEXT CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF, ASHKENAZI SAID HE "WAS NOT SURPRISED BY THE POLICE DETERMINATION THAT NOBODY IN THE ARMY WAS A PART OF BRINGING THE DOCUMENT INTO THE WORLD."

LATER IN THE INTERVIEW, THE IDF CHIEF DISCUSSED THE GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT, SAYING THAT HE "TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE OPERATION ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA. HE ADDED, "I SENT THE SOLDIERS THERE AND I KNEW WHAT THEY WERE INTENDING TO DO THERE."

ASHKENAZI ALSO TOUCHED ON THE RECENT CONVICTION OF TWO GIVATI SOLDIERS FOR USING A PALESTINIAN CHILD AS A HUMAN SHIELD DURING OPERATION CAST LEAD IN THE GAZA STRIP NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO. HE SAID THAT THEY "DID NOT ACT ACCORDING TO THE WAR DOCTRINE," ADDING THAT HE ALWAYS PREFERS TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES ADMINISTRATIVELY AND NOT CRIMINALLY BUT THAT IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, "WE WERE FORCED TO DEAL WITH THEM." HE SAID THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN INVESTIGATION LIKE THAT WHICH TOOK PLACE AFTER THE GAZA OPERATION.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL

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P 022139Z JUN 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 435036

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100531738011

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY

SUBJ: ISRAEL: BARAQ, ASHKENAZI, NAVY CHIEF HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE ON FLOTILLA TAKEOVER (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM ISRAEL TELEVISION CHANNEL 1 IN HEBREW 1003 GMT 31 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

CORRECTING PRODUCTID (ORIGINAL ID GMP20100531738001 WAS A DUPLICATE TO OTHER PRODUCTS) NEWS CONFERENCE WITH ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAQ, IDF CHIEF OF STAFF GABI ASHKENAZI, AND ISRAELI NAVY COMMANDER ELI'EZER MAROM AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN TEL AVIV

-- LIVE (U)

TELEVISION
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BARAQ GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYBODY. LAST NIGHT IDF TROOPS TOOK OVER THE FLOTILLA THAT TRIED TO REACH GAZA'S SHORES IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE NAVAL BLOCKADE. THE INNER CABINET, THE PRIME MINISTER, AND I INSTRUCTED THE IDF TO CARRY OUT THE OPERATION. IN ONE OF THE SIX SHIPS, THE PASSENGERS INITIATED A VIOLENT CONFRONTATION. WE ARE SORRY ABOUT THE CASUALTIES, BUT THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA AND ITS PARTICIPANTS WHO INITIATED THE VIOLENT ACTIONS BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.

PRIOR TO THE FLOTILLA SETTING SAIL AND WHILE IT WAS EN ROUTE, THE STATE OF ISRAEL APPEALED TO THE ORGANIZERS AND INVITED THEM TO COME TO THE PORT OF ASHDOD AND TO TRANSFER THE AID TO GAZA AFTER UNDERGOING SECURITY CHECKS. ALL OUR APPEALS BEFORE THE FLOTILLA SET SAIL AND WHILE IT WAS ALREADY EN ROUTE WERE REJECTED.

WHILE BOARDING ONE OF THE SHIPS, THE SOLDIERS WERE ATTACKED AND SOME OF THEM WERE WOUNDED AS A RESULT OF SERIOUS PHYSICAL VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF THE DEMONSTRATORS -- YOU WILL HEAR MORE DETAILS ABOUT IT LATER FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE ISRAELI NAVY COMMANDER. WORDS INDISTINCT DUE TO BREAK IN LIVE RELAY I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE TROOPS AND THEIR COMMANDERS, AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT OUR BEST MEN. DURING THE INCIDENT, IN LIGHT OF THE LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION, THE SOLDIERS WERE FORCED TO USE RIOT DISPERSAL EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS FIREARMS. ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS, 10 OF THE FLOTILLA'S PARTICIPANTS WERE KILLED AND OTHERS WERE WOUNDED. MORE THAN 10 ISRAELI NAVY FIGHTERS WERE ALSO WOUNDED, SOME BY LIVE FIRE AND SOME BY COLD STEEL WEAPONS. ALL THE WOUNDED WERE EVACUATED TO HOSPITALS.

I SPOKE WITH TURKEY'S DEFENSE MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND AMBASSADOR. WE ARE ENGAGED IN ONGOING EVALUATIONS OF THE SITUATION. I HEARD BRIEFINGS FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND OTHER SECURITY ELEMENTS. I SPOKE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND WITH THE PRESIDENT SEVERAL TIMES, AS WELL AS WITH THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THE PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER.

THERE IS NO HUNGER OR HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA. THE AREA IS CONTROLLED BY HAMAS, A TERROR ORGANIZATION THAT IS CONSTANTLY ACQUIRING WEAPONS AND ROCKETS THAT ARE INTENDED TO HURT ISRAEL -- AND HAVE ALREADY HURT ISRAEL IN THE PAST. IT HOLDS CAPTIVE AN ISRAELI SOLDIER IN CONTRAVENTION OF ALL INTERNATIONAL TREATIES. THEREFORE, ISRAEL HAS A NATURAL RIGHT TO CHECK EVERY CARGO ENTERING GAZA.

THE ENTIRE FLOTILLA WAS A DIPLOMATIC AND MEDIA PROVOCATION INITIATED BY ANTI-ISRAELI ELEMENTS. IHH, THE ORGANIZATION BEHIND THE SHIP WHERE THE VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE, IS A VIOLENT AND RADICAL ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS TERROR GROUPS UNDER THE GUISE OF HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITY AND HAS NOTHING TO DO WHATSOEVER WITH HUMANITARIAN AID.

THIS IS A TIME FOR RESPONSIBILITY, AND I CALL ON ALL ISRAELI, PALESTINIAN, ARAB, AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LEADERS TO ACT WITH RESTRAINT AND WITH COMMONSENSE, AND NOT TO ALLOW AN ANARCHIST ORGANIZATION AND RADICAL ELEMENTS THAT AIM TO DISRUPT PUBLIC ORDER TO EXPLOIT THIS REGRETTABLE EVENT TO ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE. WHATEVER THE DISAGREEMENTS

MAY BE, ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO ACT WITH DETERMINATION TO UPHOLD ITS SOVEREIGNTY, SECURITY, AND ITS RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AND ITS CITIZENS ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, AND IN ANY WAY NEEDED.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP LIES ENTIRELY WITH THE HAMAS TERRORIST REGIME. THE RELEASE OF GIL'AD SHALIT AND AN IMMEDIATE END OF ALL TERROR ACTIVITIES ARE A CONDITION FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE PREVAILING SITUATION. ISRAEL HAS VOICED AND CONTINUES TO VOICE ITS DESIRE FOR PEACE. OUR HAND IS STRETCHED OUT IN PEACE TO ANYBODY DESIRING IT TODAY AS WELL. I CALL TO ALL THE LEADERS OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND TO THE PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP NOT TO ALLOW TODAY'S EVENTS TO DISTRACT US FROM WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND NOT TO LET GO OF THE DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS ACHIEVED UPON THE LAUNCHING OF THE PROXIMITY TALKS AND REPORT TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE FOR DIRECT TALKS FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE OF THE ENTIRE REGION. THANK YOU.

ASHKENAZI SHALOM TO EVERYBODY. THE OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY THE ISRAELI NAVY AND THE IDF LAST NIGHT WAS INTENDED TO PREVENT THE UNCONTROLLED ENTRY OF PEOPLE AND CARGO TO GAZA. AS ALL THE ENTREATIES TO THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA AND THE CAPTAINS OF THE SHIPS WERE ALL REJECTED, THE ISRAELI NAVY PROCEEDED WITH THE TAKEOVER OPERATION AS WE INSTRUCTED THEM IN ORDER TO PREVENT THEIR ARRIVAL IN GAZA. WHAT TOOK PLACE ON THE MAVI MARMARA, OWNED BY THE RADICAL ORGANIZATION IHH, DOESN'T RESEMBLE WHAT HAPPENED IN THE OTHER FIVE SHIPS. BASED ON WHAT I SAW DURING THE NIGHT, WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS SHIP HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH A JOURNEY OR DEMONSTRATION BY PEACE ACTIVISTS OR TO HUMANITARIAN AID. THERE WAS EXTREME VIOLENCE THERE FROM THE FIRST MINUTE OUR TROOPS BOARDED THE SHIP. ADVANCE PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN MADE THAT INCLUDED COLD STEEL WEAPONS SUCH AS IRON BARS, CLUBS, AND KNIVES. AT ONE POINT IN THE CLASHES, LIVE FIRE WAS ALSO USED -- IN SOME CASES IT MAY HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM RIFLES SNATCHED AWAY FROM THE SOLDIERS.

IT IS CLEAR TO ME BEYOND ALL DOUBTS, BOTH BASED ON WHAT I SAW AND FROM THE INITIAL REPORTS OF THE SOLDIERS, THAT IN LIGHT OF THE LIFE-THREATENING SITUATION THIS VIOLENCE NECESSITATED THE USE OF WEAPONS. IN MY OPINION, THE SOLDIERS ACTED AS WARRANTED BY THE SITUATION. AS A RESULT OF THE OPERATION, WE KNOW ABOUT AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE DEAD, WHOSE BODIES WE ARE NOW EVACUATING AND TRYING TO IDENTIFY, AS WELL AS A FEW DOZEN WOUNDED. THE ISRAELI NAVY COMMANDOS SUSTAINED SEVERAL CASUALTIES, ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN EVACUATED. THE WOUNDED PASSENGERS HAVE ALSO BEEN EVACUATED, SOME OF THEM WITH MODERATE AND SERIOUS WOUNDS. SOME OF THE SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED BY FIRE, OTHERS BY KNIVES AND BY VERY SERIOUS BEATINGS. WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE SOLDIERS OPERATED AS WE EXPECTED THEM TO: BOTH WITH SENSITIVITY ON THE ONE HAND, AND WITH DETERMINATION ON THE OTHER. THE TROOPS HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THE MISSION, AND WE PREDICTED THAT THERE WOULD BE PROTESTS. THE RIOT DISPERSAL EQUIPMENT THEY HAD WITH THEM PROVED NOT TO BE ENOUGH, AND AS SOON AS THEY ENCOUNTERED A LIFE-THREATENING CONDITION THEY ALSO USED THEIR WEAPONS.

THE SHIPS ARE CURRENTLY MAKING THEIR WAY TO THE PORT OF ASHDOD, WHERE WE WILL CHECK THEM AND WE WILL OVERSEE THE DISEMBARKATION AND EVACUATION OF THE PASSENGERS. WE WILL TRANSFER TO GAZA WHATEVER IS DECIDED TO TRANSFER THERE. THE INCIDENT IS NOT YET OVER, AND WE ARE ENGAGED IN ONGOING EVALUATIONS OF THE SITUATION IN OTHER FRONTS AS WELL, WHERE WE MAY BE CALLED UPON TO BE READY AS WELL.

UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THE DEBRIEFINGS -- WE WILL MEET THE TROOPS LATER, THEY ARE CURRENTLY MAKING THEIR WAY TO PORT -- IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PASSENGERS ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA, AS OPPOSED TO THE OTHER FIVE SHIPS, CHOSE TO ENGAGE IN A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE SEEN SERIOUS INCIDENTS BEFORE, BUT THIS WAS AN EVENT COUPLED WITH EXTREME VIOLENCE THAT LED TO SUCH AN OUTCOME. WE WILL MEET WITH THE TROOPS LATER, WE WILL COMPLETE THE DEBRIEFINGS, AND AS WE LEARN THE DETAILS I'M SURE WE WILL ALSO RELAY THEM TO YOU. THANK YOU.

MAROM THE NAVY HAD A MISSION -- TO STOP THE GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA. THE TROOPS MADE THOROUGH PREPARATIONS -- PHYSICAL, OPERATIONAL, AND MORAL. IN THE WEEKS BEFORE THE SAIL, WE WARNED THE ORGANIZERS. LAST NIGHT, AFTER THEY REFUSED TO CHANGE THEIR DESTINATION TO ASHDOD SO AS TO MOVE THE HUMANITARIAN AID THROUGH US AND DECIDED TO SAIL TO GAZA TO BREAK THE NAVAL SIEGE, WE TOOK TO THE SEA TO CARRY OUT OUR MISSION WHILE WARNING THE SHIPS THAT THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO ENTER GAZA, WHICH IS UNDER SIEGE, THAT THERE WILL BE NO OPTION FOR THEM TO ENTER GAZA. SEVERAL MESSAGES WERE RELAYED TO THE SHIPS. THEY REJECTED ALL THE MESSAGES WITH VILE LANGUAGE AND INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT I DO NOT WISH TO GO INTO.

WHEN THE TROOPS WERE BOARDING, THERE WERE SOME 600 PASSENGERS ABOARD THE SHIP MAVI MARMARA. THE FIGHTERS WERE ATTACKED WITH COLD-STEEL WEAPONS AND GUNS, WITH EXTRAORDINARY VIOLENCE. SINCE THEIR LIVES WERE IN DANGER, SINCE THEY HAD TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, THE TROOPS WERE ORDERED TO USE FIREARMS TO AVOID BEING KILLED.

THIS ACTION TOOK PLACE AFTER THE FIGHTERS INITIALLY ACTED WITH RESTRAINT. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EVENT, THEY TRIED TO ACT WITH RIOT-DISPERSING MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT ATTACKS BY PASSENGERS. FAILING TO ACHIEVE THAT AND BEING IN MORTAL DANGER, THEY WERE ORDERED TO OPEN FIRE TO DEFEND THEIR OWN LIVES.

THROUGHOUT THE EVENT, THE FIGHTERS DISPLAYED DETERMINATION AND COURAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ACTED WITH UTMOST RESTRAINT. THE OUTCOME OF 10 DEAD IN THE EVENT COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE HAD THE FIGHTERS ACTED DIFFERENTLY.

ON ALL THE OTHER FIVE SHIPS, LIVE FIRE WAS NOT REQUIRED TO STOP THE SAIL. APPLYING APPROPRIATE ACTION, AS WE HAD IN THE PAST, WE MANAGED TO STOP AND TAKE OVER THE SHIPS.

AS I SAID, 10 PEOPLE WHO ATTACKED OUR SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND A FEW DOZEN WERE WOUNDED IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENT, ALL THE CASUALTIES WERE TREATED BY OUR TROOPS AND WERE EVACUATED TO ISRAELI HOSPITALS BY ISRAEL AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS, WHICH FORMED AN AIR LIFT TO MOVE THE CASUALTIES TO HOSPITALS.

SEVERAL ISRAELI FIGHTERS WERE WOUNDED IN THE COURSE OF THE EVENT: ONE SOLDIER SUSTAINED A SERIOUS HEAD INJURY; TWO FIGHTERS WERE INJURED BY GUNFIRE; ANOTHER ONE WAS KNIFE-STABBED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM ISRAEL TELEVISION CHANNEL 1 IN HEBREW - STATE-FUNDED TELEVISION, INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MEDIA

SERIAL: GMP20100609950033

COUNTRY: UNITED KINGDOM, ISRAEL, TURKEY

SUBJ: BBCM MEDIA ANALYSIS: ISRAELI ARMY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL, FLOTILLA PR CAMPAIGN (U)

SOURCE: CAVERSHAM BBC MONITORING IN ENGLISH 09 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

PUBLICATIONS OSC SUMMARY

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MEDIA ANALYSIS: ISRAELI ARMY'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL AND FLOTILLA PR CAMPAIGN

MEDIA ANALYSIS BY BBC MONITORING ON 9 JUNE

THE ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES (IDF) WERE QUICK TO DISSEMINATE A NUMBER OF VIDEOS SHOWING THEIR VERSION OF EVENTS DURING THE RAID ON THE RACHEL CORRIE, THE IRISH-REGISTERED VESSEL WHICH ON 5 JUNE ATTEMPTED TO BREAK THE ISRAELI BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP.

THE THEME OF THE VIDEOS POSTED ON THE IDF YOUTUBE CHANNEL (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/IDFNADESK) APPEARS TO BE THAT THE INCIDENT PASSED OFF PEACEFULLY. CRUCIALLY, THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THE POSTINGS SUGGESTED THAT THERE WAS A DISTINCT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE IDF ASSAULT THE PREVIOUS WEEK ON THE TURKISH-REGISTERED MAVI MARMARA LEADING TO THE KILLING OF NINE ACTIVISTS, AND THE PEACEFUL ENDING OF THE RACHEL CORRIE RAID, BECAUSE THERE WERE NO "MEN OF VIOLENCE" ON BOARD THE LATTER. FURTHERMORE, ISRAELI SOLDIERS COULD NOT BE BLAMED FOR THE KILLINGS.

#### CONTENT AND THEME

A TOTAL OF FIVE VIDEOS WERE POSTED BY THE IDF ON 5 AND 6 JUNE, THREE ON THE 5TH, THE DAY OF THE COMMANDO RAID ON THE RACHEL CORRIE. THE LENGTH OF THE VIDEOS RANGE BETWEEN 47 SECONDS AND TWO MINUTES AND 40 SECONDS.

IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, THE POSTINGS WERE ENTITLED:

- "IDF SOLDIERS BOARD THE SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP WITHOUT INCIDENT." (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=6BA0IXUZXU0)
- "ISRAELI NAVY SOLDIERS BOARD THE SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP FOOTAGE SHOT FROM ADJACENT SHIP." (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=WQSZ-VJSFVA)
- "AERIAL FOOTAGE OF SOLDIERS BOARDING SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP (IN COLOUR)." (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KL\_HXKYOY1C)
- "RADIO EXCHANGE BETWEEN ISRAELI NAVY AND 7TH FLOTILLA SHIP REGARDING TRANSFER OF AID TO GAZA." (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=0PU5HPUDACE
- "PASSENGERS FROM SEVENTH FLOTILLA SHIP DISEMBARK AT ASHDOD PORT." (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=HTJWYWEOFYM)

THE FIRST THREE CLIPS HAD DESCRIPTIVE CAPTIONS, EXPLAINING THE FOOTAGE BEING VIEWED. FOR EXAMPLE, AERIAL FOOTAGE ALLEGEDLY SHOWING "THE CAPTAIN ASKS ALL THE PASSENGERS TO SIT;" AND "THE SOLDIERS SPEAK WITH A PASSENGER."

MOREOVER, THE FIRST THREE CLIPS ARE SILENT, WHILE IN THE LAST TWO, SURROUNDING SOUND IS AUDIBLE.

THE UNDERLYING THEME OF ALL THE CLIPS APPEARS TO BE THAT THE INCIDENT PASSED OFF PEACEFULLY BECAUSE THE TWO SIDES WERE KEEN TO AVOID CONFRONTATION - AS EVIDENCED BY FOOTAGE SAID SHOWING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF THE RACHEL CORRIE SITTING PEACEFULLY AND BY THE AUDIO OF RADIO EXCHANGES OVER FOOTAGE OF THE SHIP IN OPEN WATER. AT ONE POINT, THE ISRAELI VESSEL'S RADIO OPERATOR IS HEARD SAYING (IN ENGLISH) "I'M STILL HOPING THAT WE CAN TAKE A STEP AHEAD AND REACH A RESOLUTION WITHOUT RESORTING TO BOARDING THE VESSEL;" TO WHICH THE RACHEL CORRIE'S IRISH NEGOTIATOR REPLIED: "I DO TOO; OVER."

EDITING

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000702

THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF EDITING IN THE UPLOADED CLIPS, ESPECIALLY IN THE FINAL ONE SHOWING THE DISEMBARKATION OF THE ACTIVISTS. THE QUALITY OF THE TWO AND A HALF MINUTE CLIP IS HIGH, BEGINNING WITH FOOTAGE SHOWING THE RACHEL CORRIE BEING TOWED INTO PORT, CUTTING TO THE SHIP DOCKING, AND THEN PASSENGERS DISEMBARKING. A MIDDLE AGED WOMAN IS SHOWN SMILING AND BEING HELPED BY AN ISRAELI COMMANDO ONTO THE GANGWAY. THE FACES OF THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ARE EITHER PIXELATED OR COVERED AND CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED. OTHER PASSENGERS OR CREW ARE SHOWN BEING HELPED WITH THEIR LUGGAGE AND BELONGINGS. THE ACTIVISTS ARE NOT SHOWN SPEAKING AT ANY STAGE, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY AWARE THAT THEY ARE BEING FILMED. FINALLY, THE CLIP SHOWS ISRAELI SOLDIERS DISEMBARKING, TO APPLAUSE FROM PRESUMABLY DOCK WORKERS AND BYSTANDERS.

THE CLIP SHOWING THE DISEMBARKATION LEAVES THE NOTION OF "CIVILIZED" PEOPLE HAVING A DISAGREEMENT, WHICH WAS RESOLVED PEACEFULLY, UNLIKE THE INCIDENT A WEEK BEFORE. THE MESSAGE SEEMS TO BE THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO VIOLENCE IF THOSE ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA HAD BEHAVED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE ACTIVISTS ABOARD THE RACHEL CORRIE.

#### MESSAGE AND CONCLUSIONS

A COMPARISON OF THE ABOVE CLIPS WITH THOSE REGARDING THE MAVI MARMARA ASSAULT, ALSO UPLOADED ON THE IDF'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL, SHOWS MORE EVIDENCE OF THE IDF'S CENTRAL MESSAGE OF BLAMING THE MOSTLY TURKISH ACTIVISTS FOR THE BLOODSHED.

FOR EXAMPLE, ONE CLIP WAS ENTITLED "MV MARMARA PASSENGERS ATTACK IDF." IT SHOWS SILENT FOOTAGE IN COLOUR WITH A DESCRIPTIVE CAPTION ALLEGEDLY SHOWING "STUN GRENADES THROWN AT SOLDIERS". FURTHER ALONG THE CLIP, WHICH LASTED JUST OVER A MINUTE, THE CAPTION READ: "ACTIVISTS WAVING METAL BARS LATER USED FOR HITTING SOLDIERS." IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE OUT WHAT IS BEING SEEN IN THE FOOTAGE, AS IT WAS SHOT AT NIGHT, APPARENTLY FROM AN HELICOPTER HOVERING OVERHEAD. BUT THE IMPLICATION IS CLEAR: TURKISH ACTIVISTS WERE BENT ON VIOLENCE. (HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/IDFNADESK#P/A/D367B77C57326D3E/1/B6SAEYPHF 24)

OVERALL, THE CLIPS REGARDING THE RACHEL CORRIE GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO STRESS THE LENGTHS TO WHICH ISRAELI SOLDIERS HAVE GONE TO AVOID BOARDING THE VESSEL AND RESOLVING THE ISSUE PEACEFULLY. THIS LEAVES VIEWERS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE VIOLENT NATURE OF THE PREVIOUS INCIDENT ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE BLAMED ON THE IDF: IT WAS THOSE ON BOARD THE MARMARA WHO CAUSED THE VIOLENCE.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: CAVERSHAM BBC MONITORING IN ENGLISH -- MONITORING SERVICE OF THE BBC, THE UNITED KINGDOM'S PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTER

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: CPP20100526968254

COUNTRY: EGYPT, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, LEBANON, WEST BANK

### SUBJ: XINHUA 'ANALYSIS': GAZA FLOTILLA, A POTENTIAL PR NIGHTMARE FOR ISRAEL (U)

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 1446 GMT 26 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

XINHUA "ANALYSIS" BY DAVID HARRIS: "GAZA FLOTILLA, A POTENTIAL PR NIGHTMARE FOR ISRAEL" (U)

**NEWS AGENCIES** 

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JERUSALEM, MAY 26 (XINHUA) -- BY THE WEEKEND, AROUND 10 BOATS WILL ARRIVE IN THE WATERS OFF THE GAZA STRIP IN A BID TO BRING SOME 10,000 TONS OF AID TO THE PALESTINIAN COASTAL ENCLAVE. HOWEVER, PAST INSTANCES SHOW THAT THE ISRAELI NAVY WILL PROBABLY INTERCEDE AND POSSIBLY PREVENT THE FLOTILLA FROM DOCKING IN GAZA.

THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME OPERATION IS SEEN BY ISRAEL AS NOTHING MORE THAN A PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR) EFFORT BY "THE ANTI- ISRAEL LOBBY." THE BOATS ARE NOT ONLY CARRYING SOME 500 PROPALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS BUT ALSO CAMERA CREWS FROM TV STATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. ANY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE BOATS AND THE ISRAELI SECURITY SERVICES WILL BE HEADLINE NEWS ACROSS THE GLOBE.

ISRAEL FACES THE QUANDARY OF WHETHER TO BLOCK THE PATH OF THE VESSELS AND FACE THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT OR PERMIT THEIR PASSAGE TO GAZA AND THEREFORE ADMIT THAT THE ONGOING BLOCKADE IS EFFECTIVELY NULL AND VOID. THAT IS WHY ANALYSTS BELIEVE THE PEACE CAMPAIGN IS POSING THE JEWISH STATE A POSSIBLE PR DISASTER.

PR WAR

THE MAIN AIM OF THE PRO-PALESTINIANS, WHOSE SHIPS DEPARTED FROM SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IS TO MAKE A VERY PUBLIC POINT AND TRY TO FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON THE PLIGHT OF THE GAZANS.

ACTUALLY GETTING THE AID THROUGH IS SECONDARY TO THE PR EXERCISE, ACCORDING TO TWO LEADING ISRAELI EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF POLITICS AND COMMUNICATIONS, WHO SPOKE WITH XINHUA ON WEDNESDAY.

"THE ISRAELIS AND MANY IN THE WORLD HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT GAZA, SO I CAN UNDERSTAND PEACE ACTIVISTS DOING SOMETHING TO DRAW ATTENTION TO IT," SAID GALIA GOLAN, A POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR AND A RESPECTED LEADER OF THE ISRAELI DOVISH ORGANIZATION PEACE NOW.

THAT POINT IS SHARED BY GADI WOLFSFELD, A PROFESSOR OF COMMUNICATION AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM. THE GAZA STORY IS ONE THAT HAS RUN FOR YEARS AND SO IT HAS FALLEN FROM GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST. HE SAID.

GAZANS ARE UNDER A BLOCKADE LAUNCHED BY ISRAEL AFTER THE PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC HAMAS MOVEMENT GAINED POLITICAL POWER THERE AND SUBSEQUENTLY OUSTED FATAH FROM THE STRIP IN 2007.

LATER, THE EGYPTIANS JOINED THE ISRAELIS IN PREVENTING THE FREE FLOW OF GOODS AND PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF GAZA.

GAZANS OVERCAME THIS BY DIGGING TUNNELS UNDER THE BORDER WITH EGYPT, ALLOWING PEOPLE TO BRING BASIC ITEMS AND MORE RECENTLY GOODS SAID TO BE AS LARGE AS CARS IN AND OUT OF THE ENCLAVE.

WHILE GAZANS MAINLY ACCUSE ISRAEL AS WELL AS EGYPT OF CREATING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA, ISRAEL COUNTERS THAT IT HAS TO PREVENT HAMAS FROM OBTAINING MISSILES FOR FIRING AT ISRAELI HOMES. CURRENT MEDIA REPORTS FROM GAZA SUGGEST THE TUNNELS HAVE BECOME SUCH AN EFFECTIVE CORRIDOR THAT SHOPS ARE SWAMPED WITH SOME GOODS AND PRICES ARE BEING SLASHED.

ALL THIS LEAVES ISRAELI SPOKESMEN ARGUING THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE CARGO ON BOARD THE SHIPS BECAUSE ISRAEL ALLOWS BASIC SUPPLIES INTO THE STRIP AND THE REST ENTERS VIA THE TUNNELS. THE BOATS ARE SIMPLY BOUND FOR GAZA IN ORDER TO GAIN FRESH ATTENTION FOR THE TROUBLE SPOT.

#### ISRAELI PREDICAMENT

ISRAEL HAS NOT PUBLICLY COMMENTED ON ITS PLAN OF ACTION FOR WHEN THE BOATS NEAR GAZA.

ANALYSTS ASSUME THAT THE COUNTRY WANTS TO KEEP ITS RESPONSE AS A SURPRISE. AT THE SAME TIME
THOUGH, THEY BELIEVE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN ROBUST DEBATES BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AS TO HOW TO
DEAL WITH WHAT COULD TURN INTO A PR NIGHTMARE.

"IF ISRAEL STOPS IT, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND IF IT DOESN'T STOP IT THEN OF COURSE IT'S A GREAT VICTORY BECAUSE THEN ONE COULD SAY THE SIEGE ISN'T WORKING," SAID WOLFSFELD.

"IT'S A NO-WIN SITUATION FOR ISRAEL. IT'S A PR DISASTER NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS," HE ADDED.

WOLFSFELD ARGUES THAT THE LONG-TERM POLICY GOALS ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE COUPLE OF DAYS OF DAMAGE THAT WILL BE DONE TO ISRAEL IN TV AND RADIO BROADCASTS AND COLUMN INCHES. INDEED, HE SAID SOME MINISTERS WILL PUT FORWARD THE ARGUMENT THAT AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS THE MEDIA PACK WILL MOVE ON TO SOME OTHER HOT STORY ELSEWHERE.

"STOPPING THE BOATS ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE WORLD OPINION ABOUT THE SIEGE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HOWEVER, LETTING THEM THROUGH WILL CHANGE POLICY," HE SUGGESTED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WOLFSFELD ACCEPTS THAT THE DRIP-DRIP EFFECT OF LOTS OF REPORTAGE ABOUT ISRAELI ACTIONS IN GAZA AND IN OTHER DEALINGS WITH THE PALESTINIANS DOES PAINT AN OVERALL NEGATIVE PICTURE OF THE JEWISH STATE. YET THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT PRICE IS WORTH PAYING IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF ISRAELI CITIZENS.

#### **EFFICACY OF PROTESTS**

AS WOLFSFELD POINTS OUT, THE PROTESTERS ARE IN A VERY STRONG POSITION FROM A PR PERSPECTIVE. FROM THE INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR PLANNED VOYAGE, THROUGH THE SPECULATION ABOUT THE ISRAELI RESPONSE AND ON THE POTENTIAL CONFRONTATION, THEIR ORGANIZERS ARE SUCCEEDING IN DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE GAZA ISSUE.

HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THEY WILL MANAGE TO CHANGE ANY FACT ON THE GROUND, WHICH IS THEIR EVENTUAL AIM.

THERE ARE SOME WHO SUGGEST THIS ONLY GOES TO PROVE THAT GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGNS AND PROTESTS ACTUALLY ACHIEVE LITTLE.

GOLAN COUNTERS THAT ARGUMENT. SHE HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN DOVISH EFFORTS SINCE JUST MONTHS AFTER THE 1967 SIX DAY WAR, WHICH CREATED THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WHILE SOMETIMES THE MESSAGES OF PROTESTS HAVE BEEN WRONG, SHE SAID SHE BELIEVES OVER THE YEARS DEMONSTRATORS HAVE MANAGED TO OCCASIONALLY CREATE A MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE.

"THE PROTESTS WE ORGANIZED AGAINST THE FIRST LEBANON WAR I THINK DEFINITELY HAD AN IMPACT, ALSO WE MANAGED TO DELAY SETTLEMENT BUILDING AT HAR HOMA AND RAS EL-AMUD (IN JERUSALEM)," SAID GOLAN.

MORE SO, SHE BELIEVES THAT THE PROTESTS BY THE PEACE MOVEMENT HAVE MADE THE ISRAELI PUBLIC THINK DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THE ISSUE OF THE SETTLEMENTS AND ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

WHILE HER CLAIM CANNOT BE PROVED, IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT PUBLIC OPINION HAS MOVED OVER THE YEARS INCREASINGLY TOWARDS HANDING LAND OVER TO THE PALESTINIANS.

"THERE ARE MANY TIMES WHEN I'LL SAY THAT DEMONSTRATIONS AREN'T GOING TO DO ANY GOOD... BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE NEED TO SPEAK OUT AND THAT PROTESTS ARE IMPORTANT. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO HEAR, PEOPLE ABROAD HAVE TO HEAR," SAID GOLAN.

HOWEVER, SHE ADDS ONE RIDER. IN TERMS OF THEIR INFLUENCE, SHE BELIEVES THAT PROTESTS BY ISRAELIS AND THOSE WHO ARE SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAEL HAVE MORE EFFECT THAN THOSE CARRIED OUT BY FOREIGNERS, SUCH AS THOSE ON BOARD THE SHIPS CURRENTLY HEADED FOR GAZA.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH -- CHINA'S OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AUDIENCES (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY)

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, PEACEKEEPING, URGENT

SERIAL: EUP20100530678002

COUNTRY: GREECE, IRELAND, ISRAEL, SWEDEN, TURKEY

#### SUBJ: AFP: ACTIVIST AID SHIPS HEAD TO GAZA AS ISRAELI WARSHIPS GATHER (U)

SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 1533 GMT 30 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT

"ACTIVIST AID SHIPS HEAD TO GAZA AS ISRAELI WARSHIPS GATHER" -- AFP HEADLINE (U)

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A FLOTILLA OF SHIPS CARRYING ACTIVISTS AND AID FOR THE BLOCKADED GAZA STRIP ON SUNDAY 30 MAY FINALLY STEAMED SOUTH FROM CYPRUS, HEADING FOR A FLEET OF ISRAELI NAVAL VESSELS DETERMINED TO STOP THEM.

THE SHIPS, CARRYING MORE THAN 700 PASSENGERS, ARE ON THE LAST LEG OF A HIGH-PROFILE MISSION TO DELIVER SOME 10,000 TONNES OF BUILDING AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO GAZA, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER A CRIPPLING ISRAELI BLOCKADE SINCE 2007.

HUWAIDA ARRAF, CHAIRMAN OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, TOLD AFP BY PHONE FROM THE BOAT CHALLENGER 1 THAT THE SHIPS HAD STARTED TOWARDS GAZA ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

"ISRAEL IS BLOCKING AN AREA ABOUT 20 NAUTICAL MILES OUT FROM THE GAZA COAST AND WE EXPECT TO HIT THAT AREA IN THE LATE MORNING OR EARLY AFTERNOON" ON MONDAY, SHE SAID.

IN THE GAZA STRIP, ANTI-SIEGE ACTIVISTS CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE SO-CALLED "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" WHICH HAD BEEN AIMING TO ARRIVE ON SATURDAY 29 MAY BUT WAS REPEATEDLY DELAYED.

"I AM ASKING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PROTECT THESE BOATS FROM THE ISRAELI THREAT," INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN MP JAMAL AL-KHUDARI SAID DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON A BOAT ANCHORED JUST OUTSIDE THE GAZA PORT.

"IF ISRAEL BLOCKS THEM, THEY HAVE A STRATEGY FOR GETTING HERE," SAID KHUDARI, WHO HEADS THE GAZA-BASED COMMITTEE TO LIFT THE SIEGE. HE DID NOT GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS.

WITH THE FLOTILLA EXPECTED TO APPROACH AT SOME STAGE OVER THE NEXT 24 HOURS, GAZA FISHERMEN TOOK TO THE SEA FLYING PALESTINIAN FLAGS AS WELL AS THOSE OF GREECE, IRELAND, SWEDEN AND TURKEY -- ALL OF WHICH SENT BOATS.

DEMONSTRATORS ALSO RELEASED SCORES OF BALLOONS WITH PICTURES TIED TO THEM OF CHILDREN WHO WERE KILLED DURING ISRAEL'S MASSIVE 22-DAY OFFENSIVE AGAINST GAZA THAT ENDED IN JANUARY 2009.

ISRAEL HAS SLAMMED AS "ILLEGAL" THE CONVOY'S ATTEMPT TO BREAK ITS BLOCKADE ON GAZA, AND HAS NAVAL FORCES AT THE READY TO INTERCEPT THE SHIPS, TOW THEM TO ITS PORT OF ASHDOD, AND DETAIN THE PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS.

AS TENSIONS MOUNTED, SEVERAL ISRAELI WARSHIPS COULD BE SEEN OFF THE GAZA COAST, AN AFP PHOTOGRAPHER SAID.

KHUDARI SAID THE CONVOY, WHICH IS CARRYING HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS AND A HANDFUL OF EUROPEAN MPS, WOULD STOP OUTSIDE GAZA TERRITORIAL WATERS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE LANDFALL.

IT WILL TRAVEL "IN TWO STAGES," HE SAID: "FIRST THEY WILL STOP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AT 30 NAUTICAL MILES (FROM GAZA), AND TOMORROW (MONDAY) THEY WILL REACH THE SHORE."

EARLIER, AUDREY BOMSE, LEGAL ADVISER TO THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, HAD SAID THE CONVOY OF BOATS WAS LIKELY TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ISPADILE PROPERTY CONTROL OF BOATS WAS LIKELY TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE ISPADILE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

# SHE ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SHOUNG A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING A SECOND WAR ALSO SAID THE ACTIVISTS WERE CONSIDERING SENDING SENDING

ISRAEL HAS CALLED THE CONVOY A MEDIA STUNT, INSISTING THERE IS NO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA DESPITE REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY FROM AID AGENCIES AND OFFERING TO DELIVER THE SUPPLIES THROUGH ITS OWN LAND CROSSINGS.

"THIS IS A PROVOCATION INTENDED TO DELEGITIMISE ISRAEL," DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON SAID LATE ON SATURDAY.

"IF THE FLOTILLA HAD A GENUINE HUMANITARIAN GOAL, THEN ITS ORGANISERS SHOULD HAVE TRANSFERRED SOMETHING FOR THE ABDUCTED SOLDIER GILAD SHALIT AS WELL," HE SAID OF THE ISRAELI SNATCHED BY MILITANTS IN 2006 AND HELD BY THE HAMAS ISLAMIST MOVEMENT WHICH RUNS THE ENCLAVE.

THE ACTIVISTS RESPONDED ON THEIR WEBSITE THAT THEY HAD OFFERED TO TAKE IN A LETTER FOR SHALIT FROM HIS FAMILY BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM THEIR LAWYER.

HAMAS'S REFUSAL TO RELEASE HIM IS CITED BY ISRAEL AS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR IMPOSING THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE ON GAZA IN 2007 IN THE WAKE OF THE GROUP'S VIOLENT TAKEOVER OF THE TERRITORY.

THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE FLOTILLA COULD COST ISRAEL TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AS IT DETAINS THE ACTIVISTS, PAYS FOR DOCKING THE SHIPS AND TRANSPORTS THE AID TO GAZA. THE ONLINE ISRAELI BUSINESS MAGAZINE GLOBES REPORTED.

IT SAID THE DETENTION FACILITY ALONE HAD COST THREE MILLION SHEKELS (780,000 DOLLARS, 640,000 EUROS) AND THAT THE COSTS OF HOLDING THE ACTIVISTS WOULD MOUNT IF THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S OFFER TO BUY THEM TICKETS HOME.

PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS HAVE LANDED IN GAZA FIVE TIMES, WITH ANOTHER THREE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS SINCE THEIR FIRST SUCH VOYAGE IN AUGUST 2008. THE LATEST IS THEIR BIGGEST OPERATION.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH -- NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE OF THE INDEPENDENT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

R 301553Z MAY 10

FM OSC RESTON VA TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV

UNCLAS QQQQ

CITE OSC RESTON VA 411217

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, LEADER

SERIAL: EUP20100527340007

COUNTRY: NORWAY, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

# SUBJ: NORWAY'S STORE SAYS GAZA CONVOY SHOWS INTERNATIONAL 'FRUSTRATION' WITH BLOCKADE (U)

SOURCE: OSLO AFTENPOSTEN.NO IN NORWEGIAN 27 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY NORWEGIAN NEWS AGENCY NTB: "STORE CRITICAL OF CLOSING OF GAZA STRIP" (U)

INTERNET

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A CONVOY WITH EMERGENCY AID HAS SET COURSE FOR THE GAZA STRIP DESPITE ISRAEL'S DEMANDS THAT THE SHIPS STOP. FOREIGN MINISTER JONAS GAHR STORE (LABOR PARTY) IS CRITICAL OF THE ISRAELI DEMAND.

THE SHIPS IN THE CONVOY ARE LOADED WITH MEDICINES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND CEMENT, AMONG OTHER THINGS. THE CONVOY IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE GAZA STRIP ON FRIDAY 28 MAY OR SATURDAY, UNLESS ISRAEL MAKES GOOD ON ITS THREATS TO STOP THE SHIPS AND ARREST THE ACTIVISTS ON BOARD.

"THE SHIPS THAT ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO GAZA ARE A FORCEFUL EXPRESSION OF THE FRUSTRATION THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FEELS ABOUT THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GAZA. THE INITIATIVE HELPS MAINTAIN THE FOCUS ON THE NEED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CLOSING REGIME GAZA IS SUBJECTED TO," SAYS STORE.

**ACTIVISTS RISK CONFRONTATION** 

THE LEADERS OF THE PLANNED EIGHT-SHIP AID CONVOY, WHICH CARRIES GOODS TO THE GAZA STRIP, REFUSE TO BOW TO ISRAELI DEMANDS THAT THEY CANCEL THE TRIP.

"WE ARE PLANNING TO GO. THIS WILL NOT STOP US. THE SHIPS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY," SAYS SPOKESWOMAN GRETA BERLIN TO THE NEWS AGENCY REUTERS.

SHE IS THE SPOKESWOMAN FOR THE GROUP FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, WHICH IS BEHIND THE CONVOY, AND COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION AFTER ISRAEL MADE IT CLEAR ON THURSDAY THAT IT WILL STOP THE CONVOY BY FORCE.

FOLKVORD ON BOARD

NORWEGIAN ACTIVISTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTION SAY THE SAME.

233-1,

"WE DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF LETTING OURSELVES BE STOPPED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY," SAYS RED POLITICIAN ERLING FOLKVORD TO THE NORWEGIAN NEWS AGENCY NTB BY TELEPHONE.

HE IS TO BE ON BOARD ONE OF THE SHIPS. FOLKVORD SAYS THE ACTIVISTS HAVE DISCUSSED VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES AND WAYS OF GETTING PAST THE OBSTACLES THE ISRAELI NAVY WILL SET UP, AND THAT THE GOAL CONTINUES TO BE TO GET INTO THE GAZA STRIP.

AT THE SAME TIME HE EMPHASIZES THAT ALL ACTIVISTS HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES PERSONALLY NOT TO USE VIOLENCE, AND THAT THE ACTION AS A WHOLE IS NONVIOLENT.

PASSAGE OMITTED ON STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

'CIVILIANS PAY THE PRICE'

THE GAZA STRIP HAS BEEN UNDER BLOCKADE SINCE THE SUMMER OF 2007 WHEN HAMAS DEFEATED AND THREW OUT ITS RIVALS IN FATAH. FOREIGN MINISTER JONAS GAHR STORE SAYS THE CONVOY IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FRUSTRATION OVER THE LACK OF RECONSTRUCTION OF THE GAZA STRIP AFTER THE 3-WEEK-LONG WAR 18 MONTHS AGO.

"ON REPEATED OCCASIONS I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO ISRAELI AUTHORITIES THAT THE CLOSING REGIME ONLY CONTRIBUTES TO UNDERMINING THE PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE AUTHORITIES AND STRENGTHENING THE HAMAS REGIME IN GAZA. IT'S GAZA'S CIVILIAN POPULATION THAT IS ULTIMATELY FORCED TO PAY THE PRICE FOR THIS POLICY," SAYS STORE.

PASSAGE OMITTED ON STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

**DENY CRISIS** 

ISRAELI SPOKESMEN DENY THAT THERE IS ANY HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN THE GAZA STRIP. THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES, IDF, STRESSED AT THE BEGINNING OF MAY THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS OF RELIEF MATERIAL ARE PASSING INTO THE GAZA STRIP FROM ISRAEL WEEKLY.

"I DON'T TRUST THAT ISRAEL WILL SHIP GOODS TO HAMAS'S AUTHORITIES IN GAZA," SAYS FOLKVORD.

ESPEN GOFFEN, WHO HEADS THE NORWEGIAN PART OF THE ACTION, SAYS IT IS BETTER TO REFER TO THE REPORTS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS THAN TO ARGUE AGAINST THE ISRAELI ASSERTIONS REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: OSLO AFTENPOSTEN.NO IN NORWEGIAN -- WEBSITE OF LEADING RIGHT-OF-CENTER NATIONAL DAILY AFTENPOSTEN, CLOSE TO THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY; URL: HTTP://WWW.AFTENPOSTEN.NO

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 271156Z MAY 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 395800

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100527056010

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, GREECE, ISRAEL, UNITED KINGDOM, WEST BANK

#### SUBJ: AUTHOR: UK FRIENDS OF AL-AQSA TO REACH GAZA BY SEA DESPITE ISRAELI THREATS (U)

SOURCE: DUBAI GULF NEWS ONLINE IN ENGLISH 27 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

COMMENTARY BY ISMAIL PATEL: "ZIONISTS CAN'T STOP FREEDOM FLOTILLA. FRIENDS OF AL AQSA, UK, IS DETERMINED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXPEDITION THAT AIMS TO REACH GAZA BY SEA DESPITE ISRAELI THREATS." (U)

INTERNET

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THE DECISION TO BE A PART OF THE GAZA FREEDOM FLOTILLA WAS NOT A DIFFICULT ONE TO MAKE. FOR MANY YEARS, FRIENDS OF AL AQSA HAS CAMPAIGNED TO BRING PEACE TO PALESTINIANS AND DESPITE OUR SUCCESSES IN RAISING AWARENESS AND LOBBYING IN THE UK, ISRAEL HAS CONTINUED TO BREACH INTERNATIONAL LAW WITH IMPUNITY. THE SITUATION IN GAZA IS UNBEARABLE AND REMINISCENT OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WHEN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WERE HERDED TOGETHER LIKE CATTLE. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE HERE IS THAT WE HAVE FORMULATED DOZENS OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES TO ENSURE THAT THIS SITUATION NEVER AGAIN ARISES, AND YET HERE WE ARE FACING IT ONCE MORE.

I DECIDED TO JOIN THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA FOR SEVERAL REASONS. I CANNOT BEAR TO HEAR OF ANOTHER CHILD DYING IN GAZA FROM A TREATABLE DISEASE, OR ANOTHER FAMILY FACING A SCORCHING SUMMER LIVING WITH LITTLE PROTECTION FROM THE ELEMENTS. I WANTED TO HELP DELIVER THE TONNES OF RECONSTRUCTION MATERIALS THAT WILL HELP REBUILD HOMES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS THE MATERIALS THAT ISRAEL REFUSES TO ALLOW INTO GAZA. I ALSO WANTED TO HELP DELIVER SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO CHILDREN AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO HEALTH CENTRES. THAT IS THE AIM OF THIS MISSION TO BRING RELIEF TO THE 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING UNDER THIS BLOCKADE. THIS IS ALSO AN ATTEMPT TO REPLICATE WHAT THE PEOPLE OF GAZA HAVE BEEN DOING OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS RESIST WITH RESOLUTE CONVICTION. IF THE PEOPLE OF GAZA HAVE REFUSED TO COWER TO ISRAELI BRUTALITY THEN THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS AID THEM IN THEIR LEGITIMATE, MORAL AND ETHICAL BATTLE.

AS A RESULT, THERE IS OF COURSE THE CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL AND ITS ILLEGAL CONTROL OF GAZA'S WATERWAYS AND ITS SIEGE OF THE GAZA STRIP. HOWEVER, IF ISRAEL INTERCEPTS THE FLOTILLA, ONE MUST QUESTION WHO THE AGGRESSOR IS -- 700 HUMANITARIANS FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES OR A HEAVILY ARMED ISRAELI NAVAL FORCE?

WE WERE DUE TO DEPART FROM ANTALYA ON THE FLAGSHIP OF THE FLOTILLA ON TUESDAY, MAY 25, BUT AS WITH ALL OTHER CAREFULLY CRAFTED PLANS, WE ARE HAVING TO REVISE OUR SCHEDULE. THE BOATS SETTING SAIL FROM GREECE HAVE BEEN DELAYED AND AS WE ALL NEED TO TRAVEL IN A GROUP WE NEED TO EXTEND OUR PATIENCE FOR A FURTHER 24 HOURS BEFORE SETTING SAIL. IRRESPECTIVE OF WHEN WE GET UNDER WAY, ONE THING THAT HAS TRANSPIRED BETWEEN EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US WHO INTENDS TO JOIN THE FLOTILLA IS THAT OUR WILL-POWER IS READY TO MATCH ISRAEL'S MILITARY MIGHT.

MEANWHILE, ISRAEL HAS ANNOUNCED SEVERAL MEASURES TO COUNTER THE GAZA FREEDOM FLOTILLA. REPORTS SAY THAT HALF OF THE ISRAELI NAVY HAS BEEN PLACED ON FULL ALERT TO CONFRONT OUR PEACEFUL MISSION TO TAKE HUMANITARIAN AID TO GAZA. THEY HAVE ALSO READIED DETENTION CENTRES CAPABLE OF HOLDING AND INTERROGATING 'HUNDREDS' OF PROTESTERS, SO ONE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THEY MEAN TO IMPRISON THE 700 FOREIGN NATIONALS WHO MAKE UP THIS CONTINGENT.

#### CONFRONTATION

THE GREATEST CONCERN IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ISRAELI 'CITIZENS' ARE PREPARING TO SAIL WITH HUNDREDS OF BOATS TO CONFRONT US. THIS IS OF CONCERN SINCE THIS MAY PROVIDE AN EXCUSE FOR THE ISRAELI NAVY TO INTERVENE UNDER THE PRETEXT OF AIDING ITS CITIZENS. HOWEVER, THIS CONTINGENT IS LIKELY TO BE MADE UP OF THE MOST EXTREME ELEMENTS OF ISRAELI SOCIETY, NAMELY THE ILLEGAL COLONISTS. THE VERY SAME ONES WHO SHOT DEAD A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY -- AYSAR ZABEN ON MAY 13 THIS YEAR, BECAUSE HE THREW STONES AT THEIR CAR. COLONIST VIOLENCE IS COMMONPLACE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND AS A RESULT THEY HEAP FURTHER MISERY ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IF THESE ARE THE ONES WHO WILL CHALLENGE THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA, THEY WILL BE INTERESTED ONLY IN MAINTAINING THE OPPRESSION THAT ALLOWS THEM TO LIVE ILLEGALLY ON PALESTINIAN LAND. THEY DO NOT PLAY BY THE RULES AND HAVE LITTLE REGARD FOR LIFE OR PROPERTY THAT IS NOT THEIRS.

HOWEVER, ONE CAN RAISE THE LEGITIMATE QUESTION ARE THESE ISRAELIS WITHOUT UNIFORMS REALLY CIVILIANS, OR SOLDIERS DISGUISED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING? WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT ALL THESE THREATS FROM A HEAVILY ARMED NAVAL FORCE AGAINST US HAS SIMPLY FURTHER STRENGTHENED OUR RESOLVE, AND WE REMAIN EAGER TO SET OFF SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: DUBAI GULF NEWS ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF LARGE-CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT, PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER; URL HTTP://WWW.GULFNEWS.COM/HOME/

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P 271740Z MAY 10

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agga

CITE OSC RESTON VA 397980

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: EUP20100527689001 COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

#### SUBJ: AFP: GAZA AID FLOTILLA UNDETERRED, ISRAEL THREATENS TO INTERCEPT SHIPS (U)

SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 27 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"GAZA AID FLOTILLA UNDETERRED AS ISRAEL STEPS UP WARNINGS" - AFP HEADLINE (U)

**NEWS AGENCIES** 

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PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS VOWED ON THURSDAY TO STEAM ON TO HAMAS-RUN GAZA AND BUST THE BLOCKADE WITH THEIR AID-LADEN FLOTILLA AS ISRAEL AGAIN WARNED IT WOULD INTERCEPT THE SHIPS.

"WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAIL FROM INTERNATIONAL WATERS INTO THE WATERS OF GAZA," SAID GRETA BERLIN, ONE OF THE FLOTILLA'S ORGANISERS.

"THE ONLY ILLEGAL PRESENCE IN THE AREA IS ISRAEL," SHE TOLD AFP, ADDING THE "FREEDOM FLOTILLA" WAS ON SCHEDULE TO ARRIVE IN THE PALESTINIAN ENCLAVE ON SATURDAY WITH MORE THAN 10,000 TONNES OF BUILDING AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

BUT ISRAEL INSISTED IT WOULD PREVENT THE THREE CARGO SHIPS AND FIVE PASSENGER BOATS FROM REACHING THE ISLAMIST-RUN GAZA STRIP, CALLING THE BLOCKADE-BUSTING BID A "CHEAP POLITICAL STUNT."

THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID IT SUMMONED THE AMBASSADORS OF TURKEY, GREECE, CYPRUS, SWEDEN AND IRELAND -- THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THE SHIPS SET SAIL -- AND WARNED THEM ISRAEL "ISSUED WARRANTS THAT PROHIBIT THE ENTRANCE OF THE VESSELS TO GAZA."

THE FLOTILLA "IS ABOUT TO BREAK INTERNATIONAL LAW," THE MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL YOSSI GAL TOLD THE DIPLOMATS, ADDING THE COASTAL ENCLAVE "IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A TERRORIST ORGANISATION, WHICH DOES NOT PRIORITISE THE WELL-BEING OF THE CITIZENS OF GAZA."

HE ALSO SAID ISRAEL "DECLARES THE FLOTILLA AN ABSOLUTE PROVOCATION" AND THAT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID IN GAZA.

ISRAEL HAS VOWED TO DIVERT THE SHIPS TO THE SOUTHERN ISRAELI PORT OF ASHDOD, WHERE IT WILL DETAIN THE ACTIVISTS BEFORE DEPORTING THEM.

PART OF THE PORT HAS BEEN CORDONED OFF AND PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE ACTIVISTS. CHEMICAL TOILETS HAVE BEEN SET UP AS WELL AS LARGE, AIR-CONDITIONED TENTS HOUSING IMMIGRATION BOOTHS AND AREAS FOR PEOPLE TO BE SEARCHED.

CONTAINERS BLOCKED OFF WHAT APPEARED TO BE A HOLDING AREA, WHICH WAS COVERED BY TARPAULINS TO PROVIDE SHADE.

GAL SUGGESTED THE ORGANISERS SHOULD VOLUNTARILY HEAD TO ASHDOD TO UNLOAD THE SUPPLIES SO ISRAEL OR HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES CAN DELIVER THEM TO GAZA OVERLAND.

#### FLOTILLA ORGANISERS REJECTED THE OFFER.

"WE ARE TAKING 10,000 TONNES OF MATERIAL THAT ISRAEL REFUSES TO ALLOW INTO GAZA," BERLIN SAID, ADDING THE CARGO INCLUDES WATER FILTRATION UNITS, PRE-FABRICATED HOMES AND CRAYONS FOR CHILDREN.

"THIS MISSION IS NOT ABOUT DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES, IT'S ABOUT BREAKING ISRAEL'S SIEGE ON 1.5 MILLION PALESTINIANS," SHE SAID.

IRISHMAN FINTAN LANE ECHOED THE SENTIMENTS.

"WE ARE DETERMINED TO BREAK ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE AND WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED," SAID LANE, ONE OF 750 ACTIVISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING DOZENS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FROM EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES, THAT ORGANISERS SAY ARE HEADING TOWARDS GAZA.

"THE PEOPLE OF GAZA HAVE A RIGHT TO ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE," SAID LANE.

ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAVE SEALED GAZA OFF TO ALL BUT BASIC HUMANITARIAN AID SINCE HAMAS -- WHICH IS BLACKLISTED AS A TERRORIST GROUP BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES -- SEIZED POWER IN JUNE 2007.

HAMAS ON THURSDAY SAID ISRAEL'S THREATS TO INTERCEPT THE FLOTILLA AMOUNTED TO "ZIONIST PIRACY."

"THE OCCUPATION'S THREAT TO PREVENT THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA FROM ARRIVING IN THE BESIEGED GAZA STRIP IS ZIONIST PIRACY AND A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW," SENIOR HAMAS LEADER ISMAIL RADWAN SAID IN A STATEMENT.

"THE OCCUPATION IS CONCERNED ABOUT THESE SHIPS... BECAUSE THEY GRANT LEGITIMACY TO ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT AND CONFIRM THAT THE ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE HAMAS HAVE FAILED," HE ADDED.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH -- NORTH AMERICAN SERVICE OF THE INDEPENDENT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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P 081936Z JUN 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 470561

WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, HUMAN RIGHTS, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, LEADER

SERIAL: GMP20100608746011

COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S YA'ALON: NO STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PREPARED FOR NAVY'S RAID (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH 1613 GMT 08 JUN 10 (U)

TFXT:

REPORT BY ATTILA SOMFALVI: "MINISTER YA'ALON SAYS NAVY RAID A FAILURE" (U)

INTERNET

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR STRATEGIC AFFAIRS MOSHE YA'ALON ADMITTED ON TUESDAY THAT LAST WEEK'S DEADLY COMMANDO RAID ON A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA WAS A FAILURE, SAYING THAT "IN A PLACE WHERE CITATIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN, SOMEONE FAILED TO PREPARE A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE."

SPEAKING DURING A MEETING WITH COUNCIL HEADS FROM THE LIKUD PARTY, YA'ALON SAID THAT "THE DECISION WAS RIGHT, BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT --AND I AM NOT GOING TO ELABORATE."

IRANIAN PRESIDENT TELLS WORSHIPPERS AT ISTANBUL MOSQUE, 'TURKEY, IRAN ARE BROTHER NATIONS' SAYS ISRAEL 'CREATING CRIMES THAT HAVE BEEN UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY OF MANKIND'.

YA'ALON, WHO SERVED AS ACTING PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE OPERATION DUE TO THE FACT THAT PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU WAS ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA, PRAISED THE COMMANDOS WHO TOOK OVER THE GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA. "THE FIGHTING ON THE DECK WAS HEROIC AND TOOK PLACE UNDER IMPOSSIBLE CONDITIONS," HE SAID, WHILE ADDING THAT "THERE WERE SOME MALFUNCTIONS DURING THE PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL STAGES."

"I WARNED OF THIS BEFORE THE INCIDENT," THE MINISTER SAID.

DURING THE MEETING, MA'ALEH ADUMIM MAYOR BENNY KASHRIEL COMPLAINED THAT COUNCIL HEADS WERE NOT BEING UTILIZED IN ISRAEL'S PR EFFORTS. "WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND WE HAVE ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION. IT'S A SHAME WERE ARE NOT BEING PUT TO WORK," HE SAID.

ON MONDAY IDF CHIEF OF STAFF LT.-GEN. GABI ASHKENAZI ORDERED A FORMAL, EXTERNAL INQUIRY INTO THE NAVAL RAID.

THE PROBE, MEANT TO DERIVE OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DEADLY EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE ABOARD THE MARMARA -- THE SAIL'S LEAD VESSEL -- WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A PANEL OF EXPERTS HEADED BY MAJ-GEN (RET.) GIORA EILAND.

JOINING EILAND WILL BE BRIGADIER-GENERAL AVIV KOHAVI, WHO ONCE HEADED THE OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE, FORMER CHIEF INTELLIGENCE OFFICER BRIG.-GEN. (RES.) YUVAL HALAMISH AND COLONEL (RES.) BEN ZION DA'ABUL, WHO HELD SENIOR POSTS IN THE NAVY AND THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT.

THE PANEL IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS BY JULY.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV YNETNEWS IN ENGLISH – CENTRIST NEWS SITE OPERATED BY THE YEDI'OT MEDIA GROUP, ISRAEL'S LARGEST MEDIA GROUP; URL: HTTP://WWW.YNETNEWS.COM

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OSC

# UK-Born Reporter Gives Evewitness[0] Account[0] of Israelis Killing Men on Gaza[0] Convoy (U)

EUP20100606031011 London Independent on Sunday Online in English 06 Jun 10 (U)

[Article by Jamal Elshayyal: "Kidnapped by Israel and Abandoned by Britain" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

I joined the Mavi Marmara in Istanbul on Friday 21 May as one of between 30 and 40 journalists reporting on the <a href="mailto:flotilla's[0]">flotilla's[0]</a> mission to <a href="mailto:Gaza[0]">Gaza[0]</a>. I am a journalist for al-Jazeera.

It was at 11pm local time on the evening of the 30th, as we were headed for <u>Gaza[0]</u>, that we first spotted the Israeli military from afar. I asked the organisers what they expected to happen. They told me they had decided to move as far away from the military zone as possible, and as far away from the Israeli army and as deep into international waters, because they wanted to avoid a confrontation.

At 2.30am I sent an email to my news desk to say we shouldn't expect anything to happen during the coming hours, and I went to bed. At roughly 4am, a huge bang on the window woke me up. I could see swarms of people in small speedboats belonging to the Israeli army close to our boat. The sound was of water grenades and tear gas canisters landing on board. I quickly put on my life jacket, grabbed my satellite phone and ran upstairs. Most of the others chose to stay down.

Because many of the crew were at that time at morning prayers, there had been a quick approach from all sides, just before they had finished praying.

When I got to the top deck I could see there were more than 15 speedboats around us, which had on average about 20 soldiers each. About 12ft above me, maybe 15ft at most, I saw the bottom of a helicopter; the sound was immense.

I pulled out my phone to call the desk. But none of the phones were working. None of the satellite phones were working; they were jammed by the Israelis. They had been working two hours before. I can list you more than 10 journalists whose satellite phones weren't working.

There was a second helicopter hovering over the ship, trying to lower Israeli soldiers down on a rope. On either side there was tear gas being thrown in from the boats, canisters which they were firing from a sort of gun. One man was shot in the top of the head from the helicopter. He collapsed on the ground. I snatched a microphone from one of the Turkish reporters to say one man had been killed. As I did that another man was shot. Those people died instantly.

Until that point I had not yet seen an Israeli soldier on deck. As far as I am concerned, it's a lie to say they only started shooting on deck. Only then did I see an Israeli soldier on deck.

The men who were dead had been fired on from above.

[Later, about 7am] a soldier shouted to me to put my hands behind my head. Come to me, he said, and get on your knees. As I did he pushed me and shoved me to the ground. I hit the ground hard. He said put your hands behind your back; he cuffed them with those plastic cuffs. Plastic cuffs, one hand above the other, extremely tight, not even a millimetre's movement between them. He was standing on my feet. He then kicked me down to the ground and then told me to get up. I hit the ground with my head and my shoulder. It was obviously very difficult to get up. He marched me and a woman to the end of the room.

Outside there were more soldiers. All were masked. They took my wallet and passport and threw them on the ground, so another soldier picked them up and put them in my pocket. After that they pushed us against the wall, so I was facing the wall. About a minute or so later they then took me upstairs.

On the deck above, everyone else was there. Some people were handcuffed with their hands in front, some behind. After an hour I needed to go to the bathroom. I asked one of the soldiers; he said OK. He got me up. As we started walking, I was pushed to the ground. I assumed it was just to wait my turn, so when the other got back I said can I go now? He shook his head. I said I really need to go. He said no toilet for you. I said I desperately need to go. So he ushered me with his face and gun, and said go to the toilet wh ere you are. He said: "You piss here."

[Eventually, three hours later, he was allowed to use the toilet.]

Afterwards, I saw two things on deck that shocked me. There was a Malaysian man sitting in front of me to the right. His hands were tied behind his back, but his hands had gone blue. He pleaded with the soldiers to release him or to loosen his cuffs, but they kept saying no. After the fourth time of pleading with the guy, the soldier went up to him and said "OK" and then tightened it. The man gave out a huge scream, a spine-chilling scream I will never forget. It was only when the superior came later, three hours later, that he was released.

The other thing that shocked me was how the soldiers would walk up and down and kick people lying there. One man, who was Palestinian, was old and had diabetes. He was not very healthy. He requested to go to the toilet on numerous occasions but was refused.

We reached Ashdod at about 8pm. When we went back down below we saw the place had been completely ransacked. Clothes were everywhere, bags emptied, as if it were the aftermath of an earthquake.

So when I came off the ship they searched us again. A man with a black and white Palestinian scarf round his neck was told, "This is illegal in Israel". I said just take it off. The soldier then turned to me and said: "Welcome to Israel. You like Israel?" I didn't reply.

They put us on the bus which then took us to Beer Sheva prison. I spent a night in jail and I was released in the afternoon. I was not allowed to speak to my family. There was only one meal and that was frozen slices of bread and potatoes. Two Irishmen refused to leave the jail, and one of them was beaten up horrendously. The captain of the ship had been poisoned so we all did blood tests and urine tests.

As far as I am concerned I was kidnapped by Israel and abandoned by Britain.

Jamal Elshayyal was talking with Matthew Bell

[Description of Source: London Independent on Sunday Online in English -- Website of leftist Sunday newspaper; has been consistently opposed to the Iraq war, often adopting a strong anti-US stance; sister paper of Independent Online; only available on Sundays; URL: http://www.independent.co.uk]

FM: OSC

# X

# German Activists Accuse Israel of 'Clear Act of Piracy' Against Gaza[0] Aid Flotilla[0] (U)

EUP20100601085009 Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1328 GMT 01 Jun 10 (U)

["No One Armed on Gaza[0] Flotilla[0]: Germans on Ship" -- AFP headline (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

BERLIN, June 1, 2010 (AFP) -- Visibly shaken German activists who were on an aid ship bound for <u>Gaza[0]</u> raided by Israeli commandos said Tuesday [ 1 June] that nobody on board was armed with anything more than a few wooden batons.

A German doctor on the ship, Matthias Jochheim, who had bloodstains on his trousers from people he treated, said that he had personally seen four dead people and that he expected the total death toll to be 15.

Three German politicians, plus a representative of the Palestinian community in Germany who was also on the ship, said that there were around 18 or 19 people killed in the raid on Monday.

Israeli officials blamed activists on the vessel for the confrontation, saying they had attacked soldiers as they boarded with clubs and knives. The Israeli military said that nine <a href="mailto:passengers[0]">passengers[0]</a> were killed in the ensuing fight.

"The Israeli government justifies the raid because they were attacked. This is absolutely not the case," former MP Norman Paech, 72, wrapped in a blue blanket, told reporters after arriving back in Berlin from the Middle East.

"This was not an act of self-defence," he added.

"Personally I saw two and a half wooden batons that were used ... There was really nothing else. We never saw any knives," he said.

"This was an attack in international waters on a peaceful mission ... This was a clear act of piracy," he added.

"We had not prepared in any way to fight. We didn't even consider it," he added. "No violence, no resistance -- because we knew very well that we would have absolutely no chance against soldiers like this.

"We wanted to show that we were peaceful."

Paech, a former MP from the far-left Die Linke party who has been to <u>Gaza[0]</u> several times, said that he took photographic evidence but that his camera had been confiscated.

His comments were backed up by Inge Hoeger, 59, and Annette Groth, 56, two current Die Linke MPs who were also on board the convoy when it was raided at dawn on Monday in international waters.

"We felt like we were in a war, like we were being kidnapped," Hoeger said.

"We wanted to bring aid to Gaza[0]. Nobody had a weapon[0]."

The attack was "in contravention of international law ... It was an act of piracy," she said.

Jochheim, the doctor, told the same news conference in Berlin that there were "at least" 50 people badly injured.

"Personally I saw four dead ... The soldiers used live ammunition, not rubber bullets or something," he said.

"I heard from an Iranian colleague that there was a fifth person dead. And then I heard from a reliable source that there were 15 killed in total... mostly from gunshot wounds."

The Mavi Marmara was one of six ships carrying some 10,000 tonnes of supplies to <u>Gaza[0]</u>, which has been under a crippling Israeli blockade since 2007 when the Islamist Hamas movement seized control of the territory.

[Description of Source: Paris AFP in English -- North European Service of independent French press agency Agence France-Presse]

OSC

# M

## Eyewitness Accounts of Israeli Attack on Gaza Flotilla, Turkish Ship (U)

EUP20100607085015[0] Hamburg Spiegel Online in English 1113 GMT 07 Jun 10 (U)

[Unattributed report: "Eyewitness Accounts of Gaza Convoy Raid: What Really Happened on Board the Mavi Marmara" (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

When the Hamburg resident Nader El Sakka, 58, tried to board the Challenger I in the port of Agios Nikolaos on Crete, he was told he had to sign a four-page document pledging that he would not engage in violence and that he possessed no weapons. He also had to provide the name and telephone number of a family member in case of an emergency. If he didn't sign, he was told, he wouldn't be allowed on board the Gazabound convoy.

The document was in English, a language that El Sakka -- a businessman who was acting as a delegate from the Palestinian community in Germany -- does not speak well, so he only filled out three pages. He thought he could skip the fourth page. "But that wasn't enough to be allowed on board," he says. "They insisted that I also fill out the fourth one."

El Sakka embarked on board the Challenger I, one of eight boats and freighters headed for Gaza with a load of cement, structural steel, medicine and children's toys. Two days later, off the coast of Cyprus, El Sakka disembarked and went on board the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish passenger ship. The flagship of the small fleet, it had Gaza activists on board from a dozen countries, the majority of whom -- around 400 people -- hailed from Turkey.

#### Like a Pleasant Cruise

El Sakka describes the atmosphere on board as "euphoric," almost as if "we were on a pleasant cruise," he says. The ship was linked via satellite with the Internet and a number of TV stations and continuously sent out images and interviews to the world. A reporter from the Arab news channel Al-Jazeera filed a report on Sunday afternoon that made headlines a number of days later. A group of Arab activists could be seen chanting: "Remember Khaibar, Khaibar, oh Jews! Muhammad's army is returning!"

This is an intifada battle cry, a fighting slogan that recalls a victorious battle fought by the Prophet Muhammad's army against the Jews. El Sakka, a veteran of many pro-Palestinian demonstrations, knows the words well -- and he disapproves of them. "We avoid such slogans at our rallies," he says. "I didn't personally see this group on the ship. But I recognize the reporter. He was definitely there." The other footage in the report also stems from the Mavi Marmara, he says -- including a woman standing on deck and saying in Arabic: "Right now we face one of two happy endings: either martyrdom or reaching Gaza."

That evening at 6:00 they ate köfte (grilled meatballs) and cucumber salad. Four-and-a-half hours later, Captain Mahmut Tural spotted Israeli ships on his radar. In response to their demand that he change course, he responded: "Negative. Our destination is Gaza." Then he ordered an exercise to prepare the passengers for an emergency.

### 'I Was Well Prepared'

"But right after the alarm the various groups continued with their speeches and singing," said Norman Paech, a former member of the German parliament, the Bundestag, for the far-left Left Party, who was also on board the ship. "I stayed for a bit on deck and observed it all — out of anthropological interest." Then he went to bed.

The activists suspected that an attack was imminent. They began to assign watches on deck. One of the men on watch was the Turkish doctor Mahmut Coskun, 40. "They chose well-built doctors for the job, because in a crisis we would have to bring the injured below deck," he recalls. "I'm an emergency doctor with a motorcycle unit. I was well prepared."

He saw men preparing for a showdown by reciting poems and songs, but there were no real extremists on board, he says: "Between 5,000 and 6,000 people had applied for the mission. Radicals were not taken along."

At 4:02 a.m. morning prayers began, and the men went below deck to worship. A few minutes later, Israeli navy speedboats pulled up alongside the ship. The soldiers threw stun grenades and teargas grenades on deck.

El Sakka, who was standing on the upper deck, tried to take pictures with his digital camera, but he only dared extend his arm over the railing. "The noise on the lower decks was so loud that for a few minutes I didn't even realize that the first helicopter was already clattering just a few meters overhead."

He ran below deck to check on his friend Norman Paech, the former Bundestag member. Men who apparently had experience with teargas pressed pieces of onion into his hands. "'Rub it on your forehead,' they told me, 'it helps!""

On the main deck, Canadian human rights activist Kevin Neish, 53, observed how the men prepared for battle. Some of them were wearing gas masks, one had "a kind of child's slingshot," while others had pieces of wood and metal pipes, he says. "It looked rather pitiful to me. Some of them had pulled things out of waste bins, wooden crates, batteries. Someone had even fished out a coconut."

### Surprising Footage

The only video footage initially released of the military's Operation Sky Winds all came from the Israeli army. They showed soldiers rappelling from helicopters and being

გ46-2 10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000724 beaten down on deck by men armed with pipes and clubs. Towards the end of the week, details emerged from the films confiscated from the activists, including some that even surprised the Israelis. According to the newspaper Yediot Ahronot, one of the tapes shows an "Arab-looking woman" using a stick to keep men from beating up an Israeli soldier. Furthermore "a number of leftist European activists are trying to protect the soldiers."

Pictures that showed how eight Turkish activists and an American were killed had still not been released by the Israeli army by Friday evening. The soldiers shot indiscriminately into the crowd, Turkish activists said after they returned home. They acted in self-defense, said the army.

El Sakka fled to the lower deck when he noticed that live ammunition was being fired. The ship's sick bay was located next to the sleeping quarters. He observed that an increasing number of dead and wounded were being brought down, including three injured soldiers.

### 'They Should Have Sunk the Ship'

The shooting stopped after an hour, and a message came through the intercom that the ship was now under Israeli command. All passengers, including Sakka and Paech, were tied up and forced to kneel on the bloodstained upper deck. The ordeal lasted for four hours. Paech and two current Left Party members of the Bundestag, Inge Höger and Annette Groth, who were also on board, later filed complaints against persons unknown for unlawful detention and war crimes.

It took 10 hours for the Mavi Marmara to reach the port of Ashdod. Nearly all the activists were put in jail, but then the Israeli government decided to deport them all — despite violent protests in Israel. "Do you know the only thing that the Israeli army did wrong?" said one demonstrator to an Israeli peace activist. "They should have sunk the ship and killed everyone on board!"

[Description of Source: Hamburg Spiegel Online in English -- English-language news website funded by the Spiegel group which funds Der Spiegel weekly and the Spiegel television magazine; URL: http://www.spiegel.de]

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WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100606966109

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA, CYPRUS, ISRAEL, LEBANON

SUBJ: AL-MANAR: FLOTILLA CAPTAIN TELLS OF HIGH ISRAELI AGGRESSION TOWARD FEMALE PASSENGERS (U)

SOURCE: BEIRUT AL-MANAR TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH 1425 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "FLOTILLA CAPTAIN TELLS OF HIGH ISRAELI AGGRESSION TOWARD FEMALE PASSENGERS" (U)

INTERNET

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THE CAPTAIN OF ONE OF SIX BOATS IN A FLOTILLA RAIDED BY ISRAELI OCCUPATION FORCES TO PREVENT AID REACHING GAZA SAID COMMANDOS ROUGHED UP WOMEN PASSENGERS AND HUMILIATED OTHERS, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED SUNDAY. "IT WAS TRAUMATIC; WE WERE OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING SOME HASSLE FROM THE ISRAELIS — BUT NOTHING LIKE THEY DISHED OUT," THE 55-YEAR-OLD CYPRUS-BASED BRITISH SKIPPER, DENIS HEALEY, TOLD THE CYPRUS MAIL.

HE SAID THAT AT ABOUT 4:00 AM (0100 GMT) LAST MONDAY, AS THE AID FLOTILLA STEAMED TOWARDS GAZA BUT WHILE STILL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, HE SAW THE LIGHTS OF ISRAELI PATROL BOATS AND HELICOPTERS. "WE WERE TRAVELLING AT AROUND 18 KNOTS, SO WE MANAGED TO HOLD THEM OFF FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES; THEN THEY SENT ONE OF THEIR BIGGER STEEL VESSELS SO I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO RAM US OR SHOOT US WITH THE GUN ON THE FRONT," HEALEY SAID.

"I HAD TO SLOW DOWN BECAUSE I WAS FEARFUL OF BEING RAMMED, THEN THE COMMANDOS BOARDED -- THERE WERE NO SHOTS FIRED -- BUT THEY USED A TASER ON ONE FEMALE AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST THEN THEY SHOT A PAINTBALL IN THE FACE OF A BELGIAN WOMAN, WHICH MADE HER NOSE BLEED," HE SAID. "THEY WERE VERY ROUGH WITH THE FEMALE PASSENGERS."

HEALEY'S BOAT WAS CARRYING AROUND 20 PASSENGERS INCLUDING THREE GERMAN MPS, A SWEDISH MP AND A US FORMER COLONEL. A MUCH LARGER BOAT IN THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT FLOTILLA, THE TURKISH FERRY MAVI MARMARA WITH SOME 600 PASSENGERS, WAS BEING BOARDED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME BY COMMANDERS WHO RAPPELLED FROM HELICOPTERS ONTO THE DECK. IN THE MAYHEM THAT FOLLOWED, NINE ACTIVISTS WERE KILLED AND SCORES INJURED INCLUDING SEVEN NAVY SEALS.

ISRAEL CLAIMS ITS COMMANDOS ONLY RESORTED TO FORCE AFTER BEING ATTACKED AS THEY REACHED THE DECK, BUT ACTIVISTS SAY THE SOLDIERS STARTED FIRING FIRST. THE SITUATION ON HEALEY'S BOAT WAS CALMER BUT NO LESS TENSE.

"THE COMMANDOS HAD STUN GUNS, TASERS, PAINT BALLS, MACHINE GUNS AND THEY EVEN BROUGHT A DOG ON BOARD -- POOR THING," HE TOLD THE CYPRUS MAIL. "THE PASSENGERS ON THE LOWER DECKS WERE TRYING TO CONDUCT A NON-AGGRESSIVE DEFENSE OF THE BOAT BY LINKING ARMS, BUT THE SOLDIERS JUST PUSHED THEM DOWN AND EVEN WALKED OVER THEM."

HEALEY WAS ORDERED TO SAIL TO THE PORT OF ASHDOD UNDER MILITARY ESCORT, BEFORE BEING HAULED OFF THE SHIP, PARADED BEFORE LOCAL TELEVISION CAMERAS AND TAKEN TO A MAKESHIFT DETENTION CENTRE. "THEY LINED UP THEIR POLICE AND MARINES ON THE QUAYSIDE TO MAKE A SPECTACLE OF US, THEY HAD PEOPLE WITH CAMERAS. WE WERE THEN TAKEN INTO DETENTION, THEY DENIED US ACCESS TO TELEPHONES, AND THEY WOULDN'T LET THE BRITISH CONSULATE IN TO SEE ME. THEY TOLD ME NOTHING -- THEIR POLICY IS TO SAY NOTHING, AND WHEN THEY DO ITS LIES."

HEALEY FROM PORTSMOUTH HAS A LONGSTANDING INVOLVEMENT IN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND HAS CAPTAINED BOATS ON PREVIOUS AID JOURNEYS TO GAZA, INCLUDING ONE TWO YEARS AGO IN WHICH HIS BOAT WAS RAMMED BY AN ISRAELI GUNBOAT. "I WOULD DO IT AGAIN," HE SAID IN THE INTERVIEW. "YES, I THINK I WOULD -- YES."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIRUT AL-MANAR TV ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF BEIRUT AL-MANAR TELEVISION, AFFILIATED WITH THE PRO-IRANIAN HIZBALLAH. URL: HTTP://WWW.ALMANAR.COM.LB

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WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: GMP20100709648004

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK

#### SUBJ: AL-JAZIRAH AIRS STATEMENTS BY FREED ACTIVISTS ON MAVI MARMARA AID SHIP ATTACK (U)

REF: 1. ISRAEL'S MILITARY PROBE SAYS USE OF LIVE FIRE AGAINST GAZA SHIPS 'JUSTIFIED' GMP20100713693002 AL JAZEERA.NET ENGLISH 0000 GMT 13

SOURCE: DOHA AL-JAZIRAH SATELLITE CHANNEL TELEVISION IN ARABIC 1705 GMT 09 JUL 10 (U)

TEXT: TELEVISION OSC SUMMARY

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DOHA AL-JAZIRAH SATELLITE CHANNEL TELEVISION IN ARABIC -- INDEPENDENT TELEVISION STATION FINANCED BY THE QATARI GOVERNMENT-- AT 1705 GMT ON 9 JULY CARRIES AN APPROXIMATELY 50-MINUTE-LONG DOCUMENTARY ON THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE GAZA-BOUND FREEDOM FLOTILLA IN THE INTERNATIONAL WATERS. THE ACTIVISTS, WHO WERE ON BOARD THE TURKISH MAVI MARMARA SHIP, MAKE STATEMENTS IN ENGLISH, WITH SUPERIMPOSED ARABIC TRANSLATIONS, EXCEPT CAPTAIN MEHMET TURAL WHO SPEAKS IN TURKISH, WITH A SUPERIMPOSED ARABIC TRANSLATION.

AN UNIDENTIFIED TV CORRESPONDENT BEGINS BY SAYING THAT "NINE PEOPLE WERE KILLED, DOZENS OTHERS WERE WOUNDED, AND MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE WERE JAILED." THE RESULTS OF THAT "BLOODY" ENCOUNTER, HE SAYS, "ARE STILL UNCLEAR BUT HAVE SHED LIGHT ONCE AGAIN ON THE ILLEGITIMATE BLOCKADE ISRAEL HAS IMPOSED ON THE GAZA STRIP." THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA "SET OFF FROM THE BOSFOR STRAIT CARRYING RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THE GAZA STRIP," HE SAYS, ADDING THAT "DESPITE THE SHOCKING INCIDENT, THE ACTIVISTS DEMONSTRATED A HIGH MORALE."

TURKISH ACTIVIST MEHMET VAL SAYS "ENTHUSIASM WAS HIGH AND THE ACTIVISTS FELT AN OVERWHELMING ECSTASY."

AL-JAZIRAH CORRESPONDENT ANDREI KKALIL SAYS "ACTIVISTS SANG TURKISH SONGS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GAZA ISSUE AND WERE PLEASED BY THE IDEA THAT THEY WERE DOING SOMETHING."

THE UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENT SAYS "PEOPLE WERE ASTONISHED BY SEEING LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, WHO HAD COME FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO VOICE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS HUMANITARIAN ISSUE AND EXTEND RELIEF AID TO THE BESIEGED PALESTINIANS."

A WOUNDED ACTIVIST IN HOSPITAL NAMED AHMAD LUQMAN TALIB REGRETS THAT "THE PALESTINIANS HAVE BEEN UNDER SIEGE FOR SO LONG."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "THE CONVOY WAS ARRANGED BY THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT IN COOPERATION WITH THE TURKISH CHARITY SOCIETY, IHH, TO TRANSPORT MOST OF THE VOLUNTEERS TO THE GAZA STRIP BY THE TURKISH MAVI MARMARA SHIP." THE OTHER SHIPS, HE SAYS, "CARRIED ABOUT 10,000 TONNES OF RELIEF SUPPLIES TO EASE THE PLIGHT OF ABOUT 1.5 PEOPLE IN THE STRIP."

TALIB SAYS "WE HOPED WE WOULD ARRIVE IN THE GAZA STRIP PEACEFULLY AND WERE THINKING ABOUT HOW WE WOULD OFFER PEOPLE THERE FOODSTUFFS AND MAKE THEM HAPPY."

ACTIVIST VAL SAYS "PEOPLE WERE HAPPY AND MANY OF THEM BELIEVED WE WOULD ARRIVE IN GAZA TO HAND OVER THE RELIEF AID AND MEET WITH THE BESIEGED PALESTINIANS."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA WAS THE LATEST LINK IN A SERIES OF RELIEF MISSIONS AIMED AT BREAKING THE IRON BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON THE GAZA STRIP." HE RECALLS THAT A GEORGE GALLOWAY-LED CONVOY CARRYING AMBULANCES, ENGINES, FOODSTUFFS, CLOTHES, AND MEDICINE, ARRIVED IN THE GAZA STRIP IN MARCH 2009.

GALLOWAY IS SEEN ADDRESSING SCROWN OF PROPERTY DESCRIPTION OF THE SIEGE."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "PRIOR TO THE GAZA WAR, MEMBERS OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT WERE ABLE TO DISPATCH RELIEF AID TO THE STRIP BY SEA."

ONE ACTIVIST FROM THE MOVEMENT SAYS "IF THE ISRAELIS FIRED BULLETS IN THE AIR AND NOT AT THE SHIP, THEN THEY JUST WANTED TO FRIGHTEN US." ANOTHER SAYS "WHAT WE REALLY WANT IS TO PRESS AHEAD WITH OUR MISSION." A THIRD SAYS "WE HAVE TO BREAK THE SIEGE AS WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "AFTER THE BLOODY RAID ON THE MARMARA SHIP, ISRAELI OFFICIALS CONDEMNED THE CONVOY AND THOSE IN CHARGE OF IT."

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU IS SEEN ACCUSING THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA OF HAVING LINKS TO INTERNATIONAL JIHADISTS, AL-QA'IDA, AND HAMAS." HE SAYS "THIS WAS NOT A LOVE BOAT BUT A HATRED BOAT," DESCRIBING THE ACTIVISTS AS "SUPPORTERS OF TERRORISM AND DESTRUCTION."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "THE APPROXIMATELY 600 ACTIVISTS, WHO CAME FROM MORE THAN 30 COUNTRIES, INCLUDED PARLIAMENTARIANS, A SWEDISH PROMINENT AUTHOR, A FORMER 81-YEAR-OLD US AMBASSADOR, A ONE-YEAR-OLD INFANT, SEVEN CORRESPONDENTS FROM THE AL-JAZIRAH TV SATELLITE CHANNEL, A 61-YEAR-OLD ARCHITECT, AND OTHERS."

ONE AGING ACTIVIST SAYS "AT THE EARLY STAGES OF MY LIFE, I WAS TOLD BY DIFF ERENT SOURCES THAT ISRAEL WAS A SMALL, COURAGEOUS STATE LIVING AMONG HOSTILE NEIGHBORS AND I WAS PROUD OF SUPPORTING ISRAEL." HE SAYS "THIS QUICKLY CHANGED AFTER I LEARNED THAT ISRAEL WAS LIVING IN A LAND BELONGING TO ANOTHER NATION."

TALIB SAYS "THE PALESTINIANS' SUFFERING DREW MY ATTENTION AFTER I READ ABOUT WARS, MASSACRES, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, BLOCKADES, AND OTHER DISASTERS TAKING PLACE IN PALESTINE AND I JUST WANTED TO EXTEND ANY KIND OF SUPPORT TO THE PALESTINIANS."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "AS THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA PREPARED TO SET SAIL, THE ISRAELIS DREW A PLAN FOR THE BATTLE." THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES "WARNED THAT THE FLOTILLA WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REACH THE PORT OF GAZA," HE SAYS, ADDING THAT "NEVERTHELESS, SOME ACTIVISTS DECIDED TO DEFEND THEIR SHIPS AGAINST ANY ATTACK."

VAL SAYS "THE ACTIVISTS WARNED THE ISRAELIS AGAINST BOARDING THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA SET OFF FROM THE CYPRIOT COAST BUT COULD NOT REACH ITS DESTINATION, ALTHOUGH THE JOURNEY WAS THE FRUIT OF MONTHS OF PREPARATIONS AND PLANNING."

AL-JAZIRAH CORRESPONDENT KHALIL SAYS "ON SUNDAY NIGHT, ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS URGED EVERYBODY TO GET READY TO ENTER THE GAZA TERRITORIAL WATERS, BUT THAT WHEN DARKNESS FELL, OPTIMISM CHANGED TO SUSPICION."

ACTIVIST VAL SAYS "ISRAELI MILITARY SHIPS APPROACHED AND ASKED THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP'S CAPTAIN TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND HIS DESTINATION." THE CAPTAIN, HE SAYS, "TOLD THE ISRAELIS THAT THE CONVOY BELONGED TO THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT AND WAS HEADING TO THE GAZA STRIP."

TALIB SAYS "WE WERE TOLD THE ISRAELIS WOULD BOARD THE SHIP AND SEND SUBMARINES."

ONE ACTIVIST SAYS "THE ISRAELIS WARNED THE ACTIVISTS ABOARD THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP AGAINST APPROACHING THE BATTLE ZONE."

MAVI MARMARA SHIP CAPTAIN MEHMET TURAL SAYS "30 MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT, WE RECEIVED CALLS IN WHICH THE ISRAELIS ASKED US TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA, BUT THAT WE TURNED DOWN THE DEMAND."

ONE ACTIVIST SAYS "WE KNEW THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE COMING AND THIS WAS THE LATEST LIVE REPORT I SENT TO THE ALJAZIRAH TV SATELLITE CHANNEL." I SAID IN THE REPORT THAT "THE ISRAELI NAVAL FORCE WAS COMMANDEERING THE MAVI MARMARA SHIP."

TV CORRESPONDENT KKALIL SAYS "WE STAXED AWAKE JUNTU BEST OF GO TO BED."

CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "THE GAZA COAST AND PORT WERE CLOSED TO MARITIME TRAFFIC AND THE CONTACTS STOPPED AT 0200 1100 GMT IN THE MORNING."

TALIB SAYS "WE SAW ESPIONAGE PLANES AND SHIPS, WHICH APPEARED AS IF THEY HAD BEEN INVADING A COUNTRY AND NOT A SMALL BOAT."

CORRESPONDENT KHALIL SAYS "AS I WASHING MY FACE, I SAW A SMALL BOAT CARRYING ISRAELI SOLDIERS."

TALIB SAYS "WE SAW 20 MEN DRESSED IN MILITARY UNIFORMS CARRYING THE WORD DEATH."

ONE ACTIVIST SAYS "WE SAW FOUR OR FIVE GUNBOATS."

KHALIL SAYS "THE SOLDIERS WERE GETTING CLOSER TO US AND ABOUT 30 GUNBOATS SURROUNDED US, WITH THE SOLDIERS COVERING THEIR FACES WITH MASKS AND AIMING THEIR RIFLES AT THE PASSENGERS."

VAL SAYS "EXPLOSIONS TOOK PLACE AND I THOUGHT DOZENS OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED."

KHALIL SAYS "20 TURKS IN THE REAR OF THE SHIP WERE CARRYING STICKS AND WATER HOSES AND WARNING THE ISRAELIS AGAINST APPROACHING." THESE MEN "WERE PREPARED TO DEFY THE SOLDIERS, WITH SOME OF US WARNING THE SOLDIERS AGAINST BOARDING THE SHIP."

TALIB SAYS "THE SKY WAS FULL OF HELICOPTERS."

AN ACTIVIST SAYS "THE SOLDIERS FIRE RUBBER BULLETS AND SOME BELIEVED THE ISRAELIS HAD BEGUN TO OPEN FIRE AT THE PASSENGERS."

CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "FOUR SOLDIERS BOARDED THE SHIP FROM A HELICOPTER AND OPENED FIRE WITHOUT ANY PRIOR WARNING, BUT THAT THE PASSENGERS STRIPPED THEM OF THEIR RIFLES."

VAL SAYS "THE TURKISH PASSENGERS CAPTURED AND BEAT THREE ISRAELI SOLDIERS."

KKALIL SAYS "THE PASSENGERS COULD FIGHT THESE SOLDIERS WITH PRIMITIVE WEAPONS LIKE STICKS AND SMALL KNIVES."

CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "ISRAEL'S ALLEGATIONS THAT WEAPONS WERE FOUND ABO ARD THE SHIP CANNOT PERSUADE ANYBODY," ADDING THAT "THERE WERE AXES, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, AND KNIVES IN THE SHIP'S CAFETERIAS."

KHALIL SAYS "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS THEN HURLED TEAR GAS, SOUND, AND SMOKE BOMBS AND USED LIVE AMMUNITION AFTER THE THREE SOLDIERS WERE CAPTURED."

TALIB SAYS "A HELICOPTER OPENED FIRE AND WOUNDING ME IN THE LEG."

KHALIL SAYS "A SECOND HELICOPTER CAME AND OPENED FIRE ON THE PASSENGERS WITH THE AIM OF KILLING THEM."

CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "A NUMBER OF HEAVILY ARMED SOLDIERS THEN BOARDED THE SHIP AND HANDCUFFED THE SHIP'S CREW."

KHALIL SAYS "IN THE MORNING OF 31 MAY, DOCTORS BEGAN TREATING THE THREE WOUNDED ISRAELI SOLDIERS WHILE ACTIVISTS WERE BEING KILLED," ADDING THAT THE "THREE SOLDIERS WERE BEATEN SEVERELY."

TALIB SAYS "THE THREE SOLDIERS WERE IN A HYSTERICAL STATE AND PANICKED."

KHALIL SAYS "THE ISRAELIS OPENED FIRE ON THE LEGS, ARMS, AND CHESTS OF THE TURKS AND ARABS AND ONE ALGERIAN WAS HIT BY A RUBBER BULLET IN HIS EYE," ADDING THAT "ONE ACTIVIST WAS SHOT DEAD AND ANOTHER WAS HIT IN THE NECK AND DIED."

AN ACTIVIST SAYS "A LOT OF BLOOD WAS SHED."

KHALIL SAYS "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS STARTED BOARDING THE SHIP AND I DECIDED TO STOP TAKING PICTURES FOR FEAR FOR MY LIFE."

VAL SAYS "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS STOPPED KILLINGS TO PREVENT THE ACTIVISTS FROM KILLING THE CAPTURED SOLDIERS."

KHALIL SAYS "THE SOLDIERS ALSO USED LASER RIFLES AGAINST THE PASSENGERS AND THEN TOOK CONTROL OF THE SHIP WITHIN 10 MINUTES," ADDING THAT "THE ATTACK LASTED FOR 45 MINUTES, CLAIMING THE LIVES OF NINE PEOPLE." ONE ACTIVIST "ASKED THE

ISRAELIS FOR A MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN RETURN FOR THE RESEASE OF THE CAPTURED SOLDIERS AND THE ISRAELIS AGREED, BUT THAT WE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE WOUNDED PASSENGERS WERE BEING TAKEN. NEXT MORNING, HE SAYS, "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS ORDERED THE PASSENGERS TO MOVE TOWARD THE DOOR ONE AFTER THE OTHER."

CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS THREATENED THEY WOULD NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT UNLESS WE CHANGED THE SOURCE OF THE SHIP."

ONE ACTIVIST SAYS "WE WERE HANDCUFFED AND TIRED."

VAL SAYS "THE PASSENGERS WERE TIRED."

KHALIL SAYS "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS HANDCUFFED ME, SEARCHED ME, AND TOOK MY MOBILE PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT." THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE VICTIMS BY HELICOPTERS, HE SAYS, "TOOK SEVERAL HOURS AND THE SOLDIERS ORDERED US TO KEEP QUIET."

#### CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "HELICOPTERS BEGAN TO POUR COLD SEA WATER ON THE PASSENGERS IN THE MORNING."

VAL SAYS "THE PASSENGERS KEPT QUIET TO AVOID PUNISHMENT AND THE JOURNEY TO THE ASHDOD PORT TOOK 10 HOURS." THE SOLDIERS, HE SAYS, "HANDCUFFED US AGAIN, SEARCHED THE SHIP ONCE AGAIN, ORDERED US TO LEAVE THE SHIP ONE BY ONE, AND TOOK ME TO THE INTERROGATION ROOM."

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT SAYS "THE ACTIVISTS JUST WANTED TO SUPPORT THE HAMAS REGIME AND RELEASE A POLITICAL STATEMENT." THE PASSENGERS, HE SAYS, "STARTED THE VIOLENCE AND OUR SOLDIERS WERE ATTACKED WITH LIVE AMMUNITION." AN ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESMAN ALSO SAYS "THE PASSENGERS WERE CARRYING IRON RODS AND KNIVES AND OPENED FIRE ON OUR FORCES."

KHALIL SAYS "THE PASSAGE HAS NO FIREARM, SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE NEITHER SOLDIERS NOR TERRORISTS BUT ORDINARY PEOPLE TRYING TO BREAK THE SIEGE AND SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIANS' CAUSE."

AN ISRAELI MILITARY SPOKESWOMAN SAYS "IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT HAS HAPPENED," ADDING THAT "OUR SOLDIERS WERE BEATEN," STRESSING ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF "ANY COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION FOR THE TIME BEING."

THE UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENT SAYS "A VOICE RECORDING INDICATES THAT SOME ACTIVISTS WERE TARGETED DELIBERATELY AHEAD OF THE RAID."

ONE ACTIVIST SAYS "THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS KILLED A MAN RESEMBLING SHAYKH RA'ID SALAH," QUOTING AN ISRAELI SOLDIER AS SAYING THAT "WE HAVE THE NAMES OF ACTIVISTS TO BE EITHER KILLED OR CAPTURED."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "ISRAEL HAS LOST ITS PROPAGANDA WAR, WITH THE WORLD COMMUNITY CONDEMNING THE FATAL ATTACK ON THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA."

TURK ISH PRIME MINISTER ERDOGAN IS SEEN SAYING THAT "TURKEY WILL USE ALL MEANS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL LAW," DESCRIBING THE ATTACK AS "ILLEGAL AND UNJUSTIFIABLE."

UN SECRETARY GENERA BAN KI-MOON IS SEEN EXPRESSING HIS SHOCK AT THE ATTACK IN THE INTERNATIONAL WATER.

SOUTH AFRICA'S DESMOND TUTU CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR THE ATTACK AND THE KILLINGS, STRESSING THAT "WHAT THE ISRAELI FORCES HAVE DONE CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED."

THE CORRESPONDENT SAYS "EVEN THE UNITED STATES CRITICIZED THE ATTACK," ADDING THAT "DESPITE THE WAVE OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM OF THE FATAL ATTACK, THE SUFFOCATING SIEGE IMPOSED ON THE GAZA STRIP IS STILL IN PLACE."

KHALIL SAYS "THIS IS A LOSING CAUSE, BUT THAT THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA ACTIVISTS WERE GIVEN A HERO RECEPTION AFTER THEY RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRIES."

VAL SAYS "I RETURNED HOME ONLY WITH MY CLOTHES AND PASSPORT, BUT THAT FROM THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PERSONAL POINTS OF VIEW, I HAVE NOT LOST ANYTHING." HE SAYS "THE ISRAELIS COULD HAVE BEHAVED RATIONALLY."

CAPTAIN TURAL SAYS "I WILL HAVE THE HONOR TO GO TO THE GAZA STRIP IF AND WHEN I HAVE THE CHANCE TO."

TALIB SAYS "I HOPE WE WILL GO TO GAZA AGAIN ON BOARD OF AN AUSTRALIAN OR NON-AUSTRALIAN SHIP," ADDING THAT "I WILL PARTICIPATE IN ANY ARRANGEMENT TO OFFER RELIEF AID TO THESE PEOPLE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: DOHA AL-JAZIRAH SATELLITE CHANNEL TELEVISION IN ARABIC -- INDEPENDENT TELEVISION STATION FINANCED BY THE QATARI GOVERNMENT

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 446923

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: EUP20100604031004

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY, GAZA STRIP, UNITED KINGDOM

#### SUBJ: UK EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF GAZA AID CONVOY ALLEGES ISRAEL BROKE INTERNATIONAL LAW (U)

REF: 1. UK COMMENTARY WARNS WEST SHOULD NOT IGNORE TURKEY'S ROLE IN GAZA AID CONVOY EUP20100604031003 TELEGRAPH.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 04 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: LONDON GUARDIAN.CO.UK IN ENGLISH 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY ROBERT BOOTH: "GAZA FLOTILLA: SARAH COLBORNE'S ACCOUNT" (U)

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ON SUNDAY 30TH WE SET OFF TOGETHER. WE HAD ASSEMBLED ALL THE BOATS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. AT 11PM THAT NIGHT, ISRAELI NAVAL BOATS WERE DETECTED ON THE RADAR AND SIGHTED AND A DECISION WAS MADE TO MOVE FURTHER BACK INTO INTERNATIONAL WATERS, FURTHER FROM ISRAEL.

WE MANAGED TO GET SOME BROADCASTS OUT THAT WE WERE ON A HUMANITARIAN MISSION, THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD CALLED FOR SHIPS TO BE SENT WITH HUMANITARIAN AID TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA, THAT WE WERE SIMPLY UNDERTAKING THAT GOAL. AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ROOM WAS ASSEMBLED AND WE WERE ALL TOLD TO PUT LIFEJACKETS ON TO PREPARE FOR ANY ATTACK.

AT 2AM I WENT TO SLEEP. AT AROUND 4.10AM I WOKE UP, WENT UP TO THE DECK WHERE I COULD SEE OUTSIDE AND I SAW BOATS, SMALL DINGHIES BUT BRISTLING WITH GUNS AND ISRAELI MILITARY, SPEEDING TOWARDS THE SHIP. HELICOPTERS THEN APPEARED. GAS AND SOUND BOMBS WERE USED AND THE REPORTS FROM SYDNEY MORNING HERALD (A REPORTER FROM THE NEWSPAPER WAS ON CHALLENGER, ANOTHER BOAT IN THE FLOTILLA) WERE THAT AT 4.20AM THEY REPORTED GUNSHOTS, AND THE CHALLENGER TRANSMITTED THIS INFORMATION.

WE THEN HAD THE FIRST PASSENGER FATALLY INJURED. HE WAS BROUGHT TO THE BACK OF THE OPEN DECK BELOW. HE WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD. I SAW HIM. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY IN A VERY BAD WAY AND HE SUBSEQUENTLY DIED. THERE WERE BULLETS FLYING ALL OVER THE PLACE WHEN I WAS ON THE TOP DECK AND I TOOK THE DECISION TO GO DOWNSTAIRS.

IT FELT A BIT SURREAL. I COULDN'T QUITE BELIEVE THEY WERE DOING WHAT THEY WERE DOING. THERE WAS LIVE AMMUNITION FLYING AROUND AND I COULD HEAR THE SOUNDS OF THE BULLETS FLYING AND THE WHIRR OF THE HELICOPTER BLADES AS PEOPLE WERE DROPPED DOWN ONTO THE ROOF. WHAT I SAW WAS GUNS BEING USED BY THE ISRAELIS ON UNARMED CIVILIANS.

WE ASKED FOR THE ISRAELIS TO STOP THE ATTACKS. WE WERE ASKING IN ENGLISH: "WE ARE NOT RESISTING, PLEASE HELP THE INJURED." INSTEAD OF HELPING THE INJURED, THE SALOON REMAINED

SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS TARGETING INDIVIDUALS WITH LASER SIGHTS. I COULD SEE THE RED OF THE LASER SIGHTS SWEEPING OVER PEOPLE'S HEADS.

THE CAPTAIN ANNOUNCED LIVE AMMUNITION WAS BEING USED, TO STOP RESISTING AND TO GO DOWNSTAIRS. AT 5.15AM WE STARTED BROADCASTING OVER THE TANNOY FOR HELP TO EVACUATE THE CRITICALLY INJURED AND FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

WE MADE TWO ATTEMPTS TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS IN THE WRITTEN FORM AS WELL AS THE MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OVER THE TANNOY. WE WROTE A SIGN IN HEBREW SAYING: "SOS! NEED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, PEOPLE ARE DYING, URGENT."

IT WASN'T UNTIL 7AM THAT THE ISRAELIS STARTED ALLOWING THE FIRST CRITICALLY INJURED PEOPLE OFF AND THEY WERE DELIVERED INTO ISRAELI HANDS. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO SEND A MEDIC WITH EACH OF THE CRITICALLY INJURED PEOPLE. INSTEAD, THE MEDICS WERE CUFFED AND PUT ON THE DECK.

I SAW FOUR DEAD BODIES IN THE SALOON LAID OUT ON THE FLOOR. ALL PASSENGERS WERE REMOVED ON TO THE DECK. AS WE WERE MOVED OUT WE WERE ALL CUFFED WITH CABLE TIES. ALL OUR PHONES AND CAMERAS WERE REMOVED. WE WERE MADE TO SIT OR KNEEL IN LINES ON THE DECK. THE SUN WAS QUITE STRONG AND I WAS AWARE THAT PEOPLE WERE STARTING TO GET DEHYDRATED.

WE WERE KIDNAPPED, WE WERE DEPRIVED OF OUR LIBERTY AND OUR BELONGINGS. PEOPLE WERE ILLEGALLY HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL, TAKEN TO ISRAEL FROM INTERNATIONAL WATERS. IN TERMS OF TREATMENT, IN TERMS OF OUR BASIC RIGHTS THEY WERE COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY VIOLATED.

WE ARE HOPING THAT THE DEATHS, THE HORRIFIC DEATHS, OF THE PEOPLE WILL NOT BE IN VAIN. WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS WILL ACT AS A WAKE-UP CALL INTERNATIONALLY, INCLUDING OUR OWN GOVERNMENT, THAT THE SIEGE ON GAZA MUST END. IT IS ILLEGAL, INHUMANE AND IMMORAL. ISRAEL HAS BEEN USED TO ACTING WITH IMPUNITY. THAT SITUATION HAS CHANGED NOW.

WE CAN'T SIT BY AND WATCH ISRAEL VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL LAW EVERY
DAY. WE WANT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION, ENSU RE THERE
ARE NO FUTURE ATTACKS ON HUMANITARIAN AID CONVOYS, TO ENSURE THERE
IS A SEARCH CARRIED OUT FOR THOSE THAT REMAIN MISSING, TO ENSURE THAT THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE
BEEN DETAINED ILLEGALLY WILL BE RELEASED AND MOST IMPORTANTLY TO END THE SIEGE OF GAZA.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: LONDON GUARDIAN.CO.UK IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF CENTER-LEFT DAILY WITH CLOSE LINKS TO NEW LABOUR; COMMENT SECTION COVERS WHOLE POLITICAL SPECTRUM; READ BY WELL-EDUCATED, LEFT-LEANING URBAN PROFESSIONALS; URL: HTTP://WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.UK

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 051946Z JUN 10

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QQQQ CITE OSC RESTON VA 451410

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERIAL: EUP20100605031003

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM

### SUBJ: UK SOURCE SAYS EYEWITNESS ACCUSES ISRAEL OF 'SHOOTING TO KILL' ON GAZA CONVOY (U)

REF: 1. UK SOURCE REVEALS AUTOPSIES SHOWING GAZA CONVOY DEAD SHOT IN HEAD AT CLOSE RANGE EUP20100605031001 GUARDIAN.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 05 JUN 10 (U)

SOURCE: LONDON GUARDIAN.CO.UK IN ENGLISH 05 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT.

REPORT BY ROBERT BOOTH, HARRIET SHERWOOD IN GAZA CITY AND JUSTIN VELA IN ISTANBUL: "GAZA FLOTILLA ATTACK: AUTOPSIES REVEAL INTENSITY OF ISRAELI MILITARY FORCE" (U)

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THE AUTOPSY RESULTS RELEASED TODAY BY THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES AFTER THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON THE GAZA FLOTILLA REVEAL IN CHILLING DETAIL THE INTENSITY OF THE MILITARY FORCE UNLEASHED ON THE MULTINATIONAL CONVOY.

EACH OF THE NINE VICTIMS ON THE MAVI MARMARA IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF THE COAST OF ISRAEL IN THE EARLY HOURS OF MONDAY MORNING WAS SHOT AT LEAST ONCE AND SOME FIVE OR SIX TIMES WITH 9MM ROUNDS.

THE RESULTS ALSO REVEAL HOW CLOSE THE FIGHTING WAS. DR HALUK INCE, CHAIR OF TURKEY'S COUNCIL OF FORENSIC MEDICINE (ATK), SAID: "APPROXIMATELY 20CM AWAY WAS THE CLOSEST. IN ONLY ONE CASE WAS THERE ONLY ONE ENTRANCE WOUND. THE OTHER EIGHT HAVE MULTIPLE ENTRANCE WOUNDS. (THE MAN KILLED BY A SINGLE SHOT) WAS SHOT JUST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREHEAD WITH A DISTANT SHOT."

THE DETAILS EMERGED AS TURKEY WARNED THAT IT MAY RECONSIDER ITS DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL UNLESS IT RECEIVES AN APOLOGY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, BULENT ARINC, WARNED: "WE MAY PLAN TO REDUCE OUR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL TO A MINIMUM."

NAMID TAN, THE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, WARNED THAT ISRAEL WAS "ABOUT TO LOSE (A) FRIEND". HE REPEATED CALLS FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE RAID AND END ITS BLOCKADE AGAINST GAZA.

ASKED IF TURKEY MIGHT BREAK OFF RELATIONS, HE SAID: "WE DON'T WANT THIS TO GO TO THAT POINT." BUT HE ADDED: "THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORCED TO TAKE SUCH AN ACTION."

SPEAKING AT THE FUNERAL OF THE YOUNGEST ACTIVIST, PRIME MINISTER TAYYIP ERDOGAN ACCUSED ISRAEL OF BETRAYING ITS RELIGION. "YOU KILLED 19-YEAR-OLD FURKAN DOGAN BRUTALLY. WHICH FAITH, WHICH HOLY BOOK CAN BE AN EXCUSE FOR KILLING HIM?" HE ASKED.

ACCORDING TO THE SCIENTISTS AT THE ATK, DOGAN, WHO HELD US AND TURKISH CITIZENSHIP WAS SHOT FIVE TIMES - FROM CLOSE RANGE IN THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS NOSE, IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD, IN THE BACK AND TWICE IN THE LEFT LEG.

THE OLDEST VICTIM WAS 60-YEAR-OLD IBRAHIM BILGEN, A TURKISH POLITICIAN, ENGINEER AND ACTIVIST WHO WAS MARRIED WITH SIX CHILDREN. HE HAD BEEN SHOT ONCE IN THE RIGHT TEMPLE, ONCE IN THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS CHEST, ONCE IN THE BACK AND ONCE IN THE HIP.

CETIN TOPCUOTLU, A 54-YEAR OLD FORMER TAEKWONDO CHAMPION WHO WORKED AS A COACH FOR THE TURKISH NATIONAL TEAM, WAS SHOT THREE TIMES - QNOEIN THE 42/CON HEAD PROPERTY OF THE TURKISH NATIONAL

WHO WAS WITH HIM ON THE MAY MARMARA SAID AT HIS FHREFAL ON THURSDAY, SHE WOULD TAKE PART IN FURTHER FLOTILLAS TO GAZA WITH HER SON.

THE DETAIL OF THE WOUNDS CAME AS YET MORE SURVIVORS RETURNED TO THE UK AND GAVE THEIR ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACKS.

IN A HASTILY ARRANGED PRESS CONFERENCE IN CENTRAL LONDON SHORTLY AFTER HIS TURKISH AIRLINES PLANE TOUCHED DOWN AT HEATHROW, ISMAIL PATEL, THE 47-YEAR-OLD CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS OF AL-AQSA, CONDEMNED WHAT HE CALLED "THE COLD-BLOODED MURDER AND KILLING OF OUR COLLEAGUES". HE SAID: "THESE DEATHS WERE AVOIDABLE AND I LAY THE BLAME SOUARELY WITH THE ISRAELIS."

ISRAEL HAS PREVIOUSLY SAID ITS TROOPS HAD BEEN LEFT WITH NO CHOICE AFTER THEY CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM ACTIVISTS ARMED WITH KNIVES AND IRON BARS WHEN THEY WERE DROPPED BY HELICOPTER ON TO THE SHIP.

PATEL CLAIMED THAT AS SOON AS THE ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE HELICOPTER APPEARED ABOVE THE MAVI MARMARA, "IT STARTED USING IMMEDIATELY LIVE AMMUNITION" WITHOUT ANY WARNING BEING ISSUED.

AFTER THE FIRST VICTIM FELL THE WHITE FLAG WAS RAISED, HE SAID, BUT ISRAELI FORCES CONTINUED FIRING. "I THINK THE ISRAELI SOLDIERS WERE SHOOTING TO KILL BECAUSE MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO DIED WERE SHOT IN THE TOP PART OF THEIR BODIES," HE SAID. HE BELIEVED THAT LATER VICTIMS WERE INJURED IN THEIR LEGS AFTER A "TACTICAL MOVE" BY THE COMMANDOS TO WOUND RATHER THEN KILL.

ALEX HARRISON, A FREE GAZA ACTIVIST WHO WAS ON THE SMALLER CHALLENGER YACHT, WHICH WAS CREWED MAINLY BY WOMEN, SAID THE ISRAELIS USED RUBBER BULLETS, SOUND BOMBS AND TASERS AGAINST THEM.

"TWO WOMEN WERE HOODED, THEY HAD THEIR EYES TAPED," SHE SAID, DESCRIBING HOW THE YACHT WAS QUICKLY OVERWHELMED. "WE STOOD AND TRIED TO OBSTRUCT THE ARMED, MASKED MEN AND MAINTAINED NO OTHER DEFENCE AND STILL THEY USED VIOLENCE."

HARRISON, 32, FROM ISLINGTON, NORTH LONDON, ALSO WITNESSED THE MAVI MARMARA BEING STORMED FROM ABOVE BY HELICOPTER AND SAID THE ISRAELIS STARTED FIRING BEFORE THEIR TROOPS TOUCHED DOWN ON THE BOAT.

"I HAVE SEEN SOME SELECTIVE FOOTAGE THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE CHOSEN TO PUT OUT SUGGESTING THAT WE RESPONDED WITH VIOLENCE," SHE SAID. "YOU MUST REMEMBER THAT THESE ARE UNARMED CIVILIANS ON THEIR OWN BOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. PEOPLE PICKED UP WHAT THEY COULD TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST ARMED, MASKED COMMANDOS WHO WERE SHOOTING."

THE VIOLENCE WAS "INITIATED BY THE ISRAELIS ON A MASSIVE SCALE," SHE SAID, ADDING SHE WAS PLEASED HER COLLEAGUES ON THE RACHEL CORRIE, AN IRISH VESSEL, WERE CONTINUING TO GAZA THIS WEEKEND.

"I AM THRILLED THEY ARE GOING," SHE SAID. "THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHAT RISKS THEY FACE. THEY ARE DOING WHAT OUR GOVERNMENT'S HAVEN'T AND I THANK THEM."

BOTH HARRISON AND PATEL CRITICISED THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT CONSULAR ASSISTANCE WHILE THE ACTIVISTS WERE DETAINED IN AN ISRAELI PRISON IN BEERSHEVA.

PATEL SAID HE WAS NOT VISITED BY ANYONE FROM THE BRITISH MISSION AND HARRISON SAID THE CONSULTOLD HER THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAD PREVENTED HIM VISITING CAPTURED BRITONS.

"I DID SEE THE BRITISH CONSUL," HARRISON SAID. "HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SITTING OUTSIDE THE PRISON ALL DAY ... ASKING FOR ACCESS AND NOT BEEN GIVEN IT. I SEE THAT AS AN INSULT FROM ISRAEL TO THE BRITISH, THAT THEY WERE DENYING THE BRITISH CONSUL THE RIGHT THAT CITIZENS HAVE. I ALSO SEE IT AS A SIGN THAT THE BRITISH DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO STAND UP TO ISRAEL."

FOREIGN SECRETARY WILLIAM HAGUE CONFIRMED THAT A TOTAL OF 34 OF THE ACTIVISTS ON THE AID FLOTILLA WERE BRITISH, WITH ALL BUT TWO OF THEM HAVING BEEN SENT TO TURKEY BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES.

IN GAZA CITY, THE DE FACTO HAMAS PRIME MINISTER, ISMAIL HANIYEH, TOLD CROWDS OF WORSHIPPERS AT FRIDAY PRAYERS THAT ISRAEL'S BLOCKADE WAS IN ITS FINAL STAGES.

"NOW NOT ONLY GAZANS SPEAK OF THE BLOCKADE, BUT ALSO THE (UN) SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. EVERYONE IS DEMANDING THE SIEGE BE LIFTED."

THE NINE VICTIMS

CENGIZ ALQUYZ, 42

FOUR GUNSHOT WOUNDS: BACK OF HEAD, RIGHT SIDE OF FACE, BACK, LEFT LEG

**IBRAHIM BILGEN, 60** 

FOUR GUNSHOT WOUNDS: RIGHT CHEST, BACK, RIGHT HIP, RIGHT TEMPLE

**CEGDET KILICLAR, 38** 

ONE GUNSHOT WOUND: MIDDLE OF FOREHEAD

**FURKAN DOGAN, 19** 

FIVE GUNSHOT WOUNDS: NOSE, BACK, BACK OF HEAD, LEFT LEG, LEFT ANKLE

SAHRI YALDIZ

FOUR GUNSHOT WOUNDS: LEFT CHEST, LEFT LEG, RIGHT LEG TWICE

ALIHEYDER BENGI, 39

SIX GUNSHOT WOUNDS: LEFT CHEST, BELLY, RIGHT ARM, RIGHT LEG, LEFT HAND TWICE

**CETIN TOPCUOGLU, 54** 

THREE GUNSHOT WOUNDS: BACK OF HEAD, LEFT SIDE, RIGHT BELLY

**CENGIZ SONGUR, 47** 

ONE GUNSHOT WOUND: FRONT OF NECK

**NECDET YILDIRIM, 32** 

TWO GUNSHOT WOUNDS: RIGHT SHOULDER, LEFT BACK

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: LONDON GUARDIAN.CO.UK IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF CENTER-LEFT DAILY WITH CLOSE LINKS TO NEW LABOUR; COMMENT SECTION COVERS WHOLE POLITICAL SPECTRUM; READ BY WELL-EDUCATED, LEFT-LEANING URBAN PROFESSIONALS; URL: HTTP://WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.UK

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERIAL: EUP20100606031011

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM

#### SUBJ: UK-BORN REPORTER GIVES EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF ISRAELIS KILLING MEN ON GAZA CONVOY (U)

REF: 1. UK EDITORIAL ARGUES ISRAEL'S GAZA BLOCKADE 'UNSUSTAINABLE' MORALLY, PRACTICALLY EUP20100606031009 THE OBSERVER ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)

- 2. UK JOURNALIST VISITING GAZA STRIP SAYS ISRAELI BLOCKADE HELPS HAMAS SECURE POWER EUP20100606031008 THE OBSERVER ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)
  3. UK COMMENTARY ARGUES ISRAEL NEEDS UNILATERAL PEACE MOVE TO BEAT HAMAS PROPAGANDA EUP20100606031007 TELEGRAPH.CO.UK ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)
- 4. UK EDITORIAL ARGUES GAZA BLOCKADE 'NEEDS TO BE DEFUSED' BY WESTERN, ARAB ACTIONS EUP20100606031006 SUNDAY TIMES ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)
- 5. UK SOURCE PRESENTS ISRAELI MILITARY SOURCES' ACCOUNTS OF RAID ON GAZA AID CONVOY EUP20100606031005 SUNDAY TIMES ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)
- 6. UK COMMENTARY SAYS IRELAND NEEDS 'NUANCED' RESPONSE TO ISRAEL SEIZING AID CONVOY EUP20100606031003 SUNDAY TIMES ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U) 7. UK ARTICLE BY AIDE TO TURKEY'S ERDOGAN URGES ISRAEL TO APOLOGIZE FOR CONVOY RAID EUP20100606031002 THE OBSERVER ONLINE ENGLISH 0000 GMT 06 JUN 10 (U)
- SOURCE: LONDON INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY ONLINE IN ENGLISH 06 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

ARTICLE BY JAMAL ELSHAYYAL: "KIDNAPPED BY ISRAEL AND ABANDONED BY BRITAIN" (U)

INTERNET

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I JOINED THE MAVI MARMARA IN ISTANBUL ON FRIDAY 21 MAY AS ONE OF BETWEEN 30 AND 40 JOURNALISTS REPORTING ON THE FLOTILLA'S MISSION TO GAZA. I AM A JOURNALIST FOR AL-JAZEERA.

IT WAS AT 11PM LOCAL TIME ON THE EVENING OF THE 30TH, AS WE WERE HEADED FOR GAZA, THAT WE FIRST SPOTTED THE ISRAELI MILITARY FROM AFAR. I ASKED THE ORGANISERS WHAT THEY EXPECTED TO HAPPEN. THEY TOLD ME THEY HAD DECIDED TO MOVE AS FAR AWAY FROM THE MILITARY ZONE AS POSSIBLE, AND AS FAR AWAY FROM THE ISRAELI ARMY AND AS DEEP INTO INTERNATIONAL WATERS, BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION.

AT 2.30AM I SENT AN EMAIL TO MY NEWS DESK TO SAY WE SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN DURING THE COMING HOURS, AND I WENT TO BED. AT ROUGHLY 4AM, A HUGE BANG ON THE WINDOW WOKE ME UP. I COULD SEE SWARMS OF PEOPLE IN SMALL SPEEDBOATS BELONGING TO THE ISRAELI ARMY CLOSE TO OUR BOAT. THE SOUND WAS OF WATER GRENADES AND TEAR GAS CANISTERS LANDING ON BOARD. I QUICKLY PUT ON MY LIFE JACKET, GRABBED MY SATELLITE PHONE AND RAN UPSTAIRS. MOST OF THE OTHERS CHOSE TO STAY DOWN.

BECAUSE MANY OF THE CREW WERE AT THAT TIME AT MORNING PRAYERS, THERE HAD BEEN A QUICK APPROACH FROM ALL SIDES, JUST BEFORE THEY HAD FINISHED PRAYING.

WHEN I GOT TO THE TOP DECK I COULD SEE THERE WERE MORE THAN 15 SPEEDBOATS AROUND US, WHICH HAD ON AVERAGE ABOUT 20 SOLDIERS EACH. ABOUT 12FT ABOVE ME, MAYBE 15FT AT MOST, I SAW THE BOTTOM OF A HELICOPTER; THE SOUND WAS IMMENSE.

I PULLED OUT MY PHONE TO CALL THE DESK. BUT NONE OF THE PHONES WERE WORKING. NONE OF THE SATELLITE PHONES WERE WORKING; THEY WERE JAMMED BY THE ISRAELIS. THEY HAD BEEN WORKING TWO HOURS BEFORE. I CAN LIST YOU MORE THAN 10 JOURNALISTS WHOSE SATELLITE PHONES WEREN'T WORKING.

THERE WAS A SECOND HELICOPTER HOVERING OVER THE SHIP, TRYING TO LOWER ISRAELI SOLDIERS DOWN ON A ROPE. ON EITHER SIDE THERE WAS TEAR GAS BEING THROWN IN FROM THE BOATS, CANISTERS WHICH THEY WERE FIRING FROM A SORT OF GUN. ONE MAN WAS SHOT IN THE TOP OF THE HEAD FROM THE HELICOPTER. HE COLLAPSED ON THE GROUND. I SNATCHED A MICROPHONE FROM ONE OF THE TURKISH REPORTERS TO SAY ONE MAN HAD BEEN KILLED. AS I DID THAT ANOTHER MAN WAS SHOT. THOSE PEOPLE DIED INSTANTLY.

UNTIL THAT POINT I HAD NOT YET SEEN AN ISRAELI SOLDIER ON DECK. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, IT'S A LIE TO SAY THEY ONLY STARTED SHOOTING ON DECK. ONLY THEN DID I SEE AN ISRAELI SOLDIER ON DECK.

#### THE MEN WHO WERE DEAD HAD BEEN FIRED ON FROM ABOVE.

LATER, ABOUT 7AM A SOLDIER SHOUTED TO ME TO PUT MY HANDS BEHIND MY HEAD. COME TO ME, HE SAID, AND GET ON YOUR KNEES. AS I DID HE PUSHED ME AND SHOVED ME TO THE GROUND. I HIT THE GROUND HARD. HE SAID PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK; HE CUFFED THEM WITH THOSE PLASTIC CUFFS. PLASTIC CUFFS, ONE HAND ABOVE THE OTHER, EXTREMELY TIGHT, NOT EVEN A MILLIMETRE'S MOVEMENT BETWEEN THEM. HE WAS STANDING ON MY FEET. HE THEN KICKED ME DOWN TO THE GROUND AND THEN TOLD ME TO GET UP. I HIT THE GROUND WITH MY HEAD AND MY SHOULDER. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY VERY DIFFICULT TO GET UP. HE MARCHED ME AND A WOMAN TO THE END OF THE ROOM.

OUTSIDE THERE WERE MORE SOLDIERS. ALL WERE MASKED. THEY TOOK MY WALLET AND PASSPORT AND THREW THEM ON THE GROUND, SO ANOTHER SOLDIER PICKED THEM UP AND PUT THEM IN MY POCKET. AFTER THAT THEY PUSHED US AGAINST THE WALL, SO I WAS FACING THE WALL. ABOUT A MINUTE OR SO LATER THEY THEN TOOK ME UPSTAIRS.

ON THE DECK ABOVE, EVERYONE ELSE WAS THERE. SOME PEOPLE WERE HANDCUFFED WITH THEIR HANDS IN FRONT, SOME BEHIND. AFTER AN HOUR I NEEDED TO GO TO THE BATHROOM. I ASKED ONE OF THE SOLDIERS; HE SAID OK. HE GOT ME UP. AS WE STARTED WALKING, I WAS PUSHED TO THE GROUND. I ASSUMED IT WAS JUST TO WAIT MY TURN, SO WHEN THE OTHER GOT BACK I SAID CAN I GO NOW? HE SHOOK HIS HEAD. I SAID I REALLY NEED TO GO. HE SAID NO TOILET FOR YOU. I SAID I DESPERATELY NEED TO GO. SO HE USHERED ME WITH HIS FACE AND GUN, AND SAID GO TO THE TOILET WHERE YOU ARE. HE SAID: "YOU PISS HERE."

EVENTUALLY, THREE HOURS LATER, HE WAS ALLOWED TO USE THE TOILET.

AFTERWARDS, I SAW TWO THINGS ON DECK THAT SHOCKED ME. THERE WAS A MALAYSIAN MAN SITTING IN FRONT OF ME TO THE RIGHT. HIS HANDS WERE TIED BEHIND HIS BACK, BUT HIS HANDS HAD GONE BLUE. HE PLEADED WITH THE SOLDIERS TO RELEASE HIM OR TO LOOSEN HIS CUFFS, BUT THEY KEPT SAYING NO. AFTER THE FOURTH TIME OF PLEADING WITH THE GUY, THE SOLDIER WENT UP TO HIM AND SAID "OK" AND THEN TIGHTENED IT. THE MAN GAVE OUT A HUGE SCREAM, A SPINE-CHILLING SCREAM I WILL NEVER FORGET. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE SUPERIOR CAME LATER, THREE HOURS LATER, THAT HE WAS RELEASED.

THE OTHER THING THAT SHOCKED ME WAS HOW THE SOLDIERS WOULD WALK UP AND DOWN AND KICK PEOPLE LYING THERE. ONE MAN, WHO WAS PALESTINIAN, WAS OLD AND HAD DIABETES. HE WAS NOT VERY HEALTHY. HE REQUESTED TO GO TO THE TOILET ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS BUT WAS REFUSED.

WE REACHED ASHDOD AT ABOUT 8PM. WHEN WE WENT BACK DOWN BELOW WE SAW THE PLACE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY RANSACKED. CLOTHES WERE EVERYWHERE, BAGS EMPTIED, AS IF IT WERE THE AFTERMATH OF AN EARTHQUAKE.

SO WHEN I CAME OFF THE SHIP THEY SEARCHED US AGAIN. A MAN WITH A BLACK AND WHITE PALESTINIAN SCARF ROUND HIS NECK WAS TOLD, "THIS IS ILLEGAL IN ISRAEL". I SAID JUST TAKE IT OFF. THE SOLDIER THEN TURNED TO ME AND SAID: "WELCOME TO ISRAEL. YOU LIKE ISRAEL?" I DIDN'T REPLY.

THEY PUT US ON THE BUS WHICH THEN TOOK US TO BEER SHEVA PRISON. I SPENT A NIGHT IN JAIL AND I WAS RELEASED IN THE AFTERNOON. I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO MY FAMILY. THERE WAS ONLY ONE MEAL AND THAT WAS FROZEN SLICES OF BREAD AND POTATOES. TWO IRISHMEN REFUSED TO LEAVE THE JAIL, AND ONE OF THEM WAS BEATEN UP HORRENDOUSLY. THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP HAD BEEN POISONED SO WE ALL DID BLOOD TESTS AND URINE TESTS.

AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED I WAS KIDNAPPED BY ISRAEL AND ABANDONED BY BRITAIN.

JAMAL ELSHAYYAL WAS TALKING WITH MATTHEW BELL

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: LONDON INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF LEFTIST SUNDAY NEWSPAPER; HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED TO THE IRAQ WAR, OFTEN ADOPTING A STRONG ANTI-US STANCE; SISTER PAPER OF INDEPENDENT ONLINE; ONLY AVAILABLE ON SUNDAYS; URL: HTTP://WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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agaa

CITE OSC RESTON VA 459484

WARNING: TOPIC: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY

SERIAL: EUP20100607085015

COUNTRY: TURKEY, ISRAEL, GAZA STRIP, GERMANY

#### SUBJ: EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF ISRAELI ATTACK ON GAZA FLOTILLA, TURKISH SHIP (U)

SOURCE: HAMBURG SPIEGEL ONLINE IN ENGLISH 1113 GMT 07 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

UNATTRIBUTED REPORT: "EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF GAZA CONVOY RAID: WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA" (U)

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WHEN THE HAMBURG RESIDENT NADER EL SAKKA, 58, TRIED TO BOARD THE CHALLENGER I IN THE PORT OF AGIOS NIKOLAOS ON CRETE, HE WAS TOLD HE HAD TO SIGN A FOUR-PAGE DOCUMENT PLEDGING THAT HE WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE AND THAT HE POSSESSED NO WEAPONS. HE ALSO HAD TO PROVIDE THE NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF A FAMILY MEMBER IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. IF HE DIDN'T SIGN, HE WAS TOLD, HE WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED ON BOARD THE GAZA-BOUND CONVOY.

THE DOCUMENT WAS IN ENGLISH, A LANGUAGE THAT EL SAKKA – A BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS ACTING AS A DELEGATE FROM THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY IN GERMANY -- DOES NOT SPEAK WELL, SO HE ONLY FILLED OUT THREE PAGES. HE THOUGHT HE COULD SKIP THE FOURTH PAGE. "BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO BE ALLOWED ON BOARD," HE SAYS. "THEY INSISTED THAT I ALSO FILL OUT THE FOURTH ONE."

EL SAKKA EMBARKED ON BOARD THE CHALLENGER I, ONE OF EIGHT BOATS AND FREIGHTERS HEADED FOR GAZA WITH A LOAD OF CEMENT, STRUCTURAL STEEL, MEDICINE AND CHILDREN'S TOYS. TWO DAYS LATER, OFF THE COAST OF CYPRUS, EL SAKKA DISEMBARKED AND WENT ON BOARD THE MAVI MARMARA, A TURKISH PASSENGER SHIP. THE FLAGSHIP OF THE SMALL FLEET, IT HAD GAZA ACTIVISTS ON BOARD FROM A DOZEN COUNTRIES, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM -- AROUND 400 PEOPLE -- HAILED FROM TURKEY.

#### LIKE A PLEASANT CRUISE

EL SAKKA DESCRIBES THE ATMOSPHERE ON BOARD AS "EUPHORIC," ALMOST AS IF "WE WERE ON A PLEASANT CRUISE," HE SAYS.
THE SHIP WAS LINKED VIA SATELLITE WITH THE INTERNET AND A NUMBER OF TV STATIONS AND CONTINUOUSLY SENT OUT IMAGES
AND INTERVIEWS TO THE WORLD. A REPORTER FROM THE ARAB NEWS CHANNEL AL-JAZEERA FILED A REPORT ON SUNDAY
AFTERNOON THAT MADE HEADLINES A NUMBER OF DAYS LATER. A GROUP OF ARAB ACTIVISTS COULD BE SEEN CHANTING:
"REMEMBER KHAIBAR, KHAIBAR, OH JEWS! MUHAMMAD'S ARMY IS RETURNING!"

THIS IS AN INTIFADA BATTLE CRY, A FIGHTING SLOGAN THAT RECALLS A VICTORIOUS BATTLE FOUGHT BY THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S ARMY AGAINST THE JEWS. EL SAKKA, A VETERAN OF MANY PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMONSTRATIONS, KNOWS THE WORDS WELL -- AND HE DISAPPROVES OF THEM. "WE AVOID SUCH SLOGANS AT OUR RALLIES," HE SAYS. "I DIDN'T PERSONALLY SEE THIS GROUP ON THE SHIP. BUT I RECOGNIZE THE REPORTER. HE WAS DEFINITELY THERE." THE OTHER FOOTAGE IN THE REPORT ALSO STEMS FROM THE MAVI MARMARA, HE SAYS -- INCLUDING A WOMAN STANDING ON DECK AND SAYING IN ARABIC: "RIGHT NOW WE FACE ONE OF TWO HAPPY ENDINGS: EITHER MARTYRDOM OR REACHING GAZA."

THAT EVENING AT 6:00 THEY ATE KOFTE (GRILLED MEATBALLS) AND CUCUMBER SALAD. FOUR-AND-A-HALF HOURS LATER, CAPTAIN MAHMUT TURAL SPOTTED ISRAELI SHIPS ON HIS RADAR. IN RESPONSE TO THEIR DEMAND THAT HE CHANGE COURSE, HE RESPONDED: "NEGATIVE. OUR DESTINATION IS GAZA." THEN HE ORDERED AN EXERCISE TO PREPARE THE PASSENGERS FOR AN EMERGENCY.

'I WAS WELL PREPARED'

"BUT RIGHT AFTER THE ALARM THE VARIOUS GROUPS CONTINUED WITH THEIR SPEECHES AND SINGING," SAID NORMAN PAECH, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT, THE BUNDESTAG, FOR THE FAR-LEFT LEFT PARTY, WHO WAS ALSO ON BOARD THE SHIP. "I STAYED FOR A BIT ON DECK AND OBSERVED IT ALL -- OUT OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL INTEREST." THEN HE WENT TO BED.

244-3 10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000738 THE ACTIVISTS SUSPECTED THAT AN ATTACK WAS IMMINENT. THEY BEGAN TO ASSIGN WATCHES ON DECK. ONE OF THE MEN ON WATCH WAS THE TURKISH DOCTOR MAHMUT COSKUN, 40. "THEY CHOSE WELL-BUILT DOCTORS FOR THE JOB, BECAUSE IN A CRISIS WE WOULD HAVE TO BRING THE INJURED BELOW DECK," HE RECALLS. "I'M AN EMERGENCY DOCTOR WITH A MOTORCYCLE UNIT. I WAS WELL PREPARED."

HE SAW MEN PREPARING FOR A SHOWDOWN BY RECITING POEMS AND SONGS, BUT THERE WERE NO REAL EXTREMISTS ON BOARD, HE SAYS: "BETWEEN 5,000 AND 6,000 PEOPLE HAD APPLIED FOR THE MISSION. RADICALS WERE NOT TAKEN ALONG."

AT 4:02 A.M. MORNING PRAYERS BEGAN, AND THE MEN WENT BELOW DECK TO WORSHIP. A FEW MINUTES LATER, ISRAELI NAVY SPEEDBOATS PULLED UP ALONGSIDE THE SHIP. THE SOLDIERS THREW STUN GRENADES AND TEARGAS GRENADES ON DECK.

EL SAKKA, WHO WAS STANDING ON THE UPPER DECK, TRIED TO TAKE PICTURES WITH HIS DIGITAL CAMERA, BUT HE ONLY DARED EXTEND HIS ARM OVER THE RAILING. "THE NOISE ON THE LOWER DECKS WAS SO LOUD THAT FOR A FEW MINUTES I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT THE FIRST HELICOPTER WAS ALREADY CLATTERING JUST A FEW METERS OVERHEAD."

HE RAN BELOW DECK TO CHECK ON HIS FRIEND NORMAN PAECH, THE FORMER BUNDESTAG MEMBER. MEN WHO APPARENTLY HAD EXPERIENCE WITH TEARGAS PRESSED PIECES OF ONION INTO HIS HANDS. "'RUB IT ON YOUR FOREHEAD,' THEY TOLD ME, 'IT HELPS!"

ON THE MAIN DECK, CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST KEVIN NEISH, 53, OBSERVED HOW THE MEN PREPARED FOR BATTLE. SOME OF THEM WERE WEARING GAS MASKS, ONE HAD "A KIND OF CHILD'S SLINGSHOT," WHILE OTHERS HAD PIECES OF WOOD AND METAL PIPES, HE SAYS. "IT LOOKED RATHER PITIFUL TO ME. SOME OF THEM HAD PULLED THINGS OUT OF WASTE BINS, WOODEN CRATES, BATTERIES. SOMEONE HAD EVEN FISHED OUT A COCONUT."

#### SURPRISING FOOTAGE

THE ONLY VIDEO FOOTAGE INITIALLY RELEASED OF THE MILITARY'S OPERATION SKY WINDS ALL CAME FROM THE ISRAELI ARMY. THEY SHOWED SOLDIERS RAPPELLING FROM HELICOPTERS AND BEING BEATEN DOWN ON DECK BY MEN ARMED WITH PIPES AND CLUBS. TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK, DETAILS EMERGED FROM THE FILMS CONFISCATED FROM THE ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING SOME THAT EVEN SURPRISED THE ISRAELIS. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER YEDIOT AHRONOT, ONE OF THE TAPES SHOWS AN "ARAB-LOOKING WOMAN" USING A STICK TO KEEP MEN FROM BEATING UP AN ISRAELI SOLDIER. FURTHERMORE "A NUMBER OF LEFTIST EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS ARE TRYING TO PROTECT THE SOLDIERS."

PICTURES THAT SHOWED HOW EIGHT TURKISH ACTIVISTS AND AN AMERICAN WERE KILLED HAD STILL NOT BEEN RELEASED BY THE ISRAELI ARMY BY FRIDAY EVENING. THE SOLDIERS SHOT INDISCRIMINATELY INTO THE CROWD, TURKISH ACTIVISTS SAID AFTER THEY RETURNED HOME. THEY ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE, SAID THE ARMY.

EL SAKKA FLED TO THE LOWER DECK WHEN HE NOTICED THAT LIVE AMMUNITION WAS BEING FIRED. THE SHIP'S SICK BAY WAS LOCATED NEXT TO THE SLEEPING QUARTERS. HE OBSERVED THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED WERE BEING BROUGHT DOWN, INCLUDING THREE INJURED SOLDIERS.

'THEY SHOULD HAVE SUNK THE SHIP'

THE SHOOTING STOPPED AFTER AN HOUR, AND A MESSAGE CAME THROUGH THE INTERCOM THAT THE SHIP WAS NOW UNDER ISRAELI COMMAND. ALL PASSENGERS, INCLUDING SAKKA AND PAECH, WERE TIED UP AND FORCED TO KNEEL ON THE BLOODSTAINED UPPER DECK. THE ORDEAL LASTED FOR FOUR HOURS. PAECH AND TWO CURRENT LEFT PARTY MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG, INGE HOGER AND ANNETTE GROTH, WHO WERE ALSO ON BOARD, LATER FILED COMPLAINTS AGAINST PERSONS UNKNOWN FOR UNLAWFUL DETENTION AND WAR CRIMES.

IT TOOK 10 HOURS FOR THE MAVI MARMARA TO REACH THE PORT OF ASHDOD. NEARLY ALL THE ACTIVISTS WERE PUT IN JAIL, BUT THEN THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO DEPORT THEM ALL -- DESPITE VIOLENT PROTESTS IN ISRAEL. "DO YOU KNOW THE ONLY THING THAT THE ISRAELI ARMY DID WRONG?" SAID ONE DEMONSTRATOR TO AN ISRAELI PEACE ACTIVIST. "THEY SHOULD HAVE SUNK THE SHIP AND KILLED EVERYONE ON BOARD!"

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: HAMBURG SPIEGEL ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NEWS WEBSITE FUNDED BY THE SPIEGEL GROUP WHICH FUNDS DER SPIEGEL WEEKLY AND THE SPIEGEL TELEVISION MAGAZINE; URL: HTTP://www.spiegel.de

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

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WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100530314001

COUNTRY: ISRAEL

SUBJ: ISRAEL: FLOTILLA APPROACHED BY ISRAELI NAVY; PASSENGERS DON LIFE VESTS (U)

SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH 30 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

ORIGINAL HEADLINE: "FLOTILLA PASSENGERS DON LIFE VESTS" BY YAAKOV KATZ AND JPOST.COM STAFF. (U)

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THE GAZA PROTEST FLOTILLA SHIPS WERE ABOUT 150 MILES FROM GAZA LATE ON SUNDAY 30 MAY NIGHT, THEY HAD BEEN SIGHTED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY AND WERE IN CONTACT WITH THEM. FLOTILLA PASSENGERS HAD PUT ON LIFE VESTS AND WERE ON HIGH ALERT, THEY REPORTED VIA THEIR LIVE FEED.

THEY WERE TOLD BY THE NAVY THEY HAD TWO OPTIONS: EITHER BE BOARDED OR FOLLOW THE NAVY IN TO ASHDOD HARBOR TO BE PROCESSED THERE.

AN AL-JAZEERA REPORTER ABOARD THE FLOTILLA SAID THEY HAD NOT EXPECTED TO BE INTERCEPTED BY THE ISRAELI NAVY SO EARLY, WHILE STILL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, AND THEY WERE TAKEN BY SURPRISE WHEN HAILED BY THE NAVY.

ISRAELI NAVY SHIPS SET SAIL EARLIER SUNDAY NIGHT FOR WHAT WAS EXPECTED TO BE A DRAMATIC SHOWDOWN OUT AT SEA AS THEY TRY TO PREVENT A FLOTILLA OF INTERNATIONAL AID SHIPS FROM BREAKING THE BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP.

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF DELAYS DUE TO DIPLOMATIC AND MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES, SIX SHIPS SET SAIL FOR THE GAZA STRIP ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE AIM OF ARRIVING AT THE PALESTINIAN PORT AT 2 PM MONDAY.

MARY HUGHES, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT, TOLD THE JERUSALEM POST FROM CYPRUS THAT THE GROUP WAS DETERMINED TO REACH GAZA.

"THEY THE ISRAEL NAVY Y.K. HAS STOPPED US BEFORE IN VARIOUS WAYS AND WE DO NOT INTEND TO BE INTIMATED," HUGHES SAID. "WE HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO GO TO GAZA SO IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE ISRAELIS DO TO US. AS LONG AS PEOPLE WANT TO GO AND TO SEND BOATS IT WILL CONTINUE."

THE FLOTILLA, WHICH INCLUDES THREE CARGO SHIPS AND THREE PASSENGER SHIPS, IS CARRYING MATERIALS THAT ISRAEL BARS FROM REACHING GAZA ON A REGULAR BASIS, LIKE CEMENT AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS. THE ACTIVISTS SAID THEY ALSO WERE CARRYING HUNDREDS OF ELECTRICAL-POWERED WHEELCHAIRS, PREFABRICATED HOMES AND WATER PURIFIERS.

AFTER THE SHIPS ARE STOPPED, THE NAVY WILL SAIL THEM TO THE ASHDOD PORT WHERE THE CARGO WILL BE UNLOADED, INSPECTED AND THEN TRANSFERRED, VIA LAND CROSSINGS, TO THE GAZA STRIP. THE PASSENGERS WILL BE DEPORTED. THOSE WHO REFUSE TO WILLINGLY LEAVE THE COUNTRY WILL BE ARRESTED.

SOME 700 PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS ARE ON THE BOATS, INCLUDING 1976 NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE, EUROPEAN LEGISLATORS AND AN ELDERLY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR.

THE MISSION HAS EXPERIENCED REPEATED DELAYS, BOTH DUE TO MECHANICAL PROBLEMS AND A DECISION BY CYPRUS TO BAR ANY BOAT FROM SAILING FROM ITS SHORE TO GAZA. THE BAN FORCED A GROUP OF EUROPEAN LAWMAKERS TO DEPART FROM THE BREAKAWAY TURKISH CYPRIOT NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND LATE SATURDAY.

ISRAEL AND EGYPT IMPOSED THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA AFTER HAMAS MILITANTS VIOLENTLY SEIZED CONTROL OF THE SEASIDE TERRITORY IN JUNE 2007.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DANNY AYALON RESPONDED TO WHAT HE CALLED "ANTI-SEMITIC CHANTS" THAT CAME FROM THE SHIP'S PASSENGERS AND WERE BROADCAST ON ISRAEL RADIO.

ACCORDING TO A RADIO REPORT, SOME OF THE PASSENGERS ON THE FLOTILLA WERE RECORDED SHOUTING CHANTS TO REMEMBER HAIFA SINCE THE ARMY OF MOHAMMED WILL SOON RETURN.

"ISRAEL CONDEMNS THE ANTI-SEMITIC CHANTS THAT WERE PUBLICIZED THIS MORNING," AYALON SAID.
"THE FACT THAT PARTICIPANTS ON THE FLOTILLA WOULD CHANT SUCH THINGS SHOWS THE TRUE NATURE
OF SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND ITS REAL MOTIVATION. THIS AMPLY DEMONSTRATES THAT MANY ARE
NOT AGAINST A PARTICULAR POLICY OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, BUT HAVE VERY REAL AND DANGEROUS
HATRED FOR JEWS AND THE JEWISH STATE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: JERUSALEM THE JERUSALEM POST ONLINE IN ENGLISH -- WEBSITE OF RIGHT-OF-CENTER, INDEPENDENT DAILY; URL: HTTP://WWW.JPOST.CO.IL

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 281653Z MAY 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 404774

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT

SERIAL: EUP20100528102010

COUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY

#### SUBJ: FLOTILLA AIMING TO BUST GAZA-BLOCKADE DELAYS DEPARTIJRE (U)

REF: 1. FLOTILLA AIMING TO BUST GAZA-BLOCKADE PLANS TO DEPART FROM CYPRUS SHORTLY EUP20100528102009 AFP

(NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) ENGLISH 1519 GMT 28 MAY 10 (U)

SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 1539 GMT 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"GAZA AID FLOTILLA DELAYS DEPARTURE UNTIL SATURDAY" - AFP HEADLINE (U)

**NEWS AGENCIES** 

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AN AID FLOTILLA DUE TO SAIL FOR GAZA IN DEFIANCE OF AN ISRAELI EMBARGO AND WARNINGS WILL BE DELAYED BY A DAY UNTIL SATURDAY 29 MAY, ORGANISERS SAID.

"WE'VE CHANGED THE COORDINATES TWICE BECAUSE REPORTEDLY ISRAEL HAS THREATENED TO CAPTURE THE TURKISH SHIP SO WE DECIDED TO DELAY GETTING ALL THE BOATS TOGETHER," AUDREY BOMSE OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT THAT ORGANISED THE MULTINATIONAL FLOTILLA GATHERING OFF THE COAST OF CYPRUS SAID ON FRIDAY.

"THIS HAS DELAYED EVERYTHING BY A DAY BECAUSE CHANGING COORDINATES TAKES TIME ... THERE WERE ALSO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WITH ONE OF THE BOATS SO WE HAD TO MOVE PASSENGERS FROM IT ON TO THE TURKISH ONE," SHE TOLD AFP.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH -- NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

P 2816372 MAY 10 FM OSC RESTON VA TO RUZFNEL/547IS NELLIS AFB NV UNCLAS QQQQ

CITE OSC RESTON VA 404694

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT

SERIAL: EUP20100528102009

COUNTRY: CYPRUS, GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL

#### SUBJ: FLOTILLA AIMING TO BUST GAZA-BLOCKADE PLANS TO DEPART FROM CYPRUS SHORTLY (U)

SOURCE: PARIS AFP (NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE) IN ENGLISH 1519 GMT 28 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

"FLOTILLA SET FOR FINAL LEG OF GAZA BLOCKADE-BUSTING BID" - AFP HEADLINE (U)

**NEWS AGENCIES** 

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HUNDREDS OF ACTIVISTS BRACED ON FRIDAY 28 MAY FOR THE FINAL LEG OF THEIR ATTEMPT TO BUST THE GAZA STRIP EMBARGO, A BID ISRAEL VOWED TO DEFEAT, AS EACH SIDE ACCUSED THE OTHER OF VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW.

TWO CARGO SHIPS AND FIVE SMALLER BOATS LOADED WITH THOUSANDS OF TONNES OF SUPPLIES AND HUNDREDS OF PASSENGERS STEAMED TOWARDS A RENDEZVOUS OFF CYPRUS WHERE THEY PLANNED TO GROUP BEFORE SETTING OUT FOR THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORY.

ORGANISERS SAID AN EIGHTH SHIP, THE RACHEL CORRIE THAT HAD LEFT FROM IRELAND, WAS LAGGING BEHIND AND WOULD TRAVEL TOWARDS GAZA SEPARATELY.

THE SHIPS WILL MEET IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, THEY SAID.

"THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT US TO LEAVE FROM CYPRUS. I CAN ONLY ASSUME PRESSURE WAS PUT ON THEM," SAID AUDREY BOMSE, A MEMBER OF THE FREE GAZA MOVEMENT (FGM) THAT ORGANISED THE FLOTILLA.

A CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID OF THE FLOTILLA THAT NICOSIA HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST FROM THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID.

BOMSE TOLD AFP THAT A PLAN TO FERRY ABOUT 25 MULTI-NATIONAL MPS FROM CYPRUS TO ONE OF THE SHIPS ALSO HAD BEEN ABANDONED.

"THIS IS A GROUP OF MPS WAITING TO BE FERRIED TO ANOTHER BOAT. THE GOVERNMENT SAID IF WE KEPT IT QUIET WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT BUT THERE WAS A HUGE AMOUNT OF PRESSURE AND I SUPPOSE THEY GAVE IN TO ISRAEL," SHE CHARGED.

BOMSE ADDED THE PLAN HAD BEEN MODIFIED, AND THE GROUP WOULD NOW TRY TO GET THE MPS ON BOARD FROM THE TURKISH-OCCUPIED NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND.

"WE WILL NOW HAVE TO GO TO THE NORTH AND LOSE THE CYPRIOT AND GREEK POLITICIANS, BUT WE HAVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM IRELAND, ITALY, SWEDEN, NORWAY AND BULGARIA. WE ARE GOING TO PUT THEM ON A BOAT IN FAMAGUSTA," SHE SAID.

GREECE AND CYPRUS REGARD THE SELF-PROCLAIMED TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS, WHERE FAMAGUSTA IS THE MAIN PORT, AS AN ILLEGAL ENTITY.

CYPRIOT COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ERATO KOZAKOU-MARCOULLIS DENIED THAT HER GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO FORBID THE FLOTILLA TO SAIL FROM CYPRUS WAS DUE TO PRESSURE FROM ISRAEL.

"THIS WAS A DECISION THAT THE CYPRUS REPUBLIC TOOK BY ITSELF, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT AND WEIGHING UP ALL THE FACTS, THE DANGERS AND THE THREATS TO ITS NATIONAL INTEREST," SHE SAID.

10-L-1242/CCR Gallagher/ONI/000743

BOMSE SAID THE NEW ARRANGEMENT HAD NOW DELAYED THE FLOTILLA'S DEPARTURE FOR GAZA UNTIL LATER ON FRIDAY.

ISRAEL EARLIER TOLD THE AMBASSADORS OF CYPRUS, TURKEY, GREECE, AND IRELAND -- THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THE SHIPS SET SAIL -- THAT IT "ISSUED WARRANTS THAT PROHIBIT THE ENTRANCE OF THE VESSELS TO GAZA" AND THAT THE FLOTILLA WOULD BE BREAKING INTERNATIONAL LAW.

ISRAEL MADE IT CLEAR IT INTENDS TO HALT THE VESSELS AND DETAIN THE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ABOARD IN THE PORT OF ASHDOD BEFORE DEPORTING THEM.

BOMSE SUGGESTED THIS MAY JUST BE "SABRE RATTLING."

"WE ARE PLANNING ON GETTING THERE AND STAYING IN GAZA FOR TWO DAYS," SHE SAID.

BUT ISRAEL HAS STEPPED UP ITS WARNINGS IN RECENT DAYS AND READIED NAVAL FORCES.

ORGANISERS DISMISSED THE CLAIM THAT THEIR BLOCKADE-BUSTING BID IS ILLEGAL.

"MOST DESPICABLY OF ALL, ISRAEL CLAIMS THAT WE ARE VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW BY SAILING UNARMED SHIPS CARRYING HUMANITARIAN AID TO A PEOPLE DESPERATELY IN NEED," THE FGM SAID IN A STATEMENT.

"THESE CLAIMS ONLY DEMONSTRATE HOW DEGENERATE THE POLITICAL DISCOURSE IN ISRAEL HAS BECOME."

ISRAEL IMPOSED A CRIPPLING BLOCKADE ON GAZA IN 2007 AFTER HAMAS -- AN ISLAMIST MOVEMENT COMMITTED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL -- SEIZED POWER IN THE IMPOVERISHED, OVERCROWDED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY.

BECAUSE OF THE BLOCKADE, ONLY LIMITED RECONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE WAKE OF A DEVASTATING 22-DAY OFFENSIVE ISRAEL LAUNCHED ON DECEMBER 27, 2008.

IN NEW YORK, UN CHIEF BAN KI-MOON ON THURSDAY APPEALED TO ALL SIDES TO ACT WITH CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

"WE STRONGLY URGE THAT ALL INVOLVED ACT WITH A SENSE OF CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK FOR A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION," BAN'S SPOKESMAN SAID.

PRO-PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS HAVE LANDED IN GAZA FIVE TIMES, WITH ANOTHER THREE ATTEMPTS UNSUCCESSFUL SINCE THEIR FIRST SUCH SEA VOYAGE IN AUGUST 2008.

TO DATE, THE AID HAS BEEN LARGELY SYMBOLIC, BUT ORGANISERS SAY THE FLOTILLA NOW UNDER WAY IS LADEN WITH 10,000 TONNES OF AID, RANGING FROM PRE-FABRICATED HOMES TO PENCILS.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH -- NORTH EUROPEAN SERVICE OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH PRESS AGENCY AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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CABLETYPE: FBISEMS ACP 1.0.

PREC: P DTG: 091546Z AUG 10

FROM: OSC RESTON VA

UNCLAST QQQQ

CITE OSC RESTON VA 836851

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, URGENT

SERIAL: GMP20100809734002

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, TURKEY

SUBJ: TURKEY: SAPPERS, RADIATION EXPERTS SEARCH GAZA AID SHIPS

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN TURKISH 09 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"BOMB EXPERTS CONDUCT INSPECTIONS OF SHIPS IN ISKENDERUN PORT" -- AA HEADLINE (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

OSC TRANSLATED TEXT

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ISKENDERUN (AA) - IT IS REPORTED THAT TEAMS OF BOMB EXPERTS ARE CONDUCTING INSPECTIONS OF THE THREE TURKISH SHIPS THAT ISRAEL SEIZED IN THE RAID IT CONDUCTED ON 31 MAY AGAINST THE FLEET BRINGING AID TO GAZA AND WHICH WERE LATER BROUGHT TO THE PORT IN THE ISKENDERUN DISTRICT OF HATAY PROVINCE.

ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION OBTAINED, AFTER THE TEAMS OF BOMB EXPERTS INSPECT THE SHIPS, KNOWN AS THE MAVI MARMARA, THE DEFNE-Y, AND THE GAZZE, WHICH ENTERED THROUGH THE A GATE OF ISKENDERUN PORT AND ARE IN A SECTION WHERE EXTENSIVE SECURITY MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN, OFFICIALS OF THE TURKISH ATOMIC ENERGY ADMINISTRATION (TAEK) WILL CONDUCT RADIATION MEASUREMENTS.

IN THE MEANTIME, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS (IHH) HUMANITARIAN AID FOUNDATION ACTING CHAIRMAN HUSEYIN ORUC, ASSISTANT CHAIRMAN AHMET SARIKURT, MAVI MARMARA CAPTAIN MAHMUT TURAL, DEFNE-Y SHIP'S ENGINEER RIFAT LULECI, THE SHIPS' TECHNICAL OFFICER CAN ERTUS, AND ATTORNEY RAMAZAN ARITURK AND OTHER OFFICIALS ARRIVED AT THE PORT ENTRY GATE. THE DELEGATION, WHO MET WITH OFFICIALS, WERE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE PORT AREA.

HUSEYIN ORUC, RESPONDING TO A JOURNALIST'S QUESTION OF "WHY ARE BOMB EXPERTS DOING AN INSPECTION?", SAID: "ANYTHING CAN BE EXPECTED FROM THOSE WHO KILLED NINE PEOPLE. FOR THIS REASON, AN INSPECTION IS BEING DONE AS A PRECAUTION. AFTER THESE THINGS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT, WE WILL GO ONTO THE SHIPS."

STATING THAT, AFTER PROSECUTORS' INVESTIGATIONS, A STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED TO DETERMINE THE TECHNICAL CONDITION OF THE VESSELS, ORUC ADVISED THAT A DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE MOTORS RUN, AND WHETHER OR NOT THE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IS IN SHAPE FOR THE VESSELS TO SAIL, AND THAT, IF NEED BE, THEY WILL BE TAKEN INTO DRYDOCK.

STATING THAT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE REVEALED AS A RESULT OF REPORTS BY EXPERTS, ORUC SAID: "IN THE END, WE ARE GOING TO BRING THESE VESSELS BACK INTO ACTIVE SERVICE."

ORUC, POINTING OUT THAT CASES ARE UNDERWAY BOTH IN TURKISH AND IN INTERNATIONAL COURTS, SAID: "THE INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSIONS WILL ASSESS ALL OF THESE REPORTS. WE ARE GOING TO CONDUCT EFFORTS IN EVERY SPHERE ON THIS ISSUE, AND ARE GOING TO CONTINUE OUR STRUGGLE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN TURKISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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PREC: P DTG: 071133Z AUG 10

FROM: OSC RESTON VA

UNCLAS 0000

CITE OSC RESTON VA 827039

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100807744004

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK

SUBJ: TURKEY: ANOTHER GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA SHIP ARRIVES IN ISKENDERUM (11)

REF: 1. TURKISH GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA'S MAVI MARMARA SHIP ARRIVES

IN ISKENDERUN GMP20100807744003 ANATOLIA ENGLISH 0726 GMT 07

AUG 10 (U)

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 0957 GMT 07 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"ISRAELI-RAIDED AID SHIP ARRIVES IN TURKISH PORT " -- AA HEADLINE (U)

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ISKENDERUN (A.A) - "GAZZE", ONE OF THE ISRAELI-SEIZED TURKISH AID SHIP, HAS ARRIVED IN TURKEY'S SOUTHERN ISKENDERUN PORT ON SATURDAY.

"GAZZE", TOGETHER WITH "MAVI MARMARA" AND "DEFNE-Y" SHIPS, HAD BEEN SEIZED BY ISRAELI FORCES ON MAY 31 AFTER A BLOODY RAID. THE THREE TURKISH SHIPS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO GAZA TO CARRY HUMANITARIAN AID.

"DEFNE-Y" SHIP ARRIVED IN ISKENDERUN PORT LAST NIGHT, AND "MAVI MARMARA" DOCKED AT THE PORT EARLY ON SATURDAY.

OFFICIALS SAID THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES AND PROSECUTORS AS WELL AS A UN DELEGATION WOULD EXAMINE THE SHIPS.

MEANWHILE, ISKENDERUN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR MUSTAFA OZCAN ARRIVED IN THE PORT AND EXAMINED "GAZZE".

ISRAEL DECIDED ON JULY 23 TO GIVE BACK THE THREE AID SHIPS IT SEIZED AFTER ITS ATTACK ON THE CONVOY ON MAY 31.

NINE PEOPLE, INCLUDING EIGHT TURKS AND A U.S. CITIZEN OF TURKISH DESCENT, WERE KILLED WHEN ISRAELI FORCES RAIDED MAVI MARMARA.

AROUND 30 PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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PREC: P DTG: 070832Z AUG 10

FROM: OSC RESTON VA

UNCLAS QQQQ

CITE OSC RESTON VA 826404

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100807744003

COUNTRY: GAZA STRIP, ISRAEL, TURKEY, WEST BANK

SUBJ: TURKISH GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA'S MAVI MARMARA SHIP ARRIVES IN ISKENDERUM\_(U)\_

SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH 0726 GMT 07 AUG 10 (U)

TEXT:

"RAIDED GAZA VESSEL DOCKS AT TURKISH PORT" -- AA HEADLINE (U)

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ISKENDERUN (A.A) - MAVI MARMARA, THE LEAD VESSEL IN A GAZA-BOUND FLOTILLA WHICH CAME UNDER A DEADLY ISRAELI ATTACK, REACHED TURKEY'S SOUTHERN PORT OF ISKENDERUN ON SATURDAY.

ISRAEL DECIDED ON JULY 23 TO GIVE BACK THE THREE AID SHIPS IT SEIZED AFTER ITS ATTACK ON THE CONVOY ON MAY 31.

NINE PEOPLE, INCLUDING EIGHT TURKS AND A U.S. CITIZEN OF TURKISH DESCENT, WERE KILLED WHEN ISRAELI FORCES RAIDED MAVI MARMARA.

AROUND 30 PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

ANOTHER VESSEL WITH THE CONVOY, DEFNE-Y, DOCKED AT THE ISKENDERUN PORT ON FRIDAY AND A THIRD ONE, GAZZE, IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE LATER TODAY.

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: ANKARA ANATOLIA IN ENGLISH -- SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY; INDEPENDENT IN CONTENT

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FMI OSC.

## Flotilla Aiming to Bust Gaza-Blockade Plans to Depart From Cyprus Shortly (U)

EUP20100528102009 Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1519 GMT 28 May 10 (U)

["Flotilla Set for Final Leg of Gaza Blockade-Busting Bid" -- AFP headline (U)]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

Hundreds of activists braced on Friday [ 28 May] for the final leg of their attempt to bust the Gaza Strip embargo, a bid Israel vowed to defeat, as each side accused the other of violating international law.

Two cargo ships and five smaller boats loaded with thousands of tonnes of supplies and hundreds of passengers steamed towards a rendezvous off Cyprus where they planned to group before setting out for the Palestinian territory.

Organisers said an eighth ship, the Rachel Corrie that had left from Ireland, was lagging behind and would travel towards Gaza separately.

The ships will meet in international waters, they said.

"The Cypriot government does not want us to leave from Cyprus. I can only assume pressure was put on them," said Audrey Bomse, a member of the Free Gaza Movement (FGM) that organised the flotilla.

A Cypriot government official said of the flotilla that Nicosia had not received any formal request from the Palestinian Authority for humanitarian aid.

Bomse told AFP that a plan to ferry about 25 multi-national MPs from Cyprus to one of the ships also had been abandoned.

"This is a group of MPs waiting to be ferried to another boat. The government said if we kept it quiet we would be able to do it but there was a huge amount of pressure and I suppose they gave in to Israel," she charged.

Bomse added the plan had been modified, and the group would now try to get the MPs on board from the Turkish-occupied northern part of the island.

"We will now have to go to the north and lose the Cypriot and Greek politicians, but we have members of parliament from Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Norway and Bulgaria. We are going to put them on a boat in Famagusta," she said.

Greece and Cyprus regard the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, where Famagusta is the main port, as an illegal entity.

Cypriot Communications Minister Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis denied that her government's decision to forbid the flotilla to sail from Cyprus was due to pressure from Israel.

"This was a decision that the Cyprus Republic took by itself, taking into account and weighing up all the facts, the dangers and the threats to its national interest," she said.

Bomse said the new arrangement had now delayed the flotilla's departure for Gaza until later on Friday.

Israel earlier told the ambassadors of Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, and Ireland -- the countries from which the ships set sail -- that it "issued warrants that prohibit the entrance of the vessels to Gaza" and that the flotilla would be breaking international law.

Israel made it clear it intends to halt the vessels and detain the hundreds of people aboard in the port of Ashdod before deporting them.

Bomse suggested this may just be "sabre rattling."

"We are planning on getting there and staying in Gaza for two days," she said.

But Israel has stepped up its warnings in recent days and readied naval forces.

Organisers dismissed the claim that their blockade-busting bid is illegal.

"Most despicably of all, Israel claims that we are violating international law by sailing unarmed ships carrying humanitarian aid to a people desperately in need," the FGM said in a statement.

"These claims only demonstrate how degenerate the political discourse in Israel has become."

Israel imposed a crippling blockade on Gaza in 2007 after Hamas — an Islamist movement committed to the destruction of Israel — seized power in the impoverished, overcrowded Palestinian territory.

Because of the blockade, only limited reconstruction has been possible in the wake of a devastating 22-day offensive Israel launched on December 27, 2008.

In New York, UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Thursday appealed to all sides to act with care and responsibility.

"We strongly urge that all involved act with a sense of care and responsibility and work for a satisfactory resolution," Ban's spokesman said.

Pro-Palestinian activists have landed in Gaza fi ve times, with another three attempts unsuccessful since their first such sea voyage in August 2008.

To date, the aid has been largely symbolic, but organisers say the flotilla now under way is laden with 10,000 tonnes of aid, ranging from pre-fabricated homes to pencils.

[Description of Source: Paris AFP in English – North European Service of independent French press agency Agence France-Presse] R 261741Z MAY 10

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 391204

WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: CPP20100526968286

COUNTRY: ALGERIA, GAZA STRIP, GREECE, ISRAEL, KUWAIT, SWEDEN, TURKEY

#### SUBJ: XINHUA 'ROUNDUP': HAMAS INTENSIFIES PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE 'FREEDOM FLEET' (U)

SOURCE: BEUING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 1726 GMT 26 MAY 10 (U)

TEXT:

XINHUA "ROUNDUP": "HAMAS INTENSIFIES PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE 'FREEDOM FLEET'" (U)

NEWS AGENCIES

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BY EMAD DRIMLY, SAUD ABU RAMADAN

GAZA, MAY 26 (XINHUA) -- GAZA ENGINEERS, TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS ON WEDNESDAY INTENSIFIED THEIR WORK TO PREPARE GAZA FISHERMEN ANCHORAGE TO RECEIVE THE FREEDOM FLEET, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT GAZA SHORES ON FRIDAY TO DEFY THE THREE- YEAR BLOCKADE IMPOSED BY ISRAEL ON THE GAZA STRIP.

WORKERS AND ENGINEERS BELONGING TO WORK MINISTRY OF THE DEPOSED HAMAS GOVERNMENT WORK 12 HOURS A DAY TO PREPARE THE HARBOR, WHICH HAS BEEN A TARGET OF ISRAELI AIRSTRIKES AND SHELLS, FOR RECEIVING THE THREE COMMERCIAL SHIPS AND SIX VESSELS ON FRIDAY.

DESPITE ISRAELI THREATS OF BANNING THE FREEDOM FLEET FROM REACHING GAZA WATERS, WORKERS HAVE NEVER STOPPED WORKING #
THE HARBOR, MOST OF THE DEPOSED GOVERNMENT'S MINISTRIES ARE JOINING THE RENOVATION OF THE HARBOR.

YASSER AL-SHANTI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORK IN GAZA TOLD XINHUA THAT "THE MAJOR GOAL OF THIS KIND OF WORK IS TO PROMOTE TI CAPABILITY OF THE HARBOR, WHICH IS DEVOTED ONLY FOR FISHING BOATS, TO RECEIVE HUGE SHIPS."

THE FREEDOM FLEET WILL CARRY MORE THAN 10,000 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID, 100 HOUSING CARAVANS AND AROUND 750 PEOPLE COMING FROM 40 COUNTIES.

THE FLEET CONSISTS OF NINE SHIPS: ONE OF THE THREE COMMERCIAL SHIPS IS A HUGE KUWAITI ONE CARRYING THE FLAGS OF TURKEY AND KUWAIT; THE SECOND ONE IS FUNDED BY ALGERIA; AND THE THIRD ONE IS FUNDED BY SWEDEN AND GREECE. THE OTHER SIX VESSELS WILL CARRY 750 PEOPLE COMING FROM 40 COUNTRIES.

ONE OF THE VESSELS IS CALLED "8,000 VESSEL," REFERRING TO THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB PRISONERS IMPRISONED IN ISRAEL JAILS. AMONG THOSE ON BOARD, THERE ARE 44 OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS AND POLITICIANS COMING FROM EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES.

THE THREE COMMERCIAL SHIPS ARE CARRYING 10,000 TONS OF HUMANITARIAN AID, INCLUDING MEDICINES, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, WOODS AND 100 HOUSING CARAVANS AIMED TO SUPPORT DOZENS OF HOMELESS GAZANS WHO LOST THEIR HOMES DURING LAST YEAR'S ISRAELI WAR ON THE GAZA STRIP.

THE FLEET WILL ALSO CARRY 500 WHEEL CHAIRS FOR THE DISABLED PALESTINIANS, WHO WERE VICTIMS OF THE ISRAELI WAR. THE THREE-WEEK ISRAELI WAR HAD LEFT AROUND 600 PEOPLE DISABLED IN THE ENCLAVE.

TECHNICAL TEAMS ARE WORKING TO PAD THE HARBOR AND MOVE SAND FROM THE DOCK TO DEEPEN IT TO 5 METERS. WORKERS PAVED A 2,000- METER ROAD, AND ERECTED POLES TO LIGHT THE HARBOR.

DESPITE THE HARD WORK AT THE HARBOR TO ENLARGE IT TO RECEIVE THE THREE SHIPS AND SIX VESSELS, THE SMALL SHALLOW HARBOR WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE HUGE COMMERCIAL SHIPS, EVEN IF IT WAS DEEPENED TO THE NORMAL LEVEL OF OTHER HARBORS.

BAHA EL-AGHA, DIRECTOR OF HARBOR AUTHORITIES IN GAZA TOLD XINHUA THAT THE SHIPS WILL BE ASKED TO ANCHOR AWAY FROM THE HARBOR, ADDING "THE PALESTINIAN TEAMS WILL SAIL AND EMPTY THE LOADS THEN."

HE REVEALED THAT ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, WORKERS HAVE PRACTICED HOW TO BRING THE LOADS TO GAZA. THE TRAINING WAS CARRIED OUT AROUND THE HARBOR, ALTHOUGH ISRAEL HAD REPEATEDLY THREATENED THAT ITS NAVAL FORCES WILL PREVENT THE FLEET FROM REACHING THE SHORES OF THE GAZA STRIP.

HAMAS INTERIOR MINISTER FATHI HAMMAD, WHO ATTENDED THE PRACTICE, SAID THE ISRAELI THREAT TO BAN THE FLEET FROM REACHING GAZA SHORES "WOULD NEVER STOP THE PREPARATIONS (HAMAS) GOVERNMENT IS CARRYING OUT UNTIL FRIDAY."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH -- CHINA'S OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AUDIENCES (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY)

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FM OSC

W KUNA: Huge Naval Fleet of Humanitarian Aid Preparing To Go To Gaza (U)

GMP20100410966064[0] Kuwait KUNA Online in English 1234 GMT 10 Apr 10 (U)

["Huge Naval Fleet of Humanitarian Aid Preparing To Go To Gaza" -- KUNA Headline (U)

[OSC Transcribed Text]

[ Computer selected and disseminated without OSC editorial intervention ]

GENEVA, April 10 (KUNA) -- The European Campaign to end the Siege on Gaza decided on Saturday to send naval fleets to Gaza strip in order to support its trapped population for more than 1,000 days.

Arafat Mady, president of the Campaign, said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), "the fleet which will set a precedent in the history of breaking the siege, will house three ships loaded with different types of relief and aid materials. Seven other ships will be full of solidarity activists with the besieged residents of Gaza." He said after a meeting of the organisation community of the trip in its office in Geneva, "The new in this campaign is that the convoy, which will move next month, will have five alliances of European powers with different experiences in facing critical humanitarian. situations resulting from the embargo." "The ships will sail under the Turkish and Greek flags", indicates Arafat Mady, "it will follow the international waters leading to Palestinian territorial waters adjacent to the Gaza Strip, and thus there will not be any pretext for the Israeli authorities to intercept the fleet.", he added.

The ships will carry ready made houses for the displaced people, medical equipment, essential drugs, food, equipments for disabled and equipment for purifying drinking water and the essential requirements of daily life that lacks residents.

"A group of European politicians, parliamentarians, intellectuals, human rights activists and volunteers in the field of humanitarian relief from European and Arab countries and around the world will join the fleet to Gaza", he added.

In his interview with (KUNA), Arafat Mady indicated that the keenness of a large number of personalities from a wide political spectrum participating in the campaign and the financial support reflects how the European public opinion convinced the magnitude of the suffering of people in Gaza through the embargo, who left strong effects on the all aspects of the life there.

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He pointed out that supporting the campaign reflects the conviction insistence on the injustices suffered by Palestinians under siege, despite the major powers behind it.

He described the Coming fleet's journey as a "popular movement of an international collation in the face of a human made disaster, made million and a half million people suffering since one thousand days."

[Description of Source: Kuwait KUNA Online in English -- Official news agency of the Kuwaiti Government; URL: http://www.kuna.net.kw]

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WARNING: TOPIC: MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

SERIAL: GMP20100603738022

COUNTRY: ISRAEL, WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, UNITED STATES

SUBJ: ISRAEL'S MAG: FLOTILLA INTERCEPTION 'LEGAL' UNDER INT'L LAW; US NAVY HANDBOOK CITED (U)

SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH 0829 GMT 03 JUN 10 (U)

TEXT:

REPORT BY ELANA KIEFFER: "INTERCEPTION OF GAZA FLOTILLA IS LEGAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW" (U)

INTERNET

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THE IDF MILITARY ADVOCATE GENERAL (MAG), WHICH IS THE BODY THAT ENSURES THAT THE RULE OF LAW IS UPHELD WITHIN THE IDF, HAS PUBLICIZED A REPORT ABOUT THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE INTERCEPTION OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA. WHILE COVERING TOPICS SUCH AS THE HISTORY OF THE BLOCKADE ON GAZA, THE LEGALITY OF THE BLOCKADE IMPOSED ON THE GAZA STRIP, THE ATTEMPT TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND THE TREATMENT OF PERSONNEL ON BOARD A VESSEL CAPTURED IN BREACH OF A BLOCKADE, THE MAG REPORT EXPLAINS WHY THE INTERCEPTION OF THE GAZA FLOTILLA IS SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE REPORT BEGINS WITH THE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE GAZA STRIP, DETAILING HOW SINCE 2007 WHEN HAMAS TOOK CONTROL OVER THE AREA, THE CONFLICT HAS INTENSIFIED. CLICK HERE TO READ FULL REPORT

AS A RESULT, ISRAEL ENACTED A BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP AND THE REPORT EXPLAINS THAT "ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ARMED CONFLICT, A STATE PARTY TO AN ARMED CONFLICT HAS THE RIGHT TO ESTABLISH A NAVAL BLOCKADE ON ITS ENEMY'S COAST FOR SECURITY REASONS. A NAVAL BLOCKADE MEANS PREVENTING THE PASSAGE (ENTRY OR EXIT) OF ALL VESSELS TO OR FROM THE PORTS AND COASTAL AREAS OF THE ENEMY, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE KIND OF CARGO CARRIED BY THESE VESSELS." IN FACT, ARTICLE 42 OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS EXPLICITLY MENTIONS NAVAL BLOCKADE AS AN ACCEPTABLE MEASURE TO BE TAKEN FOR THE MAINTAINING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. THE REPORT QUOTES THE US NAVY'S "COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS", WHERE ARTICLE 7.7.1 STATES THAT SIMILAR TO THE RIGHT OF "VISIT AND SEARCH" WHEREBY NATIONS ARE ENTITLED TO SEARCH CONTENTS ENTERING OR EXITING, AS WELL AS THE RIGHT TO BLOCKADE "INTENDED TO PREVENT VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT, REGARDLESS OF THEIR CARGO."

AFTER ESTABLISHING THE LEGITIMACY OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE MAG DETAILS THE REASONS WHY THIS SPECIFIC MARITIME BLOCKADE AROUND THE GAZA STRIP WAS ESTABLISHED: "FOR A CLEAR MILITARY NECESSITY -- TO PREVENT THE MILITARY STRENGTHENING OF HAMAS BY STOPPING THE ENTRY OF TERRORIST ELEMENTS AND THE SMUGGLING OF WEAPONS INTO THE GAZA STRIP, AN AIM SUPPORTED ALSO BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1860."

NAVAL BLOCKADES ARE CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL LAW IF THEY MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ENUMERATED IN THE SAN REMO MANUAL ON INTERNATIONAL LAW APPLICABLE TO ARMED CONFLICT AT SEA: PUBLIC DECLARATION, EFFECTIVENESS, IMPARTIALITY, ACCESS TO NEUTRAL STATES, AND PASSAGE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. THE MAG REPORT SHOWS HOW THE MARITIME BLOCKADE OF THE GAZA STRIP IS THUS LEGAL BY EXPLAINING HOW ISRAEL MET EACH OF THESE REQUIREMENTS. A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE 20 MILES FROM THE COAST WAS MADE ON 03.01.2009, AND PUBLISHED BY ORDINARY INTERNATIONAL CHANNELS, DETAILING THE COORDINATES OF THE BLOCKADED REGION. THE REPORT SHARES THAT "BEFORE THE CURRENT FLOTILLA HAD BEGUN, THE STATE OF ISRAEL APPROACHED THE STATES INVOLVED, BY DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FLOTILLA WERE WELL AWARE OF THE BLOCKADE." FOR EFFECTIVENESS, "THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON THE GAZA STRIP HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED BY THE STATE OF ISRAEL SINCE ITS COMMENCEMENT." FOR IMPARTIALITY, "THE NAVAL BLOCKADE HAS BEEN ENFORCED ON THE VESSELS OF ALL STATES, WITH NO DISCRIMINATION." FOR ACCESS TO NEUTRAL STATES, "THE NAVAL BLOCKADE ON GAZA HAS NOT AFFECTED, IN ANY MANNER, THE ACCESS OF VESSELS TO THE PORTS OR COASTS OF NEUTRAL STATES." AND LAST, FOR THE PASSAGE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, THE REPORT SHARES THAT ISRAEL ALLOWED PASSAGE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE INTO THE GAZA STRIP, THROUGH CROSSING POINTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND GAZA SUBJECT TO SECURITY CHECKS AS COORDINATED BY ISRAEL AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GAZA, AND FURTHER THAT "THE STATE OF ISRAEL OPENLY DECLARED THAT IT WILL ALLOW THE ENTRY OF THE HUMANITARIAN GOODS CARRIED BY THE CURRENT FLOTILLA INTO GAZA, AFTER IT IS UNLOADED IN ISRAEL, IN THE PORT OF ASHDOD."

#### LEGALITY OF STOPPING A VESSEL IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

AFTER ESTABLISHING THE LEGALITY OF THIS NAVAL BLOCKADE, THE MAG
ADDRESSES THE ACTIONS TAKEN TO INTERCEPT THE FLOTILLA, SAYING
THAT THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT AT SEA ALLOWS FOR THE CAPTURE OF A
VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE AND IN FACT, "IF IT
RESISTS CAPTURE AND REFUSES TO STOP, AFTER PRIOR WARNING, IT MAY BE ATTACKED."

FURTHER, A STATE WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED A NAVAL BLOCKADE MAY CAPTURE A VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO BREACH A BLOCKADE BEFORE IT HAS ACTUALLY BREACHED. AS LONG AS THERE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE A VESSEL HAS THE INTENTION OF BREACHING A BLOCKADE, "CAPTURE OF A VESSEL ATTEMPTING TO BREACH A NAVAL BLOCKADE CAN BE

DONE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS, BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE BLOCKADED

AREA." ARTICLE 7.7.4 OF THE US NAVY'S "COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON

THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS" CLEARLY STATES: "ATTEMPTED BREACH OF

BLOCKADE OCCURS FROM THE TIME A VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT LEAVES A PORT

OR AIRFIELD WITH THE INTENTION OF EVADING THE BLOCKADE...IT IS

IMMATERIAL THAT THE VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT IS AT THE TIME OF INTERCEPTION BOUND FOR NEUTRAL

TERRITORY, IF ITS ULTIMATE DESTINATION IS THE BLOCKADED AREA."

ALL OF THE VESSELS PARTICIPATING IN THE GAZA FLOTILLA WERE WARNED BY THE IDE THAT THEY WERE APPROACHING AN AREA UNDER A NAVAL BLOCKADE, AND WERE OFFERED TO DOCK IN THE ASHDOD PORT TO DELIVER THEIR CARGO INTO GAZA. THE VESSELS EXPLICITLY DECLARED THEIR INTENT TO BREACH THE BLOCKADE. ISRAEL THEREFORE HAD THE RIGHT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO CAPTURE THESE VESSELS FROM THE MOMENT THEY LEFT THEIR NEUTRAL STATE WATERS. "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I.E. THE VESSEL'S REFUSAL TO STOP OR OBEY WARNINGS TO REFRAIN FROM BREACHING THE BLOCKADE, USE OF FORCE WAS PERMISSIBLE IN ORDER TO ENABLE CAPTURE." HOWEVER, THE IDF TOOK NECESSARY STEPS TO CAPTURE THE VESSELS WITH PROPORTIONALITY, WITHOUT INTENT TO HARM THE PASSENGERS, AND THE SOLDIERS DID NOT ATTACK THE VESSELS WITH CANNONS OR ROCKETS. INTERCEPTION OF FIVE OF THE SIX SHIPS THAT ARRIVED PARTICIPATING IN THE FLOTILLA TOOK PLACE WITHOUT ANY INCIDENTS, AND THE PASSENGERS WERE BROUGHT SAFELY TO THE ASHDOD PORT. "IDF SOLDIERS TAKING PART IN THE CAPTURE MADE SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TO REFRAIN FROM USING FORCE AND DID SO ONLY WHEN FACING CLEAR AND IMMEDIATE THREAT TO LIFE."

DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE: TEL AVIV ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES IN ENGLISH
-- OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE; URL:
HTTP://DOVER.IDF.IL/IDF/ENGLISH

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