Dear Mr. Poe:

Thank you for your June 17 letter to President Obama regarding Israel’s interdiction of the M/V Mavi Marmara on May 31, 2010. The Department of State has been asked to respond on the President’s behalf.

The United States has consistently opposed initiatives that pre-judge Israel’s actions, such as the flawed investigation into the Flotilla incident that was mandated by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), and have made our views in this regard very clear in the HRC and other international bodies. With regard to the Marmara incident, we welcomed UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon’s establishment of a panel to receive and review the Israeli and Turkish investigations of the incident, as well as the decision by Israel and Turkey to cooperate with that panel. The Government of Israel took an important step forward with the creation of the Turkel Commission, which is now in the midst of an independent inquiry. The Commission was mandated to look into the actions undertaken by Israeli forces on May 31, 2010.

Rest assured that the bond between the United States and Israel is unbreakable. As President Obama stated on July 6, “it encompasses our national security issues, our strategic interests, but most importantly, the bond of two democracies who share a common set of values and whose people have grown closer and closer as time goes on.” Israel’s right to exist, and to defend itself, is not negotiable.

We deeply regret the tragic loss of life and injuries suffered among those involved in the incident aboard the Gaza-bound ships. We will continue to work closely with the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, along with international NGOs and the UN, to provide adequate access for humanitarian goods, including reconstruction materials, through the border crossings, while bearing in mind the Government of Israel’s legitimate security concerns. The Administration has also exerted significant diplomatic efforts to ensure that

The Honorable
Ted Poe,
House of Representatives.
subsequent humanitarian flotillas bound for Gaza use existing mechanisms to deliver humanitarian aid to protect Israel’s security.

If we can assist you further on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Verma
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs
UNCLASSIFIED

Subject: regarding Israel's interdiction of the M/V Mavi Marmara on 5/31/10

11/24/10 H20100630-004 Poe (+343)

Verma RN 9/3

Rooney 11/3 1726

Please be advised that 343 other Members signed along with Rep. Poe.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TASKER

IPS CONTROL# H2010 0630-004 ACTION BUREAU: MFA

DATE: ___ JUN 30 2010

IPS:

___X___ SUBSTANTIVE ___ CONSTITUENT

___X___ IMAGE ENTIRE DOCUMENT _____ IMAGE ONLY FIRST _____ PAGES

BUREAU:

BUREAU ACTION REQUESTED: RESPOND TO CCU 2 DAYS FROM:

___X___ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE BY Richard R. Verma, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

ADDRESS ENVELOPE TO DISTRICT OFFICE

DIRECT REPLY TO CONSTITUENT BY OFFICE DIRECTOR WITH COPY TO CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE. PHONE 7-1608 WHEN COMPLETED

FYI ONLY NO RESPONSE NECESSARY

___X___ REPLY FOR SIGNATURE DIRECTLY BY BUREAU

OTHER ACTION: white house referral # 1034471

FOR GUIDANCE/INFORMATION ON FORMATTING CONGRESSIONALS SEE:
http://diplopedia.state.gov/index.php?title=Bureau of Legislative Affairs Reference Documents#Yellow Border

Due Date 7/6/10

****BUREAUS MUST MAKE TRANSFERS OF ACTION DIRECTLY WITH RECEIVING BUREAU'S FRONT OFFICE. The CCU has a listing of contacts. PLEASE NOTIFY CCU 7-1608 OF ALL TRANSFERS OF ACTION****
FROM: Richard R. Verma (H)

Recommendation

For the Secretary's signature to the ___ bureau

Tasked to the ___ bureau for signature by Richard R. Verma, Assistant Secretary

Provide copy of H signed response

COMMENTS:
June 17, 2010

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong support for Israel’s right to defend itself. We believe that it is in the national security interest of the United States to unequivocally reiterate that the United States stands behind its longtime friend and ally. Further, we urge you to remain steadfast in the defense of Israel in the face of the international community’s rush to unfairly judge and condemn Israel in international fora such as the United Nations Security Council. We urge you to continue to use U.S. influence and, if necessary, veto power to prevent any biased or one-sided resolutions from passing.

On May 31, after repeated warnings, Israeli forces intercepted a flotilla attempting to break through its naval blockade of Gaza. The blockade of Gaza was instituted to stop terrorists from smuggling weapons into Gaza to murder innocent civilians. Since Israel’s disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has fired more than 10,000 rockets and mortars at Israel’s civilian population. Acknowledging the seriousness of the problem, Egypt also initiated its own blockade of Gaza along the Rafah crossing in 2007.

Over the course of its blockade, Israeli forces have diverted nine such flotillas, all without incident. The same was true for five of the six ships in this flotilla. They were commandeered peacefully and directed to the Israeli port of Ashdod. However, those aboard the largest ship, Mavi Marmara, violently resisted. At dramatic video depicts, the passengers on the ship attacked Israeli soldiers with clubs, metal rods, and iron bars as they attempted to board the ship. The soldiers were brutally beaten and one even thrown off the top deck. With their lives threatened, Israeli forces used necessary force as an act of self-defense and of last resort.

The several dozen who attacked the Israeli soldiers were not peaceful aid workers, but extremists who sought to aid the Iran-backed terrorist Hamas regime in Gaza. Days before, as broadcast on al-Jazeera, they proclaimed their willingness to be martyrs for the destruction of Israel, revealing a sinister element of premeditated violence. Furthermore, as confirmed by the State Department and Intelligence agencies around the world, the Turkish aid group that sent out the flotilla, IHH, has met with senior officials of recognized terrorist groups over the last three years.

If the flotilla was truly intent on bringing aid to Gaza, it could have done that. Israeli officials repeatedly offered their ports to harbor the ships and disperse the aid so that it would not go into the hands of corrupt Hamas officials but directly to the people living in Gaza. But the flotilla refused these overtures, instead revealing their intent to break the blockade and sail unchecked into Gaza. As you know, Hamas even refused the aid that was aboard the Mavi Marmara after it was inspected by Israeli officials.
The U.S. should make every effort to thwart international condemnation and focus the international community on the crimes of the Iran-backed Hamas leadership against Israel and the Palestinian people. As Israel faces increased threats, most recently from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, which announced that it could provide a naval escort to any additional aid ships wishing to reach Gaza, the United States must continue to stand by Israel, one of our strongest allies.

We look forward to working with you on these vital issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Sincerely,

TED Poe
Member of Congress
TEXAS

GARY PETERS
Member of Congress
MICHIGAN
**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING WORKSHEET**

**DATE RECEIVED:** June 25, 2010

**NAME OF CORRESPONDENT:** THE HONORABLE [REDACTED]

**SUBJECT:** EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR EXCELLENT PRESIDENTIAL FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, INclusion OF UNITED STATES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL.

**ROUTE TO:** AGENCY/OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIL SCHURO</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/29/2010</td>
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**ACTION COMMENTS:**

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<th>STATE</th>
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**COMMENTS:** 1 ADDL SIGNEE

**MEDIA TYPE:** EMAIL

**USER CODE:**

**ACTION CODES**

- A = APPROPRIATE ACTION
- B = RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK
- D = DRAFT RESPONSE
- I = INFO OF DISTR. NOT NECESSARY
- M = DISTR. COVER COPY
- O = ORIGINATING OFFICE

**UNCLASSIFIED**

U.S. Department of State
Case No. F-2010-04163
Doc No. C05928782
Date: 02/26/2016
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

June 29, 2010

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong support for Israel’s right to defend itself. We believe that it is in our national security interest to unequivocally reiterate that the United States stands behind our longtime friend and ally. Further, we urge you to remain steadfast in the defense of Israel in the face of the international community’s rush to unfairly judge and condemn Israel in international fora such as the United Nations Security Council. We urge you to continue to use U.S. influence and, if necessary, veto power to prevent any biased or one-sided resolutions from passing.

On May 31, after repeated warnings, Israeli forces intercepted a flotilla attempting to break through its naval blockade of Gaza. The blockade of Gaza was instituted to stop terrorists from smuggling weapons into Gaza to murder innocent civilians. Since Israel’s disengagement from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has fired more than 10,000 rockets and mortars at Israel’s civilian population. Acknowledging the seriousness of the problem, Egypt also initiated its own blockade of Gaza along the Rafah crossing in 2007.

Over the course of its blockade, Israeli forces have diverted nine such flotillas, all without incident. The same was true for five of the six ships in this flotilla. They were commandeered peacefully and directed to the Israeli port of Ashdod. However, those aboard the largest ship, the Mavi Marmara, violently resisted. As dramatic video depicts, the passengers on the ship attacked Israeli soldiers with clubs, metal rods, and iron bars as they attempted to board the ship. The soldiers were brutally beaten and one was even thrown off the top deck. With their lives threatened, Israeli forces used necessary force as an act of self-defense and of last resort.

The several dozen who attacked the Israeli soldiers were not peaceful aid workers, but extremists who sought to aid the Iran-backed terrorist Hamas regime in Gaza. Days before, as broadcast on al-Jazeera, they proclaimed their willingness to be martyrs for the destruction of Israel, revealing a sinister element of premeditated violence. Furthermore, as confirmed by the State Department and intelligence agencies around the world, the Turkish aid group that sent out the flotilla, İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH), has met with senior officials of recognized terrorist groups over the last three years.

If the flotilla had been truly intent on bringing aid to Gaza, it could have done that. Israeli officials repeatedly offered their ports to harbor the ships and disperse the aid so that it would not
go into the hands of corrupt Hamas officials but directly to the people living in Gaza. But the
flotilla refused these overtures, instead revealing their intent to break the blockade and sail
unchecked into Gaza. As you know, Hamas even refused the aid that was aboard the Mavi
Marmara after it was inspected by Israeli officials.

The U.S. should make every effort to thwart international condemnation and focus the
international community on the crimes of the Iran-backed Hamas leadership against Israel and
the Palestinian people. As Israel faces increased threats, most recently from the Iranian
Revolutionary Guard Corps, which announced that it could provide a naval escort to any
additional aid ships wishing to reach Gaza, the United States must continue to stand by Israel,
one of our strongest allies.

We look forward to working with you on these vital issues affecting the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Sincerely,

[Signatures of Members of Congress]
SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress

BILL POSEY
Member of Congress

ROBERT BRADY
Member of Congress

JOE WILSON
Member of Congress

JESSE HELMS
Member of Congress

MARSHA BLACKBURN
Member of Congress

DORIS MATSUI
Member of Congress

DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress

MIKE ROGERS
Member of Congress

ARTUR DAVIS
Member of Congress

BILL SHUSTER
Member of Congress

JOHN BARROW
Member of Congress

VERNON BUCHANAN
Member of Congress

PATRICK MCENEMY
Member of Congress

CHARLES WILSON
Member of Congress
UNCLASSIFIED

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE DEPARTMENT

CASE NO. F-2010-04163

DATE: 02/26/2016
MARTIN HINRICH
Member of Congress

MIKE COFFMAN
Member of Congress

JOHN CAMPBELL
Member of Congress

WALT MINNICK
Member of Congress

KEVIN MCCRUSTY
Member of Congress

MIKE CONAWAY
Member of Congress

JOE DONNELLY
Member of Congress

JEFF FORTINBERRY
Member of Congress

MARCIA FUDGE
Member of Congress

JOHN BOCCIERI
Member of Congress

JOHN BOOZMAN
Member of Congress

SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress

THOMAS ROONEY
Member of Congress

ROBERT LATTAR
Member of Congress

JIM COOPER
Member of Congress
RICHARD NEAL  
Member of Congress

MAC THORNBERY  
Member of Congress

LAURA RICHARDSON  
Member of Congress

TOM LATHAM  
Member of Congress

ROY BLUNT  
Member of Congress

STEVE BUYER  
Member of Congress

PETE SESSIONS  
Member of Congress

PETER HOEKSTRA  
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

JO BONNER  
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

JOE BACA  
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress

BARNEY FRANK  
Member of Congress

PETER VISCOSKY  
Member of Congress

UNCLASSIFIED  
U.S. Department of State  
Case No. F-2010-04163  
Doc No. C05928782  
Date: 02/26/2016
Steve Kagen  
Member of Congress

Brad Ellin  
Member of Congress

Michael Castle  
Member of Congress

Baron Hill  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress

Charles Rangel  
Member of Congress

Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Bob Etheridge  
Member of Congress

Paul Hodes  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress

Robert Wittman  
Member of Congress

Scott Murphy  
Member of Congress

Edward Markey  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05928782 Date: 02/26/2016
To: SMART Core

Subject: ARREST, CASE OF KATHERINE ELLIOT SHEETZ

UNCLASSIFIED

From: svcsmartmfi

Sent: 7/1/2009 5:44:03 AM

To: SMART Core

Subject: ARREST, CASE OF KATHERINE ELLIOT SHEETZ

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 09 TEL AVIV 1405

Date/DTG: Jul 01, 2009 / 010918Z JUL 09

From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

Action: WASHDC. SECSTATE. PRIORITY

TAGS: CASC. PHUM. MOPS. EWWT. KWBG. IS

Pass Line: CA/OCS/ACS/NEA/IPA _ACSIP_TLV200918221080578_ACSIP

Subject: ARREST. CASE OF

E.O. 12958: NIA

TAGS: CASC. PHUM. MOPS. EWWT. KWBG. IS

SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF:

1. NAME: 

2. SEX: Female

3. DPOB: 

4. PASSPORT: 

5. OTHER NATIONALITIES. IF ANY. AND HOW ACQUIRED: None

USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: U.S.A.

NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: U.S.A.

6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: 

7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: June 30, 2009, Ashdod Port, Israel

8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal

9. CHARGES: Immigration Violation

10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ben Gurian Airport Immigration Detention Center

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Pending Deportation


15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: On 07/01/09, subject signed a PAW to include family and friends.

17. NOTIFICATION: On 06/30/09, a representative of the Free Gaza Movement contacted Post to advise that subject and three other Americans were detained at sea by the Israeli Navy. Also notified by Israel Navy through DAO.

18. ACCESS: On 07/01/09, Post's Duty Officer visited subject at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention Center.

19. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Three other Americans were detained (see below).

20. MISTREATMENT: None.

21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: None.

22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Later today.

23. SENTENCE: Deportation is expected.

24. REMARKS: On 06/29/09, subject boarded the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" containing 3 tons of medical aid, children's toys, and rehabilitation and reconstruction kits for twenty family homes. Also aboard the boat were twenty-one multinational human rights activists from eleven different countries, including four Americans. The passengers included Nobel laureate and former Prime Minister of South Africa, According to media reports, Cypriot officials allowed the boat to leave Larnaca Port because the captain stated his destination as Port Said, Egypt. However, on 06/30/09, the boat was intercepted at sea by Israeli Naval Forces enroute to Gaza. Subsequently, the boat was boarded, seized and towed to the Ashdod Port, where it docked at approximately 21:00 local time, and the passengers were taken into custody by MOI officials.

At 02:00 on 07/01/09, Post's Duty Officer met with subject for approximately ten minutes at the BG detention facility. Subject was visibly tired but in good spirits. Her only stated concern was about arrangements for her trip home. Subject signed a Privacy Act Waiver for family and friends only.
Subject, along with [name redacted] is expected to be deported to the U.S. later today.

25. CONTACTING NOK OR OTHERS: Subject did not request Embassy assistance in contacting friends and family.

Cunningham

Signature:

Info: JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL, PRIORITY; NICOSIA, AMBASSAY, ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMBASSAY, ROUTINE

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

From: svcsmartmfl
Sent: 7/2/2009 10:36:06 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: FREE GAZA--AMCITS STILL DETAINED IN ISRAEL

MRN: 09 TEL AVIV 1435
Date/DTG: Jul 02, 2009 / 021357Z JUL 09
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE, ROUTINE
TAGS: CASC, PHJM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG, IS
Reference: A) TEL AVIV 1405 B) TEL AVIV 1423 C) TEL AVIV 1421 D) TEL AVIV
Pass Line: DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ACS and NEA/IPA
Subject: FREE GAZA--AMCITS STILL DETAINED IN ISRAEL

DE RUEHTV #1435/01 1831357
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 021357Z JUL 09
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHJMIAMCQNSUL JERUSALEM 2302
RUEHCGAMEMBASSY CAIRO 4233
RUEHNCAMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1481
UNCLASS TEL AVIV 001435
DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ACS and NEA/IPA
E.O. 12958:N/A
TAGS: CASC, PHJM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG, IS
SUBJECT: FREE GAZA--AMCITS STILL DETAINED IN ISRAEL
REF: A) TEL AVIV 1405 B) TEL AVIV 1423 C) TEL AVIV 1421 D) TEL AVIV
1424 E) TEL AVIV 1425 F) TEL AVIV 1426

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: More than 36 hours after their arrest, three of the four Amcits who were on board the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" remain in immigration detention. The fourth, a dual American-Israeli national, was freed less than a day later. Post continues to closely monitor the case and will visit the detained Amcits this afternoon. END SUMMARY.

2. In Lamaca on June 29, 2009 twenty-one human rights activists from eleven different countries boarded the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" which was carrying medical and other supplies for Gazans. Of the twenty-one activists, four were Amcits. Cypriot officials allowed the "Spirit of Humanity" to depart Lamaca that
day based upon its stated destination, Port Said, Egypt. The second boat the Free Gaza group had planned to use was not permitted to depart.

3. On June 30, 2009, the Israeli Navy intercepted, seized and escorted the boat to, and detained the passengers and crew at an Ashdod port facility. At 21:00 June 30th, Post's duty officer attempted to, and was denied, access to the four Amcits. About 22:30, the Israeli Navy turned three of the Amcits over to the Ministry of the Interior (MOI); the Navy held onto the fourth Amcit, who is the spouse of an Israeli. The Navy later notified post that she had been held at Ashdod until noon on July 1, at that time she was released and dropped off at the Ashdod central bus station.

4. The MOI continued to detain the other three Amcits. Before they were transferred to Ben Gurion's immigration detention facility, they, along with the other Free Gaza passengers and crew, underwent a "short process" at the immigration and deportation main office in Holon, which is between Ashdod and Tel Aviv. At 02:00 July 1, Post's duty officer succeeded in being able to visit all three Amcits at Ben Gurion Airport's immigration detention facility. The duty officer found the three Amcits tired, but in good health. All said to him that they had been able to have something to eat and drink and that they were being treated well. During their visit with the duty officer, each one of them signed a Privacy Act Waiver (PAW), details of which are in reftels A-C.

5. The duty officer spoke to a former U.S. Representative, for about 15 minutes. When informed of the Secretary's and the Ambassador's personal interest in her welfare, McKinney appeared to be gratified. She relayed to the duty officer that some personal papers in a folder had been removed from her luggage and requested post's assistance in securing their return.

6. From 14:00 to 16:30 July 1, an ACS officer was able to visit at Ben Gurion Airport's immigration detention facility, both were in good health and spirits. The third Amcit, was not available for a visit at this time. During ACS officer's visit, the detainees had been in the process of being moved to the Givon immigration detention facility in nearby Ramle (south of the airport). Between 17:00 and 19:00 that day, McKinney and Sheetz were moved to the Givon immigration detention facility, their whereabouts were unknown at this time. At 21:00, ACS reached Israel Prison Authority officials, who confirmed that all three Amcits were at Givon.

7. On the morning of July 2, Post spoke with the GOI's Immigration Liaison for Foreign Missions at the MOI for an update on the status of the deportation agreement and that because of their refusals, the GOI was unable to deport them from Israel for three days.

[NOTE: According to GOI regulations, a person cannot be deported for three days unless they voluntarily agree. The hitch is that a deportation entails a ten-year ban on entering Israel in the absence of a valid visa or travel document.]
of a special waiver. If, at any time during the three-day period, a person decides to sign the deportation agreement, s/he can then be deported immediately.

8. Also on July 2, Post spoke with the Amcits' Israeli attorney, Gaby Lasky. Lasky is attempting to broker an agreement with the GOI that would enable the Amcits to agree to deportation. In addition, they are insisting that their personal belongings be returned and that they fly directly to Cyprus at GOI expense. Post also touched base with [redacted] parents and [redacted] who said he was a boyfriend. Post was unable to reach [redacted] husband, and left several messages. [redacted] as far as we know, has not yet been in touch with his wife, who was released yesterday.

9. Concerned about the manner in which [redacted] was released — by being dropped off at the Ashdod Central Bus station, Post and ConGen Jerusalem attempted to discern her whereabouts in order to contact her directly. Through ConGen Jerusalem's calls to her friends, it was learned that [redacted] had gone to the West Bank from Ashdod. Yesterday Al Jazeera interviewed her in Ramallah; she is now trying to rally public and legal support for the remaining Free Gaza detainees. [redacted] remains unreachable since her own cell-phone may have either been confiscated or is not being answered.

9. Post is to visit [redacted] for a third time this afternoon. Post may also visit them Friday morning, before Shabbat begins. Also this afternoon, Post learned from [redacted] that unless the three Amcits sign the deportation agreements by 16:00 local time today, they will not be deported until Sunday (due to Shabbat).
From: svcsmartmfl  
Sent: 7/1/2009 9:40:05 AM  
To: SMART Core  
Subject: ARREST, CASE OF  

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 09 TEL AVIV 1421  
Date/DTG: Jul 01, 2009 / 011313Z JUL 09  
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
Action: WASHOC, SECSTATE. PRIORITY  
TAGS: CAse, PHUM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG. IS  
Pass Line: CA/OCS/ACS/NESA  
Subject: ARREST, CASE OF  

NAME: [redacted]  
SEX: Male  

OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: None  
USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: USA  
NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: USA  
LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: [redacted]  
DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: June 30, 2009, Ashdod Port, Israel  
CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal
9. CHARGES: Immigration Violation

10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ben Gurion Airport Immigration Detention Center.

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Pending Deportation


14. ATTORNEY: Ms. Gaby Lasky, tel: 972-54-441-8996

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: On 07/01/09, subject signed a PAW to include family, friends, members of Congress, and media.

16. NOK: Parents: __________

17. NOTIFICATION: On 06/30/09, a representative of the Free Gaza Movement contacted Post to advise that subject and three other Americans were detained at sea by the Israeli Navy. Also notified by Israel Navy through DAO.

18. ACCESS: At 0200 07/01/09, Post's Dutyofficer Conoff visited subject at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention Center.

19. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Three other Americans were detained: (see section).

20. MISTREATMENT: None.


22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Later today.

- SENTENCE: Deportation is expected.

24. REMARKS: On 08/25/09, subject boarded the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" containing 3 tons of medical aid, children's toys, and rehabilitation and reconstruction kits for twenty family homes. Also aboard the boat were twenty-one multinational human rights activists from eleven different countries, including four Americans. The passengers included Nobel laureate and former... According to media reports, Cypriot officials allowed the boat to leave Limassol Port because the captain stated his destination as Port Said, Egypt. However, on 06/30/09, the boat was intercepted at sea by Israeli Naval Forces enroute to Gaza. Subsequently, the boat was boarded, seized and towed to the Ashdod Port, where it docked at approximately 21:00 local time, and the passengers were taken into custody by MOI officials.

On 07/01/09, Post's Dutyofficer Conoff met with subject for approximately ten minutes at the BG detention facility. Subject was in good health, tired, but in good spirits. He expressed concern of the detention of two citizen from Bahrain and one from Yemen, owing to the fact that their home countries do not have representation in Israel. According to subject, the Yemenee man is a camera man for Aljazeera. Subject also told Conoff that his wife, a dual Israeli-American, was separated from the rest of the group and was being treated as an Israeli. Post
is attempting to locate her current whereabouts. Subject signed the Privacy Act Waiver.

Subject, along with [REDACTED], is expected to be deported to the U.S. later today.

25. CONTACTING NOK OR OTHERS: Subject did not request Embassy assistance in contacting friends and family.

Cunningham

Signature:

Info: JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL, PRIORITY; NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY, ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY, ROUTINE

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED
From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 7/7/2009 12:06:10 PM
To: SMART Core
Subject: FREE GAZA--AMCITS RELEASED FROM ISRAELI DETENTION CENTERS

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN:
Date/DTG:
From:
Action:
TAGS:
Reference:
Pass Line:
Subject:

FREE GAZA--AMCITS RELEASED FROM ISRAELI DETENTION CENTERS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: One week after their detention (as described in Reftel G), all four AMCits on board the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" have been released from Israeli immigration detention. The first one, a dual Israeli-American national, was freed a day after her arrest. The remaining three were finally allowed to board flights to the United States on July 7th. Post monitored this case closely, day and night, throughout the week-long detention and visited the three detained AMCits four times. END SUMMARY.

2. Since June 30th, the MOI had been detaining three AMCits who...
were on board the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" when it was
escorted by the Israeli Navy to Ashdod port: [see Refel G for
more details].

transferring several times between the Ben Gurion Airport
Immigration Detention Facility and the Given Immigration Detention
Facility, in Ramle (which is just south of Ben Gurion Airport).

3. ACS staff visited the Amcits a total of four times during their
week-long detention: on July 2 and 3 at Given, and on July 1 and 5
at Ben Gurion. On the final July 5 visit, expressed pleasure at the prospect of returning home and
thanked our ACS staff for their assistance during the week. All
were in good health and spirits. [Note: Conditions in the detention
centers were basic but good, with adequate food, access to showers
and opportunities to spend time in the courtyard.] They reported
that, with the exception of a folder containing some
personal papers, their personal items had been returned to them.
Requested that, if feasible, Post try to have the folder
returned to her.

4. On the evening of July 5, the GOI's Immigration Liaison for
Foreign Missions at the MOI, informed Post
that the Amcits would be voluntarily deported the next day.
However, the three departures planned for July 6 were delayed for
still-unknown reasons. Eventually, was deported on July 6
at 16:00 via El Al flight LY 011 to New York, arriving at midnight
local time. were deported on July 7 at 01:00,
via El Al flight LY001 to New York, arriving at 06:00 local time
that same day.

5. The GOI confirms that have been
"expelled" from Israel and will not be allowed to re-enter for ten
years. If any one of them wants to travel to Israel during the next
ten years, they will need to seek the assistance of an Israeli
attorney, who would then file an appeal on their behalf. If the
three attempt to re-enter Israel or Gaza via sea with the Free Gaza
Movement again, they will be detained and expelled again.

6. whose wife is the dual Israeli-American national who was
released after one day, mentioned to ACS staff on July 5 that he
plans to return in four weeks, after Free Gaza obtains another boat.
He did not know either the planned sailing date or the country of
departure.

CUNNINGHAM

Signature:

Info: JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL, ROUTINE; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY, ROUTINE; NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY, ROUTINE

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED
From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 7/1/2009 9:42:02 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: ARREST, CASE OF CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

MRN: 09 TEL AVIV 1425
Date/DTG: Jul 01, 2009 / 011315Z JUL 09
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE, PRIORITY
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG, IS
Pass Line: CA/OS/ACS/INESA NEA/PA _ACSIP_TLV200918221085772_ACSIP
Subject: ARREST, CASE OF CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

DE: RUEHTV #1425 1821315
ZNR: UUUUU ZZH
P 011315Z JUL 09
FM: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2410 INFO RUEHJMJAMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2293 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 4228 RUENHC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1480
UNCLASS TEL AVIV 001425
CA/OS/ACS/INESA NEA/PA _ACSIP_TLV200918221085772_ACSIP
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG, IS (MCKINNEY CYNTHIA)
SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

1. NAME: McKinney, Cynthia
2. SEX: Female
3. DATE OF BIRTH: 
4. PASSPORT: 
5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: United States Of America
   USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: U.S.A
   NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: U.S.A
6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: 

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
SENSITIVITY: Non Sensitive
Page 1 of 3
7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: June 30, 2009, Ashdod Port, Israel
8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal
9. CHARGES: Immigration Violation
10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ben Gurion Airport Immigration Detention Center
11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Pending Deportation
15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Subject signed a PAW to include parents, family, friends, members of Congress, media, and the general public.
16. NOK: Parents: 
17. NOTIFICATION: On 06/30/09, a representative of the Free Gaza Movement contacted Post to advise that subject and three other Americans were detained at sea by the Israeli Navy. Also notified by Israel Navy through DAO.
18. ACCESS: On 07/01/09, Post's Duty Officer visited subject at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention Center.
19. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Three other Americans were detained: (see septeis).
20. MISTREATMENT: None.
21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: Green folder containing personal papers
22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Later today.
- SENTENCE: Deportation is expected
24. REMARKS: On 06/29/09, subject boarded the Free Gaza boat "Spirit of Humanity" containing 3 tons of medical aid, children's toys, and rehabilitation and reconstruction kits for twenty family homes. Also aboard the boat were twenty-one multinational human rights activists from eleven different countries, including four Americans. The passengers included Nobel laureate and former PLO leader. According to media reports, Cypriot officials allowed the boat to leave Larnaca Port because the captain stated his destination as Port Said, Egypt. However, on 06/30/09, the boat was intercepted at sea by Israeli Naval Forces en route to Gaza. Subsequently, the boat was boarded, seized, and towed to the Ashdod Port, where it docked at approximately 21:00 local time, and the passengers were taken into custody by MI5 officials.

At 02:00 on 07/01/09, Post's Duty Officer met with subject for approximately fifteen minutes at the BG detention facility. Subject was alert, in good health and spirits, and remained calm and friendly throughout the visit. Subject requested to be allowed to return to Cyprus before flying back to the U.S. as a second preference, she asked to be able to fly via NYC.
Subject, along with _______ is due to be deported to the U.S. later today.

25. CONTACTING NOK OR OTHERS: Subject did not request Embassy assistance in contacting friends and family.

Cunningham

Signature:

Info: JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL, PRIORITY; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY, PRIORITY; NICOSIA, AMEMBASSY, ROUTINE

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED
MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1253
Date/DTG: Jun 04, 2010 / 041228Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: CASC, IS
Captions: PRIVACY
Pass Line: CA/OCS/ACS/NEA
     _ACSIP_TLV201015524917201_ACSIP
Subject: ARREST, CASE OF

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 001253
CA/OCS/ACS/NEA
     _ACSIP_TLV201015524917201_ACSIP
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, IS
SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF
1. NAME:
2. SEX: Female
3. DPDB:
4. PASSPORT:
5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: 
USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: U.S.A.
NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: U.S.
6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS:
7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: 05/31/10, Ashdod
8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Subject complained of a headache and soreness from harsh physical treatment. She also said that she needed an inhaler from her baggage. ConOFF notified Prison authorities who said that it would be retrieved.
9. CHARGES: Unspecified
10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Ella Detention Center, Beer Sheva

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deported

12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: N/A

13. POSSIBLE SENTENCE: Deported

14. ATTORNEY: No.

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: On 08/01/10, subject signed a PAW to include family, friends, members of Congress, and members of the media only. She specifically included her mother, and her fiancé.

16. NOK:

17. NOTIFICATION: On 05/31/10, Post was notified of subject’s arrest by the MFA.

18. ACCESS: On 06/01/10, Consrps visited subject at the Ella Detention Center, Beer Sheva. First visit to date.

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

20. MISTREATMENT: On 06/01/10, subject completed a report of mistreatment indicating that she received several blows to the head, shoulders and back, and was pulled violently by the arms. Subject was able to see a doctor during detention.

21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: Passport, all personal items, luggage, medications, items for donation.

22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: N/A

23. REMARKS: Subject was on the Mavi Marmara. She claimed that during the incident IDF Navy personnel shot at and threatened passengers and that the Mavi Marmara passengers were unarmed and had surrendered. She said that a loaded weapon was pointed at her for "no reason." She also claimed that after detention they were held for four hours in the sun with no shade.

24. ADVISING NOK OR OTHERS: CONOFF notified NOK on 06/01/2010

CUNNINGHAM

Signature: CUNNINGHAM

Info: JERUSALEM, AMCONSUL ROUTINE

Attachments: metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05928757 Date: 02/26/2016
LIBYAN FM STANDS FIRM ON SENSITIVE ISSUES

SECRET
Sensitive

MRN: 10 TRIPOLI 680
Date/DTG: Jul 12, 2010 / 121525Z JUL 10
From: AMBASSADTY TRIPOLI
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SMIG, PHUM, ER, IT, LY, ECIN, KPAL, PFEF, UNHCR
Captions: SIPDIS
Sensitivity: Secret
Reference: A) STATE 71687; B) STATE 72060
Pass Line: STATE FOR NEA/MAG AND PRM.
SIPDIS
AMBASSADTY ASTANA PASS TO AMCONSUL ALMATY
AMBASSADTY ANKARA PASS TO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMBASSADTY ATHENS PASS TO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
AMBASSADTY PARIS PASS TO AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
AMBASSADTY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL VLAGIYOSTOK
AMBASSADTY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMBASSADTY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL YEKTAMERBURG
AMBASSADTY BERLIN PASS TO AMCONSUL LEIPZIG
AMBASSADTY MOSCOW PASS TO AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
Subject: LIBYAN FM STANDS FIRM ON SENSITIVE ISSUES

SECRET
STATE FOR NEA/MAG AND PRM.
SIPDIS
E.O. 13526: DECL: 7/12/2020
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SMIG, PHUM, ER, IT, LY, ECIN, KPAL, PFEF, UNHCR
SUBJECT: LIBYAN FM STANDS FIRM ON SENSITIVE ISSUES
REF: A) STATE 71687; B) STATE 72060
CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cielz, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Department of State.
REASON: 1.4(b), (d)
1. (S) Summary:
AMBASSADOR DELIVERS DEMARCHÉ ON IAEA RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL

End summary.