

**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Dorn, Christopher H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:19 AM  
**To:** Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: FW: (CO) GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 1  
**Attachments:** (CO) TEL AVIV 1218.txt

RELEASED IN FULL

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**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 01, 2010 11:02 AM  
**To:** NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; NEA-IPA-DL; Operations Center  
**Cc:** 'pkumar@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'; 'dshapiro@nsc.eop.sgov.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) GAZA FLOTILLA AFTERMATH - SITREP 1

All:

This just went out from Embassy Tel Aviv. Thanks.

Jan Levin

Acting Political Counselor

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**Law, Rosemary C**

**From:** Sindle, James M  
**Sent:** Friday, April 08, 2011 1:39 PM  
**To:** NEA-SEMEP-DL; Schwedt, Miriam L; Riggs, Susan J; Parrs, Walter; Abell, J Andrew; Specht, Linda; Ullner, Jason H; Hayes, Molly E; Wells, April S; Grimm, Brian M; Kabra, Patricia K; Wright, J Larry; Weinstein, Ivan S; Marcus, Robert B; Deretic, Zoja; Wahl-Tuco, Lillian C; Selinger, Thomas B; Schrank, Alexander D; Goodman, Ilan A; Scarlatelli, Adam W; Surampudi, Rakesh X; Hackworth, Jason; Bofill, Mariju L; Paradise, David T; Quick, Delia D; Epping, Jerome N; Mann, Winston E; Jakobson, Nicholas W; Tyson, Paul H; Bachman, Brian D; Foley, Philip A; Worman, Patrick F; Zurcher, Kenneth M; Jacobson, Linda; Baumert, Kevin A; Bass, Warren; Catalano, Elisa; Schrepel, Dawn M; Rand, Dafna H; Levin, Jan X; Rosenstock, Matthew S; 'Kumar, Prem G.'  
**Cc:** MacWilliams, Benjamin WG  
**Subject:** URGENT SHORT FUSE CLEARANCE REQUEST: DEMARCHE ON GAZA "ANNIVERSARY" FLOTILLA  
**Attachments:** Gaza Flotilla II Demarche Cable v2.docx  
**Importance:** High

Colleagues:

Please find attached for your clearance a demarche cable to posts urging their support to prevent the upcoming Gaza "anniversary" flotilla. This is a due out from an interagency meeting. **Because of the possible government shutdown and the date this is due to the NSS, your clearances are kindly requested by COB today.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Also, please cc' Ben MacWilliams (on the cc line) on your responses.

Best Regards,

Jim Sindle  
Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Unclassified: [sindlejm@state.gov](mailto:sindlejm@state.gov)  
Classified: [sindlejm@state.sgov.gov](mailto:sindlejm@state.sgov.gov)  
Office: 202-647-4386  
Blackberry: 202-255-8293

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

**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Classification:** SECRET  
**Derived From:** DSCG 05-1 (b), (d)  
**Declassify On:** 2021/04/08

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**Law, Rosemary C**

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**From:** Levin, Jan X  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 03, 2010 12:22 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL; NEA-Staff-Assistants-DL; Gaza Flotilla Monitoring Group  
**Subject:** FW: (CO) MFA BRIEFING ON OPERATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF GAZA FLOTILLA INCIDENT  
**Attachments:** (CO) TEL AVIV 1240.txt

This just out of Embassy Tel Aviv. Thanks.

Jan Levin, A/PolCouns

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

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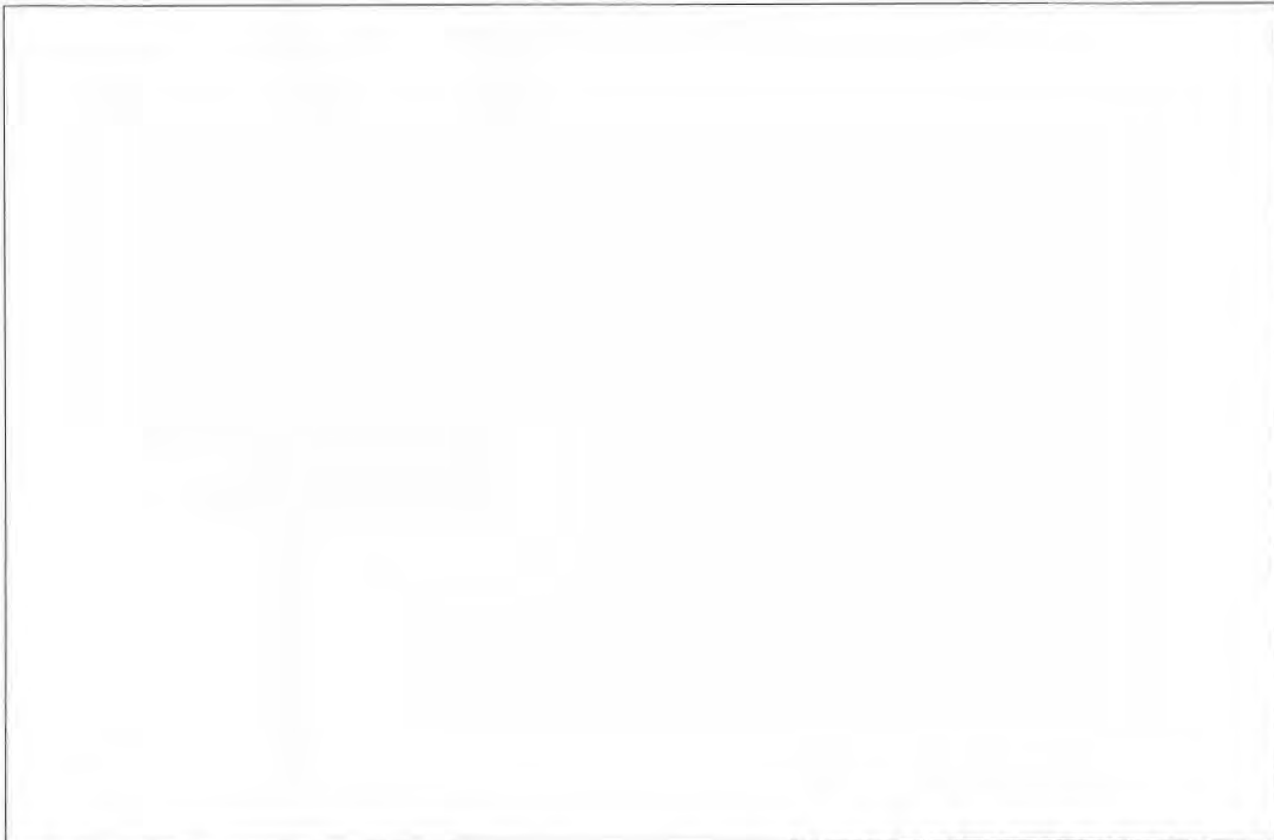
**From:** Miller, Asa G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2012 4:12 PM  
**To:** Caudill, David R  
**Cc:** Mann, Winston E  
**Subject:** ISRA-511490, [redacted] Leahy Nomination

B5

David:

Thanks again for stopping by today. Below is what we would like to relay to Post regarding this matter:

Greetings:



regarding this matter. Please advise if you have any questions

Mr. Asa G Miller  
DRL MLGA  
202-647-3088

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

Sensitive  
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RELEASED IN PART  
B5

**Law, Rosemary C**

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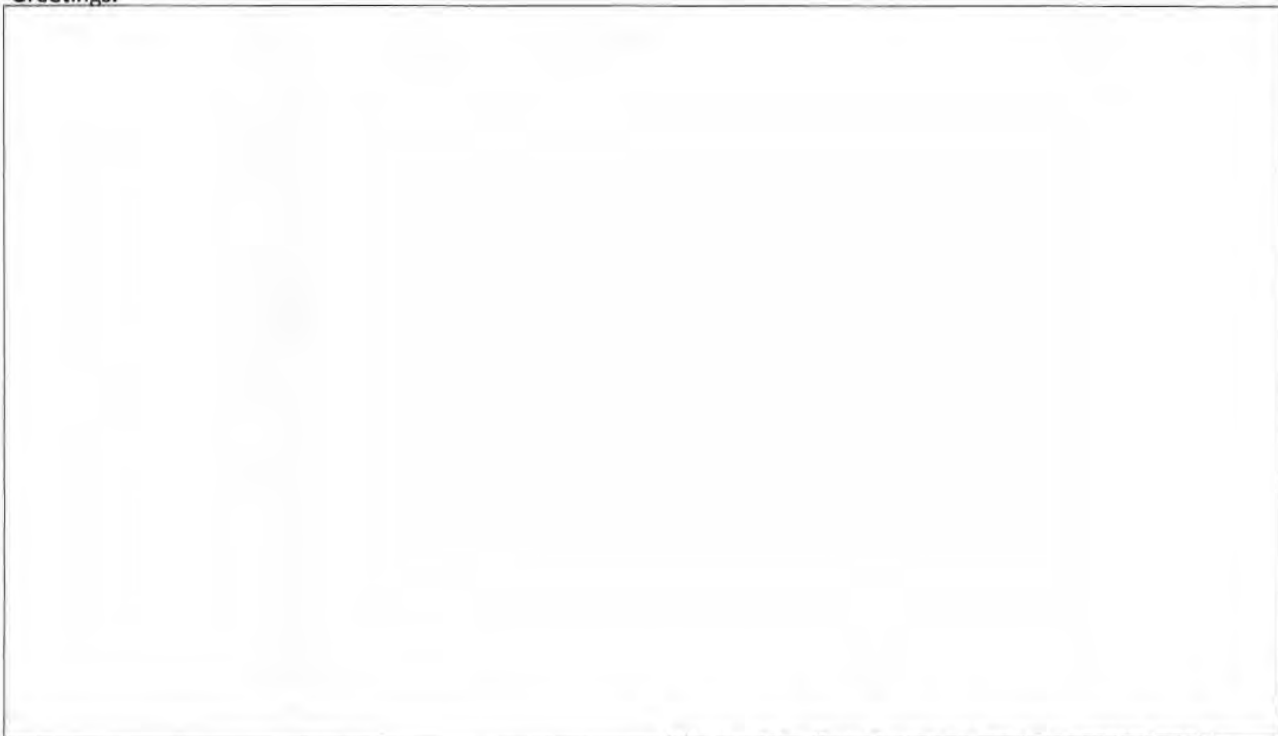
**From:** Miller, Asa G  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2012 2:58 PM  
**To:** Mann, Winston E  
**Subject:** ISRA-511490, [redacted] Leahy Nomination

B5

Winston—

Thought I'd give you first crack at this before I sent to David...

Greetings:



Please advise if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Mr. Asa G Miller  
DRL MLGA  
202-647-3088

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

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**McCann, Tim I**

**From:** Khanna, Melanie J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 08, 2011 2:05 PM  
**To:** IO-HR-DL; Nossel, Suzanne F; Martin, Julie B; Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Busby, Scott W; 'Powell, Catherine'  
**Cc:** Donahoe, Eileen C; Geneva HRC 17; Griffiths, Douglas (Maputo)  
**Subject:** draft flotilla reso  
**Attachments:** [Untitled].pdf

The Turks will table a flotilla resolution, and the draft they've shared with others so far is attached (apologies that it scanned upside down-easiest to read if you print). As you can see, there are hardly any changes as compared with the prior 2 resolutions on implementation of the FFM conclusions. The Turkish delegate told me this morning that they are including OP 4 about the SYG taking the FFM conclusions into consideration because it is "logical" to them that he should consider both the Geneva FFM and Palmer to the extent he is considering a further response of some kind. They've also chosen the 20th session for the next follow up so as to give a substantial breathing period to see if the Israelis come towards them on apology and compensation issues. Turkish colleague said to me "of course we know you will vote no" and they expect us to be alone in doing so.

Melanie J. Khanna  
Legal Adviser  
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+41-22-749-4343 (Fax)

This email is UNCLASSIFIED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

7

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Considering* that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter and the other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,

*Taking into consideration* the relevant provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law,

*Emphasizing* the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, including humanitarian personnel,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 14/1 of 2 June 2010, in which the Council decided to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance,

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution 15/1 of 29 September 2010 and 16/20 of 25 March 2011, in which the Council endorsed the conclusions contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission, called upon all concerned parties to ensure the immediate implementation of the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission and requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the status of implementation of those conclusions,

*Welcoming* the establishment by the Secretary-General of a panel of inquiry and recalling that its work has not been completed,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
2. *Regrets* the non-cooperation of the occupying Power, Israel, with the independent international fact-finding mission on the Gaza flotilla incident;
3. *Calls upon* concerned parties to ensure the immediate implementation of the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission;
4. ~~*Encourages* the panel of inquiry established by~~ *Requests* the Secretary-General to **take into consideration the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission, as well as the follow-up reports of the High Commissioner complete its work without delay;**
5. *Requests* the High Commissioner to submit a report on the status of the implementation of paragraph 3 above to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth ~~seventeenth~~ session;
6. *Decides* to follow up the implementation of the present resolution at its twentieth ~~seventeenth~~ session.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN FULL

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**McCann, Tim I**

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**From:** Khanna, Melanie J  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2011 2:22 PM  
**To:** IO-HR-DL; Nossel, Suzanne F; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL);  
Martin, Julie B  
**Cc:** Geneva HRC 17  
**Subject:** flotilla final  
**Attachments:** Document.pdf

Attached is the flotilla resolution as introduced on the floor today and adopted by 36-8-1. The 8 abstainers were: Cameroon, Hungary, Poland, Moldova, Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Zambia. Gabon did not vote; Libya is suspended. Please pass on to anyone else interested. Thanks,

Melanie J. Khanna  
Legal Adviser  
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Other International Organizations  
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...the report of the independent international fact-finding mission  
on the Israeli attacks on humanitarian flotilla

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Considering that the promotion of respect for the obligations arising from the Charter and the other instruments and rules of international law is among the basic purposes and principles of the United Nations,*

*Taking into consideration the relevant provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law,*

*Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, including humanitarian personnel,*

*Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 14/1 of 2 June 2010, in which the Council decided to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission to investigate violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance,*

*Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 15/1 of 29 September 2010 and 16/20 of 25 March 2011, in which the Council endorsed the conclusions contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission, called upon all concerned parties to ensure the immediate implementation of the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission and requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on the status of implementation of those conclusions,*

*Welcoming the establishment by the Secretary-General of a panel of inquiry and recalling that its work has not been completed,*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
2. *Regrets* the non-cooperation of the occupying Power, Israel, with the independent international fact-finding mission on the Gaza flotilla incident;
3. *Calls upon* concerned parties to ensure the immediate implementation of the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission;
4. ~~*Requests the Secretary-General to take into consideration the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission, as well as the follow-up reports of the High Commissioner;*~~
- 4rev. *Takes note* that the Panel of Inquiry established by the Secretary General is expected to complete its work soon;
- 4bis. ~~*Requests the High Commissioner to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General the conclusions contained in the report of the fact-finding mission, as well as the follow-up reports;*~~
- 5rev. *Requests* the High Commissioner to submit a **concluding** report on the status of the implementation of paragraph 3 above to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session;
6. *Decides* to follow up the implementation of the present resolution at its twentieth session.

16 June 2011 Final Version

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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**McCann, Tim I**

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**From:** Khanna, Melanie J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2011 12:48 PM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; Lapenn, Jessica; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Martin, Julie B  
**Cc:** Geneva HRC 17; Griffiths, Douglas M; Donahoe, Eileen C  
**Subject:** flotilla lobbying

I lobbied UK, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Japan at working level. UK said they will vote yes or possibly abstain if Turks don't make changes they've requested. Japan said they were considering abstaining but won't vote no. Others said they don't have final position-difficult ongoing discussions w/in EU. ECD is making calls at Amb level.

I talked to Amb Yaar to assure him we were doing outreach here and elsewhere.

Melanie J. Khanna  
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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10

**McCann, Tim I**

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**From:** Khanna, Melanie J  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 16, 2011 11:52 AM  
**To:** Donahoe, Eileen C; Geneva HRC 17; Griffiths, Douglas M; Nossel, Suzanne F; Lapenn, Jessica; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Baer, Daniel B; Honigstein, Michael D  
**Subject:** Flotilla update

Action on the resolution will likely be kicked to Friday as negotiations w/the EU continue. UK reports they are seeking both a reference to the NY investig and a commitment that this will be the last resolution. UK predicts some changes will be taken but EU will still split because some are definitely yes and some are firm on abstention. A split makes it possible that Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia could go no and Moldova could follow, but that's relatively remote, and none of those have confirmed no with me or with Israel. Slovakia has confirmed only that they won't support the reso.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



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**McCann, Tim I**

**From:** Wang, Margaret L  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2011 3:56 PM  
**To:** Geneva HRC 17  
**Subject:** FW: 10 June - Informal Consultations on the OIC resolution - Follow-up the report of the IFFM on the incident of the Humanitarian Flotilla

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

**From:** Mission Geneva [mailto:usmissiongva@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2011 3:45 PM  
**To:** Wang, Margaret L  
**Subject:** FW: 10 June - Informal Consultations on the OIC resolution - Follow-up the report of the IFFM on the incident of the Humanitarian Flotilla

Date: Thu, 9 Jun 2011 11:01:25 +0200

Subject: 10 June - Informal Consultations on the OIC resolution - Follow-up the report of the IFFM on the incident of the Humanitarian Flotilla

From: saeedesarwar@gmail.com

To: mission.afghanistan@bluewin.ch; mission.south-africa@ties.itu.int; almission.geneva@mfa.gov.al; mission.algerie@mission-algerie.ch; mission.germany@ties.itu.int; missionandorra@bluewin.ch; ambmission.angola@bluewin.ch; enquiries@antigua-barbuda.com; saudiamission@bluewin.ch; mission.argentina@ties.itu.int; arm.mission@deckpoint.ch; un.geneva@dfat.gov.au; genf-ov@bmeia.gv.at; geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az; info@bahrain-mission.ch; mission.bangladesh@ties.itu.int; mission.barbados@ties.itu.int; geneva@foreign.gov.bb; mission.belarus@ties.itu.int; geneva@diplomel.be; blzun@belizemission.com; blzun@aol.com; info@missionbenin.ch; mission.bhutan@ties.itu.int; mission.bolivia@ties.itu.int; mission.bolivia@bluewin.ch; mission.bosnia-herzegovina@ties.itu.int; botgen@bluewin.ch; mission.brunei@ties.itu.int; mission.bulgaria@ties.itu.int; mission.burkina@ties.itu.int; mission.burundi@bluewin.ch; cambodge@bluewin.ch; genev@international.gc.ca; mission.cameroun@bluewin.ch; cap.vert@bluewin.ch; misionchile@misinchile.org; mission.china@ties.itu.int; chinamission\_gva@mfa.gov.cn; cyprus@cyprusmission.ch; mission.colombia@ties.itu.int; missioncongo@bluewin.ch; mission.costa-rica@ties.itu.int; cotedivoire@bluewin.ch; mission.croatia@bluewin.ch; embacubaginebra@missioncuba.ch; mission.djibouti@djibouti.ch; gvis@um.dk; MansfieldAM@state.gov; dominicahighhighcom@btconnect.com; mission.egypt@ties.itu.int; mission.el-salvador@ties.itu.int; mission.uae@ties.itu.int; onuginebra@mrrree.gov.ec; eritrean.embassy@bluewin.ch; mission.spain@ties.itu.int; estonia.mission@estmission.ch; mission.ethiopia@ties.itu.int; info@ethiopiainmission.ch; mission.macedonia@ties.itu.int; mission.russian@vtxnet.ch; sanomat.gen@formin.fi; mission.france@tes.itu.int; mission.gabon@ties.itu.int; ambgambia\_france117@hotmail.com; geomission.geneva@bluewin.ch; chancery@ghana-mission.ch; mission.greece@ties.itu.int; missionofgreece@bluewin.ch; grenada.mission@gmail.com; mission.guatemala@ties.itu.int; mission.guinea@ties.itu.int; mission@guinee-equatoriale.ch; mission.haiti@ties.itu.int; gva.mission@kum.hu; mission.india@ties.itu.int; mission.indonesia@ties.itu.int; mission.iran@ties.itu.int; mission.iraq@ties.itu.int; genev@mun@dfa.ie; icedel.genf@utn.stjr.is; mission-israel@geneva.mfa.gov.il; rappoi.ginevra@esteri.it; mission.libya@bluewin.ch; mission.jamaica@ties.itu.int; mission@ge-japan.ch; mission.jordan@ties.itu.int; mission.kazakhstan@ties.itu.int; mission.kenya@ties.itu.int; kyrgyzmission@bluewin.ch; info@kuwaitmission.ch; mission.lesotho@ties.itu.int; mission.un-gen@mfa.gov.lv; mission.lebanon@ties.itu.int; mission.liechtenstein@gva.rep.lv.li; info@lithuania-mission.ch; geneve.rp@mae.etat.lu; ambamaduisse@bluewin.ch; mwgeneva@ties.itu.int; info@maldivesmission.ch; mission.mali@bluewin.ch;

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**REVIEW AUTHORITY:** Sharon Ahmad,

Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05594448 Date: 10/10/2014

StateDept005912

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malisuisse@yahoo.fr; malta-un.geneva@gov.mt; mission.maroc@ties.itu.int; mission.mauritius@ties.itu.int; mission.mauritania@ties.itu.int; mission.mexico@ties.itu.int; mission.moldova@ties.itu.int; mission.geneve@gouv.mc; mongolie@bluewin.ch; missionofmontenegro@bluewin.ch; mission.moza@bluewin.ch; mission.myanmar@ties.itu.int; mission.nepal@bluewin.ch; mission.nicaragua@ties.itu.int; mission.duniger@gmail.com; mission-nigeria@bluewin.ch; info@nigerian-mission.ch; mission.geneva@mfa.no; mission.nz@bluewin.ch; mission.oman@ties.itu.int; mission.uganda@ties.itu.int; uzbekistan@bluewin.ch; mission.pakistan@ties.itu.int; mission.panama@bluewin.ch; mission.paraguay@ties.itu.int; mission.netherlands@ties.itu.int; mission.peru@ties.itu.int; mission.philippines@ties.itu.int; mission.poland@ties.itu.int; geral@missionportugal.ch; mission.qatar@ties.itu.int; mission.syria@ties.itu.int; mission.korea-rep@ties.itu.int; missionrdc@bluewin.ch; laomission\_ge@hotmail.com; mission.dom-rep@ties.itu.int; mprdonug@yahoo.es; mission.korea-dpr@ties.itu.int; mission.geneva@embassy.mzv.cz; mission.tanzania@ties.itu.int; mission.romania@romaniaunog.org; geneva\_un@fco.gov.uk; ambageneve@minaffet.gov.rw; mission.sanmarino@ties.itu.int; mission.senegal@ties.itu.int; serbian.mission@bluewin.ch; singpm\_gva@sgmfa.gov.sg; mission.slovak@geneve.mfa.sk; slovenia@bluewin.ch; mission.somalia@ties.itu.int; mission.sudan@ties.itu.int; mission.sudan@bluewin.ch; mission.srilanka@ties.itu.int; mission.sweden@bluewin.ch; mission-geneve-oi@eda.admin.ch; swazimission-geneva@dslnets.ch; mission.tchad@bluewin.ch; mission.thailand@ties.itu.int; alain\_dick@timorlesteingeneva.com; tjs-mission-geneva@bluewin.ch; prmties.geneva@mail.com; mission.trinidad-tobago@ties.itu.int; chancellerie@ambassadetogo.org; mission.tunisia@ties.itu.int; mission.turkey@ties.itu.int; mission.ukraine@ties.itu.int; pm\_un2@mfa.gov.ua; mission.uruguay@urugi.ch; mission.venezuela@ties.itu.int; info@vnmission-ge.org; mission.vietnam@ties.itu.int; mission.yemen@ties.itu.int; mission.zambia@ties.itu.int; mission.zimbabwe@ties.itu.int; missionzimbabwe@bluewin.ch; mission.holy-see@itu.ch; palestine.un@bluewin.ch; acpge@bluewin.ch; delegation@bluewin.ch; oic@oic-un.org; oecsgeneva@oecs.org; reper.geneve@francophonie.org; mission-observer.au@africanunion.ch; delegation-geneva@ec.europa.eu; bureau.geneva@consilium.europa.eu; mission.order-malta@ties.itu.int; mvk@delbrasgen.org; mission.brazil@delbrasgen.org; resfelp@yahoo.es; nygrenkrugh@who.int; heba.mostafa@mfa.gov.eg; colin.mciff@hhs.gov; WangML@state.gov; michael@savethechildren.org; mlangois4@yahoo.com; d.stegniy@gmail.com; cirolealmc@gmail.com; DKorljan@ohchr.org; lucia.nader@conectas.org; camila.asano@conectas.org; Robyn.Hodgkin@dfat.gov.au; hrcpresidency3@ohchr.org; pscannel@amnesty.org; sanjeev.singla@ties.itu.int; RahlagaK@dirco.gov.za; alvaro.ayala@misioncolombia.ch; carlos.sibille@ties.itu.int; edgardo.toro@ties.itu.int; gabriel.winter@urugi.ch; hzeran@minrelgov.cl; juanfernandoholguin@yahoo.com; lourdes.bone@urugi.ch; lparodi@misginchile.org; maria.guilarte@ties.itu.int; martha.moreno@ties.itu.int; maysa.urena@bluewin.ch; sebastian.rosales@ties.itu.int; raul.martinez@ties.itu.int; misginchile@minrel.gov.cl; gonzalo.jordan@ties.itu.int; avperez@misioncolombia.ch; pauline.davies@urunugi.ch; damp@hrw.org; agparola@yahoo.com; aparola@delbrasgen.org; frhoyer@delbrasgen.org; otavio@delbrasgen.org; jernesto@delbrasgen.org; renata.muniz@delbrasgen.org; bruno.neves@delbrasgen.org; ykim@ohchr.org; eksirip@hotmail.com; patrick.buckley48@yahoo.co.uk; heikinheimok@who.int; walllegney@who.int; thiago.luchesi@graduateinstitute.ch; hmmostafa@gmail.com; contact@mission-angola.ch; geneva@diplobel.fed.be; mission@gv.mofa.go.jp; mission.usa@ties.itu.int; ruijpv@delbrasgen.org; ljubica.peric@mvp.gov.ba; alvaroayala1968@gmail.com; grissY\_27@hotmail.com; felix.pena@ties.itu.int; hzeran@minrel.gov.cl; slascurain@delegamexoi.ch; jrlorenzo@delegamexoi.ch; lourdes.bone@urunugi.ch; capucine.maus-de-rolley@diplomatie.gouv.fr; emmanuel.pineda@diplomatie.gouv.fr; Peter.GUSCHELBAUER@bmeia.gv.at; mohammedhaidara@yahoo.com; Claire.Annette.Hubert@mfa.no; liesbeth.goossens@diplobel.fed.be; ivana.kasarova@mzv.sk; gomezdeo@ties.itu.int; barbara.fontana@eda.admin.ch; MciffCL@state.gov; muruthala.moosa@maldivesmission.ch; bob.last@fco.gov.uk; Manon.Boisclair@international.gc.ca; nestor.cruz-toruno@ties.itu.int; luisabgg@gmail.com; netithorn@gmail.com; mduarte.gva@gmail.com; derivej@hrw.org; nehasood01@gmail.com; neha@youthcoalition.org; lohmand@hrw.org; ewalker@ida-secretariat.org; rajat.khosla@amnesty.org; Jerome.BELLION-JOURDAN@ec.europa.eu; eliocardoso@delbrasgen.org; norman.somarriba@ties.itu.int; cirolealmc@delbrasgen.org

Dear colleagues

It is to inform that open-ended informal consultations on the OIC resolution entitled "Follow-up the report of the Independent International Fact Finding Mission on the incident of the Humanitarian Flotilla" are scheduled **tomorrow i.e. 10 June 2011 (Friday) at 0900 hours in Room 27.**

All interested delegations are encouraged to attend.

(11)

Best regards

M. Saeed Sarwar  
Second Secretary  
The Pakistan Mission  
078-9492668

RELEASED IN FULL

12

**McCann, Tim I**

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**From:** Brancato, Gilda M  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 12:44 AM  
**To:** Legal-HRR-DL  
**Subject:** FW: IM to S on the HRC 17th Session Preview  
**Attachments:** IM to S HRC17 final .docx

FYI and for your records.  
Carlton please add to the HRC interactive. Thank you.

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**From:** Mossberg, Benjamin D.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 6:33 PM  
**To:** Brancato, Gilda M  
**Cc:** Gahan, Kimberly A; Zelinsky, Aaron; IO Staff Assistants-DL  
**Subject:** RE: IM to S on the HRC 17th Session Preview

This is the final version.

SBU  
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS  
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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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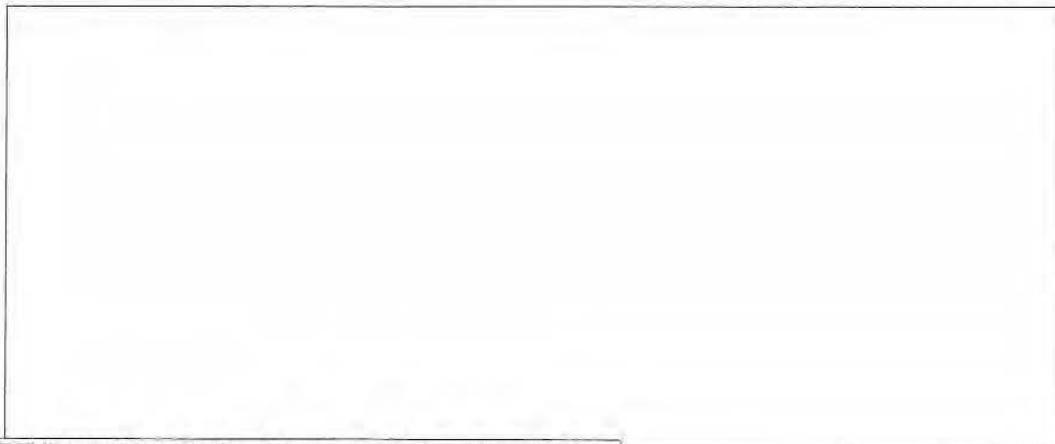
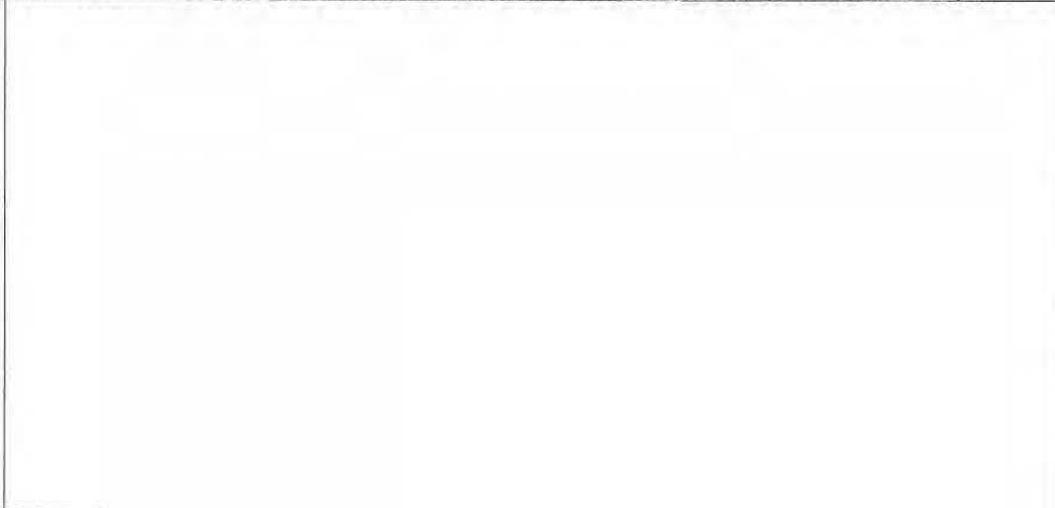
SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

**INFORMATION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY**

FROM: IO – Esther Brimmer  
DRL – Michael Posner  
L – Harold Hongju Koh

SUBJECT: Human Rights Council 17<sup>th</sup> Session Preview

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) meets in Geneva May 30 to June 17, 2011.



REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

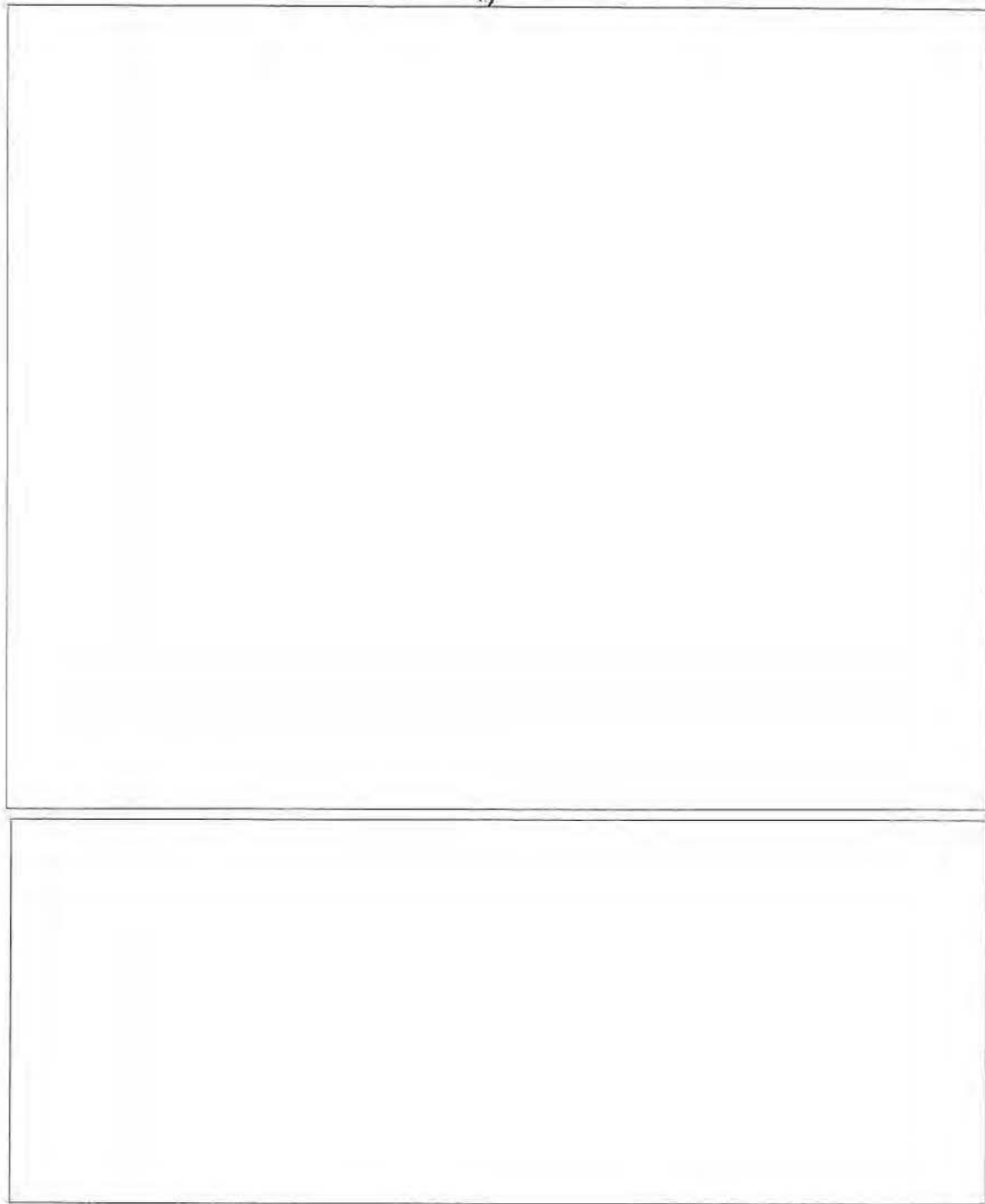
SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

NR

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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NR



On Israel-related issues, there will not be a resolution related to the Goldstone report at this session; however, it is possible that Turkey or another country may run another follow-up resolution related to last year's flotilla incident—an issue that could be further inflamed by a possible second flotilla. The High

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

3

Commissioner will present another report on the flotilla issue, as required by previous HRC resolutions. The United States will present interventions under Item 7 (the standing agenda item on Israel) and in response to the High Commissioner's flotilla report. We will oppose any follow-up resolutions requesting follow-up on the flotilla.

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

(12)

Approved: IO/FO: E Brimmer OK  
DRL/FO: M Posner OK  
L/FO: H Koh OK

Drafted: IO/HR: Matthew Andris (202) 647-3166

Cleared:

IO/FO: S Nossel OK  
IO/HR: M Honigstein OK  
DRL/MLGA: D Galindo/L Sicade OK  
L/FO: S Biniarz OK  
L/HRR: G Brancato OK  
D(S): A Cook OK  
D(N): S Carl-Yoder OK  
G: E Richardson OK  
P: W Haldeman OK  
S/P: L Baer OK  
USUN/W: W Bass OK  
USUN/NY: K Razzouk OK  
AF/RSA: L Dees OK  
EAP/RSP: J Vorderstrasse OK  
NEA/RA: R Chatterji OK  
SCA/RA: A McGann OK  
EUR/PGI: S Pierson OK  
WHA/PPC: J Ben-Yehuda OK  
NSC: C Powell OK



13

RELEASED IN FULL

McCann, Tim I

From: Wang, Margaret L  
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 9:30 AM  
To: Geneva:HRC 17  
Subject: FW: Intervention by Turkey [FLOTILLA]  
Attachments: Intervention by Turkey.pdf

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Mission Geneva [mailto:usmissiongva@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2011 9:22 AM  
To: Wang, Margaret L  
Subject: FW: Intervention by Turkey

> From: mission.turkey@ties.itu.int  
> To: mission.afghanistan@bluewin.ch; mission.south-africa@ties.itu.int; mission.geneve@mfa.gov.al;  
mission.algerie@mission-algerie.ch; mission.germany@ties.itu.int; missionandorra@bluewin.ch;  
ambmission.angola@bluewin.ch; enquiries@antigua-barbuda.com; saudiamission@bluewin.ch;  
mission.argentina@ties.itu.int; un.geneva@dfat.gov.au; genf-ov@bmeja.qv.at; geneva@mission.mfa.gov.az;  
info@bahrain-mission.ch; mission.bangladesh@ties.itu.int; mission.barbados@ties.itu.int; mission.belarus@ties.itu.int;  
geneva@diplobel.fed.be; blzun@belizemission.com; info@missionbenin.ch; mission.bhutan@ties.itu.int; contact@mission-  
bolivia.ch; mission.bosnia-herzegovina@ties.itu.int; botgen@bluewin.ch; mission.brazil@delbrasgen.org;  
mission.brunei@ties.itu.int; mission.bulgaria@ties.itu.int; mission.burkina@ties.itu.int; mission.burundi@bluewin.ch;  
camemb.gva@mfa.gov.kh; mission.cameroun@bluewin.ch; genev@intemational.gc.ca; cap.vert@bluewin.ch;  
misinchile@minrel.gov.cl; chinamission\_gva@mfa.gov.cn; mission.colombia@ties.itu.int; missioncongo@bluewin.ch;  
mission.costa-rica@ties.itu.int; cotedivoire@bluewin.ch; cromiss.geneva@mvpei.hr; embacubaginebra@missioncuba.ch;  
gvamis@um.dk; mission.djibouti@djibouti.ch; info@dominicahighcommission.co.uk; mission.egypt@ties.itu.int;  
mission.el-salvador@ties.itu.int; mission.uae@ties.itu.int; onuginebra@mrrree.gov.ec; eritrean.embassy@bluewin.ch;  
mission.spain@ties.itu.int; estonia.mission@estmission.ch; acpgen@bluewin.ch; mission.usa@ties.itu.int;  
mission.ethiopia@ties.itu.int; macedonia.geneva@mfa.gov.mk; mission.russian@vbxnet.ch; sanomat.gen@formin.fi;  
mission.france@ties.itu.int; mission.gabon@ties.itu.int; ambgambia\_france117@hotmail.com;  
geomission.geneva@bluewin.ch; info@ghanamission.ch; mission.greece@ties.itu.int; grenada.mission@gmail.com;  
mission.guatemala@ties.itu.int; mission.guinea@ties.itu.int; mision.guineaecuatorial\_gva@yahoo.com;  
mission.haiti@ties.itu.int; mhonduras.onug@gmail.com; gva.mission@kum.hu; mission.india@ties.itu.int;  
mission.indonesia@ties.itu.int; mission.iran@ties.itu.int; mission.iraq@ties.itu.int; genevapmun@dfa.ie;  
icedel.genf@utn.stjr.is; mission-israel@geneva.mfa.gov.il; rappoi.ginevra@esteri.it; mission.libye@bluewin.ch;  
mission.jamaica@ties.itu.int; mission@gv.mofa.go.jp; info@jordanmission.ch; mission.kazakistan@ties.itu.int;  
mission.kenya@ties.itu.int  
> Subject: Intervention by Turkey  
> Date: Tue, 14 Jun 2011 13:45:08 +0200  
>  
>  
>  
> The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office in Geneva  
> presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations  
> Office in Geneva and the relevant United Nations institutions, and has the

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

13

- > honour to transmit a Verbal Note on the above mentioned subject.
- >
- >
- > Permanent Mission of Turkey
- > 28 B ch. Du Petit Saconnex
- > CP 261
- > 1209 Geneva

13



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENEVA

RELEASED IN FULL

2011/BMCO/4948187

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and relevant United Nations institutions, and has the honour to enclose herewith the speech delivered as a concerned country by the Permanent Representative of Turkey H.E. Ambassador Oguz Demiralp under the general debate on Item/7 regarding the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the status of implementation of the conclusions contained in the report of the independent international fact-finding mission on the incident of the humanitarian flotilla.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and relevant United Nations institutions the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14 June 2011

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



Encl: as stated above

Permanent Missions  
to the United Nations Office at Geneva  
and relevant United Nations institutions  
GENEVA

RELEASED IN FULL

13

#### INTERVENTION BY TURKEY

Mr President,

While several important developments in the Middle East continue to unfold and inevitably occupy its agenda, the Human Rights Council remains rightfully seized of an emblematic case: the flotilla raid.

Emblematic, because the breach of international law has never been so clearly established.

Emblematic, because human rights violations have been undeniably blatant and flagrant.

Emblematic, because the international community and international civil society have been unanimous in condemning this act of illegal and excessive use of state power on civilians, peaceful protesters from more than 30 countries.

Emblematic, because it is a condensed catalogue of major human rights violations in one episode, from extra-judicial killings to illegal occupation and blockade, and denial of humanitarianism.

Let's not forget: the Israeli conduct was not only disproportionate to the occasion, but demonstrated levels of totally unnecessary, unjustified and incredible violence. Nine human beings were killed in the darkness of night in international waters while carrying a message of hope and humane solidarity to Palestinians suffering under illegal blockade in Gaza.

In the face of this emblematic case, the Council had taken the right course of action. It called a special session, it tasked a mission of experts to look into the case and it endorsed conclusions reached by the experts. It has not failed to invite the country concerned to implement the said conclusions, hoping that the justice will be done without further delay.

All these steps were taken last year, between June and September; and a whole year elapsed since the inauspicious flotilla raid!

Unfortunately, we still have to deal with this case. Why? Because Israel did nothing to heal the bleeding wound.

Israel has taken no effective step to redress the situation. The families of the victims and the civil society are still seeking justice while perpetrators of the raid have been treated as heroes.

In an astonishing defiance to the principles of impunity and accountability, Israel has also refused to cooperate with the Council. None of the conclusions of the impeccable report of the experts has been implemented by Israel. Instead of trying to meet the expectations of the Human Rights Council and the international community, Israel persists in its tactics to delay justice and to distort truth. To this end, some people do not hesitate to misrepresent the confidential panel put into place by the UN Secretary General.

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The New York Panel is neither a substitute for nor a duplicate of the Human Rights Council. It is expected to produce results at political level. Human rights aspect is to be pursued where it belongs, that is to say in Geneva. However, we observe that some people have come to Geneva and started going from one door to another in order to whisper misleading rumors about the confidential work in New York. They desperately attempt to transform a late night horror movie into a fairy tale where Israeli commandos would be angels descending from the sky. They also claim that blockade in Gaza is legal. How this inhumane blockade can be considered legal and legitimate while the occupation is entirely illegal? Those futile initiatives are not only a breach of confidentiality but also constitute disrespect to the UN Secretary General. I wonder: how can such people expect to deserve the trust and confidence of Turkey?

The failure of Israel to address the issue on the basis of the rule of law and to cooperate with the Council is unacceptable to anybody with a minimum sense of justice and sensitivity with regard to human rights.

However, this is not something unexpected from Israel. The negative attitude of Israel towards the Human Rights Council is on the record. The non-cooperation file of Israel is voluminous. So far Israel's claim has been that the Council was picking on Israel while overlooking other situations. It is not anymore possible to use this false argumentation. The Council is day by day proving its capacity to deal with different situations which are being brought to its consideration. Now we face the opposite picture. The Council, or more particularly, those who are ready to ignore the wrongdoings of Israel under any circumstances, have to prove that they do not apply double standards in the field of human rights. This can only be done by following the cases relating to Israel with perseverance. Therefore, Mr. President, this emblematic case is also a test case for the efficacy of the actions taken by the Human Rights Council. We are confident that the Council will not fail.

Thank you.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6

5

**McCann, Tim I**

**From:** Wang, Margaret L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 4:23 PM  
**To:** Townley, Stephen G; Blaha, Charles O; Tat, Osman N; Mansfield, Anna M; Addis, Casey L; Schive, Miriam S; Mariz, John C  
**Subject:** Possible procedure for setting up urgent debate? FW: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

Hi - Stephen asked earlier about possible procedural considerations in setting up an urgent debate: For reference in case it is useful, here is an old e-mail chain on the origins of the flotilla special sitting.

**From:** Mariz, John C  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 5:32 PM  
**To:** Cassayre, Mark J; Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; [redacted] Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

B6

Folks, [redacted]

B5

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; [redacted] Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 11:02:08 2010  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

B6

All: [redacted]

B5

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



5

**From:** Nossel, Suzanne F  
**To:** Cassayre, Mark J; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; [redacted] Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Connelly, Maura; Goldberger, Thomas H; Giauque, Jeffrey G; Perina, Alexandra H  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:29:20 2010  
**Subject:** Re: URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

B6

Adding NEA. [redacted]

B5

**From:** Cassayre, Mark J  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-HR-DL; DRL-MLGA-M; Legal-HRR-DL; Geneva HRC; Griffiths, Douglas M; 'Busby, Scott W.' [redacted] Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Salih, Lana L; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 09:21:03 2010  
**Subject:** URGENT!!! HRC Action re: Gaza Aid Flotilla

B6

**NEED GUIDANCE**

"SPECIAL SITTING" of HRC to occur Tuesday (tomorrow) afternoon on the Israeli boarding of flotilla.

Israel reported to us that the Arab League/OIC is considering possible action this session related to the attack on the Gaza aid flotilla. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Mark Cassayre  
Counselor  
Political and Specialized Agencies  
U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Specialized Agencies  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Direct tel: +41 22 749-4214  
Mobile: [redacted]  
Fax: +41 22 749 4717  
[cassayrcmj@state.gov](mailto:cassayrcmj@state.gov)

B6

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

6

**McCann, Tim I**

---

**From:** Blaha, Charles O  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2012 11:15 AM  
**To:** Donahoe, Eileen C; Geneva HRC; Reisser, Wesley J; Honigstein, Michael D; Lapenn, Jessica; Suleman, Arsalan  
**Subject:** update on flotilla reso from [redacted]

B6

[redacted] spoke to capital last night about flotilla reso and says Turkey will probably run it, although the decision is not yet definite.

[redacted] noted (I think channeling [redacted] [redacted]) that Israel has done nothing to address the situation, has charged no one, has paid no compensation.

Turkey is still awaiting the HC's report called for in the last resolution. [redacted] said this is supposed to be the concluding report.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

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RELEASED IN PART  
NR, B6

14

**McCann, Tim I**

**From:** Khanna, Melànie J  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2011 10:07 AM  
**To:** Nossel, Suzanne F; Lapenn, Jessica; Geneva HRC 17; Griffiths, Douglas M  
**Cc:** Donahoe, Eileen C  
**Subject:** Fw: Syria

Fyi from Ronny, [redacted]

**From:** Aharon Leshno Yaar [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2011 03:57 AM  
**To:** Donahoe, Eileen C; Khanna, Melànie J  
**Subject:** Syria

Dear Eileen and Melanie,

A year ago this week our HRC held an urgent meeting - in the middle of a regular session - to discuss the flotilla incident. 9 civilians were killed in the incident.

[Large redacted area]

Ronny

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NR

B6

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

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

15

**McCarthy, Tim I**

**From:** Kharina, Melánie J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 01, 2011 5:13 PM  
**To:** Geneva HRC 17; Martin, Julie B; Sicade, Lynn M (DRL); Johnston-Gardner, Sarah R (DRL); Nossel, Suzanne F; IO-RHS-Human Rights-DL; Doutrich, Jack T; Bass, Warren; Levin, Jan; Griffiths, Douglas (Maputo); Busby, Scott W.; Powell, Catherine  
**Subject:** HRC--flotilla

At the Israelis' request ECD and I met today with Israeli Amb Yaar and Arthur Lenk, visiting from the MFA Legal Adviser's office. Arthur Lenk has been serving as deputy to the Israeli member on the Palmer Commission in NY, and he's here this session to help inform certain delegations about what's been going on in NY. Key points as conveyed to us:

[Redacted]

B1  
1.4(B)  
1.4(D)

Ambassador Donahoe will seek to engage the Turks directly to find out their latest thinking and to reiterate our well known preference for no more flotilla resolutions here.

[Redacted]

B5

Melanie J. Khanna  
Legal Adviser  
U.S. Mission to the U.N. and  
Other International Organizations

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS ~ Class: NO CLASSIFICATION MARKED ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on: 06/01/2021

+41-22-749-4316  
+41-22-749-4343 (Fax)

15

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

---

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Monday, December 29, 2008 2:08 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Davis, Jeannette E  
**Subject:** FW: New Free Gaza boat to depart Larnaca today with AMCITs (incl. former Rep. McKinney)

Dear John,

I don't know if anyone in Nicosia can assist with this, but we are having a very difficult time finding out if there are AMCITs on this latest Free Gaza boat scheduled to set sail from Larnaca this afternoon. Either our calls aren't being returned, or we are told they don't know. All we do know is what the press release says about former U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney being on board. Do you know if anyone in Nicosia has been in touch with the organizers or has any idea about who's aboard?

Thanks in advance, best regards,

Luke Zahner  
Consular Officer  
U.S. Consulate General Jerusalem

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Monday, December 29, 2008 9:53 AM  
**To:** Marchese, Gregory M; Davis, Jeannette E; Rogan, Thomas G; Crawford, Jonathan J; Lapenn, Jessica; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** New Free Gaza boat to depart Larnaca today with AMCITs (incl. former Rep. McKinney)

The Free Gaza movement is launching another ship today from Larnaca, in protest of the Israeli action in Gaza. I am still working to get a manifest, but former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney is on board, according to their press release below. Also, there appear to be other AMCITs on the boat this time around.

I'm cc'ing Nicosia as a heads up as well.

Nili, can we try to track down the manifest?

Thanks,

LZ

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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PRESS RELEASE - Dignity Leaves for Gaza: Challenges World to "Stop this Madness!"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday 29th December 2008

Dignity Leaves for Gaza: Challenges World to "Stop this Madness!"

For more information, please contact:

(Gaza) Ewa Jasiewicz, +972 598 700 497 / [freelance@mailworks.org](mailto:freelance@mailworks.org)

(Cyprus) Lubna Masarwa +357 99 081 767 / [lubnna@gmail.com](mailto:lubnna@gmail.com)

(U.S.) Greta Berlin, +1 310 422 7242 / [iristulip@gmail.com](mailto:iristulip@gmail.com)

(Larnaca, Cyprus 29 December 2008) - There is a time when silence is complicity and inaction is unacceptable. On Saturday, December 27, Israel began Operation "Cast Lead," a military onslaught against the civilian population of the Gaza Strip that has - so far - massacred more than three-hundred men, women, and children, and seriously injured over a thousand.

In response to Israeli butchery, the Free Gaza ship, the DIGNITY, will depart Larnaca Port at approximately 5pm (UTC), on Monday, December 29, bound for besieged Gaza. The ship is on an emergency mission carrying in physicians, human rights workers and over three tons of desperately needed medical supplies donated by the people of Cyprus. Coordinating with the Gaza Ministry of Health, the doctors will be immediately posted to overburdened hospitals and clinics upon their arrival.

We are not asking Israel for "permission" to go, and we will not stop until the DIGNITY lands in Gaza. We are answering urgent calls from hospitals and health care workers in Gaza by taking in three physicians who will stay and work in Gaza for several weeks. We will hold Israel responsible for the safety of our passengers and our cargo of emergency medicine.

Even before the present Israeli blitzkrieg, Karen Koning Abu Zayd, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), asserted that, "Gaza is on the threshold of becoming the first territory to be intentionally reduced to a state of abject destitution, with the knowledge, acquiescence and - some would say - encouragement of the international community."

Ewa Jasiewicz, a Free Gaza organizer living in Gaza, agreed with Abu Zayd, saying: "Where is the United Nations? Where is the Arab League? Where is the outrage against Israeli cruelty and Egyptian complicity? Every hospital in Gaza is already overwhelmed. Israel is committing war crimes here in Gaza, and words of condemnation are no longer enough. The world must act now to stop this madness."

The Free Gaza Movement continues to do what the governments of the world will not do - take direct action to defend the health, lives, and dignity of 1.5 million Palestinians under siege in the Gaza Strip.

This catastrophe is still unfolding, and humanitarian needs in Gaza are quite literally devastating. The world can no longer stay silent as the Palestinian people are deliberately massacred, starved and humiliated. We have to create a new consciousness that turns the practice of human rights from rhetoric into reality. Palestinians have an inalienable right to live, and the undeniable right to a life with dignity.

The passengers on this Free Gaza emergency delegation include:

\* International humanitarian and human rights workers from Cyprus, Australia, Ireland, Great Britain, Tunisia, and the United States.

\* Doctors going to Gaza to volunteer in local hospitals, including Dr. Elena Theoharous, surgeon and Member of Parliament from Cyprus.

\* Journalists going to Gaza to report on the massacre, including Al-Jazeera reporter Sami al-Haj, a former detainee at Guantanamo Bay.

\* The Hon. Cynthia McKinney, former U.S. Congresswoman and Green Party presidential candidate.

#####

The Free Gaza Movement, a human rights group, sent two boats to Gaza in August 2008. These were the first international boats to land in the port in 41 years. Since August, four more voyages were successful, taking Parliamentarians, human rights workers, physicians, and other dignitaries to witness the effects of Israel's draconian policies on the civilians of Gaza.



RELEASED IN FULL

Carlino, John R

From: Richter, Kim B  
 Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 3:49 PM  
 To: Carlino, John R  
 Subject: FW: Free Gaza Movement boat arrives without incident in Gaza

FYI

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

From: Zahner, Luke V  
 Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 8:40 AM  
 To: Marchese, Gregory M; Rogan, Thomas G; Davis, Jeannette E  
 Cc: Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Myers, Daniel R (Jerusalem); Grantham, Chris W; Lapenn, Jessica; Richter, Kim B; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
 Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement boat arrives without incident in Gaza

The Free Gaza Movement's fourth voyage arrived in Gaza this afternoon, with (to the best of our knowledge) just one AMCIT on board. The one AMCIT, Dion Nussenbaum, is there as a reporter for McClatchy covering the trip.

LZ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dignity to Gaza: "We're Back!" - Fourth Successful Voyage Breaks Through Siege of Gaza

(GAZA, 9 December 2008) - The Free Gaza Movement ship "Dignity" successfully broke through the Israeli blockade for the fourth time since August, arriving in Gaza Port at 2:45pm, Tuesday 9 December. The ship carried one ton of medical supplies and high-protein baby formula, in addition to a delegation of international academics, humanitarian and human rights workers. Three earlier missions made landfall in Gaza in August, October, and November through the power of non-violent direct action and civil resistance. The Free Gaza ships are the first international ships to reach the Gaza Strip in over 41 years.

Ewa Jasiewicz, a Free Gaza organizer, journalist, and solidarity worker, pointed out that, "Tomorrow is International Human Rights Day, and it's high time the world turned its rhetoric on human rights into reality. We mounted this mission to give our solidarity to the people of Palestine and to highlight the strangulating conditions Israel causes in besieged Gaza.

The inhumane effects of this siege threaten to stunt an entire generation - both in terms of physical and mental growth due to malnutrition, terrorization by bomb attacks, incursions and the use of sonic booms - but also in terms of the generation of students which have won places at academic institutions around the world but cannot fulfill them, and those undermined on the ground in Gaza by a lack of food, medicine, electricity, materials, and the peace and space to make use of them in."

For over two years, Israel has imposed an increasingly severe blockade on Gaza, dramatically increasing poverty and malnutrition rates among the 1.5 million human people who live in this tiny, coastal region. The World Bank recently warned that the entire banking system in Gaza may soon collapse resulting in "serious humanitarian implications." Already, over eighty percent of Gazan families are dependent on international food aid in order to feed their children.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
 Reviewer

1

Lubna Masarwa, another Free Gaza organizer and the current delegation's leader, pointed out that, "The Palestinians of Gaza don't need charity.

What they need is effective political action that changes their lives and ends the Occupation. We can't bring electricity to Gaza on our boats. We can't import freedom of movement or safety. But we can get into Gaza and we are intent to keep coming. We will come again and again and again until the world breaks its silence and we shatter this siege once and for all."

###



Telegram

Page 1 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001424

VZCZCXYZ0005  
PP RUEHWEB

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

DE RUEHTV #1424 1821315  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 011315Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2409  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2292  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1479  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4225  
BT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001424

CA/OCS/ACS/NESA  
NEA/IPA  
\_ACSIP\_TLV200918221088020\_ACSIP

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

B6

- 1. NAME: [redacted]
- 2. SEX: Female
- 3. DPOB: [redacted]
- 4. PASSPORT: [redacted]
- 5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: U.S.A.  
USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: U.S.A.
- 6. LAST KNOWN U.S. ADDRESS: [redacted]

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

8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

9. CHARGES: Immigration Violation

10. PLACE OF DETENTION: Subject is a dual Israeli/Amcit, and was separated from the other three Amcits when the Israeli Navy turned over all passengers to the MOI for processing and detention. Post has been unable to determine subject's location or even if subject is currently being detained, and has been working with the GOI to confirm details.

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Unknown

12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: Unknown

14. ATTORNEY: Ms. Gaby Lasky, tel: 972-54-441-8988.

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Not yet obtained.

16. NOK: Husband, [redacted] (see septel)

54

17. NOTIFICATION: On 06/30/09, a representative of the Free Gaza

Telegram

Page 2 of 2

ovement contacted Post to advise that subject and three other Amcits were detained at sea by the Israeli Navy. Also notified by Israel Navy through DAO.

3. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Three other Amcits were detained:

[redacted] (see [redacted] reports).

B6

1. 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 Amcits. The passengers included Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. 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.

As soon as Post is able to confirm subject's place of detention, Post will arrange a Consular visit to her.

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NN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001424

Telegram

Page 1 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001425

VZCZCXYZ0008  
PP RUEHWEB

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

DE RUEHTV #1425 1821315  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 011315Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2410  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2293  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 4226  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1480  
BT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001425

CA/OCS/ACS/NESA  
NEA/IPA  
\_ACSIP\_TLV200918221085772\_ACSIP

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

B6

- 1. NAME: [redacted]
- 2. SEX: Female
- 3. DPOB: [redacted]
- 4. PASSPORT: [redacted]
- 5. OTHER NATIONALITIES, IF ANY, AND HOW ACQUIRED: United States Of America  
USUAL COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: U.S.A.  
NATIONALITY OF PASSPORT USED TO ENTER COUNTRY OF ARREST: U.S.A.

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

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

8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

9. CHARGES: Immigration Violation

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

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Pending Deportation

12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: A hearing is scheduled for July 01, 2009 at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention facility, Ministry of the Interior.

14. ATTORNEY: Yes. Ms Gaby Lasky, tel: 972-54-441-8988.

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Subject signed a PAW to include parents, [redacted] family, friends, members of Congress, media, and the general public.

16. NOK: Parents: [redacted]

Telegram

Page 2 of 2

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

8. ACCESS: On 07/01/09, Post's Dutyoff/Conoff visited subject at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention Center.

9. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Three other Amcits were detained:

10. MISTREATMENT: None.

11. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: Green folder containing personal papers

12. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Later today.  
SENTENCE: Deportation is expected

13. 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 Amcits. The passengers included Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. 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.

On 07/01/09, Post's Dutyoff/Conoff 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 [redacted] is due to be deported to the U.S. later today.

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

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UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001425

Telegram

Page 1 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED TELAVIV 00001405

RELEASED IN PART B6

VZCZCXYZ0003  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTV #1405 1820918  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 010918Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2379  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2281  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1474  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4220  
BT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001405

CA/OCS/ACS/NESA  
NEA/IPA  
\_ACSIP\_TLV200918221080578\_ACSIP

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

B6

- 1. NAME: [redacted]
- 2. SEX: Female
- 3. DPOB: [redacted]
- 4. PASSPORT: [redacted]
- 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: [redacted]
- 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
- 12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: A hearing is scheduled for July 01, 2009 at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention facility, Ministry of the Interior.
- 14. ATTORNEY: Yes. Ms. Gaby Lasky, tel: 972-544-418-988.
- 15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: On 07/01/09, subject signed a PAW to include family and friends.
- 16. NOK: Children: [redacted]

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Telegram

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

8. ACCESS: On 07/01/09, Post's Dutyoff/Conoff visited subject at the Ben Gurion Immigration Detention Center.

9. OTHER AMERICANS ARRESTED: Three other Amcits were detained:

[Redacted]

10. MISTREATMENT: None.

11. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: None.

12. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS: Later today.  
SENTENCE: Deportation is expected.

1. 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 Amcits. The passengers included Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. 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 0200 on 07/01/09, Post's Dutyoff/Conoff met with subject for approximately ten minutes at the BG detention facility. Subject is visibly tired but in good spirits. Her only stated concern is about arrangements for her trip home. Subject signed a Privacy Act Waiver for family and friends only.

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

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

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UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001405

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RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B3 DOD/PII

**Carlino, John R**

To: c  
Subject: FW: Free Gaza update #7: [redacted]

B6

**From:** Bond, Michele T  
**Sent:** Monday, July 06, 2009 5:38 AM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; [redacted] Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; [redacted]; Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R; Dunne, John H; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza update #7: [redacted]

B3 DOD-PII

Who is paying for the flights, the travelers or the GOI?

This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**To:** [redacted] Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; Schlereth, Frank G; Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R; Dunne, John H; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Sent:** Sun Jul 05 18:27:15 2009  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza update #7: [redacted]

Thanks, Jay. You've done great work and we all appreciate it.

Will you guys be contacting rep [redacted]'s friends and family, or would you like us to do so tomorrow?

Best,  
M

This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

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**From:** Jaycutza [redacted]  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; [redacted]; Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R; Dunne, John H

B3 DOD-PII

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



Sent: Sun Jul 05 18:18:09 2009

Subject: Free Gaza update #7: [REDACTED]

B6

[REDACTED] were transferred from the Givon detention center to the detention center at Ben Gurion airport on Sunday, July 5, around 10 p.m. According to Shirlee Rayssin-Sasson, they will all depart Tel Aviv for the U.S. tomorrow (Monday) on the following flights:

[REDACTED] Flight LY11 to Washington DC, departing Tel Aviv at 16:00 local time, Monday, July 6, and arriving in DC around midnight East Coast time

[REDACTED] Flight LY11 to Boston, departing Tel Aviv at 16:00 local time, Monday, July 6, and arriving in Boston around midnight East Coast time

[REDACTED] Flight CO85 to Newark, departing Tel Aviv at 11:40 local time, Monday, July 6, and arriving in Newark at 16:50 East Coast time

Ms. Rayssin-Sasson could not explain why the DC and Boston flights have the same flight information but two different arrival cities. El Al's website shows flight LY 011 departing in Tel Aviv and arriving in New York; perhaps [REDACTED] will catch connecting flights in New York.

I spoke with [REDACTED] separately between 23:00 and midnight on Sunday, July 5. All were in good health and are looking forward to returning home. All are very appreciative of our work in Tel Aviv and Stateside.

[REDACTED] states that her green folder with her personal papers has not been returned to her. If possible, she would appreciate having it returned. She asks that we contact her parents and [REDACTED] to let them know her flight details. She says that her parents and [REDACTED] are included in her PAW. She asks that we ask [REDACTED] to pick her up at the airport and to call her son and pass on her flight details. No other requests.

[REDACTED] used my phone to call her daughters [REDACTED] and give them her flight details, explaining to them about the confusion re: LY 11. She also asked me to contact her husband, [REDACTED] with that information. She was reading the Wally Lamb novel I delivered on Friday. No other requests. I called [REDACTED] while waiting to speak with [REDACTED] and passed on the information.

[REDACTED] appeared wearing one of the T-shirts we brought the detainees and holding his place in one of the books I brought on Friday. He showed me a court order in Hebrew stating that he is allowed to return to the U.S. with all his belongings. He had wanted to leave me his laptop to deliver to his wife, who is reportedly still in Israel, but the detention center staff told him that he is required to take it back to the States with him. As I did not have PAW forms with me, he hand-wrote the following: "I, [REDACTED] give permission to the U.S. Embassy to give information to my wife, [REDACTED]" No other requests. As we were saying goodbye, he told me that we may see him again in four weeks, as Free Gaza is trying to obtain another boat. He did not know what dates they plan to sail or from what country.

When we have more information about [REDACTED] flights, we should contact their families / friends and share the details. For [REDACTED] we should contact her daughters and husband. For [REDACTED] we should contact her parents and [REDACTED]

No further information at this time.

Jay Sorensen

-- On Sun, 7/5/09, Greene, Elisa <GreeneE@state.gov> wrote:

From: Greene, Elisa <GreeneE@state.gov>

Subject: Free Gaza update #6: [REDACTED]

To: "Greene, Elisa" <GreeneE@state.gov>, "Zahner, Luke V" <ZahnerLV@state.gov>, "Sorensen, Jay M" <SorensenJM@state.gov>, "Goldberger, Thomas H" <GoldbergerTH@state.gov>, "Featherstone, Robert J" <FeatherstonerJ2@state.gov>, "Moreno, Luis G" <MorenoLG@state.gov>, "Bernier-Toth, Michelle" <Bernier-TothM2@state.gov>, "Bond, Michele T" <BondMT@state.gov>, "Hickey, Mary E" <HickeyME@state.gov>, "Hankins, Sarah E" <HankinsSE@state.gov>, "SES-O OPS-WatchTeam" <SES-O\_WatchTeam@state.gov>, "Hunter, Jo-Ann L" <HunterJL@state.gov>, "Mattern, Daniel S" <MatternDS@state.gov>, "Zuckerman, Eve" <ZuckermanEX@state.gov>, "Paley, Abram W" <PaleyAW@state.gov>, "Sakran, Johnny" <SakranJX@state.gov>, "Stott, Erinn C" <StottEC@state.gov>, "Marwaha, Brianne C" <MarwahaBC@state.gov>, "McCusker, Breeann M" <McCuskerBM@state.gov>, "Holmstrom, Todd C" <HolmstromTC@state.gov>, "Harutunian, Ruben" <HarutunianR@state.gov>, "Tuttle, Stewart D" <TuttleSD@state.gov>, "Vincent, Wendy M" <VincentWM@state.gov>, "Sievers, Marc J" <SieversMJ@state.gov>, "Burnett, David R" <burnettdr@state.gov>, "Schlereth, Frank G" <SchlerethFG@state.gov> [REDACTED]

"Parker, Andrew C" <ParkerAC@state.gov>

Cc: "Weinfeld, Nili I" <WeinfeldNI@state.gov>, "Rogan, Thomas G" <RoganTG@state.gov>, "Marchese, Gregory M" <MarcheseGM@state.gov>, "Dilworth, Alison E" <DilworthAE@state.gov>, "Carlino, John R" <CarlinoJR@state.gov>, "Dunne, John H" <DunneJH@state.gov>

Date: Sunday, July 5, 2009, 5:05 AM

The Givon Beth Din (Court) and the law offices of Gaby Lasky both advised this morning that [REDACTED] are currently in immigration hearings which started at approximately 9am Tel Aviv time and are due to be finished within the next hour. An attorney (named Limor from Gaby Lasky's firm) is in attendance. The hearings are held one person at a time. The likely result is deportation. I will continue to check status and advise when the hearings have finished and a determination has been made.

On Saturday, [REDACTED]'s friend, [REDACTED] called to check on her status. The dutyoff provided current information. [REDACTED] also called the dutyoff to check on the status of her husband, [REDACTED] (her tel [REDACTED]). The dutyoff provided very basic information but, as [REDACTED] did not list his wife, [REDACTED] on his PAW, the dutyoff did not go in to detail about [REDACTED]'s situation. elisa

From: Greene, Elisa

Sent: Friday, July 03, 2009 11:20 AM

To: Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Parker, Andrew C

Cc: Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R

Subject: Free Gaza update # 5: [REDACTED]

Jay Sorensen just finished a consular access visit at Givon Immigration Detention Center, spending 2 hours with the 3 Amcits. Again, detention conditions are good. Jay distributed books and clothing but was not given permission to distribute food or any toiletries (but the 3 Amcits had already had access to clean clothing, fresh and abundant food, and toiletries). An immigration judge intended to conduct an immigration hearing Thursday afternoon but due to lack of attorney present, the hearing was postponed until Sunday. This means that the earliest they would be departing would be Sunday night. All 3 are eager to depart but realize it might

be as late as mid-next week. No new PAWs.

[redacted] Jay passed on message to [redacted] to call her 2 daughters ([redacted]) and the grandchildren (as per sep email from CA), and [redacted] said she did not believe it was necessary for the USG to contact her family directly. [redacted] was surprised by [redacted]'s email to CA requesting she/we contact the family because [redacted] has been in direct contact with them already. [redacted]

B6

[redacted] [redacted] told Jay that she wanted the USG (in particular, POTUS) to clarify in public the USG position on the GOI Gaza blockade. She also requested that POTUS travel directly to Gaza to see the conditions there for himself. Jay said she would pass on the requests. [redacted] made no further requests to contact friends/family.

[redacted] spoke to his wife, [redacted] yesterday (Thursday), and again said she was in JRSM with a cousin. He did not provide contact # but said she was fine. He did not request we contact family/friends on his behalf.

The 3 were appreciative of the visits and, particularly, of the Stephen King books Jay donated from her private collection. Apart from the above, the 3 made no other requests.

After the visits, I spoke with Yigal Tzarfati, Head of Consular Affairs, GOI MFA, to provide a status update on the 3 Amcits, to express our interest in attending the immigration hearing on Sunday, and to advise him that we are interested in facilitating the departure from Israel of the 3 Amcits as early as possible. He assured me that the GOI is not interested in holding them longer than necessary and said that if we required assistance we should make contact with him again on Sunday.

We have no additional information at this time. We will provide another update if/when we have additional information. elisa

**From:** Greene, Elisa

**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2009 7:08 PM

**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R;

B3 DOD-PII

**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza update # 4: [redacted]

B6

Eve just finished her consular access visits with [redacted] Men and women are in separate living/sleeping quarters, but they are allowed to mix for 4 hours per day (2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon). Conditions were very good. 4-6 to a cell (large room) with bunk beds, a bathroom, water, and regular food. Clean. Exercise/washing yard. She said that the three were very nice and had no complaints about their treatment. Another Free Gaza detainee (female, from the UK) has a mobile phone that she has been lending to the Amcits, so they have been able to contact friends/family.

B6

They were handed a document in English and asked to sign. [redacted] plan to sign but [redacted] does not intend to sign. [redacted] wishes to return to Cyprus and refused to sign the document until his camera equipment (which he valued at \$10K) was returned by the GOI. [redacted] do not want to return to Cyprus; they instead wish to go back to the US (DC and Boston, respectively). Given authorities advised that even if they sign the document immediately, they will still not be returned to the U.S. until Sunday, at the

B6



earliest. The document they were given stated the following: *"Request to Leave the State of Israel. I, the undersigned, Mr(s). \_\_\_\_\_, holder of passport number \_\_\_\_\_, after being informed by the Israeli Immigration Authorities that I am about to be deported from Israel hereby irrevocably formally request out of my own free will to leave Israel. I hereby confirm the fact that I have been informed my rights to appeal to the head of Border Control and/or the Minister of Interior in an attempt to change the deportation decision but I have decided to waive this and to leave Israel without being formally deported. Signed....."*

[REDACTED] Gaby

Lasky (attorney) +972-54-441-8988; generally to: family only. Form DS-5505 was used, as per CA guidance. Eve has the hard copy; she will scan to the ACS Activity Log on Monday.

**Request to CA/OCS/ACS:** [REDACTED] specifically asked that we contact the 5 individuals above to relay status update. Could you please contact these individuals on our behalf to relay this information?

[REDACTED] spoke to his wife, [REDACTED] who is (according to him) staying with a cousin in Jerusalem. [REDACTED] couldn't remember the phone number of the cousin.

Eve gave the Amcits the Post One phone number in the event of an emergency.

Additional update to follow after Jay's visit tomorrow. We have no further information for now.

Thanks, elisa

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

**From:** Greene, Elisa

**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2009 5:25 PM

**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R;

**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza update # 3: [REDACTED]

B3 DOD-PII

B6

We just spoke to Ms. Rayssin-Sasson, who advised that since the 3 Amcits refused to sign the deportation agreements by 4pm Tel Aviv time, they will definitely not be deported until some time on Sunday (exact time or flight details unknown at this point). Eve Zuckerman is currently with the Amcits in Givon Immigration Detention Center in Ramle, visiting the three. We were unable to secure permission for her to enter with her mobile phone so we will only be back in touch with her once she exits Givon. The conditions in Givon are standard to prison conditions throughout Israel (excellent, in my opinion). More details on prison conditions when Eve finishes her visit.

We will continue to follow and monitor this case over the weekend. The Israeli weekend is Friday and Saturday, with only skeletal emergency staff working over the weekend (particularly on Shabbat, which runs Friday sunset through Saturday sunset). Our duty officer and ACS Unit are standing by over the weekend to provide updates, field calls, and monitor the status. Please route calls outside of business hours through Post One (972-3-519-7551) and then on to the Embassy duty officer. As soon as we have additional information

regarding the deportation or any other status change, we will provide it in an update.

Jay Sorensen, ACS Vice Consul, is planning on visiting subjects at Givon tomorrow (Friday). She will bring reading material, toiletries, snacks, and some clothing (all from ACS staff personal donations). We will then send an update after the visit.

Thanks, elisa

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

**From:** Zahner, Luke V

**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2009 1:21 PM

**To:** Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D

**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Potter, Russell H

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza update # 2: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is in the West Bank now. She gave an interview on Al Jezeera from Ramallah yesterday, and when we reached friends of hers via cellphone, they confirmed she went there from Ashdod yesterday to try to rally legal support for the others who are still being held.

LZ

**From:** Greene, Elisa

**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2009 12:27 PM

**To:** Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D

**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Potter, Russell H

**Subject:** Free Gaza update # 2: [REDACTED]

On the matter of [REDACTED] we are currently trying to locate her whereabouts. As reported below, subject was last seen by the Israeli Navy when they dropped her off at 12noon on July 1 at the Ashdod Central Bus Station. July 1 morning media reports stated that [REDACTED] family in the Galilee had not heard from her. It appears [REDACTED]'s husband, [REDACTED] has not been in touch with [REDACTED] either. We are working with the media to locate the family in the Galilee to see if they have additional information on [REDACTED]'s current whereabouts and will ask [REDACTED] if he has spoken to his wife when we visit him this afternoon. Will advise. Thanks, elisa

**Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel**  
 Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel

Address from the U.S.: Box-13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.  
 Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

**From:** Greene, Elisa

**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2009 11:57 AM

**To:** Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman,

Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D  
Cc: Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Potter, Russell H  
Subject: Free Gaza update: [redacted]

This email is an update of the actions we have taken since Jay Sorensen, ACS Vice Consul, visited the Amcits yesterday afternoon, July 1. Attached are the PAWs signed by the 3 Amcits, which were taken by Cons Vice Consul Daniel Mattern, at 2am on July 1.

Yesterday afternoon, between 5pm and 7pm (following Jay's visit), the Amcits were moved from the Ben Gurion Airport Immigration Detention Facility to the Givon Immigration Detention Facility in Ramle (south of the airport). The Israel Prison Authority confirmed for us last night at 9pm that all three Amcits were being held at Givon.

The Ops Center, IPA, and CA/OCS/ACS called me a number of times between 7pm and midnight to request additional information and updates, which I provided. They also spoke to the duty officer, Abram Paley, twice, around 12:30am, for further updates.

At 11pm, I spoke twice to a man named [redacted] (sp?), who said he was [redacted]'s [redacted]. He was requesting flight and deportation information. I told him we did not have exact information at the time but that I would call [redacted] subject's mother (as per the PAW), when I had additional information.

This morning we spoke with Shirlee Rayssin-Sasson (tel 972-50-620-4164), the Immigration Liaison for Foreign Missions with the Ministry of the Interior, to determine status of the 3 Amcits remaining in immigration detention awaiting deportation to the U.S. Ms. Rayssin-Sasson stated that the 3 Amcits have thus far refused to sign the deportation agreement and therefore the GOI is unable to deport/remove them from Israel at this time. She will check again later today to see if they have changed their minds and we will advise further.

According to Israeli regulations, once foreigners are asked to sign a deportation agreement and refuse to sign, the GOI must hold them for 3 days in a detention facility. At the end of the 3 days, the foreigners will either be forcefully removed from Israel via deportation or can purchase their own tickets and voluntarily depart. If, during the ensuing three days, the foreigners decide to sign the deportation agreement, they can then be deported immediately.

This morning we also called the Amcits' attorney in Israel, Ms. Gaby Lasky (sp?) (tel 972-54-441-8988). Ms. Lasky is attempting to come to an agreement with the GOI on 2 matters and said that the 3 Amcits will refuse to sign any deportation agreements until these 2 requests are met: (1) for their luggage/personal belongings to be delivered to either the Givon Detention Facility or the BGA Detention Facility; and (2) for the Amcits to fly directly to Cyprus, paid for by the GOI.

This morning upon request from CA, we called [redacted] the spouse of [redacted] to provide an update on her situation and travel plans. As we weren't able to speak directly to him, we left a message for him to contact us back.

We have secured permission to visit the Amcits later today in Givon and will do so today, at approximately 2pm. We will provide an update after the visit.

Thanks, elisa

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel



Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel  
 Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.  
 Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 5:50 PM  
**To:** Sorensen, Jay M; Greene, Elisa; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Marchese, Gregory M; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sakran, Johnny  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza update: visit with [REDACTED]

B6

In response to inquiries from the Department, I just spoke with Mrs. Sasson, the immigration officer responsible for deportations. She said that the Americans – and some of the others who had been on the FGM vessel – had not signed forms accepting that they would be deported. Under Israeli law, a person cannot be deported for three days unless they voluntarily agree. Whether the Americans did not understand this requirement or were advised by their attorney not to sign we do not know. The attorney is not answering her cell phone. The immigration officer says “we would be more than happy to send them back” and she promised that they will have the opportunity to sign in the morning. However, deportation includes a ten year ban on entering Israel in the absence of a special waiver, which might explain their possible reluctance to sign. The three Amcits visited by conoff Jay Sorensen this afternoon said they were ready to return, so it seems like it should be possible to resolve this discrepancy tomorrow. Our officers will contact the lawyer in the morning and will visit the Amcits at Givon detention center near Ramle to consult. Mrs. Sasson asked that she be informed of the visit so she can smooth the way. We will apprise the Department of any developments.

Regards,  
 Andy Parker

**From:** Sorensen, Jay M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 5:28 PM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Marchese, Gregory M; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sakran, Johnny  
**Subject:** Free Gaza update: visit with [REDACTED]

I met with [REDACTED] this afternoon at the detention center at Ben Gurion. [REDACTED] was not available, as the detainees were in the process of being moved to another detention center at Givon. Both [REDACTED] are in good health and spirits, although they are more than ready to go home.

[REDACTED] said that they are not well informed about what will happen next. [REDACTED] did not know until I mentioned it that the group is being moved to Givon; [REDACTED] said she had heard that “from someone.” They did not know exactly when they will be allowed to leave Israel or what their return route will be.

They report that they met with attorneys from Gaby Lipsky’s law firm for 10-15 minutes this afternoon, around 14:00. They would like to be deported to Cyprus, although [REDACTED] would also be satisfied returning to JFK or D.C.

[REDACTED] asked us to call her parents and ask them to contact her bank. She is worried that her social security number and bank information may be compromised because a green folder is missing from her



belongings. [redacted] asked us to call her children and let them know that she is all right. We called [redacted] [redacted]'s parents and [redacted]'s children immediately upon return to the office.

I did not see [redacted] but [redacted] and the detention center staff said they would be sure to let him know that his wife has been released.

Regards,  
Jay

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 4:32 PM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Marchese, Gregory M; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sorensen, Jay M; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sakran, Johnny  
**Subject:** RE: W/W - IDF Free Gaza Interdiction - [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted] is a dual Israeli-Amcit. Israel Navy advised Post that she was held at Ashdod port until noon today when she was released and dropped off at the Ashdod central bus station. They have no additional info on where she is now. Jay Sorensen, the ACS Vice Consul, is currently with subject's husband, [redacted], and the 2 other detained Amcits [redacted] and is relaying this information to her husband. Release cable for [redacted] [redacted] to be sent shortly.

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel

Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A.  
Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 4:21 PM  
**To:** Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Zuckerman, Eve  
**Subject:** RE: W/W - IDF Free Gaza Interdiction - [redacted]  
[redacted]

Is she an Israeli National?

**From:** Featherstone, Robert J  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 2:50 AM  
**To:** Moreno, Luis G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Zuckerman, Eve  
**Subject:** W/W - IDF Free Gaza Interdiction - [redacted]  
[redacted]

We will continue to check with Jerusalem police and prison officials in the event that [redacted] is transferred here.

At Tel Aviv' request, we are furnishing Israeli ID number separately to assist in tracking through the IDF system.

**From:** Moreno, Luis G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 9:17 AM  
**To:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Marchese, Gregory M; Featherstone, Robert J; Zuckerman, Eve  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits - quick read out

So where is she?

Luis G. Moreno  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-519-7580  
Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
eMail: MorenoLG@state.gov

*In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED*

**From:** Weinfeld, Nili I  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 9:12 AM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Moreno, Luis G; Marchese, Gregory M; Featherstone, Robert J; Zuckerman, Eve  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits - quick read out

So far it seems that [redacted] is not in Congen's district:

We contacted both the IPS (Israel Prison Service or "SHABAS" in Hebrew) and INP (Israel National Police): IPS did not have [redacted] in their records, checking both according to Amcit's names *plus her Israeli ID number* (we have it on file). INP contact Hanita Grant said that since the Free Gaza Boat was intercepted by the Israeli navy, the IDF would have to be contacted re- Amcit's detention location.

Best,  
Nili

*Nili Weinfeld*, Special Consular Services, Tel. 972-2-622-7227, Mobile 972-54-666-0658, email [weinfeldni@state.gov](mailto:weinfeldni@state.gov) |

<http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov/service.html>

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions outlined in E.O. 12958.

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 8:15 AM  
**To:** Rogan, Thomas G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Moreno, Luis G; Marchese, Gregory M; Weinfeld, Nili I; Featherstone, Robert J  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits - quick read out

FYI - Congen is working to arrange a visit to [redacted] in Jerusalem.

LZ

B6

**From:** Moreno, Luis G

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 6:10 AM

**To:** Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Schlereth, Frank G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R;

Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E;

[redacted] Paley, Abram W; Goldberger, Thomas H

**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L

**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits - quick read out

B3 DOD-PII  
B3 DOD-PII

Outstanding work, Daniel. Thanks to you and the entire team.

**From:** Mattern, Daniel S

**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Schlereth, Frank G; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R;

Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E;

[redacted] Abram W; Goldberger, Thomas H

**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L

**Sent:** Wed Jul 01 03:30:37 2009

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits - quick read out

B3 DOD-PII

Despite numerous attempts - from many angles and through many contacts - to gain access to the port facilities at Ashdod, I was denied access and at 10:30 p.m. drove to Ben Gurion Airport where I was promised access to the American citizens after approximately 1 a.m.

At 1:45 a.m. on 1 July 2009 I finally gained access to the Ben Gurion Airport detention facility, fun by the immigration and deportation office of the Interior Ministry. Before arriving at the detention center, the "Free Gaza" passengers and crew underwent a "short process" at the immigration and deportation main office in Holon, south of Tel Aviv. They spent approximately 2 hours here after the drive up from Ashdod before being driven to the airport in small vans.

I spoke with three AmCits: [redacted] A fourth AmCit, and a dual Israeli national, [redacted] is being treated as an Israeli, her [redacted] told me. She has been separated and taken to a different facility in Jerusalem. I was unable to ascertain where she is being held.

B6

All had had something to eat and drink and said they were being treated okay.

I spoke to [redacted] for about 15 minutes. She was alert, in good health and spirits, and remained friendly throughout the interview. She did not discuss politics. She told me that a green folder of personal papers had been removed from her luggage and she asked for our help in their return. She also asked to be allowed to be returned to Cyprus in order for her to fly back to the U.S. As a second preference, she asked to be able to fly through JFK Airport. [redacted] signed the privacy act waiver without hesitation. I gave her a notebook and some pens.

B6

I spoke next to [redacted] for about 10 minutes. He was in good health, tired, but in good spirits. He mentioned the detention of two citizens of Bahrain and one from Yemen and expressed concern for their welfare since both countries do not have representation in Israel. The Yemeni man is an Al Jazeera cameraman, he said. [redacted] said he would prefer to return to Cyprus for his onward journey. Most important: He said that his digital video and photography equipment as well as a Mac laptop had been confiscated by the Israeli navy. He very much would like these items returned. He said he would even accept a written guarantee of their eventual return. Regarding his wife, he gave me the contact information of their lawyer Gaby Lasky (+972-544-418-988) and expressed concern that her Israeli citizenship would be stripped, preventing her from

B6

returning to see family in Israel. [redacted] signed the privacy act waiver without hesitation.

B6

I next spoke to [redacted] for less than 10 minutes. She is the oldest of the AmCits and was visibly tired but in good spirits. Her only concern was how she was going to arrange for her trip home (cost, etc.). She said she was looking forward to returning to the U.S. [redacted] signed the privacy act waiver without hesitation.

B6

Daniel S. Mattern

Consul  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
71 Hayarkon Street  
Tel Aviv 63903  
ISRAEL

[redacted]

B6

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 1:39 AM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; [redacted]; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, B3 DOD-FGI  
Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]; Paley, Abram W;  
Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Mattern, Daniel S; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

The 21 FGM sailors/crew have not yet arrived at the airport detention facility. Immigration liaison says they should arrive soon, but they have been held up at an immigration processing facility in Holon, just south of Tel Aviv and not far from the airport. They will be held overnight at the airport detention facility, questioned further in the morning, then returned without choice to their country of nationality, according to the GOI immigration officer. Our duty officer is at the airport facility and still expects to have contact with the four Americans tonight. He will advise the Ops Center by phone when he has contact.

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 10:46 PM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; [redacted]; Moreno, Luis G; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; B3 DOD-FGI  
Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]; Paley, Abram W  
**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Mattern, Daniel S; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

Daniel Mattern, dutyoff, and Embassy driver, Eran Barr, are currently en route from the Ashdod Port to Ben Gurion Airport, where they will wait at the detention facility for the arrival of the 4 Amcits. I just spoke with the facility's commander, Martin, who said he would ensure that Daniel and Eran be allowed access to the facility and to our Amcits. (Facility tel # 03-979-5305.) Those Amcits are:

[redacted]

B6

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 10:11 PM  
**To:** [redacted]; Moreno, Luis G; Greene, Elisa; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, B3 DOD-FGI  
Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]  
**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Mattern, Daniel S; Hunter, Jo-Ann L



**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

I just finished talking with Mrs. Sasson (050-620-4164) the immigration service consular liaison officer for deportations and repatriations. She agreed that port access is not possible. She says the Americans will be transferred later this evening to the immigration detention facility at the airport and that we can have access to them at that time. She will be there herself. Probably around 1:00 a.m. I will ask our duty officer to go to that location.

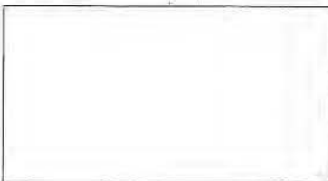
Andy

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 9:59 PM  
**To:** Moreno, Luis G; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]  
**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Mattern, Daniel S; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

B3 DOD-PII

I have been informed by the Israel Navy that the individuals are now in Ashdod and have been turned over to immigration officials. It is out of the hands of the Israel Navy. They did say unofficially that it would probably be about two hours before they are moved. Israel Navy spoke to MFA official Gilad Cohen who did not authorize them to allow our officer access to Ashdod port.

R/



**From:** Moreno, Luis G  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]  
**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Mattern, Daniel S; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Sent:** Tue Jun 30 21:08:34 2009  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

Please insist and keep insisting for consular access, the sooner the better. Thanks.

**From:** Greene, Elisa

**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]

**Cc:** McCusker, Breeann M; Mattern, Daniel S; Moreno, Luis G; Hunter, Jo-Ann L

**Sent:** Tue Jun 30 21:00:35 2009

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

B3 DOD-PII

Boat is still in Israeli waters and has not yet arrived in the Port of Ashdod. We are in communication with the GOI re updates and consular access to the 4 Amcits. Some time during the night after their arrival in Ashdod, the GOI plans on transferring the Amcits to the Ben Gurion Airport Immigration Detention Facility (run by Ministry of the Interior), where they will be detained until their deportation from Israel. elisa

**From:** Parker, Andrew C

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 6:55 PM

**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Carlino, John R; Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

Just as an interim note, we are awaiting further information from the GOI on when the vessel will arrive in Ashdod (expected in the next two hours) and when and where our Tel Aviv duty officer can have consular access.

Andy

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 6:46 PM

**To:** Carlino, John R; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

Thanks, Randy. M

**From:** Carlino, John R

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 11:42 AM

**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Parker, Andrew C; Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E

**Subject:** Free Gaza - Two Non-Sailing Amcits

Michelle,

Two Amcits who were reported as intending to sail with Free Gaza on its initial Thursday, June 25 departure date but apparently did not sail today are [redacted] Those may be the two additional Amcits you heard about. All reporting today indicates that they are not on the boat. At one point [redacted] was described as the captain of the boat, but apparently [redacted] is the captain.

B6

Terry,

The only [redacted] I find listed among the passengers is [redacted] who is described by Free Gaza as [redacted]

-- Randy

RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B3 DOD PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, July 06, 2009 8:00 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza update #7: [redacted]

B6

**From:** Sorensen, Jay M  
**Sent:** Monday, July 06, 2009 7:51 AM  
**To:** Bond, Michele T; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; 'jaycutza@yahoo.com'; Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; [redacted] Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R; Dunne, John H; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza update #7: [redacted]

B3 DOD-FGI

B6

According to the Ben Gurion detention center staff, GOI is paying.

**From:** Bond, Michele T  
**Sent:** Monday, July 06, 2009 5:38 AM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; 'jaycutza@yahoo.com'; Greene, Elisa; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Hickey, Mary E; Hankins, Sarah E; SES-O\_OPS-WatchTeam; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Paley, Abram W; Sakran, Johnny; Stott, Erinn C; Marwaha, Brianne C; McCusker, Breeann M; Holmstrom, Todd C; Harutunian, Ruben; Tuttle, Stewart D; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R; Schlereth, Frank G; Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Marchese, Gregory M; Dilworth, Alison E; Carlino, John R; Dunne, John H; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza update #7: [redacted]

B6

Who is paying for the flights, the travelers or the GOI?

-----  
This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

---

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2009 10:41 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetrios A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Schlereth, Frank G; Cohen, Jonathan R; Hadley, Warren X  
**Subject:** One Free Gaza Boat Departs Cyprus

The smaller of the two Free Gaza boats, apparently the 66-foot Greek-flagged Arian, departed Larnaca port at 7:30 a.m. local time this morning with 14 passengers. The boat's declared destination is Port Said, Egypt. Port authorities were not able to provide a passenger manifest, so I cannot confirm whether any Amcits are aboard. I'll see what else I can learn.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 8:42 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platakis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetrios A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Schlereth, Frank G; Cohen, Jonathan R; Hadley, Warren X  
**Subject:** 6 am 6/30 Haaretz: Activists say Israel Navy intercepted Gaza aid boat

Last update - 06:09 30/06/2009

Activists say Israel Navy intercepted Gaza aid boat

By Reuters

Tags: Israel News, Israel Navy, IDF &gt;&gt;

Follow Haaretz.com on Twitter

The Israel navy intercepted activists sailing to Gaza with aid on Tuesday, surrounding their boat and telling them to turn back, activists said.

The vessel with 21 people on board was in international waters when it was told to turn back, members of the U.S.-based Free Gaza Movement on the boat and in Cyprus told Reuters.

The Israel Defense Forces declined to comment.

"There is a patrol boat around us and we were told that if we did not turn back they would open fire," said Derek Graham, an Irish activist.

"We are continuing our course to Gaza," he said.

He was speaking via satellite telephone from a small ferry boat which had departed from Cyprus on Monday. Among the activists were an Irish Nobel peace laureate and a former U.S. Congresswoman.

In Cyprus, the group also said it had communication from the boat that unless it turned back it would be fired upon.

Israel tightened a blockade on Gaza in 2007 after the Islamist group Hamas took control of the enclave, home to some 1.5 million people.

The Israel navy patrols Gaza coastal waters. It had intercepted activists of the same group sailing into Gaza on two previous occasions.

shalom,

wendy vincent | deputy consul general/niv chief/fpm | us embassy tel aviv | vincentwm@state.gov

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
 Reviewer

1

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05595658 Date: 10/10/2014

StateDept005958

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2009 3:20 PM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetries A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Schlereth, Frank G; Cohen, Jonathan R; Hadley, Warren X  
**Subject:** Four Amcits Listed as on the Free Gaza Boat

The website lists the following Amcits among the passengers:

Huwaida Arraf  
Cynthia McKinney  
Adam Shapiro  
Kathy Sheetz

## Free Gaza Boat "Spirit of Humanity" Departs Cyprus

⌂ ? ✕

### HOPE FLEET

Monday, 29 June 2009 10:07 Last Updated on Monday, 29 June 2009 10:16 Written by Free Gaza Team

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact:

Greta Berlin (English/French) or Caoimhe Butterly (Arabic/English/Spanish)

tel: +357 99 081 767 / email: [friends@freegaza.org](mailto:friends@freegaza.org) This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

(LARNACA, 29 June 2009) - The Free Gaza boat the "Spirit of Humanity" departed Cyprus at 7:30am on Monday, 29 July. Twenty-one human rights and solidarity workers representing eleven different countries were aboard. The passengers include Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. The ship also carries three tons of medical aid, children's toys, and rehabilitation and reconstruction kits for twenty family homes.

Over 2,400 homes were destroyed in Gaza during the Israeli massacre in December/January, 490 of them by F-16 airstrikes, as well as 30 mosques, 29 educational institutions, 29 medical centers, 10 charitable organizations, and 5 cement factories.

Each kit carries a small amount of supplies for a single family, representing sectors of civil society currently being blockaded by Israel: Agriculture, Building & Reconstruction, Education, Electricity, Health, and Water & Sanitation. Although over 4 billion dollars in aid was promised to Gaza in the aftermath of the Israeli onslaught, little humanitarian aid and no reconstruction supplies have been allowed in.

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2009 8:58 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetries A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Schlereth, Frank G; Cohen, Jonathan R; Hadley, Warren X  
**Subject:** Free Gaza May Sail on June 29

Officials at the port in Larnaca told us this morning that they are reviewing the registries of the two Free Gaza boats and evaluating the results of their safety and sea-worthiness inspections. Apparently, one of the boats is Cypriot flagged and the other Greek flagged. At this point, the port authorities predict there is extremely little likelihood that either boat will be cleared to sail until Monday at the earliest.

Randy

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2009 8:08 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetries A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Schlereth, Frank G; Cohen, Jonathan R; Hadley, Warren X  
**Subject:** From the Free Gaza Website

HOPE FLEET

Thursday, 25 June 2009 20:59 Last Updated on Friday, 26 June 2009 00:02 Written by Free Gaza Team

(25 June 2009, LARNACA) - This is not the statement we in the Free Gaza Movement intended to release today. We had hoped to announce that our two ships, the Free Gaza and the Spirit of Humanity, departed from Larnaca Port on a 30-hour voyage to besieged Gaza, carrying human rights activists who have travelled to Cyprus from all across the world for this journey, 3 tons of medical supplies, and 15 tons of badly needed concrete and reconstruction supplies.

Nobel peace laureate Mairead Maguire, returning for her second trip to Gaza aboard one of our ships, said "[The people of Gaza] must know that we have not and will not forget them."

That was our hope, but that is not what happened.

Instead, our ships were not given permission to leave today due to concerns about our welfare and safety. Our friends in Cyprus tell us that the voyage to Gaza is too dangerous, and they are worried we will be harmed at sea.

Cyprus has been a wonderful home for the Free Gaza Movement over these last 10 months. Cypriots know first hand the terrible consequences of occupation. They too know what it is to suffer from violence, injustice, and exile. Since our first voyage to break through the siege of Gaza, the Cypriot authorities have been extremely helpful and understanding of our goals and intentions.

The journey to Gaza is dangerous. The Israeli navy rammed our flagship, the Dignity, when we attempted to deliver medical supplies to Gaza during their vicious assault in December/January. Israel has previously threatened to open fire on our unarmed ships, rather than allow us to deliver humanitarian and reconstruction supplies to the people of Gaza.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05595714 Date: 10/10/2014

StateDept005960

The risks we take on these trips are tiny compared to the risks imposed every day upon the people of Gaza.

The purpose of nonviolent direct action and civil resistance is to take risks - to put ourselves "in the way" of injustice. We take these risks well aware of what the possible consequences may be. We do so because the consequences of doing nothing are so much worse. Anytime we allow ourselves to be bullied, every time we pass by an evil and ignore it - we lower our standards and allow our world to be made that much harsher and unjust for us all.

In addition to the concerns expressed by our Cypriot friends today, the American consulate in Nicosia warned us not to go to Gaza, stating that:

"...[T]he Israeli Foreign Ministry informed U.S. officials at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv that Israel still considers Gaza an area of conflict and that any Free Gaza boats attempting to sail to the Gaza Strip will "not be permitted" to reach its destination."

Former U.S. Congresswoman & presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney responded to this warning by pointing out that, "The White House says that cement and medical supplies should get into Gaza and that's exactly what we are attempting to take to Gaza."

"Instead of quoting Israel policy to us," McKinney continued, "...the U.S. should send a message to Israel reiterating the reported White House position that the blockade of Gaza should be eased, that medical supplies and building materials, including cement, should be allowed in. The Free Gaza boats should be allowed to reach their destination, traveling from Cyprus territorial waters, through international waters, and straight into Gaza territorial waters."

"The State Department has chosen to advise us to take the Israeli notification seriously. Our question is, 'Can we take President Obama seriously?' Will he stand by his own words and allow us to provide relief for Gaza or will he back down?"

Tomorrow we will deliver a waiver, signed by all going to Gaza, that we absolve Cyprus of all responsibility for our safety. We would like to tell our friends here in Cyprus that though we understand and appreciate their concerns, we will not back down to Israel's threats and intimidation.

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

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**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, January 16, 2009 7:18 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa; Crawford, Jonathan J  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Grimes, Demetries A; Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat Returning to Cyprus

The Free Gaza Movement boat Spirit of Humanity arrived at the port of Larnaca, Cyprus at approximately 7:45 p.m., January 15.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

---

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 15, 2009 3:55 PM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa; Crawford, Jonathan J  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Grimes, Demetries A; Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boat Returning to Cyprus

The Cyprus media has reported that the Free Gaza boat Spirit of Humanity was intercepted at sea by the Israeli navy and is returning to Cyprus. Officials at the Larnaca port expect the boat to arrive there around 7:00 p.m. this evening.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

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**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 11:00 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Grimes, Demetries A; Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boat Departed Larnaca at 9:45 a.m.

Larnaca port officials confirmed that the Free Gaza boat Spirit of Humanity departed the port at approximately 9:45 a.m. this morning.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:51 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Grimes, Demetrios A; Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** AFP Article on Free Gaza

We'll provide a confirmation when the boat actually departs.

## Gaza aid boat prepares to sail again after repairs

12 hours ago

LARNACA, Cyprus (AFP) — A boat taking much-needed medical aid for casualties of Israel's offensive against Hamas in Gaza will set sail again from Cyprus on Wednesday after suffering mechanical trouble during an earlier attempt this week, organisers said.

Last year a bid by the Free Gaza Movement seeking to break Israel's blockade on Gaza ended on December 30 when an Israeli navy vessel was in collision with the vessel, in what passengers said was a deliberate ramming.

Referring to the first sailing this week, Huwaida Arraf, a coordinator for the US-based Free Gaza Movement, told AFP: "There was a problem with the main generator and this has been replaced, so we are ready to go and a new departure date is set for 9 am (0700 GMT) tomorrow (Wednesday) morning."

The Greek-registered 22-metre (70-foot) island-hopping vessel left the Cypriot port of Larnaca on Monday with four MPs from Belgium, Greece and Spain, seven doctors and several journalists on board.

Some three hours into the journey the boat suffered mechanical trouble and returned to port. Due to the delay, the two Greek MPs and some doctors will not be travelling with the reduced party.

A group of pro-Palestinian activists, European MPs and doctors, will still be among the 25 passengers to sail for Gaza aboard the "Spirit of Humanity" from the east Mediterranean island.

Israel's transport ministry had issued a statement calling the attempt to reach Gaza "provocative and risky."

The vessel will be packed with tonnes of basic medical supplies such as bandages, IV bags, antibiotics and other medicines for Gaza hospitals.

"We have to try to break the siege of Gaza and, at the same time, condemn what's going on," Spanish MP Joan Josep Nuet told AFP. "These medicines are very important for Gaza but there's a possibility Israel will try to stop us."

He described as "beyond horrific" what has been happening to Gaza's civilians, particularly its children, since Israel unleashed its war on the Islamist movement Hamas on December 27.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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The overall death toll from the conflict on the Palestinian side has risen to at least 940, including 280 Palestinian children. A further 4,350 people have been wounded, according to the Palestinian emergency services.

On the Israeli side, 10 soldiers and three civilians have been killed in combat or by rocket attacks since the Jewish state began its offensive.

Arraf said it would take about 24 hours to reach port in Gaza, where the boat would offload its cargo and passengers. "We are leaving in the morning so we don't arrive in Gaza during the night."

Last month's attempt was the first unsuccessful mission to Gaza since such trips began from Cyprus in August 2008. The organisation said it has received death threats warning it against entering Gaza.

Israel has maintained a blockade of the impoverished territory, home to 1.5 million Palestinians, for more than 18 months.

Since its offensive began, Israel has sealed off the Gaza Strip from all but limited humanitarian aid.

Cyprus supports this latest trip and has urged Israel to allow the vessel safe passage.

Free Gaza seeks to highlight the debilitating effect of Israel's stranglehold on the Hamas-ruled territory.

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

---

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 4:29 PM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Grimes, Demetrios A; Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
**Subject:** Free Gaza - Possible Sailing Late Morning January 14

Authorities at the Larnaca port anticipate that the Free Gaza Movement boat Spirit of Humanity will be ready to depart Cyprus by mid or late morning tomorrow, January 14.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

102

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

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**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 8:08 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Grimes, Demetrios A; Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boat Returns to Cyprus

Officials at the Larnaca port confirmed to us Cypriot media reports that the Free Gaza boat Spirit of Humanity experienced mechanical problems and returned to the Larnaca port. The boat arrived between 10:30 and 11:00 p.m. last night and currently is undergoing repair. Port authorities expect it to launch again for Gaza when the repairs are completed.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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RELEASED IN FULL

Carlino, John R

**From:** Scarletelli, Adam W  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2008 4:26 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** FW: Gaza and ACS issues in TLV consular district

John - more fyi. Adam

**From:** Grant, William K  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2008 3:09 PM  
**To:** Herbol, Denise; Zahner, Luke V; Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E  
**Cc:** Herbol, Denise; Sison, Michele J; Lawson, Christine M; Smith, Kirk G  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza and ACS issues in TLV consular district

In our contact with members of the group yesterday, including the one Amcit, Cynthia McKinney, they did not provide information about their plans. We heard secondhand from Lebanese authorities that the group planned to stay in Lebanon 1-2 nights and hoped to transmit their supplies to Gaza "overland" (NFI). We also heard that the Dignity, which is moored in Tyre, needs at least a week's worth of repairs.

Bill Grant  
DCM Beirut

*Christine M. Lawson  
Lebanon Desk Officer  
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Phone: 202-647-1030*

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2008 8:29 AM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Grant, William K; Herbol, Denise; Zahner, Luke V; Davis, Jeannette E; Richter, Kim B; Knobel, Brooke E  
**Cc:** Herbol, Denise; Sison, Michele J; Lawson, Christine M; Smith, Kirk G; Parker, Andrew C  
**Subject:** RE: Gaza and ACS issues in TLV consular district

Went looking for the Good fence last weekend with my visiting relatives—no longer there!  
Military area now.

Shalom,  
Wendy Vincent  
Deputy Consul General/NIV Chief  
US Embassy Tel Aviv  
[vincentwm@state.gov](mailto:vincentwm@state.gov)

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*Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2008 3:22 PM

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Koss, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 12:08 PM  
**To:** Smith, Kirk G; Sievers, Marc J; Vincent, Wendy M; Davis, Jeannette E; Knobel, Brooke E; Zahner, Luke V; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Sison, Michele J; Herbol, Denise; Reynolds, Chancey L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

972 2 500 9500 CNN Jerusalem bureau

Andrew C. Koss  
Counselor for Public Affairs  
United States Embassy Tel Aviv  
(972) 03 510-3821  
(972) 057 420-6814 (cell)

*In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED*

**From:** Smith, Kirk G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 12:03 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Vincent, Wendy M; Davis, Jeannette E; Knobel, Brooke E; Zahner, Luke V; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Sison, Michele J; Herbol, Denise; Koss, Andrew C; Reynolds, Chancey L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

I think that would be useful. There's got to be a sat phone or something onboard. Of course, they should also have marine radios. Our DAO is looking into that here.

Kirk

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Kirk G. Smith  
Consul  
U.S. Embassy Beirut

In accordance with E.O. 12958 this message is unclassified.

**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:56 AM  
**To:** Vincent, Wendy M; Smith, Kirk G; Davis, Jeannette E; Knobel, Brooke E; Zahner, Luke V; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Sison, Michele J; Herbol, Denise; Koss, Andrew C  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

Our PAO, Andy Koss, can provide the contact info of the CNN office in Tel Aviv if needed.

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:51 AM  
**To:** Smith, Kirk G; Davis, Jeannette E; Knobel, Brooke E; Zahner, Luke V; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Sison, Michele J; Herbol, Denise  
**Cc:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

Good question. In their press release – they listed these contacts:

For More Information, Please Contact:

(Gaza) Donna Wallach, +972 59 883 6420 / [cats4jazz@gmail.com](mailto:cats4jazz@gmail.com)

(Gaza) Andrew Muncie, +972 59 883 6309 / [muncie88@hotmail.com](mailto:muncie88@hotmail.com)

For photos of the damage, see:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/sets/72157607231701711/>

Shalom,  
Wendy Vincent  
Deputy Consul General/NIV Chief  
US Embassy Tel Aviv  
[vincentwm@state.gov](mailto:vincentwm@state.gov)

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*Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

**From:** Smith, Kirk G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:48 AM  
**To:** Vincent, Wendy M; Davis, Jeannette E; Knobel, Brooke E; Zahner, Luke V; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Sison, Michele J; Herbol, Denise  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

Wendy,

Does anyone have a way of contacting the boat directly? If the CNN correspondent phoned his counterpart in Israel, it stands to reason that we should be able to communicate with the boat.

Kirk

Kirk G. Smith  
Consul  
U.S. Embassy Beirut

In accordance with E.O. 12958 this message is unclassified.

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:07 AM  
**To:** Davis, Jeannette E; Knobel, Brooke E; Zahner, Luke V; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Greene, Elisa; Smith, Kirk G; Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:03 AM  
**To:** Vincent, Wendy M; Burnett, David R  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

I received the following from Navy Attache Demetries Grimes, who spoke to the Israeli Navy duty officer. I have already phoned this in to State Ops, please forward to whoever may need to see it.

At about 0500 this morning, the Israeli Navy intercepted the boat in Israeli waters near Gaza. The boat refused to response to navy requests that it identify itself. The boat then rammed the Israeli navy vessel, apparently as it sought to evade them, and was damaged. The boat refused to respond to Israeli navy offers to provide assistance, but the CNN

reporter on board phoned the CNN correspondent in Israel, who then phoned the MFA and communicated their situation. The Israeli navy is escorting the boat to the northern limits of Israel's territorial waters. It appears that it will then sail to Lebanon.

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 9:59 AM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Burnett, David R  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

FYI (Kirk Smith is in Beirut)  
Shalom,  
Wendy Vincent  
Deputy Consul General/NIV Chief  
US Embassy Tel Aviv  
[vincentwm@state.gov](mailto:vincentwm@state.gov)

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*Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 9:52 AM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Smith, Kirk G  
**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Vincent, Wendy M; Parker, Andrew C; Davis, Jeannette E; Crawford, Jonathan J; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Ordeman, Leslie T; Kim, Dae B; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Miller, Scott; Ellickson-Brown, James  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

Luke and Kirk,

We are receiving conflicting information here in Cyprus about the status of the Free Gaza boat Dignity. Our first information reflected what Luke reports below – the boat is steaming toward Lebanon with no serious damage. More recently, the port authorities in Larnaca informed us that they received a radio call from the boat stating that the engines are not functioning and the boat is taking on some water. It is unable to make headway under its own power. The boat requested that Cyprus authorities inform their counterparts in Beirut of this and relay the Dignity's request for assistance. Larnaca asked that we inform U.S. Embassy Beirut of this development.

Randy

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 8:55 AM  
**To:** Davis, Jeannette E; Crawford, Jonathan J; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Carlino, John R; Vincent, Wendy M; Parker, Andrew C  
**Subject:** Dignity apparently being redirected to Lebanon

Just an update – apparently, the Dignity, after being rammed and stopped by the Israeli Navy, was granted permission to proceed to Lebanon before it ran out of fuel. So it seems now that they are proceeding to a port there instead. No injuries were reported in the ramming incident.

We are reaching out to the AMCITs with the International Solidarity Movement who are still in Gaza – I believe there are three that are registered/known to us. Generally, they have turned down U.S. assistance and indicate a desire to stay put, but we are still reaching out to make sure.

LZ

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 7:10 AM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Marchese, Gregory M; Davis, Jeannette E; Rogan, Thomas G; Crawford, Jonathan J; Lapenn, Jessica; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Carlino, John R; Vincent, Wendy M  
**Subject:** New Free Gaza boat rammed by Israeli naval vessel -

According to a CNN cameraman on board the Dignity, an Israeli naval boat rammed the Dignity and accused them of supporting terrorist activities. The boat is still in the eastern Med, not looking like it will get through.

Cynthia McKinney, according to the passenger list released late last night, is the only AMCIT on board.

We are monitoring things closely.

Sent from Blackberry

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**To:** Marchese, Gregory M; Davis, Jeannette E; Rogan, Thomas G; Crawford, Jonathan J; Lapenn, Jessica; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Mon Dec 29 09:53:09 2008  
**Subject:** New Free Gaza boat to depart Larnaca today with AMCITs (incl. former Rep. McKinney)  
The Free Gaza movement is launching another ship today from Larnaca, in protest of the Israeli action in Gaza. I am still working to get a manifest, but former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney is on board, according to their press release below. Also, there appear to be other AMCITs on the boat this time around.

I'm cc'ing Nicosia as a heads up as well.

Nili, can we try to track down the manifest?

Thanks,

LZ

---

PRESS RELEASE - Dignity Leaves for Gaza: Challenges World to "Stop this Madness!"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday 29th December 2008

Dignity Leaves for Gaza: Challenges World to "Stop this Madness!"

For more information, please contact:



(Gaza) Ewa Jasiewicz, +972 598 700 497 / freelance@mailworks.org  
(Cyprus) Lubna Masarwa +357 99 081 767 / lubnna@gmail.com  
(U.S.) Greta Berlin, +1 310 422 7242 / iristulip@gmail.com

(Larnaca, Cyprus 29 December 2008) - There is a time when silence is complicity and inaction is unacceptable. On Saturday, December 27, Israel began Operation "Cast Lead," a military onslaught against the civilian population of the Gaza Strip that has - so far - massacred more than three-hundred men, women, and children, and seriously injured over a thousand.

In response to Israeli butchery, the Free Gaza ship, the DIGNITY, will depart Larnaca Port at approximately 5pm (UTC), on Monday, December 29, bound for besieged Gaza. The ship is on an emergency mission carrying in physicians, human rights workers and over three tons of desperately needed medical supplies donated by the people of Cyprus. Coordinating with the Gaza Ministry of Health, the doctors will be immediately posted to overburdened hospitals and clinics upon their arrival.

We are not asking Israel for "permission" to go, and we will not stop until the DIGNITY lands in Gaza. We are answering urgent calls from hospitals and health care workers in Gaza by taking in three physicians who will stay and work in Gaza for several weeks. We will hold Israel responsible for the safety of our passengers and our cargo of emergency medicine.

Even before the present Israeli blitzkrieg, Karen Koning Abu Zayd, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), asserted that, "Gaza is on the threshold of becoming the first territory to be intentionally reduced to a state of abject destitution, with the knowledge, acquiescence and - some would say - encouragement of the international community."

Ewa Jasiewicz, a Free Gaza organizer living in Gaza, agreed with Abu Zayd, saying: "Where is the United Nations? Where is the Arab League? Where is the outrage against Israeli cruelty and Egyptian complicity? Every hospital in Gaza is already overwhelmed. Israel is committing war crimes here in Gaza, and words of condemnation are no longer enough. The world must act now to stop this madness."

The Free Gaza Movement continues to do what the governments of the world will not do - take direct action to defend the health, lives, and dignity of 1.5 million Palestinians under siege in the Gaza Strip.

This catastrophe is still unfolding, and humanitarian needs in Gaza are quite literally devastating. The world can no longer stay silent as the Palestinian people are deliberately massacred, starved and humiliated. We have to create a new consciousness that turns the practice of human rights from rhetoric into reality. Palestinians have an inalienable right to live, and the undeniable right to a life with dignity.

The passengers on this Free Gaza emergency delegation include:

- \* International humanitarian and human rights workers from Cyprus, Australia, Ireland, Great Britain, Tunisia, and the United States.
- \* Doctors going to Gaza to volunteer in local hospitals, including Dr. Elena Theoharous, surgeon and Member of Parliament from Cyprus.
- \* Journalists going to Gaza to report on the massacre, including Al-Jazeera reporter Sami al-Haj, a former detainee at Guantanamo Bay.
- \* The Hon. Cynthia McKinney, former U.S. Congresswoman and Green Party presidential candidate.

#####

The Free Gaza Movement, a human rights group, sent two boats to Gaza in August 2008. These were the first international boats to land in the port in 41 years. Since August, four more voyages were successful, taking Parliamentarians, human rights workers, physicians, and other dignitaries to witness the effects of Israel's draconian policies on the civilians of Gaza.

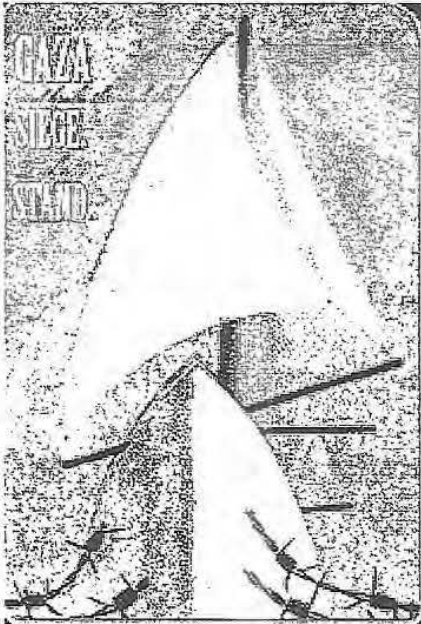
**RELEASED IN FULL****Carlino, John R**

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 11:52 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Vincent, Wendy M; Parker, Andrew C; Davis, Jeannette E; Crawford, Jonathan J; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Ordeman, Leslie T; Kim, Dae B; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Miller, Scott; Ellickson-Brown, James; Smith, Kirk G; Herbol, Denise  
**Subject:** Latest press release - FGM boat Dignity en route to Tyre/Sur, Lebanon

Here's the latest press release, just out, from the Free Gaza Movement, with an update on the status of the Dignity. Apologies for redundancies. Please just delete if you already have this.

Our understanding, from press accounts, is that the boat is heading towards the port of Sur/Tyre in southern Lebanon. They don't have enough fuel to make it back to Larnaca, according to the press reports we've been tracking this morning.

LZ

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information, please contact:

(Gaza) Ewa Jasiewicz, +972 598 700 497 / [freelance@mailworks.org](mailto:freelance@mailworks.org)

(Cyprus) Lubna Masarwa +357 99 081 767 / [lubnna@gmail.com](mailto:lubnna@gmail.com)

(U.S.) Greta Berlin, +1 310 422 7242 / [iristulip@gmail.com](mailto:iristulip@gmail.com)

(Larnaca, Cyprus, 10:00 am) On Tuesday, December 30, at 5 a.m., several Israeli gunboats intercepted the Dignity as she was heading on a mission of mercy to Gaza. One gunboat rammed into the boat on the port bow side, heavily damaging her. The reports from passengers and journalists on board say that she is taking on water and appears to have engine problems. When attacked, the Dignity was clearly in international waters, 90 miles off the coast of Gaza.

**The gunboats also fired their machine guns into the water in an attempt to stop the mercy ship from getting to Gaza.**

As the boat limps toward Lebanon, passengers have been in contact with the Lebanese government, who say the captain has permission to dock and are willing to lend assistance if needed. Cyprus sea rescue has also been in touch, and offered assistance as well. The Dignity clearly flies the flag of Gibraltar, is piloted by an English captain and has a passenger manifest that includes Representative Cynthia McKinney from the U.S. The Israeli Government Press Office director was faxed the passenger list and press release last night, after Dignity set sail. **The attack was filmed by the journalists, and crew and passengers will report on Israel's crime at sea on arrival in Lebanon.**

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

1

On board the boat are doctors traveling to this impoverished slice of the Mediterranean to provide badly-needed relief at the hospitals there. The crew and passengers were also hoping to take wounded out for treatment, since the hospitals are totally unable to cope. In addition, the Dignity was carrying 3 tons of medical supplies at the request of the doctors in Gaza.

The three physicians on board who were sailing to Gaza are: Dr. Halpin (UK), an experienced orthopaedic surgeon, medical professor, and ship's captain. He has organized humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza on several occasions with the Dove and Dolphin. He is traveling to Gaza to volunteer in hospitals and clinics as is Dr. Mohamed Issa (Germany), a pediatric surgeon from Germany. Dr. Elena Theoharous, MP (Cyprus), is a surgeon and Member of the Cypriot Parliament. She is traveling to Gaza to assess the ongoing conflict, assist with humanitarian relief efforts, and volunteer in hospitals.

Yet Israel thumbs its nose in the face of international maritime law by attacking a human rights boat in international waters, thereby putting all of these human rights observers at risk. At no time was the Dignity ever close to Israeli waters. They clearly identified themselves in advance of the attack, which was willful and criminal.

The Dignity is still in international waters, 40 miles off Haifa. Everybody on board is safe at the moment as the boat slowly makes its way to safety in Lebanon. Meantime, worldwide protests against Israel's disproportionate aggression and war-crime attacks on Gazan civilians are gathering momentum, including citywide across the USA, with multiple demonstrations in main cities.

#####

[ Tel: +972 2.522.7230, x. 7215 | cell: +972.(0)54.670.0905 ]

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 10:22 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Vincent, Wendy M; Parker, Andrew C; Davis, Jeannette E; Crawford, Jonathan J; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Ordeman, Leslie T; Kim, Dae B; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Miller, Scott; Ellickson-Brown, James; Smith, Kirk G  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat May Be in Distress

According to Al Jazeera, the Israeli Navy has begun to leave their "escort" of the Dignity as it is now entering Lebanese waters, damaged but apparently under its own steam – so it sounds like it is NNW of Haifa/Acre now.

Rep. Cynthia McKinney was just interviewed live on Al Jazeera, and said that the Israeli gunships stopped the boat in international waters near Gaza, and that one of the engines broke down but has been fixed. The boat is about four hours away from the port of Sur in southern Lebanon, and is operating under its own steam.

The Israeli spokesman told Al Jazeera that the Free Gaza boat was acting provocatively and if they want to help the Palestinians, they should send the shipment of medical supplies to Ashdod to be forwarded on to Gaza.

LZ

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**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Vincent, Wendy M; Parker, Andrew C; Davis, Jeannette E; Crawford, Jonathan J; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Ordeman, Leslie T; Kim, Dae B; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Miller, Scott; Ellickson-Brown, James  
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**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2008 8:55 AM  
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**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Carlino, John R; Vincent, Wendy M; Parker, Andrew C  
**Subject:** Dignity apparently being redirected to Lebanon

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior



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**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Marchese, Gregory M; Davis, Jeannette E; Rogan, Thomas G; Crawford, Jonathan J; Lapenn, Jessica; Hop, Neil W; Grantham, Chris W; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Cc:** Kaplan, Dean; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A; Smith, Angie C; Robinson, Rebecca A; Greene, Elisa; Sorensen, Jay M; Carlino, John R; Vincent, Wendy M  
**Subject:** New Free Gaza boat rammed by Israeli naval vessel -

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PRESS RELEASE - Dignity Leaves for Gaza: Challenges World to "Stop this Madness!"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday 29th December 2008

Dignity Leaves for Gaza: Challenges World to "Stop this Madness!"

For more information, please contact:

(Gaza) Ewa Jasiewicz, +972 598 700 497 / freelance@mailworks.org

(Cyprus) Lubna Masarwa +357 99 081 767 / lubnna@gmail.com

(U.S.) Greta Berlin, +1 310 422 7242 / irstulip@gmail.com

(Larnaca, Cyprus 29 December 2008) - There is a time when silence is complicity and inaction is unacceptable. On Saturday, December 27, Israel began Operation "Cast Lead," a military onslaught against the civilian population of the Gaza Strip that has - so far - massacred more than three-hundred men, women, and children, and seriously injured over a thousand.

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This catastrophe is still unfolding, and humanitarian needs in Gaza are quite literally devastating. The world can no longer stay silent as the Palestinian people are deliberately massacred, starved and humiliated. We have to create a new consciousness that turns the practice of human rights from rhetoric into reality. Palestinians have an inalienable right to live, and the undeniable right to a life with dignity.

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RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B3 DOD PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 1:42 PM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Marwaha, Brianne C; Carlino, John R; Dilworth, Alison E; Parker, Andrew C; Mendel, Teresa S; McNeil, Matthew C; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Featherstone, Robert J; Rogan, Thomas G; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; [redacted] Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; B3 DOD-PII  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Voyage on June 25th: several Amcits on board, incl former Rep Cynthia McKinney

Looping in several more colleagues to this email chain.  
Here's an article (courtesy of John Carlino):

**Activists defy Israel, to send Gaza cement  
June 18, 2009**

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Activists campaigning for an end to Gaza's blockade by Israel will sail to the enclave from Cyprus in defiance of the Israeli navy, they said Thursday.  
Two boats, including one carrying cement and building supplies -- materials not permitted by Israel -- will sail from Cyprus on June 25, the multi-national Free Gaza Movement said.  
"We are taking 15 tons of cement, which is just a token of how much the Palestinians need, because the Israelis won't allow building supplies into Gaza," said Greta Berlin, a representative of the group.  
The group started regular shuttles to Gaza from Cyprus in August 2008, but was turned back by the Israeli navy on its last journey in mid-January of this year.  
Israel tightened a blockade on Gaza in 2007 after the Islamist Hamas took control of the enclave, a sliver of territory that is home to 1.5 million people.  
Israeli forces bombed and then invaded Gaza in late December 2008 in a bid to rout out militants lobbing rockets into Israel, devastating its already battered infrastructure.  
Since then, Israel has blocked imports of steel, cement and other goods to the Gazan population, saying Hamas could use many items for military purposes.  
(Writing by Michele Kambas, editing by Richard Williams) ■

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
Address from Israel: 21 Ha Nativim St Her, Tel Aviv 62980, Israel  
Address from the U.S.: One 11th Avenue Building U.S.A.  
Selfboard Tel: 4072 1512 3570; Fax: 4072 4517 2918; Email: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 8:43 AM  
**To:** Marwaha, Brianne C  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Featherstone, Robert J; Rogan, Thomas G; Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Voyage on June 25th

Brianne,

Tel Aviv has responsibility for liaising with the GOI on this, since they control Gazan waters. There have been incidents in the past - one of the Gaza boats was rammed by the Israeli military when it tried to approach Gaza during the hostilities in December-January (no casualties, just damage to the boat which limped on to Lebanon for repairs), and some Free Gaza members have been detained by the Israeli navy while escorting fishermen off the Gazan coast. They have been brought to green-line Israel and eventually deported by the GOI.

There isn't much that can be done once they are in Gaza to guarantee security, hence the travel warning. Also important, once they enter on the boat, they cannot depart through a land border - they must go out the way they come in. In spite of warnings from us to this effect, almost every boat results in some

Americans (and others) trying to depart via Erez or Rafah. Maybe they can get through Rafah on their own, but Erez via Israel is not possible, and it is important to stress this to them before they let the boat leave without them.

LZ

**From:** Marwaha, Brianne C  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2009 9:48 PM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Featherstone, Robert J; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Weinfeld, Nili I; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movement Voyage on June 25th

FYI

**From:** Susan Kerin [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2009 2:15 PM  
**To:** Hankins, Sarah E; Marwaha, Brianne C  
**Cc:** ; ;  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Movement Voyage on June 25th

B6

Good afternoon Sarah and Brianne,

I hope that you are both doing well. As you can see from the press release below, the Free Gaza movement will be sailing again next week from Cyprus to Gaza. Several Americans will be on board including former Representative Cynthia McKinney.

I have cc'ed [ ] and Huwaida Arraf who are the international organizers for Free Gaza. You should feel free to coordinate/communicate with them directly regarding any additional details of the voyage that the State Department would be interested in knowing more about. Huwaida is also the delegation leader for the voyage. There will be several more voyages throughout the summer.

While I know that officially, the State Department has set policies regarding public responses on Americans entering into Gaza, I remain grateful for anything that might be done behind the scenes, particularly regarding the safety of the passengers. If you have any additional suggestions that I can pursue on this, please just let me (or Huwaida and [ ] know. And, of course, I hope that all is well down on C Street...Susan

Susan Kerin  
Rockville, MD 20855  
(301) 675-9518

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For Immediate Release  
Brick by Brick

Contact: Susan Kerin +301-675-9518  
Greta Berlin, Cyprus: +357 99 08 17 67  
Angela Godfrey Goldstein, Jerusalem: +972 547 366 393

(Larnaca, 18 June 2009) On June 25th, the Free Gaza movement will set sail on its eighth mission to break Israel's horrific siege and collective punishment of 1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza strip.

"The Israelis violated international law by ramming my boat carrying medical supplies to Gaza. Therefore, I never got to Gaza. Especially after Operation Cast Lead, I want to go to Gaza, and if I'm lucky, one day, I'll also get to visit a free



Palestine," said former Representative Cynthia McKinney, one of the passengers coming back.

Along with McKinney, 36 others will board the FREE GAZA , a fishing boat, and the SPIRIT OF HUMANITY, a small ferry loaded with building supplies such as cement, only a token of what is needed in Gaza, but a prelude to larger shipments the Free Gaza movement expects to take throughout the summer.

Mairead Maguire, the Nobel Peace Prize winner from Ireland is also going back, "I am going to Gaza to show my love and support for the people of Gaza who continue to suffer under Israeli siege and occupation, yet whose spirit of nonviolent resistance inspires all who believe in equality, freedom and justice," she stated.

"It is crucial that we continue sending boats to Gaza to challenge Israel's criminal closure on the Strip," said Huwaida Arraf, delegation leader of the June 25th voyage. "Gaza does not need our charity but needs us to stand up against the forces that continue to deliberately deny an entire people their human rights. International donors pledged over \$4 billion to rebuild Gaza, and yet none of them are doing anything about the fact that Israel is not allowing any building supplies into Gaza, not to mention thousands of other items such as anesthetic, oxygen and cancer treatments, chlorine to treat the water supply, even paper, books, toys for children as well as tea and coffee."

This voyage will be the first attempt to challenge Israel's naval blockade on the Gaza Strip since an Israeli gunship brutally rammed the DIGNITY in December, and nearly sank the SPIRIT OF HUMANITY with all on board in January. This 8th trip will also be the first of a series of boats we intend to send to Gaza as part of our Summer of Hope campaign.

#####

The Free Gaza Movement, a human rights group, sent two boats to Gaza in August 2008. These were the first international boats to land in the port in 41 years. Since August, four more voyages were successful, taking Parliamentarians, human rights workers, and other dignitaries to witness the effects of Israel's draconian policies on the civilians of Gaza. On December 30, their boat, the DIGNITY was rammed three times while 90 nautical miles out, in international waters, on its way to deliver emergency medical supplies to the people of Gaza, while they were under the infamous attack by Israel.

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Carlino, John R

From: Consular, Nicosia  
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2009 11:26 AM  
To: [redacted]  
Subject: Spirit of Humanity

B6

Dear Mary,

Thanks for your response. This morning I was able to see the passenger list, along with the brief bios, that you posted on the website. Please be assured that a good number of State Department officials, both here in the eastern Mediterranean region and back in Washington, are monitoring the progress of the Spirit of Humanity as closely as we can. It is always helpful when we can receive information directly from those of you involved.

Regards,  
Randy Carlino

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

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 1:13 PM  
To: Consular, Nicosia  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Passengers on the Spirit of Humanity

Dear Randy,

The passenger list has changed since the one issued January 12th. The only US citizen aboard the SPIRIT OF HUMANITY which sailed from Larnaca nearly three hours ago is [redacted]

Best regards,  
Mary for Free Gaza

On Wed, Jan 14, 2009 at 1:25 AM, Consular, Nicosia  
<consularnicosia@state.gov> wrote:

> For Mary Hughes [redacted]  
>  
>  
>  
> Mary [redacted]  
>  
>  
> Can you tell me if the passenger list for the Spirit of Humanity is the same  
> as it was on January 12? More specifically, are any United States citizens  
> in addition to [redacted] aboard? I ask because the U.S. State  
> Department is concerned about the safety of all U.S. citizens while they are  
> abroad.  
>  
> **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer**  
>  
> I would appreciate any information about United States citizens that you are  
> authorized to provide me.  
>

>  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
> Randy Carlino  
>  
> U.S. Consul

--

Mary Hughes-Thompson  
Free Gaza Movement  
Media Team  
+357 96 75 00 59  
[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)  
[www.anis-online.de/office/events/FreeGazaSong.htm](http://www.anis-online.de/office/events/FreeGazaSong.htm)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/)

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 1:04 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Rogan, Thomas G; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E  
**Cc:** Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Richter, Kim B  
**Subject:** FW: Call from Free Gaza Movement  
**Importance:** High

FYI. The Spirit of Humanity will sail again. M

**From:** Pacheco, Martha A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 6:02 PM  
**To:** Richter, Kim B; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Cc:** Gooding, David L; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Hickey, Mary E; CA-Crisis-Mgt  
**Subject:** Call from Free Gaza Movement  
**Importance:** High

B6

[redacted] of the Free Gaza Movement called at 5:05 from tel [redacted] El Cerrito, California to inform the State Department that a boat with humanitarian aid will leave Cyprus tomorrow around 11:00 am- noon Cyprus time for Gaza, even though a previous boat was attacked by the Israeli Navy, and the Israeli Navy said they will not let the boat through. When asked, he specified that he estimated the boat would take less than 24 hours to reach its destination, and it was likely to encounter the Israeli Navy tomorrow evening Washington DC time.

When I asked, he said people in the Free Gaza Movement have been talking to Embassy Nicosia from the delegation there, he specified [redacted]

Also, [redacted]

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

RELEASED IN PART B6,  
B3 DOD PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 6:08 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
[redacted] Moreno, Luis G; Power, Daniel J (Tel Aviv); Zeroubavely, Sandra S  
**Subject:** RE: 3:45 Departure Copnfirmred for Free Gaza Boat

Israeli MFA has just provided us an updated passenger manifest as provided to them. It shows 34 people on board, including:

United States	1	[redacted]
Greece	14	including the Captain,
United Kingdom	7	
Jordan	1	
Italy	3	
Belgium	2	
Sweden	1	
Germany	1	
Spain	2	
Iraq	1	
France	1	

B6

The "Land Team" is identified as 9 people, including 3 Amcits: [redacted]

B6

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 5:46 PM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; Parker, Andrew C; [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
**Subject:** 3:45 Departure Copnfirmred for Free Gaza Boat

Larnaca port authorities confirm that the Free Gaza boat Spirit of Humanity departed Cyprus at 3:45 p.m. this afternoon.

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 3:09 PM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T  
**Subject:** 3:30 Departure Time for Free Gaza Boat

Larnaca port officials tell us that the Free Gaza boat Spirit of Humanity now is schedule to depart Cyprus at approximately 3:30 p.m., January 12 (8:30 a.m. EST).

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer



RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 8:22 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** A Request for Information about your Passengers

B6

[REDACTED]

As I think you know, the U.S. State Department is concerned about your safety, and that of all U.S. citizens, while you are abroad. To help us monitor the welfare of U.S. citizens participating in the current Free Gaza Movement effort to take humanitarian supplies to Gaza, I am asking you to provide me -- with their permission -- the names of the other U.S. citizens who will be sailing with you on the Spirit of Humanity this afternoon.

The United States Embassy in Tel Aviv has asked me to relay to you a warning from the Israeli Defense Force that any vessel attempting to cross the off-limits line will be boarded and those on board arrested. Please ensure that the other passengers on the Spirit of Humanity are aware of this warning.

The U.S. State Department would consider me remiss if I did not also remind you of the Travel Alert issued by the State Department on January 6 for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. In its most relevant portions, the Travel Alert reads: "No official U.S. Government travel is permitted within the Gaza Strip. Due to the ongoing conflict and limited ability of the U.S. Government to assist American citizens in the Gaza Strip, the Department of State urges American citizens, including journalists and aid workers, to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip. . . . American citizens remaining in Gaza should consider notifying the Consulate General in Jerusalem at the address below of their whereabouts in the event they wish to participate in possible future evacuations of foreign nationals from the Gaza Strip.

During office hours, call 02-628-7137  
For after hours emergencies, call 02-622-7250  
Email [JerusalemACS@state.gov](mailto:JerusalemACS@state.gov)

I look forward to hearing from you before you sail this afternoon.

Sincerely,  
Randy Carlino  
U.S. Consul

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

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RELEASED IN PART  
B5**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, January 12, 2009 8:02 AM  
**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Cc:** Hale, David M; Hankins, Sarah E; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Moreno, Luis G; Netos, Eleftherios E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Greene, Elisa; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boat Now Schedule to Depart at Noon, Monday, January 12

Both the Free Gaza website and local news media report that the Free Gaza boat now is scheduled to depart Cyprus around 12:00 p.m., noon, (5 a.m. EST) on Monday, January 12. Press reports describe the boat as a 66- to 70-foot Greek fishing vessel, the Arion, which has been renamed "Spirit of Humanity." Cypriot television reported that Cypriot authorities warned Free Gaza representatives about the danger involved in their proposed trip and strongly advised them not to sail. However, the 30-some passengers, who apparently include a number of European parliamentarians, insisted on sailing, and Cypriot authorities ultimately decided that since the boat is seaworthy they will allow it to sail.

I will attempt to relay the IDF warning that any boat attempting to cross to off limits line will be boarded and the passengers arrests.

Randy

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 10:41 PM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Cohen, Jonathan R; Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Hale, David M; Hankins, Sarah E; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Moreno, Luis G  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

FYI.

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 1:59 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Reidhead, Van E  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

Randy,

DcM wanted me to convey the IDF warning that any vessel attempting to cross the off limits line will be boarded and those on board arrested. If you are able to convey this info to those involved we thank you.

Andy

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** O'meara, David C; Moreno, Luis G; Grimes, Demetries A; Vrooman, Peter; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter,

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RELEASED IN PART  
B5

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Goldberger, Thomas H  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 10:41 PM  
**To:** Fitzpatrick, Kathleen M; Cohen, Jonathan R; Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Hale, David M; Hankins, Sarah E; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Moreno, Luis G  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

[Redacted]

B5

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 2:32 PM  
**To:** NEA-IPA-DL  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

FYI.

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 1:59 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Reidhead, Van E  
**Subject:** Re: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

Randy,

DcM wanted me to convey the IDF warning that any vessel attempting to cross the off limits line will be boarded and those on board arrested. If you are able to convey this info to those involved we thank you.  
Andy

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** O'meara, David C; Moreno, Luis G; Grimes, Demetries A; Vrooman, Peter; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Reidhead, Van E  
**Sent:** Sat Jan 10 12:53:23 2009  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

Randy,

Clearly the Free Gaza people have their own agenda, but you may want to convey the IDF announcement of January 3, 2009 of a naval blockade of Gaza extending 20 NM off shore.

<http://dover.idf.il/IDF/English/Announcements/09/01/0305.htm>

The link below will take you to our current travel information:

<http://israel.usembassy.gov/consular/acs/TravelInformation.aspx>

Andy

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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**From:** Carlino, John R  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Cohen,

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 10, 2009 10:37 AM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Cohen, Jonathan R; Greene, Elisa; Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Hankins, Sarah E  
**Cc:** NICOSIA CONSULAR  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boat to Sail From Cyprus on January 11

Port authorities at Larnaca tell us they have been informed that a Free Gaza Movement boat is scheduled to arrive there around 3:00 p.m. (8:00 a.m., EST), Saturday, January 10. The boat tentatively is scheduled to depart Cyprus for Gaza on the afternoon or evening of Sunday, January 11.

Free Gaza representatives informed Larnaca authorities that the boat's passengers will include three U.S. citizens:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] were among the passengers on the first Free Gaza boat to sail from Cyprus to Gaza in August 2008. At this time, Larnaca officials have no further indentifying information for the third Amcit, [Redacted]

Larnaca authorities advise that the boat's passenger list could change by the time it sails.

Regards,  
Randy

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

B6

///

RELEASED IN PART B6

Carlino, John R

From: Carlino, John R  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 3:10 PM  
To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C  
Cc: Sievers, Marc J; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O  
Subject: FW: Free Gaza boats

Folks, the port officials in Larnaca provided us on the QT the information below about [redacted] [redacted] They tell us that he decided not to sail to Gaza but instead remained on Cyprus when the boat sailed.

B6

Randy

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

From: Kyriacou, Helen X  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 3:01 PM  
To: Carlino, John R  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza boats

His [redacted]

Helen

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

From: Carlino, John R  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 2:53 PM  
To: Greene, Elisa  
Cc: Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Kyriacou, Helen X  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza boats

Elisa,  
Unfortunately, I don't have any additional identifying info on [redacted] I'll see what we can get. Helen, would you do the honors?  
Randy

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

From: Greene, Elisa  
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 11:52 AM  
To: Carlino, John R  
Cc: Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza boats

Thanks, Randy. Do you have [redacted]'s dob or any other biodata? Thanks, elisa

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel | Box 13, APO AE 09830

| Fax 7: 972-3-517-2348 | Email \*: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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



RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B3 DOD PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 2:42 PM  
**To:** Sievers, Marc J; Reidhead, Van E; [redacted] Goldberger, [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Koss, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Carlino, John R; Greene, Elisa  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement 4th voyage in progress

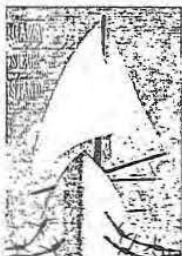
Marc,  
Our consul in Nicosia told us that local port authorities believe one U.S. citizen, [redacted] will be on the boat. B6

Andy

**From:** Sievers, Marc J  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 2:33 PM  
**To:** Reidhead, Van E; [redacted] Parker, Andrew C; Goldberger, Thomas H; Holmstrom, Todd C; Koss, Andrew C B3 DOD-PII  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movement 4th voyage in progress

FYI, not clear if there are any Amcits on board. Note press piece on the Qatari ship in the attachments.

**From:** Angela Godfrey-Goldstein [mailto:angela@icahd.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 09, 2008 10:48 AM  
**To:** angela@icahd.org  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Movement 4th voyage in progress



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**'Free Gaza' Ship to Break Through Israeli Blockade for the Fourth Time**

*For More Information, please contact:*  
(Gaza) Caoimhe Butterly, +972 598 273 960  
(Cyprus/Gaza) Lubna Masarwa, +972 505 633 044  
(Cyprus) Ramzi Kysia, +357 99 081 767

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**(LARNACA, 8 December 2008)** - The Free Gaza Movement announces that it sent a delegation from Cyprus to Gaza aboard their blockade-busting ship, the Dignity, last night, at 11.30pm, Monday, 8 December, due to arrive in Gaza at 3 pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Free Gaza Movement has successfully challenged the siege on three previous occasions this year, landing missions in Gaza in August, October, and November. Free Gaza ships are the first to dock in Gaza Port in over 41 years.

Israel maintains absolute control over Gaza's borders and airspace, and has imposed an increasingly brutal blockade on its 1.5 million civilians for over two years, drastically increasing poverty and malnutrition rates. Over 700 students are currently trapped in Gaza, while Israel denies their right to attend universities abroad.

In a statement released by Drs. Jonathan Rosenhead and Mike Cushman, of the London School of Economics, the academics said they were pleased to be traveling to Gaza aboard the Dignity, and that, "This siege is an affront to any idea of academic freedom or human rights. We, working for a British university, have the freedom to teach and study, this must be a universal right, not at the discretion of an occupying power. How

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

can anyone justify preventing young people from fulfilling their potential and learning how to serve their community more fully?"

In addition to the British academics, this fourth voyage includes a British surgeon traveling to Gaza to volunteer in local hospitals for the next several weeks, as well as international human rights workers and journalists. The ship will also be carrying in one ton of medical supplies and high-protein baby formula. In recent days, Israel has forcibly intervened to prevent other such missions from reaching Gaza.

Lubna Masarwa, one of the Free Gaza organizers, stated that, "Gaza doesn't need charity. What Gaza needs is sustained political action aimed at overcoming this vicious siege. We have no intention of turning around, and so we're confident that we will reach Gaza. We are unarmed civilians carrying desperately needed supplies to other unarmed civilians. It would be obscene for Israel to use violence to stop us."

The passengers on board the Dignity include:

- ☐ British academics on a fact-finding mission to document the devastating affects Israel's siege has had on the educational sector in Gaza
- ☐ A British surgeon traveling to Gaza to volunteer in local hospitals for the next several weeks
- ☐ A Palestinian man who has been denied the right to return to his family in Gaza
- ☐ International human rights workers
- ☐ International journalists from Al-Jazeera TV and McClatchy Newspapers

###

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Carlino, John R

From: Kyriacou, Helen X  
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 1:54 PM  
To: Carlino, John R  
Subject: RE: More Gaza boats

Randy,

The boat will leave this evening around 11 pm. Only one American,   
The rest are other nationalities.

B6

Helen

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

From: Carlino, John R  
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2008 9:02 AM  
To: Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
Cc: NICOSIA CONSULAR; Cohen, Jonathan R  
Subject: RE: More Gaza boats

I have no idea. After the initial sailing, the Free Gaza Movement folks have discontinued notifying me when they arrive on Cyprus. We try to find out.

Helen,

Can you call the Larnaca port officials and see if they have a passenger list for these two boats? Also, when do the boats intend to sail?

Thanks, Randy

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

From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2008 9:38 PM  
To: Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G; Carlino, John R  
Subject: Fw: More Gaza boats

Tom, Randy - do we know if there are any amcits on board?  
MEH, just fyi...

M  
Michelle Bernier-Toth  
Director, CA/OCS/ACS

-----  
This email was sent from a wireless Blackberry device.

This e-mail is unclassified based on the definitions provided in E.O. 12958

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

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
To: NEA-IPA-DL; Hale, David M; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Somerset, Ann D (NEA/PPD)  
Sent: Sat Dec 06 10:43:48 2008  
Subject: Fw: More Gaza boats

early warning notice...

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

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

From: Sievers, Marc J

To: Goldberger, Thomas H; Moreno, Luis G; Cunningham, James B

Cc: Burnett, David R; Parker, Andrew C

Sent: Sat Dec 06 09:07:46 2008

Subject: More Gaza boats

[redacted] called to say there are two more boats in Cyprus preparing to sail to Gaza. One is Qatari with humanitarian supplies and the other is another NGO boat. Both reportedly have Amcits on board. Livni has called the Qatari for min and offered to allow the humanitarian supplies off-load in Ashdod with a promise they would be transported to Gaza, but she also made clear the Israeli navy will not allow the boat to land in Gaza. Less clear about the second boat. According to John, both are still docked in Cyprus.

B6

**Carlino, John R**RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2008 8:27 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Mendel, Teresa S  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; NICOSIA CONSULAR; Dilworth, Alison E; Netos, Eleftherios E; Vincent, Wendy M; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza participant

Please see this morning's cable traffic or check out the cable attached. [redacted] is still in Gaza. We'll let you know when [redacted] is deported but it probably won't happen until early next week. We haven't printed her emergency passport yet.

Wallach,  
Dariene.htm

**Elisa Greene** Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel | Box 13, APO AE 09830

| Fax 7: 972-3-517-2348 | Email \*: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, November 21, 2008 8:13 AM  
**To:** Mendel, Teresa S; Vincent, Wendy M  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; NICOSIA CONSULAR; Dilworth, Alison E; Greene, Elisa; Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** Free Gaza participant

Thanks, Teresa.

I have not met [redacted], but her sister [redacted] was my primary contact with the Free Gaza Movement in August and September. On September 5 [redacted] informed me by email that [redacted] were "waiting for the FGM (Free Gaza Movement) boat(s) to return to Gaza Strip so that we can return to Cyprus to catch our flights home. We want to stay here until the boats arrive." I understand that a Free Gaza boat arrived on October 29. I don't know if it ever departed or if [redacted] is still in the Gaza Strip.

I would appreciate a heads up from Tel Aviv when [redacted] is deported.

Regards,  
 Randy

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

**From:** Mendel, Teresa S  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 20, 2008 8:19 PM

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To: Carlino, John R  
Subject: Free Gaza participant

Just a heads up, no action required..

Amcit [REDACTED], who has been in Gaza since August as part of a *Free Gaza* voyage was detained for violating Israeli fishing laws. Authorities have determined she will be deported back to Cyprus.

B6

*Teresa S. Mendel  
Office of American Citizen Services  
Turkey/Greece/Cyprus/Bulgaria  
Armenia/Azerbaijan/Georgia  
U.S. Department of State  
American Citizens Services  
SA-29, 4th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20520  
(202) 736-4993*

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In accordance with E.O. 12958, this email is: SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram

Page 1 of 3

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00002580

VZCZCXYZ0017  
OO RUEHWEB

RELEASED IN PART B6

DE RUEHTV #2580/01 3251507  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 201507Z NOV 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9234  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0833  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 3067  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1471  
BT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 002580

CA/OCS/ACS/NEASA AND NEA/INP

\_ACSIP\_TLV200832516413473\_ACSIP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PHUM, KPAL, KIRF, IS [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: ARREST: [REDACTED]

B6

1. NAME: [REDACTED]

2. SEX: Female

3. DPOB: [REDACTED]

4. PASSPORT: [REDACTED]

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: [REDACTED]

7. DATE/PLACE OF ARREST: Approximately 9am on November 18, 2008; Israeli Waters off the coast of the Gaza Strip.

8. CONDITION OF ARRESTEE: Normal

9. CHARGES: IV

10. PLACE OF DETENTION: MASSIYAHU PRISON, Immigration Detention Facility, Wing 10 (Women's Wing), RAMLE

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Hearing in Progress

12. TRIAL/HEARING DATE: Wednesday, November 19, 2008

13. POSSIBLE SENTENCE: Deportation

14. ATTORNEY: Leah Tsemei and Anwar Abu Lafi

15. PRIVACY ACT WAIVER: Blanket waiver, signed 19 Nov 2008

16. NOK: [REDACTED]

17. NOTIFICATION: CONSUL WAS NOTIFIED BY: MFA and by British

Telegram

Page 2 of 3

Consul on Nov 18, 2008.

18. ACCESS: VISITED ON November 19, 2008 at Masiyahu Prison, Ramle.

21. PROPERTY CONFISCATED: 3 notebooks, 1 cellular telephone  
- LOCATION: INP

22. JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS:  
- PLED Not Guilty TO CHARGE OF IV

24. REMARKS:

ConOff and ConAsst spoke to subject at length; ConOff also spoke to subject's attorney Mr. Abu Lafi. Subject completed DS-11 and PAW forms. Subject appeared to be in good health and has no medical issues or complaints about her treatment. She has been on a hunger strike since her arrest to protest the arrest of 15 since-released Palestinian fisherman and the seizure of their 3 fishing boats. Subject arrived in Gaza Aug. 23, 2008, on a Free Gaza Movement boat.

ConOff attended subject's hearing at a Detention Review Tribunal, held in a room within the detention facility. Also present were Judge Ruth Greenberg, Mr. Abu Lafi, subject, and two prison guards.

During the hearing, subject was given the opportunity to speak in English, followed by several questions presented by the judge in English and subject's answers, and ending with a statement made by the attorney in Hebrew. Subject expressed outraged at being ?kidnapped at gunpoint? by INF sailors. She told the court that she would prefer to be deported to Gaza or Cyprus. She requested her mobile phone and notebooks be returned to her. Subject stated that her American passport was in Gaza.

The judge said she understood the three fishing boats from which subject, an Italian and a Brit were taken were fishing beyond Gazan waters. The judge asked subject if she heard the INF commander instruct the boats to return to Gazan waters; subject replied that she did not hear these instructions. Subject argued, with raised voice, that the INF violated international law by telling the Gazan fishermen where they could fish. The court noted that the INF had seized the three fishing boats but had released the Palestinian fishermen.

The judge stated she would rule on 20 Nov 2008 on the legality of the arrest and her possible deportation. Hearings for the other two foreigners were scheduled to take place on November 20, 2008.

Post spoke to Massiyahu Prison officials on 20 Nov 2008, who advised that a deportation order has been issued for subject and for the other two foreigners arrested. A deportation date has not yet been set.

Subject's attorneys also represent the other two foreigners arrested [redacted] a British national; and [redacted] [redacted] an Italian).

Post will keep the Department apprised of further developments.

COMMENT: It is unlikely the GOI will return subject to Gaza, as she requested. On 01 June 2002, subject was also arrested in Israel and started a hunger strike in protest of her arrest at that time. She was released on 19 June 2002. No mention of

subject's prior arrest was made during her hearing. END COMMENT.

• CUNNINGHAM  
BT  
#2580

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00002580

RELEASED IN PART B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Moreno, Luis G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 4:39 PM  
**To:** Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R; Sakran, Johnny; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A  
**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

MFA reports that the ship will arrive at the port of Ashod within 2 hrs. or so. From there, the AmCits and others will be transferred to the airport for deportation at the earliest opportunity. We will attempt to gain access to the Amcits either at the port (probably not doable) or more likely at the airport.

Luis G. Moreno  
 Deputy Chief of Mission  
 U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
 Tel: 972-3-519-7580  
 Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
 eMail: MorenoLG@state.gov

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

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 4:08 PM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Moreno, Luis G; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R; Sakran, Johnny; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hussein, Mohammad A  
**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

We have spoken to the organizers several times, and only know of the four AMCITs we put into ACS+ already.

LZ

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

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 3:48 PM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Moreno, Luis G; Zahner, Luke V; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R; Sakran, Johnny  
**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

Thanks. We've seen reports that there are six Amcits on board...who are the other two?

M

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

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 8:35 AM

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05595648 Date: 10/10/2014

StateDept006003



To: Parker, Andrew C; Moreno, Luis G; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
Cc: Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R; Sakran, Johnny  
Subject: RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

Israeli Navy is reporting that they just boarded, seized, and are towing the vessel (and passengers on board) to the Israeli Port of Ashdod. We in TLV will continue to be in contact with the GOI to remind them of our concern for the welfare of the Amcits involved and we will request access to them.

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

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From: Parker, Andrew C  
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:25 PM  
To: Moreno, Luis G; Zahner, Luke V; Greene, Elisa; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
Cc: Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R  
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Three miles from turning point, three hours from Gaza. Israeli navy sent 2 to 8 ships, now one starboard, one port, no communication.  
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Five miles away from turning point, 23 miles from Gaza afterwards. Two Israeli ships back trailing them. No move from Israeli navy yet.  
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From: Moreno, Luis G  
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:16 PM  
To: Zahner, Luke V; Greene, Elisa; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
Cc: Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E  
Subject: RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

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Luis G. Moreno

Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-519-7580  
Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
eMail: MorenoLG@state.gov

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From: Zahner, Luke V  
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To: Greene, Elisa; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
Cc: Mattern, Daniel S; Moreno, Luis G; Parker, Andrew C; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Marchese, Gregory M  
Subject: RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

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LZ

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To: Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; CAPRESSREQUESTS  
Cc: Mattern, Daniel S; Moreno, Luis G; Parker, Andrew C; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Zahner, Luke V  
Subject: RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

Dear Michelle: Thanks for this information. I just saw your message now but the Duty Officer (Daniel Mattern) took a call from Sarah Hankins via the Ops Center at 3am TLV time with similar info. We're on it. There are 4 Amcits on board this vessel:



B6

Regards, elisa

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

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To: Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; CAPRESSREQUESTS; Greene, Elisa  
Subject: Free gaza - call from don debar

I received (via ops) a call from don debar, a reporter from pacifica news service and a former staffer for former cong. Cynthia mckinney. He wanted to make sure that we knew that the israeli navy had circled the free gaza boat, and "what would we do if they sank it and killed the people on board." I told him off the record (see, I do listen to ca/p) that we have, each time free gaza sails, emphasized to the idf our concern for the safety of amcits on board and were monitoring the current sailing. This seemed to satisfy him. Confirmed with ops that tel aviv has been alerted to the situation.

M

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RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Moreno, Luis G  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 4:28 PM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R; Sakran, Johnny  
**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

MFA has just informed me that the 4 Amcits, along with the others, will be turned over to the Immigration Police and for lack of a better word, they will be "deported" as soon as possible. MFA said that they would be looking into the issue of consular access.

Luis G. Moreno  
 Deputy Chief of Mission  
 U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
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 Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
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**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

Israeli Navy is reporting that they just boarded, seized, and are towing the vessel (and passengers on board) to the Israeli Port of Ashdod. We in TLV will continue to be in contact with the GOI to remind them of our concern for the welfare of the Amcits involved and we will request access to them.

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 Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: greenee@state.gov

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**Cc:** Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

The latest communication from the vessel, 21 miles off Gaza:

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior

UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05595650 Date: 10/10/2014

66

StateDept006007

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22 minutes ago from web

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Cc: Mattern, Daniel S; Parker, Andrew C; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E  
Subject: RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

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Luis G. Moreno  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-519-7580  
Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
eMail: MorenolG@state.gov

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Subject: RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

They have a phone campaign going to contact the Embassy, Consulate, and Israeli government offices. I think they divided up phone lists and are having different people calling different offices. We (and the duty officers -- Daniel, I am duty officer here through tomorrow) should anticipate more calls.

LZ

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✓ Dear Michelle: Thanks for this information. I just saw your message now but the Duty Officer (Daniel Mattern) took a call from Sarah Hankins via the Ops Center at 3am TLV time with similar info. We're on it. There are 4 Amcits on board this vessel:



B6

Regards, elisa

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Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2348; Email: greenee@state.gov

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

From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 4:39 AM  
To: Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; CAPRESSREQUESTS; Greene, Elisa  
Subject: Free gaza - call from don debar

I received (via ops) a call from don debar, a reporter from pacifica news service and a former staffer for former cong. Cynthia mckinney. He wanted to make sure that we knew that the israeli navy had circled the free gaza boat, and "what would we do if they sank it and killed the people on board." I told him off the record (see, I do listen to ca/p) that we have, each time free gaza sails, emphasized to the idf our concern for the safety of amcits on board and were monitoring the current sailing. This seemed to satisfy him. Confirmed with ops that tel aviv has been alerted to the situation.

M

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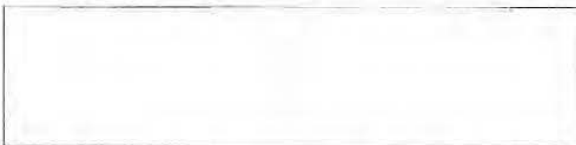
RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 4:07 PM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Moreno, Luis G; Zahner, Luke V; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Mattern, Daniel S; Zuckerman, Eve; Sievers, Marc J; Featherstone, Robert J; Goldberger, Thomas H; Hankins, Sarah E; Sakran, Johnny  
**Subject:** RE: Free gaza - call from don debar

Michelle,

Everything I've seen on the Free Gaza website or received in email from Free Gaza activist Greta (Hughes) Berlin indicates that only four Amcits are on board.



B6

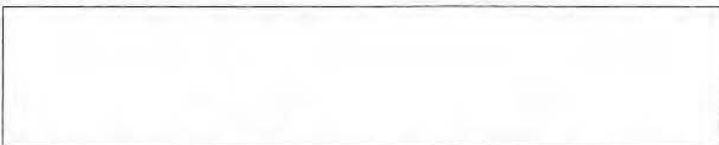
Great Berlin's listing of their passports numbers skips a digit in some cases

Randy

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2009 11:16 AM  
**To:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Subject:** Re: Those of You at Sea

Here they are. And 'thank you' for your wishes and your quick follow-up. It would be lovely if the American Government provided safe passage for everyone on board.

Best regards,  
Greta Berlin  
Free Gaza Movement



On Mon, Jun 29, 2009 at 10:55 AM, Consular, Nicosia <consularnicosia@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Free Gaza Folks,

I understand that one of your boats was able to depart Larnaca earlier this morning. You have my wishes for a safe voyage. Would you provide me the names of any United States citizens among the passengers and crew?

Sincerely,  
Randy Carlino  
Consul

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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From: Bernier-Toth, Michelle

57

Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 3:48 PM  
To: Greene, Elisa; Parker, Andrew C; Moreno, Luis G; Zahner, Luke V; Bond, Michele T; Hickey, Mary E; Rogan, Thomas G  
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Thanks. We've seen reports that there are six Amcits on board...who are the other two?  
M

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eMail: MorenoLG@state.gov

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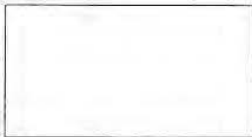
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RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2009 12:14 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Thank You

B6

Greta,

Thank you for providing the information about the American citizens aboard the boat. I try to follow your progress via the "tweets" and remain concerned about the safety of all on board. As I'm sure you are aware, U.S. Government policy is considerably beyond my authority, however, I do relay your messages to more senior State Department officers.

Regards,  
Randy Carlino  
U.S. Consul

**From:** [Redacted] [mailto:[Redacted]]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2009 11:16 AM  
**To:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Subject:** Re: Those of You at Sea

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Best regards,  
Greta Berlin  
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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Sincerely,

Randy Carlino

Consul

--  
Greta Berlin  
Free Gaza Movement  
357 99 081 767  
[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/)



RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Carlino, John R

To: Davis, Monique  
Subject: RE: Those of You at Sea# (Free Gaza boat AmCits)

From: Davis, Monique  
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 9:40 AM  
To: Carlino, John R  
Cc: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Subject: FW: Those of You at Sea# (Free Gaza boat AmCits)

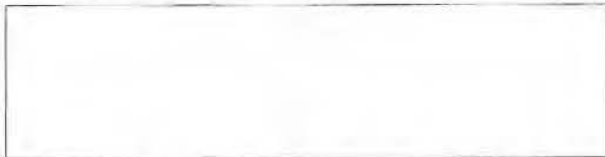
Here are the names of the Amcits on the Free Gaza boat. Thank you, Monique

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 11:16 AM  
To: Consular, Nicosia  
Subject: Re: Those of You at Sea

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior B6  
Reviewer

Here they are. And 'thank you' for your wishes and your quick follow-up. It would be lovely if the American Government provided safe passage for everyone on board.

Best regards,  
Greta Berlin  
Free Gaza Movement



On Mon, Jun 29, 2009 at 10:55 AM, Consular, Nicosia <consularnicosia@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Free Gaza Folks,

I understand that one of your boats was able to depart Larnaca earlier this morning. You have my wishes for a safe voyage. Would you provide me the names of any United States citizens among the passengers and crew?

Sincerely,

Randy Carlino

Consul

69

Greta Berlin  
Free Gaza Movement  
357 99 081 767  
[www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/29205195@N02/)

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Sent:** Friday, June 26, 2009 10:41 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Your Request of President Obama

B6

Dear Ms. Maguire:

This is to acknowledge our receipt of your email below and to reiterate the concern of the United States Government for the safety and welfare of the passengers and crew of the Free Gaza boats, especially the United States citizens among you.

As I am confident you know, President Obama has no authority to instruct the officials of another sovereign nation to take action. Further, it would be inappropriate for any U.S. official here on Cyprus to intervene with Cypriot authorities concerning matters that are clearly within their unilateral jurisdiction, such as clearing vessels to sail from Larnaca for Gaza. However, I will bring your request to the attention of more senior State Department officials.

Sincerely,  
Randy Carlino  
U.S. Consul

**From:** MAIREAD MAGUIRE [mailto:[Redacted]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2009 9:25 PM  
**To:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Cc:** Irish  
**Subject:**

dear Friends,  
I am here in Larnaca, with Free Gaza Movement friends awaiting to go into Gaza by boat.  
We have medicines, cement and toys for the children.

Willl you please ask President Obama to do all he can to see we are allowed to travel to Gaza tomorrow (Friday) carrying the needed materials to the people but above all fulfilling our promise to not forget the people of gaza and to return with our free gaza friends to our friends in gaza.

Thank you for your help in this matter.  
Sincerely,  
Mairead Maguire  
Nobel Peace Laureate

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

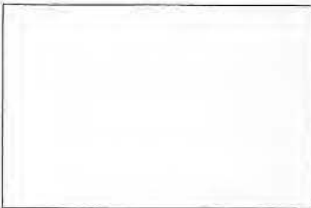
RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B3 DOD PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2009 3:42 PM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetries A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Will Not Sail on June 25 B3 DOD-PII

Officials at the Larnaca port inform us that neither of the two Free Gaza boats will sail today. (They may be having difficulty obtaining a license to carry passengers into international waters – port authorities hinted at this but did not tell us that outright). One of the boats may sail tomorrow.

Port officials tell us that if a boat does sail tomorrow, probably six Americans will be aboard:



B6

This is exactly the list of Amcits that Luke Zahner obtained two days ago.

We'll let you know when we learn of further developments.

Randy

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2009 8:10 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Zahner, Luke V; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Grimes, Demetries A; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Nicosia E-Mail to Free Gaza B3 DOD-PII  
**Importance:** High

A few minutes ago I sent the e-mail below to the address listed on the Free Gaza website. The website announces they plan to depart Cyprus at 10:00 this morning. We try to confirm their departure and the names of any U.S. citizens making the trip.

Here's what the website says:

Wednesday, 24 June 2009 15:11 Written by Free Gaza Team

PRESS ADVISORY  
24 June 2009

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

The Free Gaza Movement will depart Larnaca Port for the Gaza Strip at 10am on Thursday 25 June. We are sending two ships, the Free Gaza and the Spirit of Humanity, with 3 tons of medical supplies, 15 tons of cement, and human rights workers and journalists from 14 countries, including Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire and former U.S. Congresswoman and presidential candidate Cynthia

McKinney. This will be our first attempt to challenge Israel's naval blockade on Gaza by sea since the Israeli Navy brutally rammed our boat, DIGNITY in December, and nearly sank the SPIRIT OF HUMANITY with all on board in January.

We will be holding a press conference at Larnaca Port between 9am and 10am, prior to our departure.

For more information, please contact Greta Berlin or Ramzi Kysia at +357 99 081 767, friends@freegaza.org This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

**From:** Consular, Nicosia  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2009 7:58 AM  
**To:** 'friends@freegaza.org'  
**Subject:** The Risks in Your Sailing to Gaza  
**Importance:** High

For Greta Berlin, Ramzi Kysia, and other United States citizens,

Please be aware of the risks involved in your planned sailing from Larnaca to Gaza this morning.

As I am sure you know, the U.S. Department of State issued a Travel Warning for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza that remains in effect. This warning reads in part: "The State Department strongly urges that American citizens refrain from all travel to the Gaza Strip. This recommendation has been in effect since the deadly roadside bombing of a U.S. Embassy convoy in Gaza in October 2003. It applies to all Americans, including journalists and aid workers. American citizens should be aware that as a consequence of a longstanding prohibition on travel by U.S. Government employees into the Gaza Strip, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens there is extremely limited."

On Monday, June 22, the Israeli Foreign Ministry informed U.S. officials at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv that Israel still considers Gaza an area of conflict and that any Free Gaza boats attempting to sail to the Gaza Strip will "not be permitted" to reach its destination.

I encourage you to take the State Department's Travel Warning and the Israeli notification seriously.

Sincerely,  
Randy Carlino  
U.S. Consul

RELEASED IN PART B6, B3PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:34 AM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; [redacted]  
**Cc:** Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Rogan, Thomas G; Featherstone, Robert J; Hussein, Mohammad A; Weinfeld, Nili I; Hankins, Sarah E; Marwaha, Brianne C; Marchese, Gregory M  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

B3 DOD-PII

Here is the list we have received, and entered into ACS+, [redacted] is not, to the best of our knowledge, on the manifest.

B6

[redacted]

The source for this is the Free Gaza Movement. [redacted] was on one of the first trips, [redacted] is a long-term leader of the organization, and [redacted] needs no introduction! The others we are not familiar with.

LZ

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:32 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; [redacted]  
**Cc:** Zahner, Luke V; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

B3 DOD-PII

Dear Randy, [redacted]  
Is [redacted] on this next boat? So far we have the following Amcits on this boat (possible):

B3 DOD-PII

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Anyone else?

Cheers, elisa

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel  
Address from the U.S.: Box 12 APO AE 09830, U.S.A.  
Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-2577 Fax: +972-3-517-2348, Email: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2009 5:51 PM  
**To:** Schlereth, Frank G; Parker, Andrew C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G; Zahner, Luke V



RELEASED IN PART B3  
DOD-FGI,B3 DOD-PII,B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Zahner, Luke V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:58 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** [redacted] Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

B3 DOD-PII

[redacted] was originally on the manifest, but we were informed she is now off of it. If that changes, we will let you know.

B6

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:54 AM  
**To:** Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** [redacted] Zahner, Luke V; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

B3 DOD-PII

The only information I have is that [redacted] says she will be on the boat. I have no information about [redacted]

B6

**From:** Greene, Elisa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:32 AM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; [redacted]  
**Cc:** Zahner, Luke V; Zuckerman, Eve; Parker, Andrew C; Hunter, Jo-Ann L  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

B3 DOD-PII

Dear Randy, [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
Is [redacted] on this next boat? So far we have the following Amcits on this boat (possible):

B6

[redacted]

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Anyone else?

Cheers, elisa

Elisa Greene Chief, American Citizen Services U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, Israel  
Address from Israel: 71 Ha-Yarkon Street, Tel Aviv 63900, Israel  
Address from the U.S.: Box 13, APO AE 09830, U.S.A  
Switchboard Tel: +972-3-519-7575; Fax: +972-3-517-2048; Email: [greenee@state.gov](mailto:greenee@state.gov)

B3 DOD-PII

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2009 5:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Parker, Andrew C; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G; Zahner, Luke V  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

I don't know if I will be able to pass the Israeli information directly to the Amcits who are planning to sail. They have not checked in with me since the first trip, last August. I'll do what I can. I did have periodic email contact with [redacted] through January of this year.

B6

[redacted] was scheduled to sail on the first trip and was the one who took the initiative to contact me while the group was on Cyprus. However, she became ill and didn't go.

B6

Randy Carlino  
Consul  
Embassy Nicosia

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2009 5:14 PM

B3 DOD-PII

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

[redacted]

B3 DOD-FGI  
B6

R/

[redacted]

B3 DOD-PII

**From:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2009 4:55 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; McNeil, Matthew C; Netos, Eleftherios E; Rogan, Thomas G; Zahner, Luke V  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; [redacted] Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Vincent, Wendy M; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Marwaha, Brianne C; Greene, Elisa; Hankins, Sarah E; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

B3 DOD-PII

The Israel MFA has "officially" informed us that Gaza is still considered an area of conflict and that the "Free Gaza" sea vessel with cement on board scheduled to leave for Gaza within a week, will "not be permitted" to reach its' destination. The MFA was informing us of this because they are aware of Amcits on board the vessel. According to the MFA, the vessel is currently sailing between Greece and Cyprus. They asked that we directly pass this information to the Amcits on board.

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 3:15 PM  
**To:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Parker, Andrew C; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; McNeil, Matthew C; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; [redacted] Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

Supposedly several, including [redacted] [redacted] Maybe also [redacted]  
[redacted] I'll send a related email chain.

B6

**From:** Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 2:53 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Parker, Andrew C; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; McNeil, Matthew C; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa

B3 DOD-PII

Cc: Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; [REDACTED] Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

Do we know if any Amcits will be on the ships?

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2009 1:51 AM  
**To:** Parker, Andrew C; Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E; Mendel, Teresa S; McNeil, Matthew C; Richter, Kim B; Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Greene, Elisa  
**Cc:** Platukis, Peter B; Miller, Andrew T; Codron, Sharona; [REDACTED] Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Bernier-Toth, Michelle  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Movement Plans to Sail on June 25

\*\* This e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED based on E.O. 12958, as amended \*\*

## Activists defy Israel, to send Gaza cement

June 18, 2009

NICOSIA (Reuters) - Activists campaigning for an end to Gaza's blockade by Israel will sail to the enclave from Cyprus in defiance of the Israeli navy, they said Thursday.

Two boats, including one carrying cement and building supplies – materials not permitted by Israel – will sail from Cyprus on June 25, the multi-national Free Gaza Movement said.

"We are taking 15 tons of cement, which is just a token of how much the Palestinians need, because the Israelis won't allow building supplies into Gaza," said Greta Berlin, a representative of the group.

The group started regular shuttles to Gaza from Cyprus in August 2008, but was turned back by the Israeli navy on its last journey in mid-January of this year.

Israel tightened a blockade on Gaza in 2007 after the Islamist Hamas took control of the enclave, a sliver of territory that is home to 1.5 million people.

Israeli forces bombed and then invaded Gaza in late December 2008 in a bid to rout out militants lobbing rockets into Israel, devastating its already battered infrastructure.

Since then, Israel has blocked imports of steel, cement and other goods to the Gazan population, saying Hamas could use many items for military purposes.

(Writing by Michele Kambas, editing by Richard Williams) ■

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Dahm, Amy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 12:15 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Macris, Gregory P; Panico, Christopher J  
**Subject:** FW: A chance meeting at the airport with Free Gaza

Dear Randy,

Greg suggested I pass this information to you.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Regards,  
Amy

---

**From:** Macris, Gregory P  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 12:13 PM  
**To:** Dahm, Amy  
**Cc:** Panico, Christopher J  
**Subject:** RE: A chance meeting at the airport with Free Gaza

Thanks. Please pass this information to Consular.

---

**From:** Dahm, Amy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008 12:12 PM  
**To:** Macris, Gregory P  
**Cc:** Panico, Christopher J  
**Subject:** A chance meeting at the airport with Free Gaza

Dear Greg,

While standing in the Olympic Airlines line (Olympic was experiencing technical difficulties checking people in) at Larnaca airport this morning with my friend Elise, I bumped into [redacted] an American working with Free Gaza. [redacted] was with the Free Gaza activists for the initial entry to Gaza and on the second trip with the fishing boats (when the Israelis fired on them, I believe). He said he was on his way to Athens for meetings and then on to Brussels for a briefing of the European Parliament.

B6

He showed us his red-covered Palestinian passport, which he called a "great honor" to receive, and a copy of a fax from an Israeli official demarcating the Gazan waters and saying that humanitarian assistance to Gaza was acceptable. He mentioned that he and his group are planning a second trip with some physicians and human rights lawyers. What I found of particular interest is that [redacted] mentioned that he (and I assume others) want to try to establish a ferry service from Larnaca to Gaza.

[redacted]

Thought you should know.

Regards,  
Amy

(4)



RELEASED IN PART  
B6, B3 DOD PII

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2008 10:27 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Zareski, Karen B; Sorensen, Jay M; Cherry, Elizabeth H; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Parker, Andrew C; B3 DOD-PII Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boats Arrive Gaza

For those of you who did not follow the Free Gaza Website over the weekend, the two boats arrived at the port near Gaza City on Saturday, August 23, apparently in the early hours of the afternoon. From the various website interviews and postings, at least two of the Amcits remained on Cyprus – Hedy Epstein and Ramsey Kysia. Huwaida Shapiro (aka Huwaida Arraf-Shapiro) was prominent among the Amcits who arrived on the boats. I'm not certain of the number of other Amcits who sailed on the boats or who they are. As many as 14 Amcits may have arrived in Gaza on the two boats.

Randy

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Friday, August 22, 2008 10:23 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Zareski, Karen B; Sorensen, Jay M; Cherry, Elizabeth H; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] B3 DOD-PII Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Parker, Andrew C; Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; B3 DOD-PII  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boats Depart Cyprus

Cypriot officials at the Port of Larnaca informed us that the two Free Gaza Movement boats departed Cyprus a few minutes before 10:00 a.m. this morning (approximately 0655Z).

To the best of my knowledge, 13 U.S. citizen activists boarded the boats here. Last week, one of the activists told me that three other U.S. citizens were traveling on the boats from Crete to Cyprus. The attached list provides the names and Privacy Act Waiver information of the 13 Amciti activists who registered with Embassy Nicosia. Also included on the list is the name of one Amciti activist, [redacted] whose mother informed Cosulate General Jerusalem that he was on one of the boats when it departed Crete.

Regards,  
Randy

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

8

**Carlino, John R****RELEASED IN PART  
B5, B6****From:** Carlino, John R**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2008 6:41 PM**To:** Rhatigan, John V; Vincent, Wendy M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Moreno, Luis G; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E; [REDACTED] Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O

B3 DOD-PII

**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [REDACTED] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement: The Consular Side**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

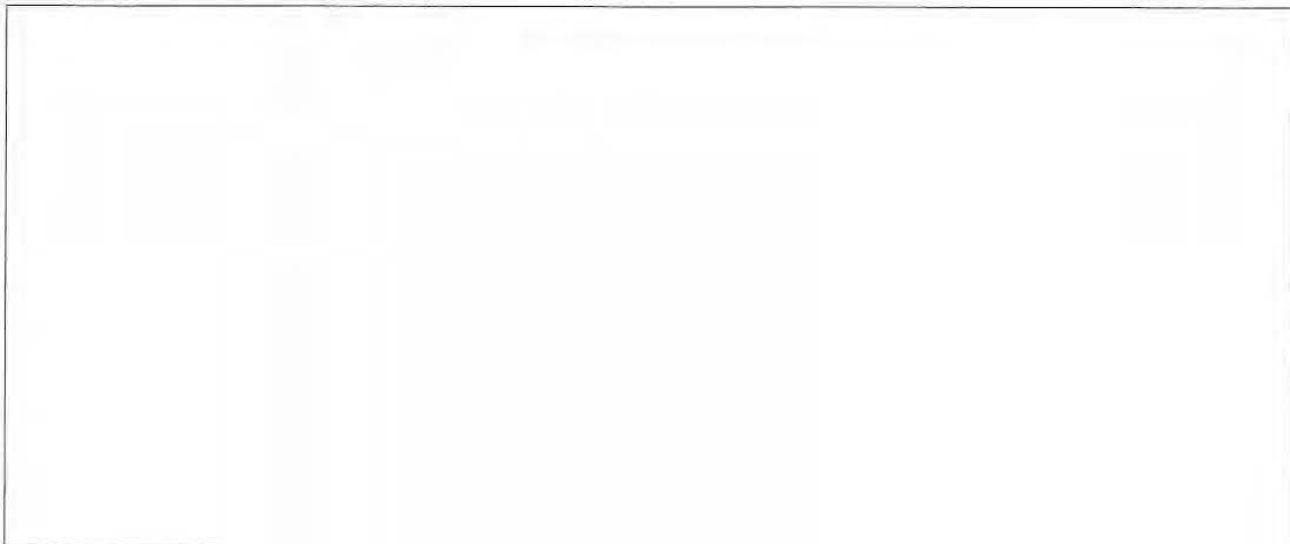
Thanks, John.

This afternoon, nine Amcits members of the Free Gaza Movement came to Embassy Nicosia to register as Amcits with the consular section. During the process, they handed me a paper with four printed questions and asked for my response. All questions were in the vein of "Does the your/my government support the actions of the Free Gaza Movement?" I declined to answer each question, saying that I had not been informed of the USG's position regarding the questions or even if the USG has a position on the issue.

In addition to the printed questions, they asked if the Embassy could inspect their boats and certifying that while in Cypriot waters the vessels contained no arms or ammunition. I said the Embassy has no resources or mechanism to conduct such an inspection or make such a certification. They asked how they would be received by US authorities when they return to the United States. They said that their lawyers assured them they were violating no US or international laws. I said that I am not a lawyer and could not speculate on how US authorities would respond to their actions when they returned to the United States. They also asked what organization of the USG would protect or assist them if they require assistance while at sea or if intercepted by Israeli authorities. One man asked specifically if the US 6th Fleet would assist them. I said that while the USG is concerned about their safety and welfare, I could not tell them what assistance the USG would provide. I emphasized that the 6th Fleet almost certainly would not take action on their behalf and that I have no idea where 6th Fleet assets might be located. One man requested that any USG assistance be organized by Embassy Cairo, and I said I would relay that request if it represented the group's preference. They declined to make the request on behalf of the group as a whole. I reiterated that I could not speculate on what type of assistance, if any, the USG would provide should they become distressed at sea or afterwards.

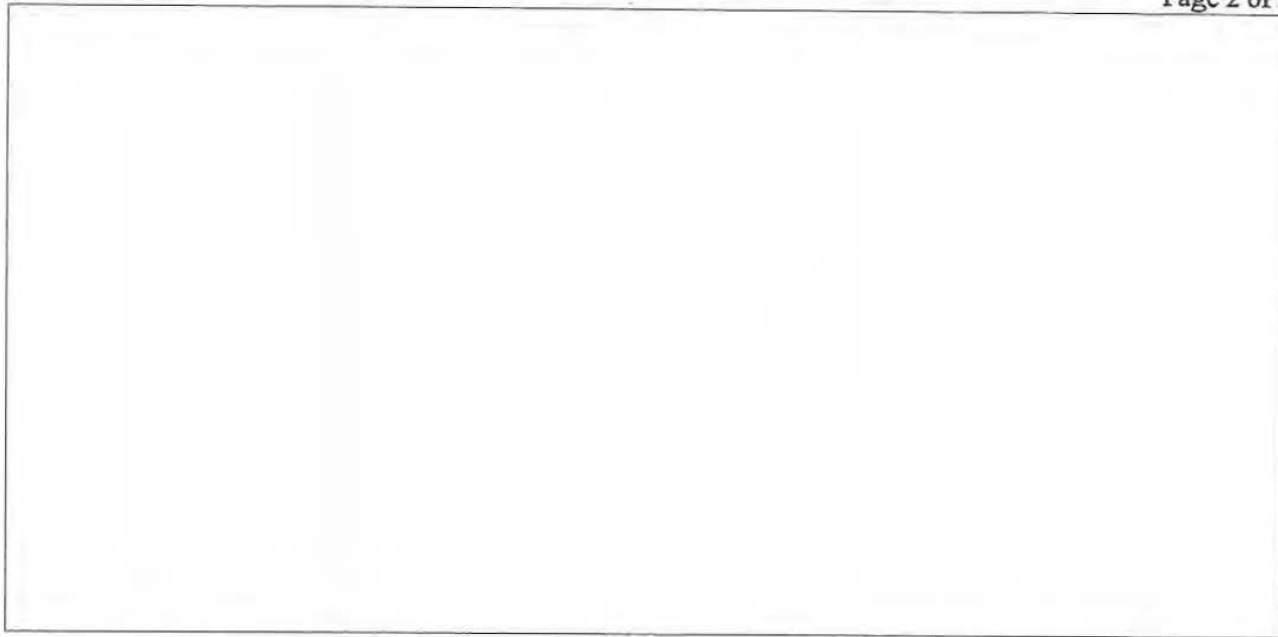
Seven of the nine Amcits apparently plan to sail on the two ship, while one will remain on Cyprus as part of a support team here and another will return to the United States as part of a support team there.

Planning to sail on the boats are:



B6





Until the group sails from Cyprus, they can be contacted at 357-99-194-722.

Once the group sails, a point of contact for them will be [redacted] of the US support group (home phone: [redacted])  
(cell: [redacted]).

Please accept my apologies for the recall of a premature transmission of this e-mail.

Regards,  
Randy

**From:** Rhatigan, John V

**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2008 4:51 PM

**To:** Rhatigan, John V; Vincent, Wendy M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Moreno, Luis G; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E; [redacted] Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O

**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [redacted] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement: 4 Water Boundaries and Free Gaza's 4 Possible Scenarios

B3 DOD-PII

Dear All,

Earlier today, I attended the "Free Gaza" press conference at the Journalist's Union here in Nicosia. The PC was led by a panel of 3: group co-founder American Greta Berlin, Israeli professor of anthropology and coordinator of the Israeli Committee against House Demolitions Jeff Halper and Palestinian President of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee Monir Deeb.

Berlin began the PC, and explained that the group of 40 consisted of volunteers from 17 different countries ranging in age from 22-83. The group, in fact, has one member who is a holocaust survivor. The group will be using 2 boats to try and break the blockade of Gaza: the SS "Free Gaza" and the SS "Liberty," the latter named in honor of a US boat sunk by Israel during the Six Day War. The boats will arrive within the next 4-5 days, at which point the group will depart Cyprus. They expect it that it will then take them about 24 hours before reaching their destination. They advised that they would inform the press when they planned to set off, and expressed the hope that they would be seen off before departing. They welcomed anyone who has a boat to join them if they would like to. The group chose to sail from Cyprus, Berlin noted, because Cypriots understand occupation.

The group feels that their actions would be significant for one of two outcomes, either: 1. they would break through, setting the precedent that Israel cannot stop vessels coming from overseas to Gaza, or 2. they would be stopped in contravention of international law, which would then be an indictment of Israel.

According to Berlin, the "Free Gaza" movement has received support in donated funds, hearing aids for children and the boats they plan to use to break the blockade. The group claimed that they raised all money through private donations and have accumulated \$230,000 of the \$330,000 needed so far. They said that about \$2,000 per day is coming in, with donations ranging from as little as \$4 to as much as \$2-3,000 per day. As Deeb explained, the hearing aids will help the Palestinian children who have lost their hearing due to daily rocket fire.

Halper expressed the hope that three messages would be conveyed to the Israeli people:

1. That a political solution exists if: A) the occupation were to end; B) the Palestinians are recognized as indigenous; and C) the Israelis and Palestinians would be willing to live together.
2. The Palestinians are not Israel's enemy.
3. The Israelis have to take responsibility.

After each of the panel members finished speaking, each member of the group sitting in the audience rose to introduce themselves. Out of a group of about 30-35, about 15 hailed from the US, 5 were from the UK, about 2 or 3 were Israelis, about 2 or 3 were Palestinians, one group member hailed from Tunisia and one hailed from Pakistan.

The group then responded to questions. The group stated that the GOI asked the GOC 2 months ago if there was anything the GOC could do to stop the group, to which the GOC replied, "No." The group was asked directly if they were bringing weapons or accepting money from Iran, both of which they denied forcefully. They did note that they would be bringing 500 balloons for the Israeli children.

When asked what the group would do if stopped, Berlin said that they would allow the boat to be searched, with their lawyers present (there will be one lawyer on each boat) so that nothing is planted.

Questions were asked by reporters from the BBC, the Mail on Sunday, the Irish Times, as well as local Politis, Cyprus Mail and Cyprus News Agency. I have attached a copy of the report from the Cyprus News Agency.

**John V. Rhatigan**

Acting Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Embassy Nicosia

Tel: 357.22.393.364

Mobile:

Fax: 357.22.393.391

Email: Rhatiganjv@state.gov

B6

**From:** Rhatigan, John V

**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2008 12:33 PM

**To:** Vincent, Wendy M; Goldberger, Thomas H; Moreno, Luis G; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E;  B3 DOD-PII  
 Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O

**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J;  Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X;   
Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement: 4 Water Boundaries and Free Gaza's 4 Possible Scenarios

Dear All,

I just returned from this press conference. It will take me a little bit to draft a readout, but I'll definitely have something put together this afternoon.

John

**John V. Rhatigan**

Acting Public Affairs Officer  
U.S. Embassy Nicosia

Tel: 357.22.393.364

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Fax: 357.22.393.391

Email: Rhatiganjv@state.gov

B6

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M

**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2008 8:00 AM

**To:** Goldberger, Thomas H; Moreno, Luis G; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E; [REDACTED] Rhatigan, B3 DOD-PII  
John V; Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O

**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [REDACTED]

Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Movement: 4 Water Boundaries and Free Gaza's 4 Possible Scenarios

Any new updates on the Free Gaza situation? Am curious to know what will be said at press conference this morning in Larnaca--  
meanwhile:

---

**Bethlehem - Ma'an** - A small shipping vessel will set sail for Gaza from Cyprus on 5 August expecting to be illegally detained as it enters Gazan waters.

The waters off the Gaza Strip are patrolled by Israeli naval vessels, and Israel enforces a "Fishing Limit" that is 6 nautical miles (11.1 km) from the Gaza shore. These restrictions on access and borders are enforced despite the 2005 Israeli "disengagement" from the Gaza Strip.

There will be 60 people aboard the "Free Gaza" vessel including a Holocaust survivor a survivor of the Palestinian Nakba, and members of the international Palestinian diaspora.

The crew intends to travel into the Gaza strip, past the international waters boundary, the 1996 Oslo accords boundary (20 nautical miles from the Gaza coast), the 2002 Bertini agreement boundary (12 nautical miles and 22.2 km from the Gaza coast) and the current "Fishing Limit" imposed by the Israeli navy since October 2006.

Legally, the group says there should be no problem passing each of these lines since Israel disengaged from the Gaza strip in 2005 and should no longer its control airspace and territorial waters.

The initiative hopes to draw attention to the continued de facto occupation of Gaza. In an interview with Ma'an on Saturday, a spokesperson for the group in Israel said that the crew expects to be stopped by the Israeli navy shortly after they cross from international waters into Gazan territorial waters, which according to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, extend 12 nautical miles (22.2 km) from an area's shoreline.

While Israel has not signed the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, they did sign the Bertini Agreement in August 2002 with the UN, which stated that Gazan territory extended the full 12 nautical miles from the shore.

In June 2005, Israel unilaterally "disengaged" from Gaza and withdrew all troops to the 1967 borders. In theory, Gazans control the entire Strip, excluding approximately 650 meters along the eastern border which is called a buffer and "no go" zone.

The trip organizers think one of four things will happen to the ship: it may be stopped as it crosses or approaches the barrier marking the international waters boundary, in which case the crew is prepared to stay on board for at least two weeks in protest of the illegal halt of passage. The second possibility envisioned by the organizers is that the ship will be allowed to pass into the area, and will be stopped in the territorial waters. In this eventuality the crew expects to be arrested, and the ship dragged to shore.

A third possibility is that the ship will be sunk by the navy.

The final option is that the ship actually makes it through to the Gaza port near Gaza City in the north of the Strip.

According to Holocaust survivor and crew member Hedy Epstein, in the event that they can get through to Gaza they will "open the port, fish with the fishermen, help in the clinics, and work in the schools."

What Epstein hopes to do on this journey is to "remind the world that we will not stand by and watch 1.5 million people suffer death by starvation and disease."

Coordinator of the Popular Committee Against the Siege, Palestinian Legislative Council member and lawyer Jamal Al-Khudari said that he hopes the arrival of the ship in Gaza will mean an end to the siege. He emphasized that the ship has a right to enter the local waters and Gazans have the right to host their guests without Israeli intervention.

Opening a port in Gaza would allow residents to export agricultural products, and gain control over the goods and material brought into the region. Currently, all crossing points are controlled by Israel and Egypt. The truce between Hamas and Israel was supposed to see the blockade and restriction on essential goods lifted, but food, medical supplies, cement and fuel are still only trickling in.

The ship was invited to Gaza by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, and support for the initiative was provided in part from Carter Center in the US and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

If you are media, please email us to reserve a place on the boat or boats; we intend to have satellite capabilities onboard; we will keep you posted on dates and locations.

The Free Gaza Movement  
405 Vista Heights Road  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

<http://www.freegaza.org>  
[friendsofgaza@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgaza@gmail.com)

Shalom,  
Wendy Vincent  
Acting Consul General



US Embassy Tel Aviv  
vincentwm@state.gov.

In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED.

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

From: Goldberger, Thomas H  
Sent: Saturday, August 02, 2008 1:44 PM  
To: Moreno, Luis G; Vincent, Wendy M; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E; [REDACTED]; Rhatigan, John V; B3 DOD-PII  
Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon,  
Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [REDACTED] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette  
E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

something else to add to the soup:

<http://www.sunherald.com/prnewswire/v-print/story/717401.html>

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

From: Moreno, Luis G  
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 10:29 AM  
To: Vincent, Wendy M; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E; Grimes, Demetries A; Rhatigan, John V; Carlino, John R;  
Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon,  
Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; Goldberger, Thomas H; O'meara, David C; Greer B3 DOD-PII  
Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: Re: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

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

From: Vincent, Wendy M  
To: Rosenstock, Matthew S; Netos, Eleftherios E; [REDACTED]; Rhatigan, John V; Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; B3 DOD-PII  
Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon,  
Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; Goldberger, Thomas H; [REDACTED] Greene,  
Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Moreno, Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Sent: Fri Aug 01 17:26:35 2008  
Subject: Re: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

Sent via Blackberry.

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

From: Rosenstock, Matthew S  
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; [REDACTED] Vincent, Wendy M; Rhatigan, John V; Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, B3 DOD-PII  
Kim B; Kinder, John O  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon,  
Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; Goldberger, Thomas H; [REDACTED] Greene,  
Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Moreno, Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Sent: Fri Aug 01 17:18:55 2008  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

From: Netos, Eleftherios E

Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 10:18 AM  
To: [REDACTED] Vincent, Wendy M; Rhatigan, John V; Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon,  
Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; Goldberger, Thomas H; [REDACTED] Greene,  
Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Moreno,



Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

Kim, Oliver, et. al.:

[Redacted]

B5

Thanks,

Terry

From: [Redacted]  
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 10:07 AM  
To: Vincent, Wendy M; Rhatigan, John V; Netos, Eleftherios E; Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [Redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Moreno, Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

B3 DOD-PII

The Israeli Navy fleet is on high alert.

Vr, Demetries

[Redacted]

From: Vincent, Wendy M  
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 4:35 PM  
To: Rhatigan, John V; Netos, Eleftherios E; Carlino, John R; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitus, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [Redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [Redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [Redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
[Redacted] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Moreno, Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

Found this info on Press Conference from [http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article\\_id=899289](http://athens.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=899289) -- Wendy

899289 </admin3/edit.php?id=899289> Free Gaza Movement: Press Conference in Cyprus  
από Ψ 1:45μμ, Παρασκευή 1 Αυγούστου 2008  
(Τροποποιήθηκε 3:05μμ, Παρασκευή 1 Αυγούστου 2008) θεματικές: Μέση Ανατολή <topics.php3?lang=el&topic=59>  
Press Conference in Nicosia, Cyprus, August 4  
Κατεβάστε το συνημμένο αρχείο: [press\\_release\\_cyprus.pdf](local/webcast/uploads/press_release_cyprus.pdf) <local/webcast/uploads/press\_release\_cyprus.pdf> (application/pdf)  
FGM Date : 08-01-2008  
For Immediate Release:  
Can unarmed seaborne civilians break the siege of Gaza?  
A press conference at The Journalists' House, Nicosia  
At RIK / CBC Avenue 12, Nicosia  
Monday, 4th August, 2008 at 10.00 a.m.  
[Camera crews to come early, please, for set up]  
Inaugurating The Free Gaza Movement Sailing to Gaza  
DESTINATION: GAZA PORT

In August, unarmed Palestinians, Israelis and internationals will sail directly to Gaza without going through Israeli territory or seeking permission from Israeli authorities. They include an 81-year-old Catholic nun, an 83-year-old Holocaust survivor, Palestinians from

Gaza, 17 nationalities, four major religions and the international press (including Tony Blair's journalist sister-in-law, Lauren Booth). On Monday, August 4, 2008, the Free Gaza Movement publicly introduces its international team that will take volunteers from Cyprus to Gaza in popular solidarity with Palestinian human rights. From that day, any attempt to damage the project will be considered an act of aggression against a nonviolent international human rights mission.

Media places on the boat are taken. Since there are many journalists on a short list, we suggest journalists work together to find a separate press vessel, and we are prepared to help network those interested.

At the press conference in Nicosia (see above address and scheduled time), participants will be available for individual interviews. For more information go to [www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org) <<http://www.freegaza.org/>> where the actual voyage can be watched in real time, by video streaming from the satellite broadcasting on board. Since this [non-violent/entirely peaceful] voyage is being funded by private donation, Free Gaza Movement welcomes donations online at its website.

For more information contact:

Greta Berlin, +357-990 81767 (iristulip at gmail.com)

Angela Godfrey-Goldstein: +357-990 75194 (angela at icahd.org)

Shalom,  
Wendy Vincent  
Consul  
US Embassy Tel Aviv  
vincentwm@state.gov

In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED.

---

From: Rhatigan, John V  
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 4:12 PM  
To: Netos, Eleftherios E; Carlino, John R; Vincent, Wendy M; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Moreno, Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

B3 DOD-PII

Randy,

We hadn't heard anything regarding this. Kyriacos will look into it and see if we can find out more information.

---

From: Netos, Eleftherios E  
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 3:21 PM  
To: Carlino, John R; Vincent, Wendy M; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Rhatigan, John V  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Moreno, Luis G; Hunt, Baxter  
Subject: RE: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

Randy,

Many thanks for the heads-up.

Terry

---

From: Carlino, John R  
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 8:07 AM  
To: Vincent, Wendy M; Hankins, Sarah E; Richter, Kim B; Rhatigan, John V  
Cc: Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [redacted] Netos, Eleftherios E; Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [redacted]

[redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Greene, Elisa; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Rosenstock, Matthew S; Moreno, Luis G

Subject: Free Gaza Movement Planning Press Conference on Cyprus

B3 DOD-PII

Folks,

[redacted] of the Free Gaza Movement phoned Consular Section Nicosia a few minutes ago asking to come to the Embassy on Monday to register as a visitor. She said she could not come to the Embassy during the morning because the Free Gaza Movement was planning to hold a press conference then. She did not provide details about the location or specific time of the press event.

B6

John, Do your folks have any information about the Free Gaza press conference on Monday?

Randy

8/4/2008

**Carlino, John R**RELEASED IN PART B3  
DOD-PII

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2008 4:06 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Netos, Eleftherios E; Zareski, Karen B; Sorensen, Jay M; Cherry, Elizabeth H; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G; Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Boats Arrive Cyprus

B3 DOD-PII

## 1. Israel To Treat Gaza Peace Boats 'like Pirates'

By Carolynne Wheeler

In *The Telegraph* (United Kingdom)

August 19, 2008

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/2579827/Israel-to-treat-Gaza-peace-boats>REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

The SS Free Gaza and the SS Liberty, which are sailing from Crete to Cyprus and then on to Gaza after being delayed by a storm, will carry about 40 protesters campaigning against Israel's economic sanctions on the Palestinian territory, including an 84-year-old Holocaust survivor and Lauren Booth, sister-in-law of Tony Blair, who is the international special envoy to the Middle East.

The boats, which will also carry a cargo of balloons, musical instruments and thousands of hearing aids, are expected to approach Gaza early next week.

The territory's land borders have been closed to all but essential humanitarian aid for more than a year, plunging it into deep poverty, and the tiny strip of land is rarely visited by foreign dignitaries. An attempt by Mr Blair last month was aborted at the last minute due to security concerns.

Israeli officials are thought to see the protesters' efforts as a dangerous precedent. The foreign ministry sent a letter advising organisers that Gaza coastal waters are subject to a no-go warning from the Israeli navy and that any attempt to approach would be interpreted as assistance to a terrorist regime.

They have offered help in delivering humanitarian aid via land borders instead.

"From my point of view this is some kind of pirate ship," said Shlomo Dror, a defence ministry spokesman.

"You can demonstrate, that's OK with us. But you are not allowed to break international law."

Gaza has been subject to heavy economic sanctions since the Islamist militant group Hamas violently wrested control there in June 2007. Hamas has refused international demands to recognise Israel and renounce violence.

Though shipments have increased under the terms of a ceasefire with Israel, shortages of many basic goods continue and a United Nations report last month found Gaza now has the world's highest unemployment rate, at 45 per cent.

Organisers from the Free Gaza movement, who raised £150,000 for their mission to challenge the blockade, maintain Israel has no right to stop the boats. But they acknowledge they are likely to be intercepted by the Israeli navy and detained, and have already contacted consular officials and lawyers in Israel.

Defence officials say unauthorised vessels would normally be escorted to official seaports at Ashdod or Haifa.

"We hope that the Israeli government will have some wisdom. To drag us in and arrest us and say somehow we are a danger is absurd," said, Greta Berlin, one of the organisers who is in Cyprus, where the boats are expected to dock before continuing to Gaza over the weekend.

"Of course we're going to make a point. Gaza has the right to have its own seashore ... We intend to break the siege."

Under the 1993 Oslo Accords, Israel retained military control of Gaza's territorial waters but agreed to allow fishing boats within 20



nautical miles. Today fishing is permitted only within about three nautical miles and boats that venture further risk Israeli fire.

The highly controversial journey, announced earlier this summer, has already been delayed several times because of bad weather. Participants, including Ms Booth, say they have received death threats for their efforts.

"An anonymous young man called my home in France as my daughters played hide-and-seek in the garden," Ms Booth wrote on her blog.

"This stranger spoke to my husband, warning him that 'your wife is in great danger. These ships will be blown up.' My husband asked how it was this person had obtained our private home number.

"No response was forthcoming but the illicit threats carried on."

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2008 2:25 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Zareski, Karen B; Sorensen, Jay M; Cherry, Elizabeth H; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; Grimes, Demetries A; Goldberger, Thomas H; [REDACTED]; Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Boats Arrive Cyprus

B3 DOD-PII

The two Free Gaza boats arrived at the main port in Larnaca this morning.

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2008 7:28 AM  
**To:** Netos, Eleftherios E; Hankins, Sarah E; Zareski, Karen B; Sorensen, Jay M; Cherry, Elizabeth H; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan  
**Cc:** Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Christman, Kim N; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; Grimes, Demetries A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schlereth, Frank G  
**Subject:** Greek Cypriot Press on Free Gaza Movement

Two Greek Cypriot dailies carried short articles on August 19 about the Free Gaza Movement. Summaries are attached.

8/20/2008



RELEASED IN PART  
B6

Thanks,  
Randy

**From:** Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2008 10:50 AM  
**To:** Carino, John R  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

Thanks – the Amb asked that we make sure to inform the Cypriot authorities that some of the Fulbrighters who have US visas have had them revoked and that those folks would not be admitted to the US...notwithstanding the latest report that none of them are travelling on the boats.

Please inform the appropriate people.

Many thanks,  
Jonathan

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

**From:** Carino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 4:44 PM  
**To:** Cohen, Jonathan R  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

**From:** Rogan, Thomas G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 3:46 PM  
**To:** Carino, John R; Rhatigan, John V; Macris, Gregory P  
**Cc:** Netos, Eleftherios E  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

FYI for Cyprus folks. Will include you in future mailings. Sorry for the oversight -- I've lost track of who all the addressees are.

TR

**From:** Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 2:44 PM  
**To:** Rogan, Thomas G; Netos, Eleftherios E; Richter, Kim B; Hankins, Sarah E; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Walles, Jacob  
**Cc:** Zareski, Karen B; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zercubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Parker, Andrew C; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
[redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; Marchese, Gregory M; Lapenn, Jessica; Grantham, Chris W; Operations Center; Smith, Angie C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Cretz, Gene A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baskey, Alistair C  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

Ali just spoke with Amideast Gaza, who spoke with the three Fulbright applicants in Gaza. None of the three are planning to depart on the Free Gaza flotilla.

Mica

**From:** Rogan, Thomas G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 10:29 AM  
**To:** Rogan, Thomas G; Netos, Eleftherios E; Richter, Kim B; Hankins, Sarah E; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Walles, Jacob

21

**Cc:** Zareski, Karen B; Goodman, Ilan A; Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Parker, Andrew C; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; Marchese, Gregory M; Lapenn, Jessica; Grantham, Chris W; Operations Center; Smith, Angie C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Cretz, Gene A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Baskey, Alistair C  
**Subject:** Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

B3 DOD-PII

All,

I spoke this morning with [redacted] an Amcit with the Free Gaza flotilla group, in Gaza, regarding their website statement and press reports that they intend to take out some Gazans who plan to study abroad, when the group departs by sea the morning of Aug. 28.

B6

[redacted] said:

- 1) She is not the primary organizer of that but she is aware that it's "under consideration."
- 2) She is not aware that any of the would-be scholars are bound for America, and she does not know any of their names.
- 3) The Cypriot authorities have told the group that any such scholars would be allowed to enter Cyprus and transit on to their destinations abroad, provided that upon arrival they can show they have the necessary visas or permission from the countries they are bound for.
- 4) The number of any such travelers is not confirmed.

I told her:

- 1) We are concerned about the well-being of American citizens, and any Amcits participating in an action such as this increase the risk of being arrested by Israeli authorities. Therefore the consulate general recommends against such an action.
- 2) There may be individuals in Gaza who have U.S. visas in their passports which have subsequently been revoked. The consulate general has notified all such individuals of their revocations, but in certain cases was not able to physically cancel the visas. Therefore they should be sure to ask any potential departees who show apparently valid U.S. visas whether they have been notified the visas were revoked. Such people would not be allowed to enter the U.S.
- 3) If the group assists anyone in departing Gaza who is not able to travel on to a third country, such people would be stranded outside Gaza, which would be a large problem for those individuals and for the Free Gaza people who assisted them in departing.
- 4) If she hears that the group is considering taking anyone out of Gaza who says they have a valid U.S. visa, I would appreciate it if she would contact me.

*Tom Rogan  
Consular Section Chief  
Consulate General Jerusalem  
tel. 972 2 622-7226*

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-FGI, B3 DOD-PII, B6

Carlino, John R

**From:** Rogan, Thomas G  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2008 12:49 PM  
**To:** [redacted] Hankins, Sarah E; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Netos, Eleftherios E; Richter, Kim B; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Walles, Jacob; Moreno, Luis G; [redacted] Carlino, John R B3 DOD-PII  
**Cc:** Zareski, Karen B; [redacted] Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Parker, Andrew C; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; Marchese, Gregory M; Lapenn, Jessica; Grantham, Chris W; Operations Center; Smith, Angie C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Cretz, Gene A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baskey, Alistair C; Macris, Gregory P  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

looping in Nicosia Consular Chief Randy Carlino and Pol Off Greg Macris.

TR

**From:** [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2008 12:45 PM  
**To:** [redacted] B3 DOD-PII  
**Cc:** [redacted] B6  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted] B3 DOD-FGI

[redacted]

B3 DOD-PII

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

B3 DOD-PII

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 8:55 PM  
**To:** Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Rogan, Thomas G; Netos, Eleftherios E; Richter, Kim B; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Walles, Jacob  
**Cc:** Zareski, Karen B; [redacted] Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Parker, Andrew C; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; Marchese, Gregory M; Lapenn, Jessica; Grantham, Chris W; Operations Center; Smith, Angie C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Cretz, Gene A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baskey, Alistair C; Moreno, Luis G  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

No mention of any other non-Fulbright U.S. grantees aboard.





## MAAN NEWS AGENCY

### Free Gaza boats to leave on Thursday, vowing to challenge Israeli blockade again

Date: 27 / 08 / 2008 Time: 18:15

Gaza - Ma'an - The siege-breaking ships that arrived in Gaza on Saturday will depart for Cyprus tomorrow, but has vowed to return quickly to challenge the Israeli blockade again.

"We have made all arrangements for the activists, and they chose to leave us tomorrow at 9am heading to Cyprus," said Jamal Al-Khudari, the head of the Popular Committee Against the Siege, during a press conference in Gaza City.

The international human rights advocates plan to bring with them 12 to 14 Palestinians who have been denied exit permits by Israel, including students with valid visas or dual citizenship, who have been accepted to universities abroad. They will also bring one Palestinian professor who will return to teaching in Europe and a Palestinian woman who will be reunited with her husband.

The 44 activists have spent the last three days bearing witness to the effects of the Israeli siege on the Gaza Strip, visiting hospitals, private homes and refugee camps, and meeting with Palestinian officials. Several of the activists plan to stay in Gaza in order to monitor the human rights situation.

On Monday the boats accompanied Gazan fishing vessels 13km off shore, passing a 6-mile limit usually enforced by the Israeli military.

The group's two boats, the Free Gaza and the Liberty, landed in Gaza after the Israeli government decided that a high-seas standoff would be bad public relations. The Israeli military has blockaded the Gaza Strip by land, sea and air since June 2007, trapping 1.5 million Palestinians inside and causing shortages of vital goods.

As they do not plan to enter Israel's territorial waters, the activists say they do not expect any interference from the Israeli Navy on their return voyage.

Dr. Vaggelis Pissias, one of the organizers of the Free Gaza Movement, said, "We do not accept that Israel can stop these boats. Palestinians have the same rights as all other peoples. Why is it that the only people in the Mediterranean without access to their own waters are the Palestinians?"

---

**From:** Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 7:44 AM

**To:** Rogan, Thomas G; Netos, Eleftherios E; Richter, Kim B; Hankins, Sarah E; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Walles, Jacob

**Cc:** Zareski, Karen B; [redacted] Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; B3 DOD-P11

Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Parker, Andrew C; Weinfeld, Nili I;

Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Dilworth,

Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; Marchese, Gregory M; Lapenn, Jessica; Grantham, Chris W; Operations Center; Smith,

Angie C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Cretz, Gene A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Baskey, Alistair C

**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

Ali just spoke with Amideast Gaza, who spoke with the three Fulbright applicants in Gaza. None of the three are planning to depart on the Free Gaza flotilla.

Mica

**From:** Rogan, Thomas G

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008 10:29 AM

**To:** Rogan, Thomas G; Netos, Eleftherios E; Richter, Kim B; Hankins, Sarah E; Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Sorensen, Jay M; Walles, Jacob

**Cc:** Zareski, Karen B; [redacted] Ciaccia, Sarah J; Susak, Ivan; Kinder, John O; Bernier-Toth, Michelle B3 DOD-PII Zuckerman, Eve; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Sherlock, Shawn H; Rhatigan, John V; Parker, Andrew C; Weinfeld, Nili I; Holmstrom, Todd C; [redacted] Goldberger, Thomas H; [redacted] Cohen, Jonathan R; Dilworth, Alison E; Hermann, Richard C; Marchese, Gregory M; Lapenn, Jessica; Grantham, Chris W; Operations Center; Smith, Angie C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Cretz, Gene A; Goldberger, Thomas H; Schweitzer-Bluhm, Micaela A; Baskey, Alistair C

**Subject:** Free Gaza group considering taking out scholars

All,

I spoke this morning with [redacted], an Amcit with the Free Gaza flotilla group, in Gaza, regarding their website statement and press reports that they intend to take out some Gazans who plan to study abroad, when the group departs by sea the morning of Aug. 28.

[redacted] said:

- 1) She is not the primary organizer of that but she is aware that it's "under consideration."
- 2) She is not aware that any of the would-be scholars are bound for America, and she does not know any of their names.
- 3) The Cypriot authorities have told the group that any such scholars would be allowed to enter Cyprus and transit on to their destinations abroad, provided that upon arrival they can show they have the necessary visas or permission from the countries they are bound for.
- 4) The number of any such travelers is not confirmed.

I told her:

- 1) We are concerned about the well-being of American citizens, and any Amcits participating in an action such as this increase the risk of being arrested by Israeli authorities. Therefore the consulate general recommends against such an action.
- 2) There may be individuals in Gaza who have U.S. visas in their passports which have subsequently been revoked. The consulate general has notified all such individuals of their revocations, but in certain cases was not able to physically cancel the visas. Therefore they should be sure to ask any potential departees who show apparently valid U.S. visas whether they have been notified the visas were revoked. Such people would not be allowed to enter the U.S.
- 3) If the group assists anyone in departing Gaza who is not able to travel on to a third country, such people would be stranded outside Gaza, which would be a large problem for those individuals and for the Free Gaza people who assisted them in departing.
- 4) If she hears that the group is considering taking anyone out of Gaza who says they have a valid U.S. visa, I would appreciate it if she would contact me.

Tom Rogan  
Consular Section Chief  
Consulate General Jerusalem  
tel. 972 2 622-7226



RELEASED IN PART  
B6

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Moreno, Luis G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2009 1:24 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement -- [redacted]

B6

Thanks, I appreciate it, you guys and everyone else were really outstanding. The thing is that the Secretary took a personal interest in this and was calling Ops at one point, every ten minutes.

Luis G. Moreno  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-519-7580  
Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
eMail: [MorenoLG@state.gov](mailto:MorenoLG@state.gov)

*In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED*

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2009 1:13 PM  
**To:** Moreno, Luis G  
**Cc:** Parker, Andrew C  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement -- [redacted]

You have no argument from me on that. As a consular officer, I'm amazed at the time and effort your consular and other folks devoted to those four Americans.

Randy

**From:** Moreno, Luis G  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2009 12:46 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R; Greene, Elisa; Marwaha, Brienne C; Sorensen, Jay M; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zahner, Luke V; Hankins, Sarah E; Zuckerman, Eve; Stott, Erinn C; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Bond, Michele T; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Hickey, Mary E; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Sakran, Johnny; Schlereth, Frank G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Dilworth, Alison E; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Hanrahan, Richard F  
**Subject:** RE: Free Gaza Movement -- [redacted]

Not only followed, lots of folks simply worked their tails off!

Luis G. Moreno  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv  
Tel: 972-3-519-7580  
Fax: 972-3-510-8093  
eMail: [MorenoLG@state.gov](mailto:MorenoLG@state.gov)

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

*In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED*

**From:** Carlino, John R  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 15, 2009 12:11 PM

Handwritten circled numbers: 51 and 48

**To:** Greene, Elisa; Marwaha, Brianne C; Sorensen, Jay M; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Zahner, Luke V; Hankins, Sarah E; Zuckerman, Eve; Stott, Erinn C; Vincent, Wendy M; Sievers, Marc J; Parker, Andrew C  
**Cc:** Bond, Michele T; Goldberger, Thomas H; Featherstone, Robert J; Moreno, Luis G; Hickey, Mary E; Hunter, Jo-Ann L; Mattern, Daniel S; Sakran, Johnny; Schlereth, Frank G; Weinfeld, Nili I; Rogan, Thomas G; Dilworth, Alison E; Lopatkiewicz, Viktoria; Hanrahan, Richard F  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Movement -- [redacted]

B6

[redacted] came to Consular Section Nicosia this morning to apply for a new U.S. passport in the name of [redacted]. As evidence that she is entitled to use that name, she presented her Israeli passport, Washington, DC driver license, Aetna insurance card, and several credit cards. She said she wants her U.S. passport to reflect the same name as all her other documents. I canceled her current PPT, which was issued on May 28, 2003 and was valid until 27 May 2013.

When I told her that her new passport would be ready in about ten days and asked if she planned to stay on Cyprus that long, she said probably not, that she travels on and off the island frequently and will use her Israeli passport until the U.S. passport is ready.

She seemed surprised and pleased when I mentioned that we had followed closely the most recent Free Gaza sailing because we were concerned about the safety of the Americans.

[redacted] was in our waiting room with [redacted] but I did not talk to him.

Randy

Telegram

Page 1 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001485

VZCZCXYZ0011  
RR RUEHWEBRELEASED IN PART  
B6DE RUEHTV #1485 1881311  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 071311Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2489  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 2328  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4255  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1488  
BT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001485

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ACS and NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958:N/A  
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG, IS

SUBJECT: FREE GAZA--AMCITS RELEASED FROM ISRAELI DETENTION CENTERS

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 G) TEL AVIV 1435 H) TEL AVIV  
1472 I) TEL AVIV 1473 J) TEL AVIV 1474

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: [redacted]

[redacted] (see Reftel G for more details). [redacted] spent a week transferring several times between the Ben Gurion Airport Immigration Detention Facility and the Givon 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 Givon, and on July 1 and 5 at Ben Gurion. On the final July 5 visit, [redacted] and [redacted] 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 [redacted] folder containing some personal papers, their personal items had been returned to them. [redacted] 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, Shirlee Rayssin-Sasson, informed Post that the Amcits would be voluntarily deported the next day.

ht UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05595435 Date: 10/10/2014 009

49

StateDept006045

However, the three departures planned for July 6 were delayed for ill-known reasons. Eventually, [redacted] was deported on July 6 at 16:00 via El Al flight LY 011 to New York, arriving at midnight local time. [redacted] 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.

The GOI confirms that [redacted] 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.

[redacted] 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.

JNNINGHAM

485

JNN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001485



Telegram

Page 1 of 3

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001436

VZCZCXYZ0006  
RR RUEHWEBRELEASED IN PART  
B6DE RUEHTV #1436/01 1831358  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 021358Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2427  
INFO RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 2304  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4235  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1483  
BT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001436

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/ACS and NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958:N/A  
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, MOPS, EWWT, KWBG, IS  
SUBJECT: FREE GAZA--AMCITS STILL DETAINED IN ISRAELREF: 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 Larnaca 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 Larnaca 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 [redacted] over to the Ministry of the Interior (MOI); the Navy held onto the fourth Amcit, [redacted] who is the spouse of [redacted] and an Israeli. The Navy later notified post that [redacted] 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 QQ01 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.

B6

51





Telegram

Rayssin-Sasson 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).

CUNNINGHAM

BT

#1436

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001436

Telegram

Page 1 of 1

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001472

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

DE RUEHTV #1472 1880915  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 070915Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2473  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 4245  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 2317  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1485  
BT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001472

CA/OCS/ACS  
\_ACSIP\_TLV200918821140626\_ACSIP

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

B6

REF: A) TEL AVIV 01421; B) TEL AVIV 001436

1. NAME: [redacted]

2. SEX: Male

3. DPOB: [redacted]

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deported and banned from re-entering Israel for period of ten years.

24. REMARKS: On 07/07/09, Post confirmed with the GOI that subject departed Israel on 07/06/09, at 16:00 (local time), via El Al Airlines flight 011 to New York, JFK, ETA 24:00. Post considers this case closed.

CUNNINGHAM  
BT  
#1472

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001472

52

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001474

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

VZCZCXY20009  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTV #1474 1880918  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 070918Z JUL 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2475  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 2319  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4247  
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1487  
BT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001474

CA/OCS/ACS  
\_ACSIP\_TLV200918821145250\_ACSIP

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

B6

REF: A) TEL AVIV 001405; B) TEL AVIV 001436

- 1. NAME: [REDACTED]
- 2. SEX: Female
- 3. DPOB: [REDACTED]

11. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deported and banned from re-entering Israel for period of ten years.

24. REMARKS: On 07/07/09, Post confirmed with the GOI that subject departed Israel on 07/07/09 at 01:00 Via El Al flight LY001 to New York, JFK, connecting to Boston, MA, at 11:45 via El Al flight LY8122, ETA 12:55. Post considers this case closed.

CUNNINGHAM  
BT  
#1474

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001474

53

Telegram

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001473

RELEASED IN PART  
B6

:CZCXYZ0002  
) RUEHWEB

: RUEHTV #1473 1880916  
JR UUUUU ZZH  
070916Z JUL 09  
1 AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
IFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2474  
JEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 2318  
JEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4246  
JEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1486

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001473

1/OCS/ACS  
ACSIP\_TLV200918821145465\_ACSIP

.O. 12958: N/A  
AGS: CASC, PHUM, MOPS, EWWT, KWGB, IS [redacted]  
SUBJECT: ARREST, CASE OF [redacted]

REF: A) TEL AVIV 001425; B) TEL AVIV 001436

. NAME: [redacted]

. SEX: Female

. DPOB: [redacted]

.. JUDICIAL STATUS: Deported and banned from re-entering Israel  
for period of ten years.

1. REMARKS: On 07/07/09, Post confirmed with the GOI that subject  
departed Israel on 07/07/09 at 01:00 Via El Al flight LY001 to New  
York, JFK, connecting to Wash DC, at 10:25 via El Al flight  
68139, ETA 11:55. Post considers this case closed.

JNNINGHAM

1473

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

JNN

UNCLASSIFIED TEL AVIV 00001473



**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Hanrahan, Richard F  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 30, 2008 6:26 PM  
**To:** Carlino, John R  
**Cc:** Cohen, Jonathan R; Rhatigan, John V; Ellickson-Brown, James  
**Subject:** Free Gaza is back

**RELEASED IN FULL**

FYI

Richard

## Advocates for Gaza Challenge Blockade

E-MAIL

- PRINT
- REPRINTS
- SAVE
- SHARE

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

437 C.E. TOOLS  
PRINTED BY

From Director  
**Danny Boyle**

By ISABEL KERSHNER  
Published: October 29, 2008

**JERUSALEM** — A boatload of international campaigners challenged the Israeli blockade of Hamas-run Gaza on Wednesday and sailed into a small port there, the third such landing in two months.

Among the 27 activists and crew members of the vessel that sailed from Cyprus were Mairead Maguire, a Nobel Peace Prize winner who led a campaign against violence in Northern Ireland; Mustafa Barghouti, an independent Palestinian legislator from the West Bank; two Israeli citizens; and individuals from various countries including Britain, Italy and the United States.

The voyage, as was the last one, was organized under the auspices of the Free Gaza Movement, a Palestinian advocacy group based in El Cerrito, Calif.

3

In late August, the first two boats arrived together in Gaza despite Israeli threats to stop them. Israeli Foreign Ministry officials said at the time that there had been a last-minute decision to let the boats through to avoid a public relations debacle, and not to play into the hands of people they described as provocateurs.

This time, too, Israeli officials had stated that the boat would not be allowed to reach Gaza, yet it was allowed to proceed without hindrance.

"It was decided at the highest levels to allow them to enter," said Yigal Palmor, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, without explanation.

Hamas, the Islamist group that took control of Gaza in June 2007, is classified as a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States and the European Union. Israel strictly limits the volume and type of goods entering the area by land, though the economic embargo has eased somewhat since a truce took effect in June.

Still, Israel maintains a policy of isolating the area. The authorities denied entry this week to 120 international academics and health professionals who had applied to attend a conference organized by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, which offers a range of local services and is supported by the World Health Organization and other international bodies. The conference focused on the state of mental health in Gaza in light of the blockade.

The international experts participated by video conference from Ramallah, in the West Bank.

Before dawn on Wednesday, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian man in the village of Yamoun, near Jenin, in the northern West Bank. A spokesman for the Israeli military said that the man, Muhammad Abahre, 67, had fired a hunting rifle at a force that was on a routine operation in the area, and that the soldiers had fired back.

Mr. Abahre's son, Taher, told news agencies that his father, a farmer, was guarding his livestock against rustlers in an enclosure just outside the village when he was shot in the dark.

**More Articles in World » A version of this article appeared in print on October 30, 2008, on page A10 of the New York edition.**

RELEASED IN FULL

August 22, 2008

UNCLASSIFIED  
MEMORANDUM

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer

TO: The Ambassador

THROUGH: DCM - Jonathan Cohen

FROM: Consular - Randy Carlino *RC*

SUBJECT: Free Gaza Movement Deployment from Cyprus

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The Free Gaza Movement (FGM) describes itself as "an international nonviolent resistance project to challenge Israel's siege of Gaza." The FGM hopes to "enter Gaza from international waters at the invitation of Palestinian NGOs but without Israeli authorization, thereby recognizing Palestinian control over their own borders." The FGM selected Cyprus as the location from which to launch an attempt to sail to Gaza with "humanitarian supplies" on two wooden fishing boats.

The movement announced that 40 human rights workers from 17 different countries would sail on the two boats, and activists began arriving on Cyprus at the beginning of August. They include at least 14 U.S. citizens, 13 of whom registered at this Embassy. In a meeting with ten U.S. activists on August 4, I emphasized the extremely limited ability of the U.S. government to assist them once they put to sea or were interdicted by Israeli authorities. The activists are aware that a State Department travel warning advises American citizens to avoid all travel to Gaza.

NEA's relevant press guidance reiterates the recommendation that Americans avoid travel to Gaza and makes explicit the FGM's lack of affiliation with the U.S. Government and the absence of a State Department position regarding the movement's message or objectives.

The two FGM boats arrived at the Larnaca port on August 20 and departed for Gaza shortly before 10:00 a.m., Friday, August 22.

Attachments:

- Listing of participating U.S. citizens
- NEA Press Guidance

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Drafter: Randy Carlino, Cons  
Cleared: John Rhatigan, PAS

RELEASED IN FULL

NEA Press Guidance  
Friday, August 15, 2008

Israel-Palestine: Free Gaza Movement

**Q: Does the USG support the Free Gaza Movement? Are American citizens involved? What are you doing to ensure their safety?**

- The Free Gaza Movement is unaffiliated with the United States government, and the State Department takes no position with regards to its message or objectives.
- We have heard reports that there are American citizens participating in the planned boat trip to Gaza.
- The State Department travel warning strongly recommends that U.S. citizens avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip and urges American citizens there to depart immediately. The State Department has maintained and renewed these warnings since 2003.
- The travel warning notes that the Department of State has limited ability to offer timely consular assistance to U.S. citizens in the Gaza Strip. We stand ready to assist American citizens through any of the services we regularly provide to our citizens abroad.

If asked: **REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

- We are not authorized to share additional information about reported American citizen participants, due to Privacy Act issues.

**If Pressed: What is the U.S. position on the humanitarian situation in Gaza?**

- We have been clear since Hamas's violent seizure of power in Gaza that we will not abandon the innocent Palestinians in Gaza, and will continue to make every effort to address their humanitarian needs.
- In Fiscal Year 2008, the United States Government provided \$57 million in support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) 2008 Emergency Appeal for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This emergency funding will support humanitarian assistance for over one million Palestinian refugees in Gaza and over 700,000 in the West Bank

++++  
**Background:** Two boats carrying approximately 40 activists from 17 countries, including AmCits, are currently docked in Crete. The Free Gaza Movement's website indicates the boats will sail to Larnaca, Cyprus on 8/15 or 8/16, and then proceed to Gaza. The group has stated that it wishes to draw attention to the Israeli "blockade" of



the Gaza Strip. It aims to create a water passage to Gaza for unrestricted international access, according to organizer Paul Larudee, or "show that Gaza is not free" if the Israeli Navy turns them away. We are in touch with the GOI, which has confirmed that the Navy will not allow the boats into Gaza. We are seeking to determine what actions the Israeli authorities will take to prevent access.

Drafted by: NEA/PPD: J Fleming, x-7-2658

Cleared: NEA/FO: D Hale ok  
NEA/TPA: S. Hankins ok  
NEA/PPD: AD Somerset ok  
ECA: L Korycki ok  
PRM/ANE: M Ramgoolie ok  
DRL: J Lieberman ok  
CA: S Royster ok  
P: R Rangaswamy ok  
D: A Jost ok  
S/P: M Rabasco info

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# Travel Warning

United States Department of State  
Bureau of Consular Affairs  
Washington, DC 20520

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon  
Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

*This information is current as of today, Tue Aug 19 07:29:46 2008.*

## ISRAEL, THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

March 19, 2008

This Travel Warning is being issued to update information on the general security environment in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and to remind American citizens of threats to themselves and to U.S. interests in those locations. The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to remain mindful of security factors when considering travel to Israel at this time. In addition, the Department of State urges U.S. citizens to defer travel to the West Bank and to avoid all travel to the Gaza Strip. This warning supersedes the Travel Warning issued July 13, 2007.

### The Gaza Strip

Areas of conflict shift rapidly and unpredictably in the Gaza Strip and American citizens should avoid all Gaza travel. Those already in the Gaza Strip should depart immediately. This recommendation, which the State Department has maintained since the deadly roadside bombing of a U.S. Embassy convoy in Gaza in October 2003, applies to all Americans, including journalists and aid workers. No official travel is permitted inside the Gaza Strip at this time.

Hamas, a State Department-designated foreign terrorist organization, violently assumed control over Gaza in June 2007, making worse the already dangerous security situation there. The Gaza Strip is wracked by ongoing violence between Israeli security forces and several Palestinian terror groups. In recent months, extremist factions in the Gaza Strip have specifically targeted Palestinian Christian groups. Militants there have abducted Western citizens, and terrorist organizations have threatened attacks against U.S. interests. The American International School in northern Gaza was the target of an attack on April 21, 2007, and again on January 10 and 12, 2008. Hamas and Islamic Jihad (another designated foreign terrorist organization) have intensified the launching of daily rocket attacks against Israeli towns as far north as Ashkelon. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) are responding to these attacks with military force.

The security environment is very fluid in the vicinity of the Gaza Strip. Rocket and mortar launches into Israel are unpredictable and occur frequently with little or no notice, resulting in a potentially unsafe situation. Gunfire from Gaza into Israel is a danger. On

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January 15, 2008, a Palestinian sniper killed an Ecuadorian kibbutz volunteer working near the Gaza border. As a result, travel in the surrounding area is strongly discouraged. Due to heightened tensions and violence in and near the Gaza Strip, all U.S. Embassy and Consulate General employees are required to provide 24 hours advance notice of any official travel to the city of Sderot, crossing points into Gaza, and any other areas bordering Gaza. Hamas has recently threatened to carry out suicide bombings in the neighboring Israeli towns.

### **The West Bank**

The security environment in the West Bank remains volatile. Violent demonstrations, kidnappings, and shootings are unpredictable and can occur without warning. The Department of State urges Americans to defer travel to the West Bank at this time.

The IDF continues to carry out security operations in the West Bank, including nightly raids to arrest terrorist suspects that sometimes result in gun battles. Israeli security operations can occur at any time, including frequent raids to arrest terrorist suspects that result in shootings, demonstrations and often violent conflict. This heightens the risk of Americans being caught in the middle of potentially dangerous situations. Some Americans and Europeans involved in demonstrations and other such activities in the West Bank have become involved in confrontations with Israeli settlers and the IDF. The State Department recommends that Americans, for their own safety, avoid demonstrations.

All those who pass through the West Bank should exercise particular care when approaching and transiting Israeli military checkpoints. Travelers should be aware that they might encounter delays and difficulties, and might even be denied passage through a checkpoint.

American citizens should be aware that as a consequence of the current limitations on official travel to the West Bank, and the prohibition on travel by U.S. Government employees to the Gaza Strip, the ability of consular staff to offer timely assistance to U.S. citizens in these locations is extremely limited (particularly in the Gaza Strip).

### **Travel Restrictions for U.S. Government Personnel**

American U.S. Government personnel and their dependents are prohibited from traveling to any cities, towns, or settlements in the West Bank, except when they are on mission-essential business or are traveling for other Mission-approved purposes. For limited, personal travel, U.S. government personnel and family members are permitted to travel through the West Bank only by using Routes 1 and 90 to reach the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge or the Dead Sea coast near Ein Gedi and Masada. They are also permitted to travel north on Route 90 from the Allenby/King Hussein Bridge to the Sea of Galilee. Use of these routes is approved for transit only, with stops permitted only at Qumran National Park off Route 90 by the Dead Sea. Each such transit requires prior notification to the Consulate General's security office and must occur during daylight hours. U.S.

Government personnel and family members are permitted both official and personal travel on Route 443 between Modi'in and Jerusalem without prior notification, during daylight hours only.

### General Safety and Security

Israeli authorities remain concerned about the continuing threat of terrorist attacks. A March 2008 shooting in Jerusalem and a February 2008 bombing in Dimona are reminders of the precarious security environment. The threat of such attacks is on-going. American citizens are cautioned that a greater danger may exist in the vicinity of restaurants, businesses, and other places associated with U.S. interests and/or located near U.S. official buildings, such as the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem. Rocket fire from Lebanon into Israel, except for one recent incident, has ceased since the end of military hostilities between Israel and Hizbollah forces in southern Lebanon in the summer of 2006. Although Israel denied any involvement, the killing of a Hizbollah leader in Syria on February 12, 2008, raises the possibility of Hizbollah attacks against Israel.

American citizens are urged to exercise a high degree of caution and common sense when patronizing restaurants, cafes, malls, places of worship, and theaters -- especially during peak hours. Large crowds and public gatherings should be avoided to the extent practicable. American citizens should take into consideration that discos and nightclubs, as well as public buses, trains and their respective terminals are "off-limits" to U.S. Government personnel.

The State Department urges American citizens to remain vigilant while traveling throughout Jerusalem, especially within the commercial and downtown areas of West Jerusalem and the city center. Israeli security services report that they continue to receive information of planned terrorist attacks in and around Jerusalem. Spontaneous or planned protests within the Old City are possible, especially after Friday prayers. Some of these protests have led to violent clashes. The Old City of Jerusalem is off-limits to U.S. Government personnel and their family members after dark during the entire week and between the hours of 11 am and 2 pm on Fridays.

### Entry/Exit Difficulties

The Government of Israel considers American citizens who also hold Israeli citizenship or have a claim to such dual nationality to be Israeli citizens for immigration and other legal purposes. For example, an American citizen child of an Israeli parent will be considered an Israeli citizen by Israeli immigration officials and Israeli law will apply to the child's travel to, and departure from, Israel.

American citizens whom Israeli authorities judge (based on their name or other indicators) may be of Palestinian origin are likely to face additional, and often time consuming, questioning by immigration and border authorities. If judged to have, or judged to have a claim to, residency status in the West Bank or Gaza, such American





citizens may be required by the Government of Israel to use a Palestinian Authority travel document to transit Israel to enter the West Bank or Gaza. Such a determination could be made for American citizens if they or their immediate family members were born in the West Bank or Gaza, currently reside there, or lived there for any appreciable amount of time.

American citizens who hold a Palestinian Authority ID, as well as persons judged by the Israeli authorities to have claim to a Palestinian Authority ID, are subject to Israeli law and regulations that apply to residents of the West Bank and Gaza, regardless of the fact that they hold U.S. citizenship. A Palestinian ID number might be active or inactive. If active, the Government of Israel may stamp the Palestinian Identification Number in the U.S. passport, and the American citizen may be required to obtain Palestinian Authority travel documents prior to departing Israel. In addition, American citizens considered to have or to be eligible for a Palestinian Authority ID who entered Israel via Ben Gurion Airport might be required to depart via the Allenby Bridge to Jordan. Upon arrival, such persons should ask Israeli immigration authorities from where they are required to depart.

The United States Government seeks equal treatment for all American citizens regardless of national origin or ethnicity. American citizens who encounter difficulties are encouraged to contact the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv or the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem at the telephone numbers below.

Americans in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are strongly encouraged to register with the Consular Sections of the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv or the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. U.S. citizens who require emergency services may telephone the Consulate General in Jerusalem at (972) (2) 622-7250 or the Embassy in Tel Aviv at (972) (3) 519-7575.

Current information on travel and security in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or, from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. For additional and more in-depth information about specific aspects of travel to these areas, U.S. citizens should consult: the Country Specific Information for Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza; and the Worldwide Caution. These along with other Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts and Country Specific Information sheets are available on the Department's Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Up-to-date information on security conditions can also be accessed at <http://usembassy-israel.org.il> or <http://jerusalem.usconsulate.gov>.

 [Printer friendly version](#)  [Email](#)

RELEASED IN FULL

**Carlino, John R**

**From:** Sherlock, Shawn H  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2008 8:18 AM  
**To:** Macris, Gregory P; Carlino, John R  
**Subject:** FW: Free Gaza Movent

FYI only - latest forum post from the Free Gaza web page:

**From:** Nicoletopoulos, Nick  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2008 7:58 AM  
**To:** Sherlock, Shawn H  
**Subject:** Free Gaza Movent

Shawn,

As you are aware I monitor 2 websites with Anti-American and Anti-Israeli content based here in Cyprus. A ship is set to sail from Cyprus with approximately 20-25 peace protesters for Gaza bypassing the Israeli blockade. latest email in the forum:

Threats and Terror from Mossad against the Free Gaza Movement's efforts to break the Zionist blockade by ship

A wave of death threats and terror has just gotten unleashed against the volunteers on the freedom boats named FreeGaza and Liberty. The nature of the threats, the style of delivery and the kind of intelligence needed to make and deliver those threats reveals the murky depths from which they originate: murderers, assassins and torturers who work for Mossad and other, even shadier, Zionist intelligence and "black bag" operation agencies.

Please read the first-hand account below, detailing how activists are receiving threats that the ships "will be blown up".

As expected, the brave and courageous multi-ethnic internationalist volunteer group on the ships is not giving up; death threats are the best confirmation for activists that we're doing the right thing.

I'm happy to see that the Cyprus IndyMedia Collective has been included in the list of endorsers, joining the ranks of many organizations and individual Palestinian, Israeli and American Jews who act openly against Zionist Apartheid, together with prominent politicians and globally known groups who all support the Free Gaza boat journey to break the blockade. I'd like to ask that we all consider asking officially all of the various groups and organizations we work with to send statements of support to the Free Gaza movement - especially in this moment, when dark and murderous forces assemble to terrorize the volunteers, it's important to show our support in every way possible.

Please have a look at the list of supporters, here:  
<http://freegaza.org/index.php?language=EN&module=endorsers>

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior** 1  
 Reviewer

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For updates and more information on the campaign, here:  
<http://freegaza.org/>

Please send statements of support and solidarity, money, or other forms of support (material, legal, medical, etc) to:  
[friendsofgaza@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgaza@gmail.com)  
and  
[angela@icahd.org](mailto:angela@icahd.org)

I've included some more contact information and a link to some political concerns at the bottom, after the story by Lauren Booth below.

Thanks,  
Petros  
from the Belly of the Beast  
<http://petros-evdokas.cyprus- org.net/Another-sort-of-Introduction.html>

On Board Bulletin, from the FreeGaza  
by Lauren Booth  
Date : 08-15-2008

(Friday 15th August) Today I was intending to write about about practical developments, here in the waters around the Greek islands. Of setting sail again, of bumpy seas and equally churning stomachs.

However, the subject of today's bulletin has changed to that of, psychological terrorism. Over the the past 72 hours almost a dozen aggressive messages have been received by members of the groups both on board the ships and in Cyprus. In Nicosia where twenty human rights campaigners including Hedy Epstein await to board the Freegaza and the Liberty, anonymous callers have been making threats to the general well being of all concerned.

Some of these texts, calls and answer messages focus on the ships being 'blown up' or 'detroyed killing all on board.' Unnerving enough. But today I can reveal even more pernicious acts of psychological violence on those both reporting and supporting this effort to ease the blockade of Gaza by Israel.

Since Monday, some Palestinian campaigners, (who I will not name here for obvious reasons), have received phone calls made to their mobiles. In an increasing number of cases these threats are being made to family members of the crew who live in the occupied territories. Imagine for a moment hearing a relative report being told 'you will see your uncle soon if xxx continues this action' named uncle having been shot dead by the IDF.

Now, it is my turn. Yesterday afternoon, on the 14th of August 2008, an anonymous young man called my home in France as my daughters played

hide and seek in the garden . This stranger spoke to my husband, warning him that 'your wife is in great danger. These ships will be blown up.' My husband asked how it was this person had obtained our private home number. No response was forthcoming, but the illicit threats carried on.

Who is behind these phone calls? Who benefits by upsetting the families of those onboard the Freegaza and the Liberty? Who would wish to unsettle journalists aboard as unarmed ships set sail towards the waters around Gaza and almost certain interception by Israeli forces? You decide.

I will carry on reporting from the waters around Greece, Cyprus and who knows some day soon, even Gaza.  
My husband will carry on recording these malicious calls to my home in France.

A special congratulations and best wishes to Hedy who turns 84 today, many happy returns to a fabulous, human being.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
Silence is the bullies' best friend.

Lauren Booth  
Journalist and Broadcaster  
Mob: 07958 961602

From:  
[http://freegaza.org/index.php?module=latest\\_news&id=a46443386513a474174163eeabfd0a63&offset=](http://freegaza.org/index.php?module=latest_news&id=a46443386513a474174163eeabfd0a63&offset=)

More Contact Information:

Greta Berlin/Ramzi Kysia  
Tel. +357 99 081 767  
[FriendsofGaza@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofGaza@gmail.com)  
[ramzi@riseup.net](mailto:ramzi@riseup.net)

Angela Godfrey-Goldstein  
Tel. +972 547 366 393  
[Angela@icahd.org](mailto:Angela@icahd.org)

Karin Pally  
Tel. +;1 310 399 1921  
[kpally@earthlink.net](mailto:kpally@earthlink.net)

Some concerns and critique:  
Can unarmed seaborne civilians break the siege of Gaza?  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kalimerhab\\_a\\_HellenoTurkish\\_Community/message/1845](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kalimerhab_a_HellenoTurkish_Community/message/1845)

*Nick Nicoletopoulos*

U.S. Embassy Nicosia, Cyprus

Security Coordinator

+0035799304862

"Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it."



19 Aug 08

RELEASED IN FULL

## IACOVOU SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT THE RETURN OF MORPHOU

Presidential adviser Yiorgos Iacovou said that there are two issues he has to discuss with Talat's advisor Ozdil Nami this week: the first one has to do with the opening of the Limnitis Crossing and the second one has to do with the procedure the two leaders will follow during the direct negotiations. Iacovou told CyBC that the two leaders will begin the negotiations by taking up the issue of governance and power sharing, and noted that the T/C side wants a presidential council with a rotating presidency shared by all members. (Under the Annan plan there were 6 members: 4 G/Cs and 2 T/Cs. The T/Cs want now 9 members: 5 G/Cs and 4 T/Cs). Iacovou added that there would be no a solution without the return of Morphou.

## CHRISTOFIAS AND TALAT WILL ADDRESS PACE

President Christofias and T/C leader, Mehmet Ali Talat, will address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Christofias will address PACE on September 30, while Talat will address the assembly on October 1.

## CYPRUS HIGH JUMPER CRITICIZED THE CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ALL PAPERS report on the complaints made by Cypriot high jumper Kyriacos Ioannou after he was eliminated during the semi-final stage at the Olympic Games. He said that, because he was injured, he had requested that he be allowed to bring a specific chiropractor with him that was familiar with his injury. Although Ioannou was willing to pay for this chiropractor, his request was not accepted by the Cypriot Olympic Committee. Ioannou pointed out that he needed medical treatment and had to beg the Greek Olympic team for help during the games.

## "FREE GAZA" BOATS HAVE LEFT CRETE FOR CYPRUS

PHILELEFTHEROS (Petros Theocharides) writes that the SS "Freedom" and "Free Gaza," which will carry activists to Gaza, have left Crete for Cyprus. The boats will stop on the way to Cyprus at the island of Rhodes. According to Israeli newspapers, the Israeli navy has been ordered to intervene and escort the boats

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

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into Israeli territorial waters to question the activists. Israel claims that based on the Oslo Accords, it is responsible for Gaza's territorial waters.

## **ISRAEL CALLED ON ACTIVISTS TO CANCEL THEIR TRIP TO GAZA**

CYPRUS MAIL (Stefanos Evripidou) reports that the Israeli Foreign Ministry has called on the 40 "Free Gaza" activists to cancel their trip and let Israel handle all humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. For their part, the activists claim that they and their family members have received threats and aggressive messages in the last few days warning them that the two boats would be blown up.

RELEASED IN FULL



**GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS SUMMARY**  
 UNITED STATES EMBASSY, NICOSIA, CYPRUS  
 Tuesday, August 19, 2008

IACOVOU SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE NO SOLUTION WITHOUT THE  
 RETURN OF MORPHOU..... 2  
 CHRISTOFIAS AND TALAT WILL ADDRESS PACE ..... 2  
 CYPRUS HIGH JUMPER CRITICIZED THE CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE 2  
 "FREE GAZA" BOATS HAVE LEFT CRETE FOR CYPRUS ..... 2  
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**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
 Reviewer**



RELEASED IN FULL

## ACTIVISTS BROKE THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA

On Saturday, the two "Free Gaza" boats with international activists arrived in Gaza. Crowds of cheering Palestinians welcomed them. It was the first time in 41 years that any vessel has made it to Gaza. Earlier in the day, Israel announced that it would allow the activists to enter Gaza "in order to avoid a well-publicized provocation in the middle of the sea." One of the vessels will return to Cyprus tomorrow. There will be 10 Palestinian students on board, each of whom has been admitted to study at a foreign university. In the meantime, one of the activists, Israeli professor Jeff Halper, will try to enter Israel from Gaza through a crossing.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior  
Reviewer



Carlino, John R

RELEASED IN PART B6

From: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2008 11:46 AM  
To: Carlino, John R  
Subject: FW: Contact information for Amcits who remained in Gaza after "Free Gaza" boats departed

FYI

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

From: Dilworth, Alison E  
Sent: Tuesday, September 16, 2008 8:51 AM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F; Vincent, Wendy M  
Subject: RE: Contact information for Amcits who remained in Gaza after "Free Gaza" boats departed

Tks Richard - much appreciated.

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

From: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 3:29 PM  
To: Vincent, Wendy M; Dilworth, Alison E  
Subject: Contact information for Amcits who remained in Gaza after "Free Gaza" boats departed

Wendy, Alison,

Here is information about the Amcits who remained behind after the "Free Gaza" boats departed.

Cheers,

Richard

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

From: Consular, Nicosia  
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 1:39 PM  
To: Hanrahan, Richard F  
Cc: Carlino, John R  
Subject: FW: Your Situation and Plans

Richard - FYI- aa

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

From: jazz cats [mailto: ]  
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2008 10:26 PM  
To: Consular, Nicosia  
Cc: freewatermelon  
Subject: Re: Your Situation and Plans

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

Hello Randy,  
Please see my replies below.

> ----- Forwarded message -----  
> From: Consular, Nicosia <consularnicosia@state.gov>  
> Date: Tue, Sep 2, 2008 at 12:05 PM  
> Subject: Your Situation and Plans

B6



> To: friendsofgaza@gmail.com

>

>

>

> For [redacted]

>

> [redacted]

>

> I tried to phone [redacted] at the number listed on your website for  
> him here in Cyprus, but I could not get through. I'm writing on  
> behalf of my counterpart at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. She would like  
> to know if you would welcome her attempt to contact the U.S. citizens  
> with your group who remain in Gaza and, if so, the best way for her to  
> make this contact.

[redacted] is the American citizen in Gaza Strip who has been attempting to leave and  
has been denied to leave by the Israeli govt.  
and the Egyptian govt. His cell phone is: [redacted]

> Can you let me know how many U.S. citizens remain in Gaza with the  
> Free Gaza Movement, who you are, and whether you want to stay there  
> for the time being or depart?

[redacted] and myself are the other and only two American citizens still in Gaza  
Strip. Both of us are waiting for the FGM (Free Gaza Movement) boat(s) to return to Gaza  
Strip so that we can return to Cyprus to catch our flights home. We want to stay here until  
the boats arrive.

> I understand from your website that you and [redacted]  
> [redacted] elected to remain in Gaza when most other members of  
> the group returned to Cyprus. I also have heard that [redacted]  
> elected to remain behind. Is this true?

I answered this above, [redacted] had originally remained behind so that he could  
accompany a very ill Palestinian woman, [redacted] to enter Israel to go to St. Joseph hospital  
for an urgent surgery on her back. The Israelis prohibited both of them from entering Israel.  
Since then [redacted] has been trying to exit Gaza Strip through Rafah crossing and the  
Egyptian authorities have been denying him entry into Egypt. It is best to contact him for  
more details since I have not seen him since he tried leaving through the Erez crossing.

[redacted] and I chose to remain in Gaza Strip and continue our solidarity work with  
the Palestinian people along with the other FGM and ISM volunteers.

> I would appreciate any information you could provide. Let me remind  
> you, however, that since there is no official U.S. government presence  
> in Gaza and since travel there by U.S. officials currently is not  
> permitted, our ability to provide American citizens in Gaza timely  
> consular assistance is extremely limited. I realize that you already  
> know the current State Department Travel Warning for Israel, the West  
> Bank and Gaza states, in part: "Areas of conflict shift rapidly and  
> unpredictably in the Gaza Strip and American citizens should avoid all  
> Gaza travel. Those already in the Gaza Strip should depart  
> immediately." Nevertheless, I want to add my personal encouragement  
> to you to consider leaving Gaza as soon as possible.

Gaza Strip is a very safe place for us. It is the Israeli soldiers who are dangerous and  
threaten our lives and well being and the lives and well being of the Palestinians. All the

Palestinians who see us are VERY happy that we are here and welcome us and invite us in to speak with them and offer us tea and coffee. The State department should encourage the Israeli govt. to end its policy of aggressively attacking Palestinian civilians on the land and on the sea. It is vital that foreigners be here in Gaza Strip and especially American citizens since so much of our tax money goes to Israel to enable them to commit War Crimes, Crimes Against Peace and Crimes Against Humanity on a daily basis on the Palestinian people, a collective punishment that should not be tolerated and should be ended immediately. The area of conflict shifts rapidly because of the invasions of the Israeli armed forces. The State Dept. should strongly admonish the Israeli govt. for these abhorrent policies.

So again I repeat that I am here in Gaza Strip of my own choice and am continuing my volunteer work alongside Palestinians and other volunteers from other nations. [redacted] is here of her own choice too. Neither of us any desire to leave the Gaza Strip through Egypt. We will sail back to Cyprus on FGM boats.

B6

Regards,

[redacted]

- > Sincerely,
- > Randy Carlino
- > U.S. Consul
- > Embassy Nicosia
- >

RELEASED IN PART B3 DOD-PII, B6

B3 DOD-PII

Carlino, John R

B3 DOD-PII  
B6

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2008 10:39 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]

**Subject:** RE: FYI, new Free Gaza trip: Wed Oct 29 Ha'Aretz Article (page 2), See Red Font

Media and the Free Gaza website report the boat arriving safely in Gaza this morning.

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-PII

[Redacted]

B3 DOD-PII

**From:** Vincent, Wendy M  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 29, 2008 7:37 AM  
**To:** Hankins, Sarah E; [Redacted] rhatigan, John V; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, B3 DOD-PII  
John O; Zareski, Karen B  
**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [Redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [Redacted] Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter; Semo, Marjatta M; Foo, Jenny J; Hermann, Richard C; Andrawes, Narguis T; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Yassa, Magda H; Zaki, Adel Y; Netos, Eleftherios E; Duke, Jon D; 'Sutfin, Nicholas G'; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C; Potter, Russell H  
**Subject:** RE: FYI, new Free Gaza trip: Wed Oct 29 Ha'Aretz Article (page 2), See Red Font

Israel vows to prevent second protest boat from reaching Gaza shore

By Barak Ravid

Tags: Gaza Strip, protest boat >>

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer**

Israel has decided to prevent an additional group of left-wing activists from reaching Gaza by sea. About 20 passengers, most of them members of the Free Gaza organization, are expected to set sail for the Strip on Wednesday from Cyprus. MK Jamal Zahalka (Balad) will most likely be aboard along with 1976 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead Corrigan.

Two months ago, members of the organization sailed from Cyprus to Gaza under the slogan "breaking the blockade." The Prime Minister's Office and Foreign Ministry viewed the move as a provocative propaganda stunt, intended to provoke a confrontation with the IDF. A day before the boat was to arrive at the shores of Gaza, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Defense Minister Ehud Barak held a consultation and decided to allow the boat to reach land - and thereby block the activists' plans to create an international incident.

Nevertheless, in discussions held over the past few weeks between the PMO, Foreign Ministry and the IDF, it

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was decided that this time the boat would not be allowed to reach Gaza. "The first time we wanted to prevent a provocation, but if it is to become a routine, then we will have to make it clear we will not allow it," said a senior official in Jerusalem.

Egypt also prevented the sailing of a similar ship a few weeks ago from Alexandria to Gaza.

The Israel Navy will stop the activists' vessel once it reaches Israel's territorial waters, it was decided. If the ship turns around, then the IDF will not use any force. However, if the activists decide to sail on toward Gaza, the IDF will take control of the ship, by force if necessary, and tow it to Ashdod port. The activists will be arrested for illegal entry and will be deported to Cyprus or to their home countries.

The left-wing activists were scheduled to set sail yesterday, but they were delayed by bad weather. If the weather improves, they will leave today.

The ship's passengers are to including a number of journalists, including from international networks such as Al Jazeera.

Shalom,  
Wendy Vincent  
Deputy Consul General/NIV Chief  
US Embassy Tel Aviv  
[vincentwm@state.gov](mailto:vincentwm@state.gov)

In accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in Executive Order 12958, this e-mail is UNCLASSIFIED.

*Please consider the environment before printing this email.*

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 28, 2008 8:49 PM  
**To:** Hankins, Sarah E; [REDACTED] Rhatigan, John V; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Richter, Kim B; B3 DOD-PII John O; Zareski, Karen B  
**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [REDACTED] John E; Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [REDACTED] Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter; Semo, Marjatta M; Foo, Jenny J; Hermann, Richard C; Andrawes, Narguis T; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Yassa, Magda H; Zaki, Adel Y; Vincent, Wendy M; Netos, Eleftherios E; Duke, Jon D; Sutfin, Nicholas G; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: FYI, new Free Gaza trip

AP reports that the boat left Cyprus today. No time given, but based on recent Free Gaza press releases, it should have been around 1500 local.

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2008 10:35 AM  
**To:** Hankins, Sarah E; [REDACTED] Rhatigan, John V; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Zareski, Karen B  
**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [REDACTED] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [REDACTED] Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter; Semo, Marjatta M; Foo, Jenny J; Hermann, Richard C; Andrawes, Narguis T; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Yassa, Magda H; Zaki, Adel Y; Vincent, Wendy M; Netos, Eleftherios E; Duke, Jon D; Sutfin, Nicholas G; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** RE: FYI, new Free Gaza trip

FYI



**For Immediate Release** Date : 10-26-2008

On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the Free Gaza Movement sent our formal notice to Israel, the Occupying Power in the Gaza Strip, that **we intend to enter the port of Gaza City on October 29**. We expect no interference from the Israeli authorities. Although our message acknowledges Israel's control over Gaza, we do not accept Israel's right to prevent us from sailing into the Gaza Strip. [See attachment for text of the letter].

As part of the message, we invited Aharon Abramovitz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and/or Ehud Barak, Minister of Defense, to join the voyage to witness first hand the devastating effects of Israel's illegal policies on the occupied civilian population of the Gaza Strip (Please leave your weapons at home, we are nonviolent).

Huwaida Arraf, a spokesperson for the Free Gaza Movement said, "Israel is committing war crimes by imposing collective punishment on the 1.5 million people in Gaza. Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Conventions prohibits their actions. However, since Israel is the Occupying Power and maintains effective control of the area, we have put them on notice that we're coming. Since they grossly abuse their power, we are not asking them for their permission."

Israel continues to exert behind-the-scenes pressure on many of the people who have been assisting the Free Gaza Movement, hoping they can stop the boat before it leaves port. Despite their massive pressure, threats and intimidation last August, Israel ultimately admitted to the world that we were nonviolent and did not constitute any kind of security threat, and our boats sailed safely into the port of Gaza, the first boats filled with Internationals to arrive there in 41 years. Israel is at it again, this time trying to stop us before we leave the port.

"It's ridiculous that Israel is so frightened of us. We are carrying doctors and human rights activists, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Maguire. We also have medical supplies on board our boat; there is absolutely no reason why they should stand in our way this time either," said organizer Greta Berlin.

Official Notification of Intent to Enter (Attachment sent by email and fax)  
October 25, 2008

To: The Israeli Ministry of Defense, Fax: 972-3-697-6717  
To: The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fax 972-2-5303367

From: The Free Gaza Movement

This letter serves as a formal notification to you as the Occupying Power in the Gaza Strip that on October 28, 2008, (weather permitting) we are navigating a vessel from the Port of Larnaca to the port of Gaza City. Our vessel will be flying the flag of Gibraltar, and, as such, falls under the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.

We will be sailing from Cypriot waters into international waters, then directly into the territorial waters of the Gaza Strip without entering or nearing Israeli territorial waters.

We are carrying 6 cubic meters of urgently needed medical supplies in sealed boxes, cleared by customs at the Larnaca International Airport. There will be a total of 26 passengers and crew on board, among them several physicians. Our boat and cargo will also have received security clearance from the Port Authorities in Cyprus before we depart.

As it will be confirmed that neither we, nor the cargo, nor any of the boat's contents, nor the boat itself constitute any threat to the security of Israel or its armed forces, we do not expect any interference with our voyage by Israel's authorities.

We hereby extend an invitation to Aharon Abramovitz from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ehud Barak from the Ministry of Defense to join us on board so that they can witness the draconian effects of Israel's policies on the civilian population of the occupied Gaza Strip.

The Steering Committee of the Free Gaza Movement

Contact: Greta Berlin, Cyprus: +357 99 08 17 67  
Angela Godfrey Goldstein, Jerusalem: +972 547 366 393  
Huwaida Arraf: Cyprus +357 96 723 999

**From:** Hankins, Sarah E

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 22, 2008 2:32 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] Rhatigan, John V; Greene, Elisa; Carlino, John R; Richter, Kim B; Kinder, John O; Zareski, B3 DOD-PII



B3 DOD-PII

Karen B

**Cc:** Rogan, Thomas G; Sorensen, Jay M; Grantham, Chris W; Zeroubavely, Sandra S; Zuckerman, Eve; Freitas, Christopher; DeLeon, Maria J; [redacted] Mendel, Teresa S; Hadley, Warren X; [redacted] Davis, Jeannette E; Zahner, Luke V; Reidhead, Van E; Vrooman, Peter; Tuttle, Stewart D; Hunt, Baxter; Semo, Marjatta M; Foo, Jenny J; Hermann, Richard C; Andrawes, Narguis T; Dilworth, Alison E; Osman, Amany A; Yassa, Magda H; Zaki, Adel Y; Vincent, Wendy M; Netos, Eleftherios E; Duke, Jon D; Sutfin, Nicholas G; Parker, Andrew C; Holmstrom, Todd C  
**Subject:** FYI, new Free Gaza trip

Sorry to start this whole thing again, but according to the Ma'an news agency, a new Free Gaza boat will sail within one week. Will let you know if we hear anything else. -- Sarah

Bethlehem, 10/22/08 - Ma'an - Within a week, the Free Gaza Movement will once again set sail for the Gaza Strip, according to a statement sent to Ma'an on Wednesday.

The group announced specifics regarding the planned voyage in a press release that set the date, as well: 28 October 2008. The boat will again carry 26 passengers and crew to the port of Gaza, it said.

Among those expected to be onboard are a Nobel Peace Prize winner, five doctors, a member of the Israeli Knesset and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC).

According to the ship's first mate, Derek Graham, the group has "spent the past month making sure that our boat is better and stronger, because the weather is getting more severe."

"Since we promised the people of Gaza we would return, we wanted to make sure we would return safely," he said in a statement.

Mairead Maguire, who won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for her work for peace in Northern Ireland and one of the passengers on board said that the group will "sail to Gaza to show the people we love and care for them."

"What less can we do whilst our governments remain silent and inactive in face of such preventable suffering of the women and children of Gaza and Palestine," Maguire added.

Also expected to set sail is Mustafa Barghouti, a member of the PLC, as well as Jamal Zahalka, a Palestinian member of the Israeli Knesset. Both Palestinians are determined to forge alliances with their countrymen in Gaza, something they have not been able to do "because Israel has closed all land borders to this besieged people," according to the statement.

Those intending to break the siege plan to deliver six cubic meters of medicine, as a gift from the European Campaign to End the on Siege on Gaza.

Dr. Arafat Shoukri, who heads the campaign in Europe, said that the medicine "is just the first consignment of medical supplies we hope to deliver."

"Our choice of medicines has been in response to specific requests from health authorities in Gaza. Many basic items such as cough syrup for children are non-existent in the territory and we are happy to make them available. Our Campaign will also dispatch a number of medical specialists to the Gaza to assist in the worsening humanitarian crisis brought on by the siege," he said.

Another organizer, Greta Berlin, reiterated the goals of the Free Gaza Movement as to include breaking Israel's siege "as often as we can."

"This second trip is just one of many we intend to organize over the next year. We have lawyers, members of Parliament and other professionals already on our passenger lists for upcoming voyages," she said.