



Flotilla Facts

- Israel transfers about 15,000 tons of supplies and humanitarian aid every week to the people of Gaza.
- Lawyers representing the family of Gilad Shalit, the kidnapped Israeli soldier held in isolation, had asked the protestors to take aid for him, they refused.
- Israel offered the ship to dock in Ashdod port and they would transfer the aid to Gaza. This offer was made again and again - they refused.
- Israel has said that it will deliver any humanitarian aid that was in the boats to Gaza, as it does daily.
- Israel left Gaza in hopes of peace in 2005 and in return received more than 10,000 rockets and terrorist attacks. Israel has sought peace and compromise with its neighbours for all of its 62 years and it will continue to do so.
- Israel maintains a maritime blockade to ensure that weapons are not brought in by Hamas to use in attacks against Israel.
- "We fully intend to go to Gaza regardless of any intimidation or threats of violence against us, they are going to have to forcefully stop us," said one of the flotilla's organizers.
- In the past, terrorist sympathizers have used aid deliveries to smuggle items like potassium nitrate in sugar sacks and used it to make bombs. Israel cannot afford to let goods get to Hamas unchecked.
- Five boats were boarded, the protestors complied and they were safely let to shore.
- One boat – the Mavi Marmara – did not comply. That is the boat where the violence took place.
- This was meant to provoke – it was funded and organized by a Turkish Islamist organization (IHH) that has links to fundamentalist jihadi groups. The ship was flying under the Turkish flag.
- Those on board carried out pre-planned violence, armed with knives and metal bars, each soldier being attacked by a mob of a dozen extremists. They threw one soldier off the top deck of the ship.
- The Israeli government maintains that allowing the illegal flotilla to reach Hamas would have opened a corridor of smuggling of weapons to Gaza and resulting in civilian deaths.
- Using the Arabic term 'intifada,' Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said "We call on all Arabs and Muslims to rise up in front of Zionist embassies across the whole world.
- As the flotilla made its way to meet him in Gaza, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said this week: "If the ships reach Gaza it is a victory; if they are intercepted, it will be a victory too".
- Turkey permitted the Marmara to fly under its flag. Turkey knew that the IHH (Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation) had organized the Flotilla, and supports the genocidal terrorist organization Hamas, several Jihadist organizations in Bosnia, Syria, Iraq, Libya, and elsewhere, and has ties with Al Qaeda. But Turkey did not prevent the Flotilla from disembarking and attacking Israel's sovereign right to protect itself from terrorists attempting to enter Gaza. Now Turkey is condemning Israel for the unfortunate casualties, and is leading the charge to condemn Israel at the U.N. It is Turkey that should be condemned by the United Nations for its role in this brutal trap set for Israelis.

- Hamas is responsible for the suffering of both Palestinians and Israelis. Their racist charter calls for Islamic domination; their stance is unchanged and they repress any Palestinians that try and counter their regime.
- Any police force in the world would respond to aggression; the provocation is the reason for this regrettable outcome. No country would allow illegal entry of any vessel into their waters without a security check.

Is the blockade lawful?

The usual nonsense about International Law is being posted all over the internet in relation to Israel's enforcement of the naval blockade of Gaza.

Here are a few points of Law to give you some background (it's all taken from "The Commander's Handbook on the Law Of Naval Operations" (US Department of Defense, 1 Jul 2007).

BLOCKADES ARE LEGAL

"The belligerent right of blockade is intended to prevent vessels and aircraft, regardless of their cargo, from crossing an established and publicized cordon separating the enemy from international waters and/or airspace." (Section 7.7.1.)

ISRAEL CAN ENFORCE THE BLOCKADE IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

"Attempted breach of blockade occurs from the time a vessel or aircraft leaves a port or airfield with the intention of evading the blockade, and for vessels exiting the blockaded area, continues until the voyage is completed." (Section 7.7.4.)

IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE "HUMANITARIAN AID"

"Neutral vessels and aircraft engaged in the carriage of qualifying relief supplies for the civilian population and the sick and wounded should be authorized to pass through the blockade cordon, subject to the right of the blockading force to prescribe the technical arrangements, including search, under which passage is permitted." (Section 7.7.3.)

ISRAEL HAS EVERY RIGHT TO BOARD AND EVEN CAPTURE THE BLOCKADE RUNNERS

"Neutral merchant vessels and civil aircraft are liable to capture by belligerent warships and military aircraft if engaged in any of the following activities:

- Resisting visit and search
- Carrying contraband
- Breaching or attempting to breach blockade
- Violating regulations established by a belligerent within the immediate area of naval operations...

Neutral vessels or aircraft attempting to resist proper capture lay themselves open to forcible measures by belligerent warships and military aircraft and assume all risk of resulting damage." (Section 7.10) (courtesy David Olesker)

Videos

- British naval and counter-terrorism expert Peter Cook on the #flotilla: Israelis with paintball guns were lynched, take a look and. (Channel 4 – UK): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG0EfG8mnAo>
- Footage from the Gaza Flotilla - How Violence Breaks Out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JaiMjAULWn0>
- Flotilla Passengers Fire Live Ammunition at IDF Soldiers: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFGuWUGaI9o>

- The Turkish boat activists meant violence - watch how they use hoses, stun grenades and metal rods against the Israelis - remember, 5 of the 6 boats docked peacefully - those on the 6th were aggressive: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6sAEYpHF24>
- "Daniel in the Lions Den": Violence of Flotilla activist supporters in LA: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABjE_7uwA0I
- How Did We Get Here? 4000 years of history in 4 minutes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGs75M5LpPc>
- Gaza flotilla participants invoked killing of Jews: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3L7OV414Kk&feature=player_embedded
- Flotilla Passenger: "I Want to Be a Shahid (Martyr)": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSxAj2KidUTV>
- Debate between Omar Barghouti and StandWithUs Israel Director, Michael Dickson: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZuSzMkUB3k>
- Al-Jazeera TV Report from "Freedom Flotilla" Before Its Departure for Gaza: Activists on Board Chant Intifada Songs and Praise Martyrdom. <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/2489.htm>
- BBC report shows violent, masked activists on ship: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/10195838.stm
- Flotilla Rioters prepare rods, slingshots, broken bottles and metal objects to attack IDF soldiers: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZISSaPT_OU
- "Keeping Lies Afloat" – video of the Terror Flotilla: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kus12PL8htQ>
- Israel Solidarity Rally, London, 2nd June 2010: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmdhzWlqobc>
- PM Netanyahu speaks about the Flotilla: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUG12kU8-jE>
- Get on board... The Love Boat! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlp8PcZxXYQ>

Media Articles

- Israel had no choice over Gaza flotilla (The Guardian - UK): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jun/01/israel-no-choice-gaza-flotilla>
- Boatloads of bloody-minded pacifists (The Daily Telegraph - Australia): <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/boatloads-of-bloody-minded-pacifists/story-e6frezz0-1225874166305>
- Stop the Hypocrisy about Israel (CNN - USA): <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/OPINION/06/01/frum.gaza.flotilla.israel/index.html>
- Knives, batons and attempted lynchings - dont you just love peace activists? (The Daily Telegraph - UK): <http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/douglasmurray/100041868/knives-batons-and-attempted-lynchings-dont-you-just-love-peace-activists/>
- The Flotilla Fraud (The Washington Times, USA): <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jun/1/the-freedom-flotilla-fraud/>
- Israeli Soldiers Account: "They just tore him to pieces" (The Guardian, UK): <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/01/israeli-soldiers-mavi-marmara>
- Israel Was Right to Board the Gaza Flotilla (The Daily Beast): <http://www.thedailybeast.com/blogs-and-stories/2010-05-31/israel-was-right-to-board-the-gaza-flotilla/p/?tr=y&aid=6424668>
- Learn more about the IHH - the terrorist organization that backed the flotilla: <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/groupProfile.asp?grpid=7544>
- Helsinki Principles on the Law of Maritime Neutrality: <http://www.achgut.com/dadgdx/index.php/dadgd/print/0016515>
- In the Great Flotilla Debate, the Facts are on Israel's side (The New Republic): <http://www.tnr.com/blog/the-spine/75249/the-great-flotilla-debate-the-facts-are-israels-side>

- StandWithUs, other pro-Israel groups demonstrate in Los Angeles against Turkey: <http://sdjewishworld.wordpress.com/2010/06/02/standwithus-other-pro-israel-groups-in-los-angeles-demonstrate-against-turkey/>
- Hundreds rally in support of Israeli raid on flotilla at L.A. Turkish Consulate: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/06/protest-at-turkish-consulate-.html>
- Turkish charity that sent aid convoy to Gaza 'has links to terrorism' (The Times, UK) http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/middle_east/article7142977.ece
- AP INTERVIEW: Turkish aid group had terror ties - Yahoo! News http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100602/ap_on_re_eu/eu_gaza_ships_terror_ties
- "Israel and the Flotilla" (Chicago Tribune) <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-gaza-20100601,0,4785345.story>
- Turkish article (use Google translate): "Bengi from Diyarbakır prayed to become a martyr before going to Gaza...It appears that Bengi, who left behind a wife and 4 children, had prayed day after day before his trip to Gaza, that he would become a martyr.": <http://sondakika.com/haber-diyarbakirli-bengi-gazze-yoluna-cikmadan-once-2082271-2082271/>
- Biden: Israel right to stop Gaza flotilla from breaking blockade - Haaretz Daily Newspaper | Israel. <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/biden-israel-right-to-stop-gaza-flotilla-from-breaking-blockade-1.293833>
- Gaza Clash: Turkish Charity's Terror Links: <http://liveshots.blogs.foxnews.com/2010/06/01/gaza-clash-turkish-charity-s-terror-links/>
- Israel's bungled raid: "Israel and the Flotilla" <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-edit-gaza-20100601,0,4785345.story>
- Flotilla Aid Refused by Hamas: <http://www.ipost.com/MiddleEast/Article.aspx?id=177284>
- MOWBRAY: Freedom Flotilla flotsam: Gaza blockade doesn't stop anti-Israeli propaganda: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/jun/1/freedom-flotilla-flotsam/>
- 3 flotilla fatalities 'dreamt of martyrdom' <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3898109,00.html>
- 'Injured activists received excellent treatment' <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3898154,00.html>
- Israel's action - Editorials - Miami Herald: "Once again, Israel has been placed in the preposterous position of having to defend itself for defending itself. For that it should never have to apologize." <http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/06/02/1658973/israels-action.html>
- Sydney Morning Herald: "Flotilla Sailed for Confrontation, not Aid" <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/flotilla-sailed-for-confrontation-not-for-aid-20100601-wv5b.html>
- An Insult to Real Humanitarians (National Post, Canada): <http://www.nationalpost.com/todays-paper/insult%20real%20humanitarians/3105092/story.html>

Useful Websites

- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem: <http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA>
- Israel Politik: <http://www.israelpolitik.org/2010/05/31/insider-facts-flotilla/>
- Virtual Jerusalem: www.virtualjerusalem.com/news.php?...flotilla-facts
- BICOM – Gaza Flotilla Facts and Analysis: <http://www.bicom.org.uk/>