

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
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From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 6/8/2010 7:27:34 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: A SUBDUED GAZA FLOTILLA PROTEST IN RABAT

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED
Sensitive



MRN: 10 RABAT 477
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081215Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY RABAT
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ASEC, MARR, PINR, MO, GZ, IS
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Reference: RABAT 0474
Subject: A SUBDUED GAZA FLOTILLA PROTEST IN RABAT

UNCLAS RABAT 000477

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, ASEC, MARR, PINR, MO, GZ, IS
SUBJECT: A SUBDUED GAZA FLOTILLA PROTEST IN RABAT

REF: RABAT 0474

1. (SBU) Summary: On June 6 an estimated 50,000 people participated in a demonstration in Rabat against the Israeli Army's deadly raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla. Organized by two NGOs – the Moroccan National Action Group for Supporting Iraq and Palestine and the Moroccan Association for the Support of Palestinian Resistance – the demonstration was held under the slogan "Liberty March against Zionist Terrorism." However this time, unlike in anti-Israel demonstrations over the past several years in Morocco, the rhetoric was decidedly less violent, especially towards the current U.S. administration. Ultimately, the event was as much about Moroccan Islamist groups competing with one another to show how much of the crowd they could mobilize as it was about condemning the Israeli attack. End Summary.

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2. (U) Thousands of marchers came out in Rabat Sunday, June 6, to decry the recent Israel raid on a Gaza-bound aid flotilla. Waving Moroccan and Palestinian flags and chanting slogans condemning "the vile act" perpetrated by the Israeli Army, the marchers numbered approximately 50,000, according to security officials. Estimates in the press varied wildly, with one newspaper putting the figure at a tremendously exaggerated 600,000.

The Positive Impact of the Cairo Speech

3. (U) In recent years, anti-Israel demonstrations of this type typically have attracted angry participants who targeted the U.S. as much as they targeted Israel. Posters of President Bush were as commonplace as those of Israeli leaders (captioned with inflammatory slogans such as "War Criminals" or "Butchers"), and American flags were often burned alongside Israeli flags. A consistent element in Moroccan public opinion over the past half a century has been solidarity with the Palestinian people – at least at the level of rhetoric. Public opinion (such as it exists) still also links unpopular Israeli actions like the flotilla attack with the United States, and the majority of Moroccans still view American foreign policy unfavorably in the Middle East.

4. (U) The June 8 demonstration, however, marked the first time in recent years that a Moroccan demonstration of this type witnessed a more reserved criticism of the U.S. There was no poster of President Obama in evidence nor of any other U.S. leaders, and there were no banners with harsh criticism or violent slogans against America. Demonstrators did chant slogans calling on the current U.S. administration to stop its unconditional support to Israel, but harsh or violent rhetoric was not heard, as used to be consistently the case in the past. This time the American flag was not set alight.

5. (SBU) Observers and demonstration organizers attributed the change in tone – at least toward the U.S. – to the Obama administration and the President's Cairo speech. Abdelaziz Nouaydi, president of the human rights NGO "Adala," told Pol LES that "this is the result of the still-prevailing 'Obama-mania' in the region." Another participant, Professor Abadallah Saaf, Director of the Moroccan Center for Social Studies, added, "Moroccans, like other Arabs, have started showing signs of trust and confidence in President Obama. This absence of harsh criticism during the demonstration shows clearly a divide between two eras."

Local Political Entities Flex their Muscle

6. (SBU) When the Moroccan National Action Group

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for Supporting Iraq and Palestine and the Moroccan Association for the Support of Palestinian Resistance called for a massive demonstration on June 6, the goal, of course, was to show unconditional Moroccan support to the Palestinians and to denounce the attack at sea. Moroccan political parties, NGOs, unions and Islamist

movements quickly issued communiqués calling on their members to participate massively. On June 6, it was clear that the Islamist movements – most unrecognized, but tolerated, by the GOM – mobilized the biggest turn-out, with the Justice and Charity (Good Works) Organization (JCO) leading the way. Four of the nine Moroccans who had participated (and survived unhurt) in the Gaza flotilla are JCO leaders, but the high JCO turnout also points to its ability to mobilize supporters. The Islamist Party of Justice and Development (PJD), a fully recognized political party, also brought out many hundreds of supporters. However, the overall picture was one of huge crowds of JCO-affiliated Islamists who were well organized in self-identifying groups, while members of political parties were scattered and poorly organized. The message they sought to send was clear: The Islamist movements, led by the JCO, are the premier grassroots political entity in Morocco.

7. (SBU) Comment: Many Moroccan political observers interpret the June 6 Rabat demonstration as the beginning of a new relationship between the current U.S. administration and Moroccan public opinion – and perhaps with Arabs in general. As one of the participants said, "It is a mutual opportunity for both sides to establish a new relationship based on trust and confidence." Others saw the demonstration as an internal Moroccan political struggle to show to the public opinion which power is still able to mobilize the greatest proportion of participants in the shortest amount of time. In this case, the Islamists proved to be the force to reckon with. End Comment.

KAPLAN

Signature: KAPLAN

Info: ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

Attachments: metadata.dat

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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RELEASED IN FULL

From: Falls, Eric G
Sent: 6/8/2010 8:20:43 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: Dutch views on the June 2010 FAC Agenda

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS
REDACTED

UNCLASSIFIED

MRN: 10 MDA 34714
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081219Z JUN 10
From: Falls, Eric G
Action: Konick, Elizabeth JROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, NL, EUN
Captions: SIPDIS
Subject: Dutch views on the June 2010 FAC Agenda

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior
Reviewer

Dear Liz –

With thanks to Ruud Hooijkaas, I send you a translation/summary of the Dutch MFA letter to parliament concerning the June 2010 FAC Agenda. Ken Longmyer and others here will follow up with further details as appropriate.

Cheers,
Eric

Verhagen previews June 14 FAC and GAC

[Redacted]

NR

Foreign Affairs Council

- **MEPP:** Netherlands supports proposal for discussion of an "option paper." "The events around the Gaza Flotilla threaten the *proximity talks* and it is therefore desirable to discuss in what way under these circumstances the EU can advance progress of the MEPP."
- **Iran:**

[Redacted]

NR

- **Western Balkans:**
- **East Africa – piracy:**
- **Haiti- emergency response:**
- **Cuba:**
- **Corfu process:**
- **Georgia:**

NR

- Sudan:
- Child Labor:
- EUBAM Rafah:
- EUJUST LEX Iraq:
- MDG:

General Affairs Council

-
-
-
-
-
-

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Drafted By: Falls, Eric G
Released By: THE HAGUE:Falls, Eric G
Info: Belon, Valerie *LROUTINE* ; Betancourt, Annika *RROUTINE* ; Cormack, Maureen *EROUTINE* ;
Dwyer, Stuart *AROUTINE* ; Marcus, Robert *BROUTINE* ; McManis, S Lee *ROUTINE* ;
Pipkin, Alisande L. *ROUTINE* ; Shallal, Tara *ROUTINE* ; Stanton, Michael *WROUTINE* ;
Gray, Shawn *KROUTINE* ; Merideth, Denny *JROUTINE* ; Brooke, Kyla *LROUTINE* ;
Longmyer, Kenneth *XROUTINE* ; Hooijkaas, Rudolf *WROUTINE*

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NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS
REDACTED

From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)
Sent: 6/8/2010 9:12:23 AM
To: svcSMARTHBTSP08
Subject: RE: Lebanon O/I June 7, 2010
Attachments: Metadata.dat

CONFIDENTIAL REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior
Reviewer

MRN: 10 MDA 929
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081312Z JUN 10
From: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)
Action: Lawson, Christine MRoutine
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, UNSC, PTER, KJUS, KPAL, PHUM, KTIP, MASS, LE, IS, SY, IR
Reference: A) 10 BEIRUT 527
Subject: RE: Lebanon O/I June 7, 2010

(C) Hariri's meeting with Hassan Nasrallah: [REDACTED]

NR

(C) Hizballah Files a Suit Against Der Spiegel: [REDACTED]

(C) Lebanese PermRep says no instructions on Iran sanctions yet: [REDACTED]

(SBU) **The would-be Lebanese Gaza flotilla:** Under the title "Reporters to Gaza and Palestine", the Lebanese NGOs "Free Palestine Movement" and "Reporters Without Limits" (which is different that the NGO "Reporters Without Borders") posted an announcement in *Al-Akhabar* calling on "all free Lebanese in the Arab world to join in the campaign of launching a flotilla of 'free journalists,' which will go to Gaza to carry assistance and educational material to Palestine's children." The announcement was a call for donations, even in small amounts, so we believe that it is unlikely the trip will take place soon. No one seems to have heard of either organization before.

(U) **Sleiman to Head Ministerial Delegation to Damascus on June 15:** [REDACTED]

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More below....

From: Lawson, Christine M
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 2:06 AM
To: Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)
Cc: Brennan, Michael F; Cornforth, Jeremy A; Cranmer, Amanda C; McCulloch, Megan L; Polacheck, Joshua W (Beirut); Smith, Derrin R; Tachco, Amy N (Beirut); Walker, Bridgette L; Smith, Anita R (Beirut); Wong, Kam T; Vassilev, Ivaylo; Williams, Prestina D; Allen, Katherine E; Shampaine, Nicole D; Smith, Kirk G; Berisford, Joshua P; Bauer, Paul A; Solly, Janet R (Beirut); Williams, Jennifer L; Lantz, James V; Connelly, Maura; Pannaman, Jeffrey E; Balestri, Richard R; Riley, Richard H; Schlicher, Ronald L; Hinton, Terrance; Brown, Karen L; Hosking, Erika L (Beirut); Citrin, Ruth; Sison, Michele J; Embury, Benjamin S; Scott, Elaine M; Herbol, Denise A; Abell, J Andrew; Kontek, Ted L (Beirut); Gliha, Ryan M; Wilt, Mark C (Beirut); Kaluza, Arnold F; Addis, Casey L; RiggsSJ@state.sgov.gov; Creedon, Reid M; Evans, Jennifer R
Subject: Lebanon O/I June 7, 2010

Lebanon O/I June 7, 2010

(C) VPOTUS-Sleiman call: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

NR

(C) Iran sanctions points: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

(SBU) SFRC Hizballah testimony: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

(SBU) Senator Gillibrand response letter: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

(C) Request for additional TOW2As: [Redacted]
[Redacted]

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(SBU) Tip report: [Redacted]

NR

(S/NF) [Redacted]

(SBU) Staffing note: [Redacted]

Christine Lawson
Lebanon Desk Officer
Office of Egypt and Levant Affairs
Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
U.S. Department of State
202-647-1030

Classified By: Thomas F. Daughton, DCM
Embassy Beirut
State

Reason: 1.4 (b), (d)

Declassify on: 2020/06/08

Drafted By: BEIRUT:Comforth, Jeremy A

Cleared By: U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

Approved By: U.S. Embassy Beirut:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

Released By: BEIRUT:Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut)

Info: Brennan, Michael *FROUTINE* ; Cornforth, Jeremy *AROUTINE* ; Cranmer, Amanda *CROUTINE* ; McCulloch, Megan *LROUTINE* ; Polacheck, Joshua W (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Smith, Derrin R *ROUTINE* ; Tachco, Amy N (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Daughton, Thomas F (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Evans, Jennifer *RROUTINE* ; Creedon, Reid *MROUTINE* ; RiggsSJ@state.sgov.gov *ROUTINE* ; Addis, Casey *LROUTINE* ; Kaluza, Arnold *FROUTINE* ; Wilt, Mark C (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Gliha, Ryan *MROUTINE* ; Kontek, Ted L (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Abell, J Andrew *ROUTINE* ; Herbol, Denise *AROUTINE* ; Scott, Elaine *MROUTINE* ; Embury, Benjamin *SROUTINE* ; Sison, Michele *JROUTINE* ; Citrin, Ruth *ROUTINE* ; Hosking, Erika L (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Brown, Karen *LROUTINE* ; Hinton, Terrance *ROUTINE* ; Schlicher, Ronald *LROUTINE* ; Riley, Richard *HROUTINE* ; Balestri, Richard *RROUTINE* ; Pannaman, Jeffrey *EROUTINE* ; Connelly, Maura *ROUTINE* ; Lantz, James *VROUTINE* ; Williams, Jennifer *LROUTINE* ; Solly, Janet R (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Bauer, Paul *AROUTINE* ; Berisford, Joshua *PROUTINE* ; Smith, Kirk *GROUTINE* ; Shampaine, Nicole *DROUTINE* ; Allen, Katherine *EROUTINE* ; Williams, Prestina *DROUTINE* ; Vassilev, Ivaylo *ROUTINE* ; Wong, Kam *TROUTINE* ; Smith, Anita R (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Walker, Bridgette *LROUTINE* ; Tachco, Amy N (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; Smith, Derrin *RROUTINE* ; Polacheck, Joshua W (Beirut) *ROUTINE* ; McCulloch, Megan *LROUTINE* ; Cranmer, Amanda *CROUTINE*

Attachments: Metadata.dat

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior
Reviewer

From: svcsmartmfi
Sent: 6/8/2010 10:07:45 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: KNESSET CONSIDERS REMOVING SOME PRIVILEGES FROM ISRAELI ARAB MK HANEEN ZOABI

UNCLASSIFIED
Sensitive



MRN: 10 TEL AVIV 1284
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081357Z JUN 10
From: AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE PRIORITY
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KWBG, IS
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Reference: TEL AVIV 01218
Subject: KNESSET CONSIDERS REMOVING SOME PRIVILEGES FROM ISRAELI ARAB MK HANEEN ZOABI

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 001284

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, KWBG, IS
SUBJECT: KNESSET CONSIDERS REMOVING SOME PRIVILEGES FROM ISRAELI ARAB MK HANEEN ZOABI

REF: TEL AVIV 01218

1. (SBU) A Knesset committee recommended on June 7 to deprive Israeli Arab MK Haneen Zoabi (Balad), who was aboard the Mavi Marmara last week and had also recently visited Qadhafi in Libya with five other Israeli Arab lawmakers, of some parliamentary privileges. The privileges included taking away her diplomatic passport, removing parliamentary travel privileges, and exempting the state from liability for any litigation fees that might arise while she serves in the Knesset. A simple majority vote in a plenary session - that has yet to be scheduled - could remove these privileges, but her parliamentary immunity from prosecution would remain. This 7-1 committee recommendation was an apparent slap on the wrist for the Israeli Arab lawmaker who participated in the Gaza Flotilla and then created an uproar in the Knesset on June 2 when she gave her account of the violent confrontation with Israeli soldiers on the Mavi Marmara.

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2. (SBU) Knesset speaker Reuven Rivlin said he wanted to discuss the issue with legal advisors before scheduling a vote. Most analysts considered it unlikely the committee's recommendations would be enacted by a Knesset plenary vote. Prior to the committee vote, the Knesset's Legal Advisor opposed the committee's recommendation on the grounds that the removal of some parliamentary privileges should not be connected in any way with a Knesset member's political activity or statements. If the ongoing police investigation into the activities of the four Israeli Arabs aboard the Mavi Marmara reveals any criminal activity, the Attorney General could indict Zoabi along with the three leaders of the Islamic Movement. If indicted, the same Knesset House Committee would undoubtedly remove Zoabi's immunity from prosecution.

3. (SBU) Although some activists have said in the press that Zoabi was involved in negotiating in Hebrew with Israeli soldiers for the release of the four commandos who were briefly held as hostages by the IHH activists during the boarding of the Mavi Marmara, Zoabi claimed that "there was not a single passenger who raised a baton" and said the "goal was not confrontation," but "breaking the blockade on Gaza." At a press conference she held in Nazareth, Zoabi accused the IDF of planning "to cause a very large number of casualties to stop similar initiatives in the future" and claimed the flotilla achieved a "victory." On June 2, ushers in the Knesset had to restrain MKs who attempted to physically remove Zoabi from speaking at the podium as some MKs called her a "traitor" and "terrorist." Several legislators introduced bills aimed at removing an MK for inciting against the state and others requested the Central Elections Committee to individually prevent Zoabi from running in any future Knesset election.

4. (SBU) The Israeli Arab party Balad has a history of confrontation within the Knesset and with state authorities. Balad's founder, Azmi Bishara, resigned from the Knesset while visiting Cairo in 2007 and has since stayed abroad for fear of arrest in connection with charges that he spied for Hezbollah during the 2006 Second Lebanon war. Said Nafa, who replaced Bishara in the Knesset, was stripped of his immunity in January after being indicted in December 2009 for visiting an enemy country, Syria, and allegedly meeting with the PFLP and Hamas. The Central Elections Committee has voted repeatedly to remove Balad from participating in national elections, including in 2009, but the High Court of Justice has overturned the decisions each time.

CUNNINGHAM

Signature: CUNNINGHAM

Info: NSC WASHDC PRIORITY ; ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

Attachments: metadata.dat

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UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05717555 Date: 07/24/2015

StateDept006830

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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RELEASE IN FULL

From: Crenwelge, Colleen E
Sent: 6/8/2010 11:09:37 AM
To: svcSMARTHBTSP0P4
Subject: OSCE Weekly Highlights: June 1 - 4, 2010
Attachments: Metadata.dat

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS REDACTED

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Sharon Ahmad, Senior Reviewer

MRN: 10 USOSCE 165
Date/DTG: Jun 08, 2010 / 081509Z JUN 10
From: USMISSION USOSCE
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, OSCE, PGOV, KZ, RS, AF, GG, TU, IS
Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
Subject: OSCE Weekly Highlights: June 1 - 4, 2010



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Turkey Raises Gaza Flotilla at the OSCE

3. (SBU) At the joint FSC/PC meeting June 1, Turkish PermRep Saribas raised the topic of Israel's military operation against the Gaza flotilla, which he termed a "grave violation of international law" for which there was no justification. He cited statements of the UN Security Council and representatives of NATO, the EU, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe condemning Israeli actions and expressing regret at the loss of life. Saribas called for the immediate release of the ships and persons detained by Israeli forces, as well as a prompt, credible investigation into the incident. The Israeli deputy PermRep, in her reply, focused on the legitimacy of the blockade and asserted that Israeli forces acted only in self-defense, after being violently provoked by the passengers of the Marmara ship. She drew attention to the fact that the organizers of the flotilla had refused to hand the goods over for inspection, which she interpreted as proof that the purpose of the flotilla was not humanitarian, but political. The United States read the May 31 statement made by Assistant Secretary Crowley, while the EU, Canada, and Russia drew attention to statements they had made in other fora. Saribas exercised his right of reply to state that the explanations provided by the Israeli deputy PermRep "did not satisfy other international organizations or the countries here today."



Signature: Kelly

Drafted By: USOSCE:Ward, Jessica X
Approved By: USOSCE:Crenwelge, Colleen E
Released By: USOSCE:Crenwelge, Colleen E
Info: TUNIS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; TOKYO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; SEOUL, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; RABAT, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; KABUL, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; CANBERRA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; CAIRO, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; BANGKOK, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; AMMAN, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; ALGIERS, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; SACEUR POLAD SHAPE BE ROUTINE ; JCS NMCC WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE ; DTRA ALEX WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE ; EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE ROUTINE ; DODSPECONE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE ; DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE ; CIA WASHINGTON DC

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ROUTINE; CDRUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE*ROUTINE* ;
USAREUR POLAD HEIDELBERG GE*ROUTINE* ;
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC*ROUTINE* ;
ORG FOR SECURITY CO OP IN EUR COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

Attachments:

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From: Nordberg, Marc
 Sent: 6/9/2010 8:09:10 AM
 To: SMART Core
 Subject: Estonia takes Moderate Line Towards Israel

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

UNCLASSIFIED



MRN: 10 TALLINN 220
 Date/DTG: Jun 09, 2010 / 091207Z JUN 10
 From: AMEMBASSY TALLINN
 Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
 E.O.: 12958
 TAGS: PREL, IS, EN
 Captions: SENSITIVE, SIPDIS
 Subject: Estonia takes Moderate Line Towards Israel

1. (U) Following the May 31 Israeli raid on the Gaza flotilla, the Estonian Government and press have condemned the loss of life, but also expressed understanding for Israel's actions. Foreign Minister Paet on May 31 issued a statement that was very similar to that issued by the European Union, condemning the loss of life, demanding an investigation, and calling for the Gaza blockade to be lifted. That was the only GOE statement on the incident. On the contrary, the Estonian-Israeli parliamentary group issued a statement saying that perhaps excessive force was used, but faulting the flotilla for challenging Israel's blockade and stating Israel has the right to defend itself. Chairman of this group Igor Grazin, an MP from the ruling Reform Party, further stated that Israel has a legal right to search vessels headed to Gaza. Estonia's Green Party issued a statement condemning both the raid as well as the flotilla's provocative behavior.

2. (U) Estonian press was even more supportive of Israel. In the past week Estonia's largest papers have published editorials supporting Israel. Daily newspaper Paevaleht asked why it took six ships to deliver 10,000 tons of aid, an amount that could fit in one cargo ship. The paper also questioned the presence of 600 people, most extremely hostile to Israel, on the Mavi Marmara, and asked what role they expected to play to help the Palestinians. Paevaleht suggests that if Gaza wants peace, it should stop shooting at Israel, and pointed out Israel's blockade has resulted in a sharp drop in rocket attacks. In a subsequent editorial, Paevaleht criticized Hamas for withholding assistance from non-supporters. Estonia's other large paper, Postimees, published two editorials that explained how this raid greatly hurt Israel's standing in the world, but pointed out that Israel is fighting for its very existence.

3. (SBU) President Ilves announced before this raid that he would travel to Israel at the end of June. His foreign policy advisor subsequently told post that his office is following the situation, but that Ilves does not plan to cancel his visit.

Signature: POLT

Drafted By: TALLINN:Nordberg, Marc
 Approved By: EXEC:Decker, Karen B
 Released By: TALLINN:Nordberg, Marc

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UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05717586 Date: 07/24/2015

StateDept006834

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Info: TEL AVIV, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE* ; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

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UNCLASSIFIED U.S. Department of State Case No. F-2010-04163 Doc No. C05717586 Date: 07/24/2015

CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL
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RELEASED IN FULL

NON-RESPONSIVE PORTIONS
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From: svcsmartmf
Sent: 6/9/2010 10:47:36 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: SECRETARY CLINTON'S JUNE 2, 2010 MEETING WITH MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer

CONFIDENTIAL
Sensitive



MRN: 10 STATE 59739
Date/DTG: Jun 09, 2010 / 091437Z JUN 10
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Action: ALL NEAR EAST COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PREL, KMPI, OVIP, PHUM, XF
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Subject: SECRETARY CLINTON'S JUNE 2, 2010 MEETING WITH MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 059739

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/09/2020
TAGS: PREL, KMPI, OVIP, PHUM, XF
SUBJECT: SECRETARY CLINTON'S JUNE 2, 2010 MEETING WITH MIDDLE EASTERN AND NORTH AFRICAN DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS

Classified By: NEA A/PDAS Janet Sanderson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (U) June 2, 2010; 11:30)11:40am; Washington, D.C.

2. (C) Participants:

U.S.



NR

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3. (SBU) Summary:

End summary.

PHOTO-OP CAPS SUCCESSFUL STUDY TOUR

4. (SBU)

NOBLE EFFORTS

5. (SBU)

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NR

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

6. (SBU)

Thank you, Madame Secretary, for the meeting today. Some members of the group are wearing black ribbons to express and demonstrate rejection of the Flotilla Freedom Ship incident. We come today carrying four questions which we would like to address:

- President Obama's Cairo speech focused on peace. There are articles from high officials which refer to the fact that Israel, in its massive violation of human rights, is turning out to be a burden on the U.S. For example, the Flotilla Freedom Ship incident affected negatively the U.S. image which has been built in seven years through the MEPI program. Where does the U.S. stand between promoting its image and dealing with Israel? End text.

COMMENT

7. (C)

NR

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NR

[Redacted comment box]

CLINTON End comment.

Signature: CLINTON

Classified By: NEA A/PDAS Janet Sanderson,
Reason: 1.4 (b) and (d)
Declassify on: 06/09/2020
Drafted By: NEA/PI:CKIAMIE – 06/09/2010 202-776-8841
Cleared By: NEA: TWITTES NEA/PI: KVOLKER NEA/ELA: RILEY NEA/ARP: LSPECHT NEA/MAG:
JPATTERSON NEA/IPA: WREISSER EA/PPD: PAGNEW DRL/NESCA: JLIEBERMAN G:
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From: Foley, Tara E
Sent: 6/10/2010 3:25:01 AM
To: SMART Core
Subject: HRC Establishes Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Actions Against a Ship Convoy to Gaza

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: Archie Bolster, Senior Reviewer



MRN: 10 GENEVA 492
Date/DTG: Jun 10, 2010 / 100723Z JUN 10
From: USMISSION GENEVA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
E.O.: 12958
TAGS: PHUM, UNHRC-1, PREL, KWBG, GZ, IS
Captions: SENSITIVE
Subject: HRC Establishes Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Actions Against a Ship Convoy to Gaza

Summary

1. (U) On June 1, only two days into its 14th session, the Human Rights Council interrupted its proceedings to hold an "urgent debate" on Israel's May 30 boarding of several ships carrying cargo directly to Gaza, which resulted in at least nine deaths, many of them Turkish nationals. The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), at the behest of the Palestinian delegation and Turkey, tabled a resolution entitled "The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy." The resolution, which passed by a vote of 32 in favor, 3 opposed (U.S.), 9 abstentions and 3 absent, created an international fact-finding mission (FFM) to investigate violations of international law in the incident. Despite some indications of flexibility by the OIC members, USDel was unable to prevent the creation of the FFM or to convince key delegations to adhere to language agreed a day prior by UN Security Council members. The OIC members are encouraging the HRC President to quickly appoint the members of the FFM. End summary.

Urgent Debate

2. (U) The Council suspended its regular program of work on Wednesday, June 2 for an urgent debate to discuss Israel's May 30 ship-boarding that ended in at least nine deaths and multiple injuries. The GOI action against the "humanitarian convoy" was undertaken as part of Israel's maritime and land blockade on Gaza.

3. (U) Israel and Palestine spoke as concerned countries. Israel stated that the events were tragic and unfortunate and expressed regret at the loss of life. It adhered to its position that the Gaza maritime blockade was a lawful and legitimate action necessary to prevent Hamas from smuggling weapons into the Gaza Strip, and that international law permitted Israel to prescribe the technical arrangements, including search, under which humanitarian aid was transmitted into Gaza. The flotilla organizers were repeatedly warned, said Israeli Ambassador Ronny Yaar, from the point of departure to the point of interception, but such overtures were rejected, making clear to Israel the political motive to break the blockade. Israel stated that it was in the process

of releasing all detainees and estimated that all detainees would be released within forty-eight hours. Inventory contained on the ships was to be searched at the Port of Ashdod and all humanitarian aid delivered overland to Gaza residents in accordance with standard procedures.

4. (U) Palestinian Ambassador and Vice Foreign Minister Ibrahim Khraishi stressed that no impunity could be accepted for the "atrocious crime at hand." The measures called for in the draft resolution should cause Israel to realize that the blockade and occupation of the Gaza Strip must be lifted.

5. (SBU) The OIC tabled a draft resolution condemning "the outrageous attack by the Israeli forces," calling upon Israel to lift its "siege on occupied Gaza," and creating an international fact finding mission to investigate "violations of international law." The resolution sponsors repeatedly noted throughout negotiations that they had intentionally drafted a "modest resolution" in the interest of achieving consensus with all HRC members. Saudi Ambassador Abdulwahab Attar explained that the sponsors "did not ask for much" and had intentionally kept out -- unlike with other HRC resolutions about the Middle East -- references to many other issues they have with Israel. He referenced High Commissioner Pillay's remarks on the subject. [Note: During her remarks at the opening of the Council session on May 31, High Commissioner Pillay had referred to Israel's blockade as inhuman and illegal. End Note.] Palestinian DPR Imad Zuhairi expressed similar sentiments.

Negotiation

6. (U) Ambassador Donahoe and members of the U.S. delegation met on several occasions over the course of Tuesday, June 1 and Wednesday, June 2 with delegates from the missions of Palestine, Pakistan (representing the OIC), Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan (representing the Group of Arab States) to discuss U.S. proposed changes to the text of the proposed resolution. Members of the U.S. delegation also met with representatives of delegations including EU member states and the Netherlands in an attempt to reach consensus language on a number of redline issues.

7. (U) While much of the text posed concerns for the United States -- including references to "occupied" Gaza -- the sponsors' call for an immediate international investigation into the incident was the paramount issue for all concerned parties and was the primary focus of discussion.

8. (U) The U.S. delegation urged the sponsors to endorse the Security Council's Presidential Statement (PRST) of June 1, which called for a prompt, impartial, and transparent investigation that conformed to international standards. We suggested possible options for phrasing this endorsement which would have underscored the importance of the issue and the significance of a unified view among Security Council and Human Rights Council member states.

9. (U) In response to the sponsors desire to internationalize the investigation, the EU proposed two main alternatives. First, the EU joined the United States in advocating for a text that would support the PRST. When the sponsors rejected this proposal, the EU recommended language that would have endorsed the PRST's call for an investigation, "bearing in mind the role of the UN Secretary General..."

10. (SBU) Many of the original resolution sponsors appeared prepared to consider this language, as well as changes that would have accommodated U.S. redlines on references to the "occupying power" Israel and "occupied" Gaza if consensus on the issue of an investigation could be reached. The negotiations reached an impasse because Turkey was unable to accept any text that did not expressly call for an "international" investigation. Turkey explained that they could not accept ambiguous language about the international elements of the investigation (such as the PRST language) after the U.S. had publicly stated that the Israel should undertake its own investigation.

Vote Count

11. (U) Without a compromise, the U.S. called a vote on the resolution. Thirty-two states voted in favor of the resolution. Three states – the United States, Italy, and the Netherlands – voted in opposition. Nine states abstained: Belgium, Burkina Faso, France, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Slovakia, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Cameroon, Madagascar, and Zambia were absent from the vote.

12. (SBU) Explanations of the vote (EOVs) by France, the Netherlands, and the UK detailed the reason for their votes as the UN Security Council's call for an impartial, credible investigation in a form that does not necessarily mandate an international fact finding mission. Burkina Faso's delegate informed PolCouns after the session had ended that it abstained due to lack of instruction from Ouagadougou.

The Final Draft Text

13. (SBU) Full text of the resolution is available in para 16. The text authorizes the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint members of "an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance" and instructs that the members should report their investigative findings to the Council in its Fifteenth Session (September 2010).

Programme and Budgetary Implications (PBI)

14. (U) OHCHR's Office of Programme and Budgetary Support Services estimates the investigation will cost approximately \$530,000 USD based on the expense of the Goldstone Report. A more concrete statement of financial implications will be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration. Additional budgetary appropriations likely will be requested.

Next Steps

15. (SBU) In the days after the vote, Turkey and OIC members lobbied the HRC President to quickly appoint the members of the FFM. The President's office told us that the OHCHR was working to identify possible FFM members, although it was unlikely the OHCHR would be able to identify, vet and propose the individuals before the Belgian Ambassador ceded his position as HRC President on June 18. The task of appointing the FFM team would therefore fall to the next HRC President (from the Asian Group). Frontrunners are Thailand and Maldives.

Resolution Text

16. (U) Following is the text of Human Rights Council Resolution HRC/RES/14/L1: The Grave Attacks by Israeli Forces against the Humanitarian Boat Convoy:

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and the principles of the United Nations Charter, as well as by the provisions of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights,

Taking into consideration the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War of 12 August 1949,

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

Expressing grave concern also at the deepening humanitarian crisis in occupied Gaza,

Emphasizing the need to ensure sustained and regular flow of goods and people into occupied Gaza and welcoming the initiatives aimed at creating and opening humanitarian corridors and other mechanisms for the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid;

1. Condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous attack by the Israeli forces against the humanitarian flotilla of ships which resulted in the killing and injuring of many innocent civilians from different countries;
2. Deeply deplors the loss of life of innocent civilians and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families;
3. Calls upon the occupying Power Israel to fully cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to seek and provide information on the whereabouts status and condition of the detained and injured persons;
4. Demands the occupying Power Israel to immediately release all detained men and material and facilitate their safe return to their homelands;
5. Calls upon the occupying Power Israel to immediately lift the siege on occupied Gaza and other occupied Territories;
6. Calls upon the occupying Power Israel to ensure the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance, including of food, fuel and medical treatment to the occupied Gaza strip;
7. Welcomes the statements of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights condemning the Israeli attacks and calls for the full accountability and credible independent inquiries into these attacks.
8. Decides to dispatch an independent international fact finding mission to investigate violations of international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, resulting from the Israeli attacks on the flotilla of ships carrying humanitarian assistance.
9. Decides to authorize the President of the Council to appoint members of this independent international fact finding mission, who should report to the Council on their findings in its fifteenth session.
10. Decides to remain seized of this matter.

10th meeting
2 June 2010

Signature: KING

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Info: ANKARA, AMEMBASSY ROUTINE ; ISTANBUL, AMCONSUL ROUTINE ;
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