

U.N. Calls Israel Force on Flotilla 'Excessive'

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In reference to the WSJ article "U.N. Calls Israel Force on Flotilla 'Excessive'" I have read the 105 page report of the Secretary-General's Panel of Inquiry dated July 2011 and was somewhat shocked and impressed. I did not expect that the United Nations in such a matter of political controversy was capable of producing such a clear, concise, accurate and impartial document.

Considering the circumstances the authors faced, the result of their efforts is of great benefit to all those who seek a truly impartial evaluation of the law and facts of this controversy.

Combining careful review and consideration of the laws relating to Blockade which are applicable worldwide and a detailed examination of undisputed and admitted factual determinations, a significant conclusion was reached. Yes, the authors did also review the disputed facts and admitted that some issues could not be resolved. But I must agree with Chairman Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Vice Chairman Uribe that the truly significant issues were fully capable of apprehension and the report has definitively addressed those questions. It was truly enjoyable and refreshing to read and it came through so clearly that they analytically seized upon what could be determined with great reliability (those legal and factual questions) and took that to a final indisputable conclusion regardless of clouds, storms and political nonsense. It appears to have been a surprising search for the truth. SO, we now know that the United Nations is capable when given the chance to produce a publication that is entitled to respect.

The conclusions were clear that: (1) Israel was fully entitled under law to maintain and enforce the Blockade as it is in a state of war with Gaza and that Gaza has repeatedly launched attacks upon Israel that justify the Blockade; (2) That the so called "Flotilla" really had no ability to deliver any substantial "humanitarian" aid to Gaza and was primarily a bogus public relations circus which did nothing for the people of Gaza or anyone else; and (3) That Turkey as a member of the United Nations should not have allowed the "Flotilla" to leave its jurisdiction and violate a legal and authorized Blockade and then the consequent loss of life. Turkey could have and should have simply stopped the ships and diverted them to deliver the "Humanitarian Aid" to an authorized port or other legal and legitimate method. But Turkey did not do that and so we had this totally unnecessary confrontation with the Israel and International Law and death and injury.

The rebuke to Israel that it should have taken greater precautions in planning its seizing of the ships violating the Blockade to reduce the risk of civilian casualties was fully proper. Israel did the best it could at that time and in hindsight could have devised other effective and forceful methods to prevent and deal with the violation of the Blockade. With the leisurely perspective of over a year to review what occurred it will always reveal other and better planning and methods. Certainly lessons can be and were learned. Such criticism would apply to any nation, anywhere.

The Report leaves no doubt that Israel acted with full and complete legal authorization and in full and complete compliance with International Law. The fact that military tactics might have been improved upon to both increase the safety of the Israeli soldiers and the passengers on the "Flotilla" would be expected. A pleasant surprise in this simple, honest, well done and straightforward report from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and his appointed and Honorable Panel Chairman Palmer and Vice Chairman Uribe. Thank you Gentlemen and well done, well done.

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