

RELEASE IN PART  
B1,1.4(B),1.4(D),B6

**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2010 11:13 AM  
**To:** H  
**Cc:** Mills, Cheryl D  
**Subject:** Fw: Gaza flotilla update from Israeli MOD  
  
**Importance:** High

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on 11/30/2015 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
~ Declassify on: 05/30/2025

Fyi

**From:** Rudman, Mara (Jerusalem)  
**To:** 'george[redacted] <george[redacted]>; Hale, David M; Prince, Jonathan M; Sullivan, Jacob J; 'dshapiro[redacted]; Cunningham, James B; Rubinstein, Daniel H; Feltman, Jeffrey D  
**Cc:** Harden, Dave; Sachar, Alon (NEA/IPA); Reed, Julia G; Khoury-Kincannon, Sahar  
**Sent:** Mon May 31 06:34:09 2010  
**Subject:** Gaza flotilla update from Israeli MOD

B6

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

All,

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

[redacted]  
Some of it has been since put out by IDF spokesmen, [redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
About 2.5 to 3 hours later, Israeli soldiers boarded the main deck of the main ship. They met with what [redacted] described as clearly planned active/armed resistance, including live fire. [redacted]

[redacted] Those on the ship attacked the military who boarded with knives, sharpened metal and wood instruments, etc. He said the military who boarded were attacked in each case by dozens; [redacted]

[redacted] He indicated that some of the soldiers were stabbed and slashed – did not say how severely. Made clear situation was one in which actions taken were in self-defense.

Current estimates of those killed from flotilla 14-15 “maybe more”. He said all injured being moved to Israeli hospital – the severely injured already moved by helicopter. He said ships coming into Ashdod (some reports have them coming into Haifa). When he spoke with me he was en route to meet them.

At Ashdod, he and others will meet the ships. There, they will need to ID the bodies; move the people either to return them to home countries rapidly and/or detain; ID the cargo and as planned initially, move as much of into Gaza as promptly as possible.

Earlier this morning [redacted] made the following calls/contacts:  
--Turkish FM and MoD [redacted]; with Erakat, Fayyad, and Hussein al Sheikh [redacted] He felt the calls w the Turks given the situation were OK, but the concern clearly is Erdogan and how he will handle. With Pals, Erakat in particular, they

discussed extent to which levels of rhetoric could be kept in check. With Fayyad they discussed primarily need for security cooperation, keeping things calm. Much concern about how this will be affected by status of Israeli Arab Islamic leader on board the flotilla.  (PIC 1.4(B)  
seems to be on track/going forward. Some events may be affected by it.) 1.4(D)  
B1

