

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, August 21, 2010 10:04 AM
To: H

Ops alert re flotilla:

Mariam Gaza flotilla update #2 for 8/21: No departure on August 21 or 22

No Activity in Tripoli Port

(SBU) On Saturday, August 21, at 1620 hours Embassy investigators reported that both the

Mariam (formerly the Jounieh Star) and the Julia (aka the Naji al-Ali) remain in their same positions in the Lebanese port of Tripoli without any signs of activity. The investigators added that there was no elevated security presence at the port and no press was present. The team will return to Tripoli on Sunday, August 22, and we will provide further reports, as appropriate.

GOL Says Ship Will Not Sail Before Monday

(SBU) [redacted] assured the RSO that the Mariam will not depart on either August 21 or 22, although [redacted] declined to provide additional information.

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Flotilla Organizer Claims Ship Will Not Sail Directly to Gaza

(U) Coordinator of the Mariam's efforts, Samar al-Hajj, told the LBC television channel on Saturday that contacts are ongoing with countries near Gaza in order to acquire permission for the ship to dock at one of their ports. She complained, "It seems as if there is universal war against us....We will not allow anyone to cancel the ship's trip." She added that the ship will not head to Gaza directly from Tripoli, stressing, "The ship cannot be the reason for the start of a war."