

PROTEST AT THE STAIRS OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE TODAY 5:00PM

Israeli Lethal Assault on Humanitarian Aid Flotilla – 31 May 2010

Please call on the Australian Government to condemn in the strongest possible terms Israel's killing of humanitarian activists of the Gaza Aid Flotilla on Monday 31 May 2010, on international waters. At least 10 people are dead and over 60 are injured, including one Australian.

Israel has claimed that these humanitarian activists, who sought to deliver much needed food, medicines, wheel chairs, building materials and other necessary aid to a besieged Gazan population, are either terrorists or the "fools" of terrorists.

The people who helped organise this flotilla of aid ship come from all over the world and are the likes of US Professor Noam Chomsky, one of the world's leading public intellectuals; Jeff Halper, an Israeli professor of Anthropology; Archbishop Theodosius Hannah, Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem; Peter Hansen, former Commissioner General of the UN Relief and Works Agency; Naomi Klein, award winning author of international best sellers; John Pilger, Australian Journalist and Film Maker; Baroness Jenny Tonge, Member of the British House of Lords; James Abourezk, former US Senator. The Free Gaza Project, of which this flotilla is part, has been endorsed by hundreds of civil society peace and justice organisations from all over the world. These people are not terrorists; they are people who want justice for Palestine!

Israel has also claimed that the people on the aid ships acted first and assaulted the Israeli Defence Forces, who had no choice but to react by opening fire. They claim the civilians came at them with "sharp objects" and "metal rods".

Israel launched an assault on the flotilla from boats and from helicopters, with fully armed soldiers rappelling onto the aid ships. Some witnesses state that as the soldiers landed they started firing – at civilians! The assault took place in international waters against unarmed people.

Israel has claimed that the peace activists should have taken the aid to a nearby Israeli port from where Israel would have been happy to distribute the aid to Gaza.

Israel has tried to starve out the Gazans for over 3 years with a brutal blockade of goods and the necessities of life. Even the UN has said that the amount of aid the Israelis let into Gaza is a fraction of what is required on a daily basis. Why would Israel suddenly decide to distribute this aid to Gaza? If the Israelis won't let in needed aid from the UN, why would they deliver this aid?

Israel has claimed that the Aid Flotilla was bent on breaking the Israeli siege of Gaza and that the ships were entering a no-go zone and therefore had to be repelled.

Israel forgot to mention that their siege is illegal and has been declared so by the UN. Israel is an Occupying Force in Gaza and as such is compelled by international law to ensure the people of Gaza are provided with protection and the necessities of life. Despite calls from almost every country in the world to stop the siege, they refuse, and the world lets them get away with it! Of course the ships wanted to break the siege!

End the siege of Gaza!

No more double standards in relation to Israel!

Demand that Australia stands up for justice and peace!

Contact your Federal MP and DEMAND that they tell the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister that Australians will no longer put up with this rogue behaviour from Israel!

Join the Australian Friends of Palestine at www.afopa.com.au or ring us on 0414 773 918 or find us on Facebook.