

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1532

Urging an investigation into the role of the İnsan Hak ve Hurriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı in providing financial, logistical, and material support to terrorists, and into the role of any foreign governments, including the Republic of Turkey, which may have aided and abetted the organizers of the recent “Gaza Flotilla” mission to breach Israeli coastal security and assault the naval defense forces of the State of Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2010

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WEINER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. LAMBORN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging an investigation into the role of the İnsan Hak ve Hurriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı in providing financial, logistical, and material support to terrorists, and into the role of any foreign governments, including the Republic of Turkey, which may have aided and abetted the organizers of the recent “Gaza Flotilla” mission to breach Israeli coastal security and assault the naval defense forces of the State of Israel.

Whereas İnsan Hak ve Hurriyetleri ve İnsani Yardım Vakfı (IHH), a Turkish Islamic nongovernmental organization (known in English as the Foundation for Human Rights

and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief), was a leading member of the coalition that organized the recent “Gaza Flotilla” to breach Israel’s coastal security by breaking the lawful and necessary Israeli blockade of Gaza;

Whereas the IHH is a member of the “Union of Good”, a Saudi Arabia-based coalition that was formed to provide material support to Hamas and other Islamic terror groups and that was named as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) by the United States Department of the Treasury in 2008;

Whereas a 2006 report by the Danish Institute for International Studies described the IHH as a front for funding terrorist organizations and sending Mujahidin (Jihad warriors) to fight in countries such as Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Chechnya;

Whereas in 2001, the IHH was named in a United States Federal court trial as having played an “important role” in Al-Qaeda’s failed “millennium plot” to bomb the Los Angeles International Airport in late 1999;

Whereas France’s former top antiterrorism magistrate, Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who provided expert testimony in the 2001 “millennium plot” trial, recently stated that IHH has “clear, long-standing ties to terrorism and Jihad”, and that the IHH was responsible for moving “funds, weapons, and mujahedeen to and from Bosnia and Afghanistan”;

Whereas in 1997, Turkish security forces raided IHH facilities and confiscated weapons, explosives, instructions for improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and materials supporting violent Jihad terrorism;

Whereas the United States Department of State and intelligence agencies around the world have confirmed that representatives of IHH have met with senior officials of FTOs within the last 3 years;

Whereas the IHH reportedly played a major part in organizing and initiating the calculated and premeditated violent assault against the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) naval boarding party on board the Turkish Mavi Marmara vessel, the one ship in the six-ship Gaza Flotilla that refused to comply with the blockade and that deliberately initiated violence;

Whereas the explicit objective of the Gaza Flotilla organizers was to breach Israel's coastal security by breaking the lawful and necessary Israeli blockade of Gaza;

Whereas the breach would aid and abet Hamas, the Palestinian FTO that controls Gaza, and that has launched thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians in the course of its ongoing war against the Jewish State of Israel;

Whereas Bülent Yildirim, leader of the IHH and the main organizer of the Gaza Flotilla, explained at a February 2009 Hamas rally in Gaza that IHH's Gaza-related operations are part of a global Jihad to overthrow governments and install Islamist dictatorships, saying: "Anyone who does not stand alongside Palestine . . . will be toppled" and "If they kill me—that is martyrdom for the sake of Allah . . . The entire world must know that if they do not lift the embargo from Gaza, all the Muslims in the world will march to Gaza.";

Whereas, according to a June 7, 2010, report by the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center (known by its Hebrew acronym MALAM), based on security interviews

of the Gaza Flotilla participants, at least 40 of the 500 passengers aboard the Mavi Marmara vessel were IHH operatives who boarded the ship in an Istanbul port prior to the security checks conducted at the port in Antalya, Turkey, to which the other passengers, mostly humanitarian volunteers, were subject;

Whereas, according to this Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report, these IHH activists were equipped with communications equipment, flak jackets embroidered with flags of the Republic of Turkey, and gas masks; the group operated with a clear internal hierarchy, with specific activists nominated as fighting commanders and who turned the upper deck of the Mavi Marmara into its headquarters, blocking it off to other passengers;

Whereas, according to the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report, files found on laptops owned by the IHH members pointed at strong ties between the IHH and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey, and that some of the activists even claimed that Prime Minister Erdogan was personally involved in the flotilla's preparations;

Whereas a June 5, 2010, editorial in The Washington Post argued that “the relationship between Mr. Erdogan’s government and the IHH ought to be one focus of any international investigation into the [Gaza Flotilla] incident”; and

Whereas Muhammad Kaya, head of the IHH office in Gaza, said on May 21, 2010, that the IHH planned to send flotillas to Gaza every month: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives urges
- 2 the Secretary of State to conduct an investigation into—

1 (1) the role of the IHH in providing financial,
2 logistical, and material support to any entity listed
3 as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United
4 States Department of State; and

5 (2) the role of any foreign governments, includ-
6 ing the Republic of Turkey, which may have aided
7 and abetted the organizers of the recent Gaza Flo-
8 tilla mission to breach Israeli coastal security and
9 assault the naval defense forces of the State of
10 Israel.

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