

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2106

June 16, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to use all opportunities available, in the United Nations Security Council or other international fora in particular, to stand against any attempts to rush to unfairly judge or condemn Israel with respect to the recent interception of a flotilla attempting to run Israel's naval blockade of Gaza. As a longstanding friend and ally of Israel, the United States should continue to express its strong support for Israel's security and survival, and ensure that no biased or one-sided resolutions are passed.

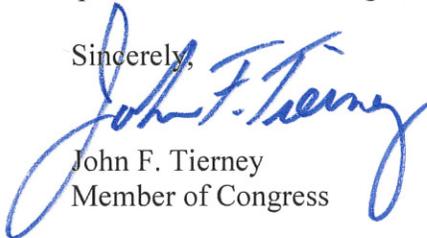
Israel is already organizing a structure by which all facts related to the incident can be determined and it is in the international community's interest to allow for such determinations to be developed fairly before any judgment is made. The fact that Israel has a right to defend itself is not and should not be in dispute. Similarly, there is a history of previous flotillas being diverted without incident. The involvement of Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH) and its relationships with organizations with agendas inimical to United States and Israeli interests especially warrants an unbiased review of the facts. In addition, Israel's assertion that it offered its ports to harbor the ships and disperse the aid directly to the people of Gaza only to be spurned by participants should be fully explored together with the ramifications of any refusal to allow Israel's assistance in order to avoid incident.

The United States would provide a useful service by focusing the international community's attention on the full picture, including the context in which the incident occurred – understanding Iran's involvement, its threats, together with those of Hamas, and the need for assurances of a secure existence for Israel. It is understood that all information concerning the incident should be investigated fully, and while a full and honest assessment is essential, it is important that the United States work with Israel to be certain that no biased or one-sided activity be countenanced in the interim.

Finally, there is now concern that other flotillas, possibly escorted by military forces antagonistic to Israel's security, are being planned. I ask that your administration immediately begin to work to obviate such activity and to work with Israel and other sensible international friends to prevent further incidents from being instigated.

I look forward to working with you on these important matters affecting the U.S. – Israel relationship.

Sincerely,



John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress