

# Survey Regarding the UN Inquiry on the Gaza Flotilla

## Results, August 19, 2010

### 1. What do you think would be the best outcome for the UN inquiry?

Transparency, reveal the truth. I'd especially like to know who was behind the flotilla in the first place, where the funding came from, why the participants were there, what governments backed the flotilla and what the real strategic goals of those in the flotilla were. If the Israeli authorities acted improperly that should come out too. (Gary Fleischer)

The inquiry is supposed to determine the true facts. If Israel was at fault, it ought to make reparations to the people it harmed. (Dan Fefferman)

I believe the UN inquiry will probably be fairer than normal because of those heading the inquest, with the best outcome agreeing with the results of the Israeli investigation irregardless, suggesting that certain possibly unreasonable safeguards be put in place. Rubber bullets, other non-lethal force, etc.; but there's a good reason we need an Abel UN...

If the UN were a normally fair body, then an inquiry is always good in the case of violence. This should however not impede in any way Israel's right to self-determination and self-protection, as long as a state of conflict exists and terrorism is actively supported in Gaza by states such as Iran. (David Byer)

I think that Israel's willingness to let a usually hostile U.N. investigate is quite positive. (Bruce Sutchar)

My first reaction to this news is to ask the question, are there any motives behind this initiative, on the part of the United Nations that have not been publically aired? In other words, are there ulterior motives, on behalf of certain players at the United Nations who would turn this "investigation" into another platform to bash Israel? Looking at the history of the U.N.'s involvement into the peace process and progress, or lack of it, between Israel and Palestine, one see that such platforms are often opportunities for rampant anti-Semitism to be expressed, as well as political condemnations of Israel as violating human rights of Palestinians...

Israel has the right to protect itself from shipments of supplies and/or arms that might be used by Hamas to inflict violence upon the Israeli population. Israel has the

same right as the United States to defend its borders from commerce that might involve terrorism against their citizens and inhabitants. (Paul Rosenbaum)

I think UN investigation is wrong as it never happens as far as I understand to a sovereign democratic state. Thus it is part of process of delegitimizing the State of Israel. (William Haines)

Netanyahu made a strategic mistake in agreeing to participate. They should have been content with their own investigation. (Richard Rubenstein)

Netanyahu would not have agreed to a UN "inquiry" unless the "results" were already established before the "inquiry," and assurances were given that the "findings" would not incriminate Israel. (Frank Kaufmann)

My wish is that the UN will fairly criticize all parties concerned: The Israeli government, for not planning carefully enough, which led to loss of life and for not giving enough attention to the blockade policy. The Turkish government, for reckless behavior mixing up legitimate protest with involvement with terrorist and semi-terrorist groups (IHH and Hamas), groups which engage in activities intended to spill blood of innocent people on both sides for the dual "win-win" purpose of demoralizing a rival democracy by killing civilians and -- at the same time -- gaining support through the presentation of their own civilian casualties pushed intentionally into harm's way (by attacking commandos with guns and knives or hiding missiles among civilians). Islamic tradition sees weakness of the Jews in overly caring about life, a vulnerability these radicals systematically try to exploit. The inquiry should also condemn Hamas for engaging with Iran in a project aiming at destroying Israel and killing its population. The rebellious and terrorist Hamas should repent, commit to the Palestinians' international commitments of giving up terror and negotiate peacefully with Israel, their neighbor Jewish state -- so it should immediately disarm and allow the PA forces to take control of Gaza. (Eldad Pardo and Shelley Elkayam)

No one should hide any information -- surely not Israel -- but all parties should fully cooperate with the UN panel. It was published that Israel and Turkey are sending their representatives to the UN Panel. May I add that these parties mentioned above that now, God willing, are behaving with restraint, are showing signs of maturity and not signs of weakness. (Eliezer Glaubach-Gal)

## **2. Do you believe in the goal of establishing a Palestinian state, and if so, what is your hope regarding Israel?**

No. I don't believe in a Palestinian state. I believe in a free democratic state in Israel, which does not favor any religion. Civil law should trump religious law. Inter-marriage should be possible inside the country. There should be religiously integrated schools. There should be religiously integrated neighborhoods. The government should not make it difficult for people to work together. (Gary Fleischer)

I do not believe in two "states" in the Holy Land. My hope for Israel is that the nation can chart a way together with their Arab citizens and their Arab neighbors to become light to the world as a multi-ethnic, multi-religious paragon informed by the magnificent ideals and values of Judaism. (Frank Kaufmann)

I don't believe peaceful coexistence between Israel and a Palestinian state is possible in the present climate of hate and resentment. Ideally, the two peoples should be able to live together in one country, but it would take a radical change in the international climate for that to happen. (Vicki Phelps)

I don't believe in a Palestinian state under the current environment, since there is no way for that state to become a democracy in the near future (without Divine intervention). Historically, only democracies (and monarchies, rarely) have been capable of resolving conflicts without resorting to violence, and there is nothing to suggest that Palestinians would be able to overcome their current quasi-politico-religious dynamic (without Divine intervention). (David Byer)

I think there should be two states but Jerusalem should be left whole. Give some other land to the Palestinians. (Benjamin Hack)

I support the two-state solution. I think Israel should stop building settlements in the occupied territories, and will need to dismantle some of the ones it already built. However, I also support the continued existence of the Wall, and favor a hard line against Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas. (Dan Fefferman)

I'm not sure what God's take is on establishing a Palestinian state. I love the Palestinian people that I have met. If the Palestinians would be "satisfied" with a state and would be willing to acknowledge the establishment of Israel as a nation then that would be wonderful and could bring peace. However, if they will just use it to get a foothold into Israel and a step closer to destroying Israel, then my feelings should be obvious. (Bruce Sutchar)

The establishment of a second Palestinian state (Jordan is a large Palestinian-majority state with a Palestinian queen), which will also form a 23<sup>rd</sup> Arab state and a 58<sup>th</sup> Muslim state, is but one of several possible solutions on the table. If we go that way, it should be set in a way that would not harm the two other states with large Palestinian populations, Jordan and Israel (the one and only Jewish state and the one and only democracy in the region, except for Turkey). There are great many options and variations for a Palestinian state. In any event, it should strictly be a democracy. Parties that call for the destruction of Israel, Jordan or for a Caliphate should not be allowed to operate. Political parties should not be armed, ever. It should include a large Jewish-Israeli minority to balance the large and vibrant Palestinian minority in Israel. It should have some limits on army, strategy and immigration. There are also much complications in a list of environmental and other problems. There are other options on the table and they could be explored as well, particularly a religious solution. The principle, as we move forward cautiously,

should be bottom-up actions and “first do no harm.” Every advance on the way of peace brings much negative and violent counter action. Sometimes interim solutions are better – see North Iraq.

My hope regarding Israel – as the only Jewish state and a shelter for the extremely tiny Jewish minority in the world – is that it continues to thrive for the sake of its children, women and men, develops its ancient civilization in the Land of Israel, contributes to humanity in every possible way, cherishes its religious and national diversity (Mizrahim, Arabs, Europeans, Druze, Christians, Muslim, Russian, and so on), pays special attention to the needy, learns from others and finds an even better balance, social justice, environmental sensitivity, solidarity, harmony and spirituality on the basis of interfaith love. (Eldad Pardo and Shelley Elkayam)

I did and still do believe in the establishment of the Palestinian State. This will increase assuming responsibility on the Palestinian side and partly heal and restore hurt dignity. In addition, it will help to end cycle of victimhood, and enable two communities to progress to the next stage from a fertile ground of mutual respect. Might enable all to face new challenges, and be a meeting point between best of East and West.

My hope regarding Israel is: 1. that Israel will assume full responsibility and have enough self confidence to avoid looking for excitements 2. Create normalcy for its minorities 3. Become a healed society and a model of finding ways for Tikun Olam. 4. Indirectly, Israel will cease providing for others the excuses and make them do the same. (Baruch Shalev)

I wish to also express my vision on Jerusalem to be an inter-religious entity with an active Religious Counsel including the major elements it has already nowadays: Jews, Seculars, Muslims and Christians. I would define Jerusalem including Ramallah as capital of Seculars, Bethlehem as Capital of Christian, Jerusalem as the Capital of Jews, Jericho as the capital of the Muslim Palestinians (along with Gaza where no Jew is allowed to live no Christian dares to.)

I would think of this inter-religious entity as if it is a 4-squared Vatican with 4 major denominations but with a governing board of the four elements.

I would let a civil flow from one place to another in a federative manner.

We are talking here about few square km. anyway: Jericho-Ramallah-Jerusalem-Bethlehem united as an inter-religious entity. (Shelley Elkayam)

My leading feeling is that we can view on the "horizon" with some clarity what we are aiming for: a world where all races and all religions live together as one, and where all tribes and nations are unified to one family under the almighty Creator.... Therefore in the Middle East, my hope and desire is that ultimately Israelis and Palestinians live under one political umbrella in peace and harmony as one.

But unfortunately the world is not yet ripe for such a reality, but still maintains the habit and system of division into independent nation states. Accordingly, in the interim I am for establishing an independent Palestinian state alongside the already existing State of Israel with Jerusalem as the capital city of BOTH nations. Borders will be based on the "green line" of 6 June 1967 with some mutual agreed land swaps, based upon existing understandings between the parties.

Dear Andrew, would you agree to think that we eternally are in a time of co-creation and co-operation with God? (Eliezer Glaubach-Gal)

I do not believe in the goal of establishing a Palestinian state. The Arabs will never rest content until they have destroyed the State of Israel and its people, as all too many of their leaders have promised. I suggest you read the Charter of Hamas in the English translation made available by the Avalon Project of the Yale Law School to see what the chances of peace are. Hamas isn't going to change and they believe they have a religious imperative to destroy Israel. The word "peace" in English has many meanings in Arabic. What Abbas, who is much weaker than Hamas, can offer Israel is a *hudna*, a truce, but not peace and, if he does, he must worry about meeting the same fate as Anwar Sadat. (Richard Rubenstein)