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Breaking News: Israeli Raid on Gaza Blockade Protestors leads to 9 deaths

The Israeli's have launched [a raid on six ships carrying campaigners and aid packages to the Gaza strip](#). The Israeli's claim that their troops were attacked with "knives, clubs and other weapons" although many activists claim they only saw wooden sticks being brandished. Whatever the case, at least 9 campaigners have lost their lives in the incident.

Many of the campaigners killed were, allegedly, Turkish. The raid took place in international waters, and unsurprisingly has invited condemnation from nations around the world. The Israelis seized 670 campaigners and deported some 50 of them, the Government claim that those still in custody will be deported within 48 hours.

Some have described the raid as "an act of piracy" against a peaceful mission. The Israeli's claim that they initially landed non-lethal weaponry, despite footage appearing to show Israeli personnel holding a silenced Uzi. Reports also suggest that the Israeli forces opened fire from the helicopters before attempting to land forces on the ships. The forces used concussion grenades, Tazers and beat some of the protesters.

The Israelis continue to claim that their intentions were to peacefully come alongside the protesters, and the Government Spokesman - Mark Regev - has refused to identify exactly who in the Government authorised the raid. He claims that the maritime blockade is essential for Israel's national security, in order to prevent long range rockets from being delivered to the Palestinians.

The incident seems to have re-ignited tensions on the Gaza strip, with reports

arriving of five Palestinians being killed by Israeli fire.

Israel is no stranger to criticism for it's handling of Palestinians, over the years there have been many raids leading to a high level of collateral damage. The Gaza blockade itself has been in place for a number of years now, Israels response to the very existence of Hamas. Israel and a number of Western countries consider Hamas to be a terrorist group. Hamas has a socio-political wing and considers itself to have been democratically elected to govern Palestine.

Israel is likely to continue to receive criticism for this latest event, but past history suggests that very little will actually change. Despite widespread international criticism of it's heavy handed responses in the past, these incidents just seem to keep occurring. The Jewish/Muslim relationship is fraught at the best of times, but Israel continues to worsen matters by using a hammer instead of a scalpel.

For the situation to change, there needs to be a strong vocal opposition to Israel's handling of the situation. The United States and Egypt are staunch supporters of Israel, and for anything to change, the Governments of those countries need to understand that what Israel is doing is wrong.

The action taken against Gaza is usually justified by describing the 'Terrorist Activity' taking place within the country. Despite the real threat posed by Terrorists, they also provide a very convenient political excuse to undertake many actions ranging from the removal of civil liberties (i.e. ID cards in the UK) to actions of war (Israel - Palestine).

If you are unsure of who's in the right here, at least take the time to read into the history of both sides. No-one at Freedom4All is trying to claim that the Palestinians are an innocent party, both sides have committed atrocities. What we are trying to get across, is that the atrocities need to stop. At this time, it is Israel who are committing many of the atrocities, so it is they that need to be - peacefully - convinced that what they are doing is wrong.

If you do one thing tomorrow, read into the history of the sorry affair and make a donation to a group such as [Amnesty International](#) so that they can continue to act to try and prevent these occurrences from happening again in the future.

Tags: [Blockade](#), [Deaths](#), [Gaza](#), [Israel](#), [Military Action](#), [Palestine](#), [Raid](#)

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