

# AUSTRALIANS FOR PALESTINE

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*Prepared by MS/AFP*

### Government must condemn Interception of Gaza flotilla

## Providing a Voice

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Press Release No 21 – 31 May 2010*

*Australians for Palestine* is calling upon the Australian government to condemn Israel's killing of activists on board the peace flotilla carrying humanitarian supplies to the Gaza Strip.

"The Rudd government never tires of condemning the Palestinian militancy but have nothing to say when Israel uses force against those who are non-violently trying to resist the occupation," said *Australians for Palestine* spokesperson Michael Shaik.

The flotilla of ships with citizens from 30 countries aboard was carrying supplies that Israel has barred from entering Gaza, including cement and other building materials, electric-powered wheelchairs, prefabricated homes and water purifiers.

"It is important to note that John Ging, the head of the United Nations in the Gaza Strip, has called upon the international community to defy Israel's blockade of Gaza to bring humanitarian aid to the territory. The murdered activists were only answering this call and were of no conceivable threat to Israel's security," Shaik said.

"Only last week, Stephen Smith announced that the Australian Federal Police, ASIO and ASIS had found that Israel had used forged Australian passports for the assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh and declared that there will be a 'cooling-off' in relations with Israel. If this government remains silent over this act of piracy, it will signal that the government intends to maintain a 'business as usual relationship' and that, as far as Australia is concerned, Israel can literally get away with murder."

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