

**COMMENTARY ON BBC PANORAMA PROGRAMME 'DEATH IN THE MED',  
BROADCAST MONDAY 16 AUGUST 2010**

by **RICHARD LIGHTBOWN 23 AUGUST 2010**

Transcript ref and page no.	Documentary quote ( <i>italics</i> ) with comments below
JV4 p.1	<i>'Now Israel says they were terrorists, but Turkey insists they were innocent victims.'</i>
SIC1 p.2/I	<i>'...and now we're facing them as terrorists.'</i>
SY3 p.11	<i>'they were terrorists plain and simple'</i>
	<p>The casual description of passengers as 'terrorists' has gone without any challenge at all in the programme. There is not even an attempt to provide a definition of the term.</p> <p>One common definition is</p> <p align="center"><i>'violence used against civilians to achieve political ends.'</i></p> <p>By this definition attacks <u>on</u> soldiers are not terrorism, although attacks <u>by</u> soldiers can be.</p> <p>According to the CIA</p> <p align="center"><i>'Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.'</i><sup>1</sup></p> <p>Here the importance of legality can be seen and the complete avoidance of this issue is a serious failing of the programme. (Legality is further discussed in section <b>Sequence JC30/IMR/JC31/SY1/JC32/SY2/JC33/CR1 p.9</b> below). Clearly a ruling is required on this and the most eminent and highly qualified investigation currently appointed to do this is the UN Human Rights Council's fact finding mission, which Israel is determined to sideline and avoid at all costs. (Why? Turkey and the flotilla organisers have expressed no reservations about this committee.) (See section <b>JC51 p.14/I</b> below.)</p> <p>Allowing Israeli military personnel, some of whom may have killed or wounded flotilla passengers, to freely use the word 'terrorist' against their civilian assailants, without consideration of the fact that under international law the Israeli operation may itself have been an act of state terrorism to which the defence was perfectly legal, is a serious failing on the part of the programme.</p> <p><b>This was biased, misleading and unfair reportage that was quite possibly inaccurate as well.</b></p>

JC1 p.1	<p><i>'Naval Commando 13 has never been filmed by the media in action before'</i></p> <p><b>Not true.</b> They appear in action in the Cultures of Resistance video footage of the raid, which was obviously filmed before the Panorama documentary. Also the Panorama film is not strictly 'in action' but features training exercises.</p> <p><b>Panorama should not make claims which are blatantly untrue.</b></p>
SIC1 p.2/II LA2 p.8	<p><i>'chainsaws'</i></p> <p>These were actually angle grinders or disc cutters. They were never used as weapons but as tools to cut the Israeli grappling hooks.</p> <p><b>This was not made clear in the programme which gives a misleading impression that perhaps chainsaws were used against the commandos.</b></p>
SIC1 p.2/III	<p><i>'axes'</i></p> <p>Although this is often claimed by Israeli sources, including Mr Netanyahu, there is no evidence to corroborate the programme's assertion that axes were used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axes cannot be seen in any of the video footage so far released.</li> <li>• None of the commandos that were captured appear to have suffered injuries which could be attributed to axes. (Israel has not released any information regarding the other six wounded commandos.)</li> <li>• No one from the flotilla has ever spoken of axes being used to defend the ship.</li> <li>• The fire axes which appear in the weapons caches shown by the IDF have no traces of blood or material on them. No used axes have ever been produced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Panorama claims to have 'meticulously double and cross checked for accuracy' and should have picked up this error.</b></p>
SIC2 p.2	<p><i>'people being thrown overboard'</i></p> <p>Two soldiers were rolled over the parapet of the upper (fifth) deck and dropped onto the third (about 4.5 m drop). Two soldiers jumped 8m off the bow into the water of their own volition upon release from captivity. But no soldier was ever thrown overboard. Three passengers reported that dead bodies were thrown overboard but this is probably erroneous since Greta Berlin said on 13 July that everyone had been accounted for.</p> <p><b>This false allegation should have been corrected.</b></p>
JC3 p.2	<p><i>'Fifty passengers were wounded including nine Israeli soldiers'</i></p> <p>The videos released in conjunction with the Eiland report state that 55 activists were injured. This does not include Israeli soldiers.</p>

	<b>The report appears to suggest that there were forty-one wounded civilians, which is an underestimate of fourteen. The official Israeli figure has been available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website since 12 July.</b>
<b>GE1 p.2</b>	<i>'...the results are surprisingly low.'</i>
<b>GE11 P.14</b>	<i>'I don't think the force was excessive.'</i>
	<p>The provisional Turkish autopsy described the injuries to the nine dead as gunshot wounds to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• back of the head, side of the face, back, left leg. (4)</li> <li>• chest, belly, right leg, right arm, twice in left hand (6)</li> <li>• right temple, chest, hip and back (4)</li> <li>• twice in head, twice in left leg, back (5)</li> <li>• single shot to middle of the forehead (1)</li> <li>• single wound to the front of the neck (1)</li> <li>• head, hip and belly (3)</li> <li>• chest and three times in the legs (4)</li> <li>• shoulder and back (2)<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p>Fifty-five other passengers were injured, fourteen of them seriously.<sup>3</sup> In total the number of passengers killed or injured on the 'Mavi Marmara' was in excess of 10 percent and this despite the fact that the large majority of the passengers did not join in the forceful defence of the ship.</p> <p><b>A summary of the results of the initial autopsy report have been available since early June and yet the programme has not referred to them, neither was Gen Eiland confronted with them. There was merely a limp query of his statement which effectively allowed his misleading assertion to stand.</b></p>
<b>GE3 p.2</b>	<i>'The world does not necessarily want to know exactly what happened.'</i>
	<p>Israel is trying hard to see that the world does not know exactly what happened. It is obstructing or neutering all investigations, in particular the UN Human Rights Council fact finding mission. (See <b>JC51 p.14/I</b> below.)</p> <p><b>This is another controversial opinion. Allowing it to stand uncontested is misleading and biased.</b></p>
<b>JC6 p.2</b>	<i>'The ship sailed under the banner of the Free Gaza movement.'</i>
	For the record the ship carried a large banner of its owners, IHH.
<b>JC8 p.3/I</b>	<i>'Hamas which rules here, refuses to recognise Israel's right to exist'</i>
	<p>This is a simplistic summation of a complex situation which was inaccurate and unnecessary and would have been best left unsaid. Hamas Prime Minister Haniyeh has expressed a willingness to accept a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders<sup>4</sup>, which presupposes an Israeli state. Hamas is not prepared to recognise the present Israeli state particularly since it has no set borders and is disposed to encroach on Palestinian land. States do not make declarations of each other's right to exist. Israel's illegal and expanding West Bank</p>

	<p>settlements make the existence of a future Palestinian state increasingly unlikely.</p> <p><b>This statement was misleading and unfair (and unnecessary).</b></p>
JC8 p.3/II	<p><i>'Militants have fired rockets at civilian targets in Israel in the last few years.'</i></p> <p>This is only one side of the story. Since late 2000 Israeli gunboats have been waging undeclared war on Gazan fishermen legally fishing within the 20 mile limit stipulated in the Oslo Accords. Israel has used machine gun and water cannon against the unarmed fishermen causing the deaths of at least fourteen and injuries to over 200 between 2000 and January 2009.<sup>5</sup> Between January 2010 and April 2010 nineteen attacks by the Israel Navy were recorded, destroying boats and nets.</p> <p>Israel attacks on the Gaza Strip occur almost on a daily basis. Between 1 January 2010 and 31 July 2010 thirty-seven Gazans were killed, 93 injured and 41 taken prisoner by the Israeli army. During the same period Israel mounted 101 attacks on land, 13 bulldozer strikes, 75 aerial bombardments and 27 naval bombardments against Gaza.</p> <p>Around 30% of the cultivatable land of Gaza cannot be worked because of attacks using live fire on the farmers by the IDF.<sup>6</sup></p> <p><b>There was no attempt at balance here, and the statement made in isolation is grossly unfair, misleading and biased.</b></p>
JC8 p.3/III	<p><i>'Israel allows in hardly any cement and steel in case they are used to make weapons and bunkers.'</i></p> <p>Israel does indeed claim that Gazan militants would make rockets from cement but this is a blatant absurdity. The material is totally inappropriate for this use. Likewise the suggestion that bunkers would be made from these materials is untenable, such bunkers would very quickly attract Israeli airstrikes and both sides know it. In reality this is an excuse to deny the entry of reconstruction materials into Gaza, and is contrary to the Geneva Conventions.</p> <p><b>This is an inaccurate and misleading statement.</b></p>
JC11 p.4	<p><i>'Western authorities have accused them [IHH] of having links to terrorist organisations. They strongly deny this.'</i></p> <p>This is tenuous at best. There appear to be only three 'western authorities'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A frequently quoted CIA report of 1996 on IHH terror links names the organisation as International Humanitaire Hilfsorganization and says it has headquarters in Germany. This is in fact is an unrelated organisation which was proscribed in Germany on 12 July 2010. This source can therefore be discounted.<sup>7 8</sup></li> </ul> <p>(The Turkish organisation has not been designated as a 'foreign</p>

	<p>terrorist organisation' by the U.S. and on 26 July 2010 an official in the State Department denied that there was any intention to do so.<sup>9)</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean-Louis Bruguière was formerly head of the French judiciary's counterterrorism unit. M Bruguière has alleged links with Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups by people working in IHH in the 1990s. But in a telephone call after the raid the judge was unable to indicate any current links. The judge was responsible for a raid on the charity's offices in Istanbul looking for explosives and guns, although IHH leaders point out that no guns were found and no one was convicted.<sup>10</sup> M Bruguière himself is a controversial figure. Despite his successful hunt for Carlos the Jackal he has earned himself the description of 'voyou judiciaire' (judicial lout) following dubious and controversial investigations in Rwanda<sup>11</sup> and the bombing of a UTA flight over the Sahara Desert in 1989.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• The third source is a paper authored by Evan Kohlmann for the Danish Institute for International Studies which draws heavily on the work of M Bruguière.</li> </ul> <p>There is no credible evidence to back up the accusations and there are no accusations that are current. The U.S. administration has concerns about IHH links with Hamas but it must be remembered that IHH is a major aid donor to Gaza where Hamas is the government in power. Working contacts with Hamas are unavoidable in these circumstances. This does not in any way constitute links with terrorism.</p> <p>However there are more credible terrorist links to the state of Israel which has widely and credibly (e.g. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Goldstone report) been accused of assassinations, crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, theft of resources (including natural gas and water), attacks on Gazan fishermen, attacks on shipping (e.g. between Cyprus and Lebanon) and apartheid. In addition Commando 13 is widely supposed to have blown up the <i>MV Sol Phryne</i> in Limassol harbour in 1988.<sup>13</sup></p> <p><b>By referring to vague accusations of terrorist links against IHH from only one principle source while refraining from mention of any of the numerous allegations against the state of Israel Ms Corbin has demonstrated partiality.</b></p>
<p>JC15 p.5</p>	<p><i>'They [the Israel Navy] offered to take the aid to an Israeli port and deliver it to Gaza'</i></p> <p>The flotilla told the Israel Navy that the cargo had been checked at the point of departure and that it would be willing to submit to additional checks by a neutral body such as the UN or the International Committee of the Red Cross.<sup>14</sup></p> <p>On two previous occasions Israel has forced at gunpoint aid ships for Gaza to reroute via Ashdod. In February 2009 the <i>Tali</i> was rerouted there with 50 tonnes of food and medical supplies. Only a small quantity of this was transferred on to Gaza.<sup>15</sup> Similarly the <i>Spirit of</i></p>

	<p><i>Humanity</i> was rerouted into Ashdod in June 2009. Food, toys and construction materials amongst the cargo never arrived in Gaza and are presumed to have been destroyed.<sup>16</sup></p> <p><b>Ms Corbin made no mention of the counter proposals, nor the reason why the flotilla was keen to avoid Israeli control of the cargos, thereby giving the false impression that the flotilla organisers were acting provocatively and unreasonably.</b></p>
JC16 p.5	<p><i>'Part of it was defiant and abusive.'</i></p> <p>This is stated as a fact when it is disputed. Neither is it mentioned that Israel has admitted to doctoring the tapes, or that the recording was originally broadcast by the IDF on 31 May without the abusive comments, four days before the allegations emerged.<sup>17</sup> However the programme fails to mention that the flotilla had complained that Israeli operatives swore at them in Turkish and English over the maritime radio for several hours before the start of the raid.<sup>18</sup></p> <p><b>This was biased reportage.</b></p>
JC17 p.5/I	<p><i>'The flotilla organisers insist they did not hear these comments being made.'</i></p> <p><b>Not accurate:</b> the organisers insist the comments <u>were not made</u>. The organisers have also pointed out that the complete marine radio broadcasts were recorded on the radio of MV Challenger I and the tape was seized by the IDF. They have challenged the Israeli authorities to produce the recording if they have nothing to hide. So far the Israelis are playing it both ways, they have not produced the evidence but they continue to make the uncorroborated allegations.</p> <p><b>The reduction of emphasis is unfair.</b></p>
JC17 p.5/II	<p><i>'For the Israelis this was a warning sign that things would not go smoothly'.</i></p> <p>If the organiser's denials are correct then there was no such warning sign.</p> <p><b>The assumption here, on no credible evidence, that the rogue marine broadcasts were made is unfair and perpetuates the earlier bias.</b></p>
JC20 p.6	<p><i>'Late that night it was clear to the crew of the ship that a core group of IHH organisers had taken control of the Mavi Marmara.'</i></p> <p>There was no hint at all about this from Captain Tural who said 'IHH has shown that they are as much sensitive as the ship crew when it comes to avoiding any provocative actions onboard.'<sup>19</sup> Captain Tural has not made any complaint about the behaviour of IHH or their organisers and there is no testimony from the Mavi Marmara to corroborate this Israeli allegation that IHH took control of the ship (which belongs to them anyway).</p> <p><b>This assertion is inaccurate and unfair.</b></p>

IICO p.6/I	<p>Jane Corbin failed to mention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interview was secretly filmed without the knowledge of the Chief Engineer.</li> <li>• There were several hours of interrogation where the same questions were asked repeatedly.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>It was misleading not to have mentioned these details.</b></p>
IICO p.6/II	<p><i>'The IHH definitely didn't let people they didn't know move around the ship.'</i></p> <p>Jamal Elshayyal said that he had been allowed access to 'every single centimetre of the ship'. Passengers had been asked to stay below by the organisers.<sup>21</sup></p> <p>This latter request had not been enforced. For example Nicola Enchmarch<sup>22</sup> and Fatima Mohammadi<sup>23</sup> had been on the upper decks when shooting with live fire occurred.</p> <p>No journalist has ever said they were refused access to any part of the ship.</p> <p><b>The assertion is untrue and this should have been discovered by the cross checking procedures.</b></p>
JC27 p.8	<p><i>'someone swinging a chain'</i></p> <p>This was an attempt to deflect or catch the Israeli grappling hook rather than a threat to the soldiers.</p>
JC30 p.9/I	<p><i>'The commandos inside were armed with non-lethal weapons'</i></p> <p>The commandos also boarded with carbines and submachine guns.</p> <p>The footage from Cultures of Resistance shows lasers scanning the deck. These are from the sights of weapons in the helicopter, which will not be from a paintball gun or pistol but from something like an M4 or M16 held by a marksman.</p> <p><b>This is a serious inaccuracy.</b></p>
JC30 p.9/II	<p><i>'They couldn't abseil down'</i></p> <p><b>Not true.</b> Only one rope was tied, the other was used. This can be seen on the IDF video footage.</p>
<p><b>Sequence</b>  <b>JC30/IMR/</b>  <b>JC31/SY1/</b>  <b>JC32/SY2/</b>  <b>JC33/CR1</b>  <b>p.9</b></p>	<p>This line of questioning suggests that the commandos were engaged in a legitimate operation. There is no mention or implication of the fact that the defenders of the ship believed that they were acting within international maritime law in trying to repel an illegal and violent assault on the ship. If their understanding of the law is correct, they had every right to disrupt the descent of the commandos by tying up the ropes. Their opinion is supported by (amongst others)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof Richard Falk,<sup>24</sup></li> <li>• Prof Norman Paech,<sup>25</sup></li> <li>• Lawyers for Palestinian Rights,<sup>26</sup></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diakonia.<sup>27</sup></li> </ul> <p>Israeli authorities have cited the San Ramo Manual to justify the assault, cf Ruth Lapidot.<sup>28</sup> However Prof Lapidot cherry picks the document and avoids any reference to Articles 36-42, 47, 102/3, 119 and 124, all of which are prejudicial to her case.</p> <p><b>The failure to consider the legality of the raid, particularly in the context of the statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross of 14 June 2010<sup>29</sup> in which it said that Israel's closure of the Gaza Strip was a violation of international law, resulted in many misleading statements made throughout the programme.</b></p>
CR2 p.10	<p><i>Transcript: 'footage shows a photo of soldier on ground side covered in blood, next to man holding knife'</i></p> <p>There are blood stains but the soldier is <u>not</u> 'covered in blood'. The knife has not been used. There are no blood stains on it, and it is not being held aggressively. It is almost certainly a knife taken off the commando. (The commandos had all their kit, helmets, weapons, etc removed before they were taken, or in this man's case carried, down to the second deck for first aid treatment.)</p> <p><b>The transcript makes an unfair exaggeration which misleads and encourages the false assumption that the knife has been used on the commando or is being used as a threat.</b></p>
JC35 p.10	<p><i>'They [IHH] say the Israelis started using live fire at the start of the operation.'</i></p>
JC37 p.10	<p><i>'they [Israelis] insist their audio shows the commandos did not use live rounds until they were shot at.'</i></p>
	<p>There is not much doubt about this. The commandos started firing <u>before</u> anyone descended from the first helicopter. In so doing they killed two people on the deck. The eye witnesses include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Captain of the Mavi Marmara,<sup>30</sup></li> <li>• Jamal Elshayyal, journalist,<sup>31</sup></li> <li>• Prof Mattias Gardell,<sup>32</sup></li> <li>• Ken O'Keefe,<sup>33</sup></li> <li>• Ismail Patel,<sup>34</sup></li> <li>• Fatima Mohammad, lawyer,<sup>35</sup></li> <li>• Kuwaiti MP Waleed Al-Tabtabaei,<sup>36</sup></li> <li>• Mubarak Al-Mutawa, lawyer,<sup>37</sup></li> <li>• Othman Battiri, <i>Al Jazeera</i>,<sup>38</sup></li> <li>• Muna Shester, journalist,<sup>39</sup></li> <li>• Israeli MP Hanin Zoabi,<sup>40</sup></li> <li>• Fiachra Ó'Luain.<sup>41</sup></li> </ul> <p>That is twelve people including the ship's captain, one professor, three press, two lawyers and two MPs. Several of the testimonies were given in widely dispersed locations making it difficult for them to confer. Nonetheless there is remarkable consistency amongst the testimony.</p> <p>(Also see the comment regarding laser sights in <b>JC30 p.9/I</b> above.)</p>

	<p><b>This evidence deserves more weight than the report has given to it. Furthermore the report seems to have misunderstood the allegations that soldiers fired live rounds from the helicopter <u>before any commandos attempted to board</u> and so has misrepresented the evidence.</b></p>
<p><b>GE9 p.11</b></p>	<p><i>'There is clear evidence that [sic] other side used live fire on four occasions'</i></p> <p><i>'but at least in one case they used their weapon [sic] because we found shells and cases not in use in the IDF.'</i></p>
<p><b>IDF audio p.10</b></p>	<p><i>'Yes, real weapons, they are firing on us. There is live fire here.'</i></p>
	<p>The IDF audio, which is in Hebrew, is the only evidence to back up Gen Eiland's important assertion. This despite the fact that Israel attempted (and nearly succeeded) to seize all photographic records of the raid. So far barely more than two minutes of video footage has been released by the Israeli authorities. Cent Uygarm has said of this</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>'That leads me to believe that only two minutes of it were positive for them and the rest of it shows a disaster on board that does not help the Israeli Defence Forces at all.'</i><sup>42</sup></p> <p>There has been no evidence produced to back up the claim about the shells and cases. Neither have any details been produced about this nonconformist ammunition. It is extremely disappointing therefore that Ms Corbin made no attempt to press Gen Eiland on the matter in order to ascertain why he and the IDF have been so reticent to produce his 'clear evidence'.</p> <p>Neither Gen Eiland nor, as far as is known, any of his committee were present at the raid. His assertion has been disputed elsewhere by first hand testimony from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mahmut Tural, Captain of the Mavi Marmara,<sup>43</sup></li> <li>• Ken O'Keefe<sup>44</sup></li> <li>• Kuwaiti lawyer Mubarak Al-Mutawa,<sup>45</sup></li> <li>• Jamal Elshayyal, producer with Al Jazeera,<sup>46</sup></li> <li>• Al Jazeera crew members Othman Battiri,</li> <li>• and Andre Abu-Khalil.<sup>47</sup></li> </ul> <p>Jamal Dajani has pointed out that the helicopter's infrared cameras would have easily recorded the flashes caused by gun discharges, but such evidence has never been released.<sup>48</sup></p> <p>In the short sequence (1:02 minutes) of infrared footage released by the IDF, part of which was shown by Panorama, it can be seen that during the fighting four objects were thrown overboard (two over each side). Other objects may have also been jettisoned before and after this short sequence. It is not possible to discern what these objects were but they are about the size of a pistol. The Panorama crew might usefully have examined this footage for us and commented on it in the programme. It does appear to corroborate (at least in part) the activist's claims that with the exception of the</p>

	<p>pistol that Ken O’Keefe kept to use as evidence in court, all the captured weapons were thrown overboard.</p> <p>There is strong testimony that no firearms were on board the ship before it was raided, and no evidence at all to contradict this. (Jamal Elshayyal, a producer with Al Jazeera television said that he had filmed every ‘inch of the ship’ three times and was convinced there were no firearms on board.<sup>49</sup> All of this film is now in the possession of the Israeli authorities and should have been available to Gen Eiland.) The militants have said that the weapons they seized were thrown overboard and the video footage shows that objects of some sort were thrown into the sea at this time. The full footage, if released, may possibly show more objects being jettisoned. The only pistol admitted to have been retained was the one that Ken O’Keefe emptied of bullets. If passengers had fired on the soldiers it is reasonable to expect some infrared video footage would have been captured by the camera in the helicopter and that this could have been available to see by now. Against this weight of evidence there is only the IDF audio in Hebrew. It would have been more convincing if this had been independently translated. But the evidence remains tenuous at present and is frustrated by the failure to produce the compelling evidence that Gen Eiland alludes to.</p> <p><b>The failure to adequately examine Gen Eiland’s comment against the wealth of conflicting evidence without even carefully questioning the general on this most serious accusation leads to a biased and misleading interpretation of the facts so far available.</b></p>
<p>JC39 p.11</p>	<p><i>‘The question of who shot first remains disputed and unresolved.’</i></p> <p>Having failed to carefully consider Gen Eiland’s allegation, Ms Corbin then repeats the allegation as fact. If the passengers did not fire at all then there is no question as to who fired first.</p> <p><b>Panorama did not adequately consider the allegation. This is inaccurate, misleading and shows bias on the part of Ms Corbin who has accepted partisan evidence at face value.</b></p>
<p>LA4 p.11</p>	<p><i>‘I aimed at the legs’</i></p> <p>This assertion was also made twice in Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs videos released in conjunction with the Eiland report. It is not supported by the injuries sustained. Most casualties’ injuries were to the head or the upper body. Five of those killed were shot in the head, two of them more than once. Out of thirty gunshot wounds sustained by the deceased only seven were to the legs. Furkan Dogan, a 19-year-old American citizen was shot five times at a range of less than 45 cm, including twice in the head.<sup>50</sup></p> <p><b>Failure to challenge the false information given by this commsndo presents a misleading version of the events.</b></p>
	<p><i>‘The Israelis evacuated the badly wounded to hospital’</i></p>

<p>JC49 p.13/I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three injured passengers died after soldiers refused to attend to them.<sup>51</sup> Two of them bled to death.<sup>52</sup></li> <li>• Ahmed Luqman had been shot in the femoral artery. He was refused medical attention and made to walk unassisted up the stairs during which time he passed out three or four times from the pain. Soldiers kicked him and picked him up and dropped him.<sup>53</sup></li> <li>• The wounded were chained to the hot deck, sometimes naked, under a helicopter suffering the noise and the combination of down draught and spray, described by one as 'inhumane'. Soldiers trod on them and mistreated them.<sup>54</sup> They had their hands tied all the time.</li> <li>• The evacuation was not completed until 12:30. It had taken the IDF at least seven hours from the end of the attack to evacuate 38 wounded.<sup>55</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>This unbalanced statement by Ms Corbin gives a false impression about Israeli behaviour towards the injured captives in their charge. In particular it does not even hint at the cruel and sadistic treatment inflicted on some of the wounded.</b></p>
<p>JC49 p.13/II</p>	<p><i>'They [the Israelis] tried to counter criticism by displaying the weapons they found on the ship.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photographs on the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs website of weapons found on the ship show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ about 16 kitchen knives,</li> <li>○ three pocket knives,</li> <li>○ a <i>hanjar</i> (an ornamental Yemeni knife that was packed in personal luggage at the time of the attack.<sup>56</sup>)</li> <li>○ fifteen pickaxe handles,</li> <li>○ about twenty lengths of metal bar,</li> <li>○ two ring spanners,</li> <li>○ one pipe wrench,</li> <li>○ four small hammers,</li> <li>○ two sledge hammers,</li> <li>○ four fire axes,</li> <li>○ one paint roller handle,</li> <li>○ ten disc-cutter discs,</li> <li>○ two round files in handles,</li> <li>○ a short length of cord and</li> <li>○ two kaffiyehs<sup>57</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There is no sign that any of this 'weaponry' in the photos has been used. Most of the items are legitimate tools to be found on a passenger ship of this size. But civilians with primitive weapons of this sort fought one of the world's elite special forces which was equipped not only with paintball guns, but with semi-automatic pistols (with a magazine of 17 live cartridges, these guns will fire as fast as the trigger can be pulled), automatic carbines, submachine guns (which were fired during the raid<sup>58</sup>) and knives, along with other less lethal toys including tasers, stun grenades, tear gas. The IDF attack was most certainly premeditated</p>

	<p>(although the programme did not bother to point this out) but the programme never showed the types of firearms and other weapons that the commandos used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The programme fails to mention that criticism was countered very effectively by the seizure of nearly all film footage from the ship, very little of which has ever been released. Daniel Machover has commented <i>The quality of evidence was degraded massively the moment Israel took all the evidence into its own hands.</i><sup>59</sup></li> <li>400 video cameras, 350 laptops, 600 mobile phones, credit cards and cash were stolen. Only two or three laptops and a similar number of phones have been recovered. Estimates of the value of the stolen goods vary between one and 3.5million dollars.<sup>60</sup> Large amounts of cash were unlawfully taken and never returned. Dr Hasan Nowrah for example has organised the dispatch of at least 80 tons of medical aid to Gaza. He was carrying £35,000 in cash for the Gaza medical service. This money has been stolen by the Israeli authorities or its soldiers.<sup>61</sup></li> <li>There has also been individual theft of credit cards, mobile phones and computers<sup>62 63 64 65</sup> (and very likely cash as well<sup>66</sup>).</li> <li>At least 24 passports have been stolen by Israeli authorities. This is of particular concern since Israel has been accused by Britain and other countries of using fake passports in the Dubai assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in January 2010.<sup>67</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>The programme has again failed to look at the situation in depth and avoided confronting Israeli media manipulation and wholesale theft. The result is a report that is misleading and unfair.</b></p> <hr/> <p><i>'Proof they said that this had been a pre-meditated attack by the IHH.'</i></p> <p><b>Not true.</b> The defence by IHH was premeditated. And the attack by the IDF was also premeditated. <u>There was no attack by the IHH.</u></p> <p><b>Biased and inaccurate.</b></p>
<p>JC51 p.14/I</p>	<p><i>'The Israelis set up their own investigations and they're co-operating with a UN inquiry.'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Turkel Committee does not have the power to subpoena military personnel.</li> <li>The Eiland report which supposedly examined legal counsel and international law has not been publicly released.</li> <li>The UN Panel of Inquiry is not allowed to subpoena Israeli military personnel. The Panel will conduct all its work in New York and will not for example travel to Iskenderun where the Turkish investigation is removing paint and putty that Israel</li> </ul>

	<p>applied, presumably to incriminating areas, on the Mavi Marmara.</p> <p>The neutrality of one of the two members of the Panel is questionable: the former President Uribe of Colombia used to be Israel's primary weapons and security customer.<sup>68</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most qualified investigation is the fact finding mission set up by the UN Human Rights Council. Their panel of three includes a judge who has served at the International Criminal Court, and the former Chief Prosecutor of the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.<sup>69</sup> The Mission is currently in Turkey and has visited the Mavi Marmara in Iskenderun.<sup>70</sup> Israel fears this mission so much that it has refused to cooperate with it, while the United States is trying to get the mission withdrawn (unsuccessfully so far).</li> </ul> <p><b>While Israel and its principle ally try to neuter all serious enquiries into the raid Panorama implies that they are cooperating fully and running their own credible investigations. This is misleading and incorrect.</b></p>
<p>JC51 p.14/II</p>	<p><i>'So what of the aid the IHH said was the reason for their mission? Some of it has arrived in Gaza from Israel and is sitting in a warehouse: mobility scooters, hospital beds and drugs. But I found that two-thirds of the medicines are out of date and useless.'</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There have been allegations that Israel did not allow in the batteries for the scooters.<sup>71</sup></li> <li>• There is no source given for the assertion that two-thirds of the medicines are out of date. Did Ms Corbin or her team check all the medicines, or has this information been supplied by Israeli authorities and accepted at face value? Are the medicines useless in Gaza where even common medicines are frequently unavailable?</li> <li>• The medical aid was much more impressive than Ms Corbin's description would suggest. It included stretchers, deambulatoires, autoclaves, mammography machine, microscopes, blood circulatory machine, haemodialysis machines, radiology monitors, crutches, ENT units, cat scan machine, operating tables, gynaecological couches, ultrasound scan devices, X-ray devices, electric patient beds, dentistry units, dental equipment, Doppler echocardiography devices.<sup>72</sup></li> <li>• Some of the aid never arrived from Israel but was diverted from Ashdod to landfill in the Negev desert.<sup>73</sup></li> <li>• An Israeli junior officer was recently charged with theft of brand new computers from the Mavi Marmara.<sup>74</sup> These were intended for Gaza and were almost certainly some of the 65 computers that Farooq Burney was taking for Gazan students.<sup>75</sup> <sup>76</sup>(There is a desperate need for computers amongst Gazan students.)</li> <li>• Cement and steel (comprising most of the 5.000 ton cargo on the 'Rachel Corrie' was waiting for months in Haifa harbour while Israel and UNSCO negotiated a deal to get the materials to Gaza.<sup>77</sup></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large amounts of cash carried by volunteers were intended to be given as aid to charitable causes in Gaza. Dr Nowrah's intended gift of £35,000 for the Gaza medical services is mentioned above. The total amount of money stolen from passengers may well have exceeded £1 million. Apart from living expenses (intended in some cases to allow for prolonged stays in Gaza to carry out humanitarian work) the remainder was intended to be allocated as humanitarian aid, often with specific projects in mind. All of this aid money has been stolen by Israel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ms Corbin's summation of the delivery of the aid is inaccurate, biased and misleading.</b></p>
<p><b>JC51 p.14/III</b></p>	<p><i>'At the end of the day the bid to break the naval blockade wasn't really about bringing aid to Gaza.'</i></p> <p>The seven ships (including the 'Rachel Corrie') were carrying 10,000 tons of aid including materials for reconstruction, medical equipment, educational supplies (including tons of paper, computers) – all items which have previously been refused access by Israel and Egypt. Large sums of money were carried for humanitarian gifts to people and organisations in Gaza by people who expected and intended to get to Gaza. While some were prepared to fight and to die to achieve that aim, the intention first and foremost was to break the blockade in order to ease the suffering in Gaza. What more does anyone need to do to demonstrate a commitment to taking humanitarian aid to Gaza?</p> <p><b>This absurd statement which appears to suggest that the large quantity of aid on the flotilla was merely a cover to provoke a violent assault is blatantly untrue and biased, and an insult to humanitarian activists committed to opposing a long-standing and illegal injustice to the people of Gaza.</b></p>

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