One of the many disastrous consequences of the 1948 attack by several Middle Eastern countries on the new Israel, in reaction to the creation of a Jewish state in the middle of Palestine (from Sidon to Sinai), was the creation of an immense prison for Palestinians, who were driven from their homes to become refugees around the world and at Gaza. The inhabitants of Gaza continue to resist. See Newsletters 1-3.

My blog: War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
My Newsletters:
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/
Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
See: Israeli Aggressions, Israeli-Palestinian Newsletter

See at end for Contents of Nos. 1-3.

Contents Gaza Newsletter #4
May 31, 2014 International Freedom Day for Gaza

GAZA's ARK
Help Rebuild Gaza's Ark
   Gaza’s Ark, Newsletter
   Gaza's Ark Sabotaged!
Gaza's Ark, Support Palestinian Fishermen
   Gaza's Ark, Newsletter
   Gaza’s Ark Safe Passage Petition
Dear Dick,

Just Foreign Policy <info@justforeignpolicy.org>

4 days ago - Just Foreign Policy To Nksagar_1@yahoo.com May 27 at 9:06 PMDear Naresh,Promote the International Freedom Day for GazaJoin the ... Support the International Freedom Day For Gaza

JUST FOREIGN POLICY

Inboxx

GOOGLE SEARCH June 1, 2014, Gaza Freedom Day, International Day of Freedom for Gaza

- Thunderclap: May 31: Freedom for Gaza Day
  https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/12110-may-31-freedom-for-gaza-day


- International Freedom Day For Gaza | Sagar Media Inc
  https://sagarmediainc.wordpress.com/.../international-freedom-day-for-g...

Dear Dick,
Promote the International Freedom Day for Gaza

Join the Thunderclap

On April 29, 2014, Gaza’s Ark—a refurbished boat that was set to sail in June from the port of Gaza out to sea carrying Palestinian export goods—was sabotaged when explosive devices caused substantial damage to its hull. Repairing the boat will cost about $30,000. The attack is still under investigation. [1]

Gaza’s Ark can be ready to sail this fall—but we need your support to make it happen.

Human rights activists have called for an International Freedom for Gaza Day on May 31 to mark the fourth anniversary of the attack on the Mavi Marmara, which killed nine Turkish and a Turkish-American human rights activist—the tenth died this week after four years in a coma [2]—as they attempted to challenge the blockade of Gaza. Actions drawing attention to the siege will take place in Gaza, Turkey, and around the world.

If you participate in social media, you have a unique opportunity to help raise the profile of the International Freedom Day for Gaza and Gaza’s Ark.

Here's what you can do:

1. Join our Thunderclap promoting the International Freedom Day for Gaza & Gaza's Ark. Thunderclap allows large groups of people to blast social media all at once with one resounding message. Our Thunderclap will go out at the start of our Twitter Storm on Friday, May 30. All you have to do to participate is visit the link, select which social media you’d like to post to, authorize the Thunderclap app to post on your behalf this one time, and that's it! Thunderclap won't retain your information and will only post to your account once for this campaign. http://thndr.it/TCd685

2. Participate in our Twitter Storm Friday, May 30 at 10am Eastern (9am Central, 7am Pacific.) The objective of a Twitter Storm is to create a sudden burst of activity on a particular hashtag to get the topic trending and raise awareness. In this twitter storm, we want to call attention to our campaign to re-build Gaza’s Ark and to the events happening around the world on May 31 to challenge the blockade. Participants should attempt to tweet once every minute for up to an hour. Participate for however long you like—but be sure to be there for the beginning! Sample tweets will be available at the link about five minutes before the storm. We'll send you another email Friday morning as a reminder. http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/gazaday-tstorm

If you’re not on Twitter or Facebook, you can still help support International Freedom Day for Gaza and Gaza’s Ark by watching this video about Gaza’s Ark and sharing it with your friends:

http://www.gazaark.org/2014/05/22/gazas-ark-sailing-after-sabotage

Hope to see you Friday on Twitter!

Thank you for helping to challenge the siege of Gaza,

Robert Naiman and Megan Iorio
Just Foreign Policy

Help us reach our May fundraising goal—make a $10 tax-deductible contribution today!

We need to raise $4,022 more this month. If you can, please make a donation today. Your financial support helps us create opportunities for Americans to agitate for a more just foreign policy.

http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/donate

References:

Dear subscriber and endorser --

You are receiving this e-mail because you asked to be notified when new updates are posted or you have endorsed Gaza's Ark.

The following is Gaza's Ark weekly digest of 8 posts in all languages on our website:

* Video: Gaza bees seek Egyptian nectar
  http://tinyurl.com/ot7ohxt

* Ehab Lotayef interviewed during visit to South Africa to promote Gaza's Ark
  http://tinyurl.com/nyuh2z7

* Arca de Gaza: El Ministerio del Interior progresa en la investigación, asegura a los activistas
  http://tinyurl.com/mp27cak
Free the Holy Land Sea: Support Palestinian fishermen in Gaza

Gaza's Ark, along with our Freedom Flotilla Coalition partners representing civil society solidarity organizations and individuals in many countries of the world, supports the call from the Palestinian fishermen in Gaza, including the General Union of Fishermen and other groups, seeking international recognition and guarantees that:

1. Palestinian vessels from Gaza have the right to safely access their coastal waters in an area up to and including 20 nautical miles from the coast of Gaza, for fishing and other peaceful purposes, as specified in the Jericho accords (part of the Oslo Agreement).

2. Full access to their coastal waters is vital to the ability of the Palestinian fishing fleet to earn a dignified living and help provide food for the population of Gaza, which is a significant part of the Palestinian economy. The ability of Palestinians to sustain their own economy is a necessary step for any further progress towards peace.
Without full freedom of movement, including the freedom to fish, there can be no lasting peace. We call on our own and world governments, as well as other international institutions, to express their support for this call from Palestinian fishers in Gaza and to continue to press for a complete and lasting end to the blockade of Gaza.

PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Palestinian fishermen ask for our solidarity to help them stop the siege and "Free the Holy Land Sea". >From the 17th to the 19th of December, they will pitch a tent in Gaza harbour, as a mark of protest, showing legal documentation, pictures and information about Israeli attacks against Palestinian fishermen.

http://www.gazaark.org/2013/12/16/call-to-action-on-18-december-for-palestinian-fishers/

LET'S SPREAD THE NEWS

Those willing to support the Palestinian fishermen's action on media can do it from their own computer, by co-operating in the "twitter storm" that will take place on Wednesday, the 18th of December at 4:00 p.m. Gaza time (UTC+2h, that is 3:00 p.m. Central European Time, 9 am in Eastern North America, 6 am in Pacific North America, 1 am Thursday in Sydney, Australia): through co-ordinated use of social media, we'll try to draw the world's attention to the Palestinian fishermen's action, and amplify their protest.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

From 3:00 p.m. (for Europe) on Wednesday, 18th of December and in the next hours, post on Twitter as many messages as possible with a common #hashtag that will be indicated a few hours in advance on http://endtheblockade.tumblr.com/

Pictures, links, samples of tweet and information concerning the fisherman's protest will be made available at the same address. You can also follow us also on at: http://twitter.com/arcadigaza and http://twitter.com/gazaark

THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE AT THAT TIME

can book an automatic Tweet forwarding at the appointed moment through ‘Thunderclap’: https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/7535-free-the-holy-land-sea or by using a service like: https://bufferapp.com/ (http://goo.gl/625q1s) or Tweetdeck, etc.

IMPORTANT!

- Please do not use the planned hashtag before the agreed day and time.
- Neither re-tweets nor favourites increase trending: should you see a tweet that you like, better to copy and re-post it (RT:)
- Be creative, re-combine as you prefer information and pictures that you find in the
site endtheblockade.tumblr.com always attaching the reference hashtag.

- Try to post at least 2 or 3 different messages in the first hour, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. CET, to enhance the trend effect.
- Involve friends or contacts you follow, by tweeting to @NameAccount or through DM.

**OTHER WAYS TO PARTICIPATE BESIDES TWITTER**

can also contribute to the campaign from now through facebook, blog or other social media by

- posting a link to the site [http://endtheblockade.tumblr.com/](http://endtheblockade.tumblr.com/) where the Palestinian fishermen's announcements can be found, beside other news about the protest and the infos given here.
- posting a link and inviting friends to the facebook event [https://www.facebook.com/events/536680159760985/](https://www.facebook.com/events/536680159760985/)
- sharing the page of solidarity with palestinian fishermen on facebook [https://www.facebook.com/palestinianfishermen](https://www.facebook.com/palestinianfishermen)
- forwarding this message by email to other people that may be interested

Thank you for your co-operation!

Gaza's Ark Steering Committee & Freedom Flotilla Coalition

**Gaza's Ark weekly digest**

April 23, 2014

Gaza's Ark <info@gazaark.org>

Dear subscriber and endorser --

You are receiving this e-mail because you asked to be notified when new updates are posted or you have endorsed Gaza's Ark.

The following is Gaza's Ark weekly digest of 8 posts in all languages on our website:

* Construire l'espoir avec l'Arche de Gaza [http://tinyurl.com/mwhtlmj](http://tinyurl.com/mwhtlmj)

* Aid convoy arrives in besieged Gaza Strip [http://tinyurl.com/l7hvoeg](http://tinyurl.com/l7hvoeg)
SAFE PASSAGE OF GAZA’S ARK

Dear Dick,

For nearly seven years, Gaza has been under siege. Its 1.8 million inhabitants have been denied their rights to move and trade freely. Farmers are blocked from farming their land. Fishermen have their lives threatened and their property confiscated. And, crucially, Palestinian producers have been blocked from exporting their goods. Gaza's economy has been devastated.

In the short run, aid is necessary but, in the long run, aid not the answer. Freedom is the answer. That's why we've been working on Gaza's Ark, an international initiative to challenge the blockade politically by exporting Palestinian goods through the port of Gaza.

Gaza's Ark is a refurbished fishing boat that will soon sail from Gaza carrying Palestinian export goods. Like other boats that have attempted to break the blockade, Gaza's Ark will face the danger of interception by Israeli forces. That's why we need your help today.

The UN and world governments have it in their power to ensure safe passage of Gaza's Ark and an end to the siege. Prominent human rights activists from around the world are initiating the call—will you join them?
Here's what you can do:

1. **Join our Thunderclap.** Thunderclap allows large groups of people to blast social media all at once with one resounding message. Our Thunderclap will help promote the international call for an end to the blockade and raise awareness about Gaza's Ark. All you have to do to participate is visit the link, select which social media you'd like to post to, authorize the Thunderclap app to post on your behalf this one time, and that's it! Thunderclap won't retain your information and will only post to your account once for this campaign. [http://thndr.it/1jMhUNB](http://thndr.it/1jMhUNB)

2. **Participate in our Twitter Storm Monday, April 28 at 4pm Eastern (3pm Central, 1pm Pacific.)** The objective of a Twitter Storm is create a sudden burst of activity on a particular hashtag to get the topic trending and raise awareness. Participants should attempt to tweet once every minute for up to an hour. Participate for however long you like—but be sure to be there for the beginning! We'll send the hashtag tomorrow about half an hour before the storm begins. Sample tweets will be available at the following link at that time: [http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/gazasark-petition-tstorm](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/act/gazasark-petition-tstorm)

3. **Sign the petition.** Join world-renowned human rights activists such as Noam Chomsky, Mairead Maguire, and Alice Walker in signing Gaza's Ark's petition calling upon the UN to take action to end the siege of Gaza. [http://www.gazaark.org/2014/04/26/petition-to-the-un/](http://www.gazaark.org/2014/04/26/petition-to-the-un/)

Hope to see you Monday on Twitter!

Thank you for all you do to help end the siege of Gaza,

Megan Iorio, Chelsea Mozen and Robert Naiman

Just Foreign Policy

**Help us reach our April fundraising goal—make a $10 tax-deductible contribution today!**

Only $3,500 to go! Your financial support helps us create opportunities for Americans to agitate for a more just foreign policy. [http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/donate](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/donate)
Gaza Writes Back

Description

ISBN: 978-1-935982-35-7 Gaza Writes Back: Short Stories from Young Writers in Gaza, Palestine, edited by Refaat Alareer is a compelling collection of short stories from fifteen young writers in Gaza, members of a generation that has suffered immensely under Israel's siege and blockade. Their experiences, especially during and following Israel's 2008-2009 offensive known as “Operation Cast Lead”, have fundamentally impacted their lives and their writing. Indeed, many of these writers saw the war as a catalyst for their writing, as they sought an outlet and a voice in its aftermath. They view the book as a means of preserving Palestinian memories and presenting their own narratives to the world without filters. Their words take us into the homes and hearts of moms, dads, students, children, and elders striving to live lives of dignity, compassion, and meaning in one of the world's most embattled communities. (Some of the stories also take us with courage and empathy into the imagined world of Israelis living just on the other side of the great
barriers Israel has built in and around Gaza and the West Bank to wall the Palestinians in.)

These stories are acts of resistance and defiance, proclaiming the endurance of Palestinians and the continuing resilience and creativity of their culture in the face of ongoing obstacles and attempts to silence them.

Whether tackling the tragedy that surrounds missile strikes and home raids, or the everyday indignities encountered by Palestinian refugees, *Gaza Writes Back* brings to life the real issues that the people of Gaza face. One prominent theme in many of the stories is the value placed on the wisdom of parents and grandparents. A sense of longing pervades the book, as the characters in the stories reveal desires ranging from the mundane to the complex—including, in several of the stories, a strong yearning to return to the characters’ long-cherished family homes and properties after many decades in exile from them. Social differences within Gaza are also sensitively explored. A few stories are especially difficult—but critical—to digest, for the vividness with which they depict the experiences of victims of Israeli military strikes and confront the legacy of violence and occupation, particularly on young people.

Readers will be moved by the struggles big and small that emerge from the well-crafted writing by these young people, and by the hope and courage that radiates from the authors’ biographies. The contributors are university students and recent graduates, Palestinians who have chosen to speak out in their second language, which is an “expressive way to be more creative in a world where words are significantly mighty,” according to Tasnim Hamouda. Another contributor, Nour El Borno, believes “that if a person can write effectively, it is his or her duty to get up, write, and help change this world to something better.”

Five years after Operation Cast Lead, these stories remind us that the pain lingers on and the people of Gaza will be forever scarred by the attack. Yet, the call for justice remains forceful and persistent, and these young Gazan writers refuse to let the world forget about them—their land, their people, and their story.

- See the complete Table of Contents which includes the titles and authors of all of the short stories.
- Read the outstanding endorsements the book has received from international luminaries.
**Product Videos**

•

**Gaza Writes Back**

•

**Gaza Writes Ba...**

**Product Reviews**

1. **The pen is mightier than the sword**

Posted by Lora Lucero on 14th Jan 2014

These young adults from Gaza have given us a gift beyond measure --- sharing their short stories about life under occupation, under siege, under deadly assault.

I ordered copies for my two US Senators and Congresswoman because I hope they will gain some insight about how our government's policies in the Middle East impact the Palestinians in Gaza. I plan to follow-up with meetings to discuss the book with them.

Maybe other readers would send a copy to their members of Congress? GAZA WRITES BACK is the best form of diplomacy.

**Write or Call the White House**

President Obama has declared his commitment to creating the most open and accessible administration in American history. That begins with taking comments and questions from you, the public, through our website.

**Call the President**

**PHONE NUMBERS**

Comments: 202-456-1111

Switchboard: 202-456-1414

**TTY/TTD**

Comments: 202-456-6213
Write a letter to the President

Here are a few simple things you can do to make sure your message gets to the White House as quickly as possible.

1. If possible, email us! This is the fastest way to get your message to President Obama.

2. If you write a letter, please consider typing it on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. If you hand-write your letter, please consider using pen and writing as neatly as possible.

3. Please include your return address on your letter as well as your envelope. If you have an email address, please consider including that as well.

4. And finally, be sure to include the full address of the White House to make sure your message gets to us as quickly and directly as possible:

   The White House
   1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
   Washington, DC 20500

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Shalom Center Appeal for a Cease Fire, and Petition
Sign AVAAZ Petition Too.
Civilian Medical Crisis from Physicians for Human Rights in Israel
Article: “The Strangulation of Gaza” by Saree Makdisi
For other reports and arguments see OMNI’s website—www.omnicenter.org, click on “periodicals”
Contents continued on web site:
Article by Ramzy Baroud
More.

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Chomsky on Gaza Nov. 2012
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Starhawk
Ann Wright
Book in Praise of Gazans
Petras
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Goldstone Report Not Retracted
Blum, Anti-Empire Report
Chomsky, Betrayal of Gaza"
Code Pink, Gaza Freedom March 2010-11
Jewish Aid to Gaza Blocked
Gazan Land and Sea Restricted
Book Into Film: Tom Hurndall
Contents #3 Nov. 17, 2013

(This newsletter is shorter than usual because I only today received the appeal for the Mini-Arks.)

Freedom Boats:
Support Gazan Children's Mini-Arks (model boats)
Book Rev. by Miles: Berlin and Dienst, Freedom Sailors

2012 Bombings
Kathy Kelly, Israeli Air Force Attack
Joshua Brollier's Writings
Marc Ash to President Obama
Druding, US Blocks UN Security Council (Video Interview of Prof. Vijay)
Rick Staggenborg Recommends

END GAZA NEWSLETTER #4

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Dick Bennett

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