

Can't trust Israel to deliver aid, says Mukhriz
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Perdana Global Peace Organisation (PGPO) advisor Mukhriz Mahathir today asked the United Nations (UN) to mediate with the Israeli regime to ensure that PGPO's Gaza-bound aid reaches the Palestinians.

He said he did not fully trust the Israeli regime to be generous enough to allow the supplies on board the seized MV Rachel Corrie aid ship to reach Gaza safely.

"They have occupied Gaza for over three years. All this while, we have been trying to send aid to the Palestinians there but they (Israel) have crossed the line by blocking all doors and our efforts to deliver aid.

"That is why I don't believe that they will be so generous as to deliver our aid to Gaza," he told reporters at the Bunga Raya Complex of the KL International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang.

He said direct negotiation with Israel was impossible as Malaysia did not have any diplomatic ties with the regime.

Mukhriz, who is Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, was among those who had welcomed home the 12 Malaysian peace activists who had been on the Turkish aid ship Mavi Marmara bound for Gaza when it was attacked by Israeli naval forces on Monday.

The Israeli naval forces seized the Rachel Corrie at about 2.45pm (Malaysian time) yesterday and have towed it to Ashdod port in Israel.

There are six Malaysian activists on board the ship - Member of Parliament Mohd Nizar Zakaria, PGPO members Shamsul Akmar, Matthias Chang and Ahmad Faizal Azumu, as well as two journalists, Halim Mohamed and Mohd Jufri Judin from private television station TV3.

The humanitarian aid mission was sponsored by PGPO, a Malaysian non-governmental organisation.

The Rachel Corrie is named after an American activist killed by an Israeli forces' bulldozer while attempting to prevent them from demolishing Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip.

- Bernama

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