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Concern over fate of supplies seized by Israel

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SEREMBAN: Perdana Global Peace Organisation (PGPO) adviser Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir is worried that the food and medical supplies seized by Israel will not be sent to Gaza.

At present, he said the Turkish and Jordanian governments are negotiating with Israel to get the 1,500 metric tonnes of seized supplies back.

Mukhriz, who is deputy international trade and industry minister, said the negotiators were confident that the supplies would either be returned or sent directly to the Palestinians in Gaza.

"However, I am worried if the supplies are sent directly, it could be contaminated or damaged.

"If this happens, the supplies would be more harmful than useful," he said after opening the Pantai Umno branch meeting here, yesterday.

He said efforts were also ongoing to secure the return of the seven ships seized by Israel, including two which were donated by Malaysians through PGPO.

He said discussions were also under way with former British member of parliament George Galloway to send another convoy of 60 ships for a similar mission in September.

In Sungai Siput, PGPO member Shamsul Akmar Musa Kamal, one of the six Malaysian peace activists who was aboard the Gaza-bound aid ship MV *Rachel Corrie*, was given a rousing welcome in his hometown.

The 47-year-old, who was born in Gopeng but raised in Sungai Buloh,

was presented with a *tengkolok* and a kris.

The homecoming, attended by about 200 people, was organised by Lintang assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Pakeh Adam with the support of local non-governmental organisations at the former's service centre in the town centre. Also present was Chinese affairs adviser to the Perak menteri besar, Datuk Chang Ko Youn, who is former Jalong assemblyman.

Both Jalong and Lintang are state assembly seats under the Sungai Siput parliamentary constituency.

Shamsul, a former journalist, was joined by his wife Hasinah Mohd Ali, 42, and daughters Anis Syuhada, 19, and Anis Juhanna, 15.

His parents Musa Kamal Jabanullah, 73, and Ramlah Mohd Dawi, 71, were unable to attend.

Gaza fund launched

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Shamsul Akmar, who was asked to speak about his experience and the events on board the *Rachel Corrie*, later launched a Gaza Fund for the Sungai Siput parliamentary constituency, before making his way to his parents home here.

In Sintok, three of the 12 Malaysian activists onboard the Turkish ship MV *Mavi Marmara* spoke to Universiti Utara Malaysia students yesterday during a forum on the attack on the vessel.

They said even though the at-

tempt to break the blockade on Gaza and deliver aid to the Palestinians had failed, the mission had shown the world the cruelty of the Israeli regime.

Hasanuddin Mohd Yunus said the world has since united in condemning the attack and demanding the blockade be lifted.

"If we can sustain this momentum in condemning the Israel, I believe the blockade will soon be lifted."

The other two panellists were Jemaah Islah Malaysia representative Dr Selamat Aliman and *Astro Awani* journalist Ashwad Ismail.

cepted early this month.

Echoing the sentiment, Chang said the Palestinians had suffered for far too long under Israel's aggression and sanctions.

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