

**Devastated Sewerage Systems In Gaza Will Affect Israel Too, Says Tun Mahathir
Bernama
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SEPANG, June 4 (Bernama) -- Israel should actually support the mission to send humanitarian aid of 7.5km PVC pipes to Gaza as it will benefit Israelis as well, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Their whole sewerage system has broken down and because of that a lot of dirty effluent goes into the sea. It can carry diseases not only in Gaza but also neighboring countries including Israel," he said.

"So actually Israel should support this but you know the Israelis, they don't care at all for humanitarian aid. They just want to show they have power and they can stop people."

Dr Mahathir was met at the KL International Airport (KLIA) after welcoming seven more crew members from the ship MV Finch who had joined the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) mission to send the PVC pipes to Gaza.

They were Captain Jalil Mansor, Mohd Jaffrey Ariffin, Zainuddin Mohamad, Matthias Chang, Derek Graham, Jenny Graham and Julie Levasque.

There were two other crew members who returned directly to India namely Sharma Chandan Shimia and Pal Satya Prakash.

Dr Mahathir, who is the president of the foundation, however regarded the mission which was resuming "The Spirit of Rachel Corrie", as a success.

"The mission is to show that we did not regard Israel as having the right to blockade as this is an open sea. It is a sea belonging to Gaza and therefore we want to show that we don't respect Israel's blockade and we want to break through the blockade."

"In fact, they succeeded as it was only about 400 meters more (to go) but unfortunately Israel fired guns and all that," he said, adding that he had given specific instruction that if the Israelis turned violent, "we will not to resist it."

"So for me the mission is a success," said Dr Mahathir who was still passionate over the mission although he had just been discharged after being admitted for 10 days at the National Heart Institute from May 18.

Earlier today, PGPF adviser, Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir said the PVC pipes consignment would be delivered by the representative of the foundation, Tan Sri Samsudin Hitam who is now in El-Arish, Egypt, and assisted by the Malaysian Embassy in Egypt.

He said the PGPF would continue its efforts to send the pipes measuring 7.5km long to Gaza via Rafah.

Last Wednesday, three more members who boarded the ship arrived safely at KLIA.

They were Bernama journalist Mohd Faizal Hassan, a journalist from New Straits Times, Iskandar Alang Bendahara and a volunteer worker from Felda Liaison Office in the Prime Minister's Department, Mohd Radzillah Abdullah.

The lone vessel departed from the Port of Piraeus, Greece to challenge the illegal Israel-imposed siege of the Gaza Strip on May 11 and had succeeded to break the siege five days later.

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