

PGPF Still Proud Although Mission Unable To Reach Gaza
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SEPANG, June 1 (Bernama) -- Although the Perdana Global Peace Foundation (PGPF) Malaysia failed in its mission to send humanitarian aid right to the people of Gaza, it is proud of having broken Israel's illegal seige of Gazan waters.

PGPF chairman Tan Sri Norian Mai said this success was meaningful for PGPF, apart from the spirit and courage of those onboard the cargo ship MV Finch carrying the humanitarian aid, regarding them as warriors.

"Although this mission cannot be said to be 100 per cent successful, it managed to break Israel's illegal seige as the ship managed to enter the Gazan waters before being stopped by the Israeli navy," he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, here, Wednesday.

Norian and PGPF adviser Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were at the airport to welcome home Bernama reporter Mohd Faizal Hassan, New Straits Times reporter Iskandar Alang Bendahara and Mohd Radzillah Abdullah, a volunteer from the Felda publicity office under the Prime Minister's Department.

He said although faced with the blockade, PGPF would still work at sending humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza soonest possible.

Norian said nine other volunteers onboard MV Finch, including four Malaysians, were expected to return to their countries after making the necessary arrangements for the PVC pipes to be sent to Gaza.

He also denied that mission leader Matthias Chang had been detained by the Egyptian authorities but was only refused the right to enter Egypt.

"This is the decision of the Egyptian authorities and we have sent an appeal letter through the Malaysian embassy there for Chang to be allowed to enter Egypt and fly home to Malaysia," he said.

Dr Siti Hasmah said her husband, former premier and PGPF president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was proud of all the mission volunteers and thanked them for their sacrifice.

"Dr Mahathir is unable to be present here to welcome home the heroes today, but he wishes to congratulate and thank them for their sacrifice....he's very proud of these warriors.

"We and their families have continuously prayed for their safety and should be happy now that they (some of them) are back home," she said and joked with Mohd Faizal and Iskandar Alang that they should now have a floral bath.

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