



ISRAEL MATTERS!

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Turkey Suspends Trade, Defense Ties with Israel Warns Navy Will Defend New Gaza Flotilla

Germany To Boycott Durban III

Germany will boycott the controversial Durban III United Nations Conference Against Racism, planned for later this month in New York saying the event risked becoming a repeat of the Israel-bashing, anti-Semitic fiasco that marked the first two conferences, held in 2001 in Durban, South Africa, and in Geneva in 2009.

The American Jewish Committee, which frequently meets with representatives of the German government, praised Germany's decision to withdraw from the event, meant to mark the tenth anniversary of the U.N. World Conference on Racism, which turned into an anti-Israel hate-fest. AJC Executive Director David Harris said he hoped other countries would follow suit. "What a telling statement that many of the world's leading democracies have chosen to shun the upcoming Durban conclave -- with more to come in the next few weeks, we hope," he said in a statement issued after the German announcement.

At the first two conferences, anti-Israel groups were widely considered to have hijacked the proceedings, so that international human rights issues appeared to become secondary to Israel-bashing. Critics of the conference have noted that human rights abuses reported in Arab countries have been dismissed by conference organizers.

This year, Canada was the first country to announce it would not attend. Other countries planning to shun the event are: the United States, the Netherlands, Australia, Austria, the Czech Republic, Israel and Italy. About 40 delegates dropped out of the 2009 conference following what was widely described as a hate speech by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. [JTA]



Turkey says it is "totally suspending" all trade and military ties with Israel as relations between the two countries continue to worsen. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan [photo] announced the freeze, a day after Turkey ordered all senior Israeli diplomats to leave the country. Erdogan also said he may visit the Gaza Strip, but would finalize plans after speaking to Egyptian officials.

During September, Turkey expelled the Israeli ambassador and downgraded diplomatic relations because Israel refused to apologize for the deaths of eight Turkish citizens and a Turkish-American during last year's Israeli raid on a ship carrying aid to Palestinians in Gaza.

Separately, Erdogan said Turkish warships will escort any Turkish aid vessels to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, in what seemed as a warning to Israel. Erdogan's statements came as Turkey downgraded diplomatic ties with Israel and heated up rhetoric against it in the aftermath of the publication of the UN Palmer Commission report on the 2010 Gaza Flotilla incident, and Israel's refusal to answer Turkish demands to apologize for the incident. The report concluded Israel used excessive and unreasonable force when commandos boarded the aid ship last year. But it also said the raid was legal because of Israeli concerns that the ship was carrying arms to Palestinian militants. The report said Turkey and the flotilla organizers were also responsible in the deaths of the people.

When asked about the cost to Turkey of the economic sanctions against Israel, Erdogan said, "[it] could be \$15M or \$150M. We, as Turkey, would not be bothered by this. What is important for us is that we don't let anyone trample on our pride."

Erdogan announced plans to make an official visit to Cairo to meet with high-ranking Egyptian officials in a bid to strengthen strategic and business relations between the two countries. Turkey and Egypt plan to hold a joint naval exercise at the end of the year, according to an unconfirmed report cited by The Jerusalem Post. The drill would help in the exchange of knowledge and combat techniques between the countries.

[VOA.com and novinite.com]

Support Israel by Supporting Israeli Charities

The following is a far-from-complete list of Israeli charities - some well known and others less so - that are worthy of your financial consideration.

A TIME - The only not-for-profit organization that provides medical, financial, and emotional support to couples experiencing infertility. Infertility affects one out of every six couples and takes an immeasurable toll on all aspects of life. ATIME helps address the overwhelming emotional, medical, financial, social, and religious issues infertile couples to face each day. www.atime.org/

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF HERZOG HOSPITAL - Israel's foremost center for geriatric and psychiatric health care, Herzog Hospital combines exceptional medical care with outstanding research achievements. Herzog Hospital, with over 100 years of experience, treats the effects of advancing age and mental instability with the best medical technologies combined with professional expertise, compassion and care. www.herzoghospital.org/

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF LIBI - Provides direct support to the brave men and women defending Israel. We are volunteers with a common goal - providing protective gear, educational programs, medical and social services to soldiers as they fulfill their commitment to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). American Friends of LIBI's programs are aimed at easing the hardship and burden during service in the IDF. www.friendsoflibi.org/

AMIT - Since 1925, AMIT has nurtured and educated Israeli children to become productive, contributing members of society. Its schools, youth villages, surrogate family residences and other programs are located in over 20 cities and communities throughout Israel and constitute the nation's only government-recognized network of religious Jewish education incorporating academic and technological studies. www.amitchildren.org/

EMUNAH - Cares for Israel's disadvantaged children and families, providing a safe haven for over 1,000 abused and neglected children in EMUNAH's 5 children's residential homes, educational opportunities in the EMUNAH network of schools and vocational programs, caring for young children in 135 day care centers and nurseries, serving Israel's elderly with senior citizen centers and meals-on-wheels programs, and maintaining vital crisis counseling centers. www.emunah.org/

FRIENDS OF ISRAEL FIREFIGHTERS - Established in 2003 by a group of concerned citizens to address the urgent need to raise funds for the purchase of equipment, ranging from fire engines to new fire stations to protective gear, brought about by drastic government budget cuts that have left the Fire and Rescue Services without funds for new equipment and facilities. www.fif.org.il/

FRIENDS OF THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES (FIDF) - FIDF initiates and helps support educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for the young men and women soldiers of Israel who defend the Jewish homeland. FIDF also supports the families of fallen soldiers. www.fidf.org/

ILAN-ISRAEL FOUNDATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN - Founded in 1952 as a consequence of the polio epidemic of the 1950's, ILAN has since widened its services and cares for the physically disadvantaged that suffer from cerebral palsy (CP) and other neuromuscular disabilities. ILAN has 41 branches throughout Israel that are in constant contact with the disabled and represent a channel of information and assistance for this population and its special needs. ILAN provides services such as kindergartens, special schools and vocational training centers, sheltered workshops, rehabilitation and occupation units, residential homes for adults, as well as social centers and sports facilities. www.ilan-israel.co.il/

JERUSALEM DENTAL CENTER FOR CHILDREN - Providing high quality dental and preventive care at subsidized fees to families throughout Jerusalem and all over Israel. The Center's goal is to give children from poor families the dental care they deserve. Over 200,000 patients have had their self esteem and smiles restored by the superb care provided by the clinic in its 22 years of operation. www.jerusalem dental.org/

ONE FAMILY FUND - Founded in 2001, One Family has become the largest non-profit organization in Israel providing assistance to the more than 2,500 families affected by terrorism. Since its establishment, One Family has provided over \$13 million in assistance to victims of terrorism. It cares for those who have lost loved ones, those who can no longer work, and those who simply need to know that many still care and feel the pain of the victims. www.onefamilyfund.org/

STANDWITHUS - Dedicated to informing the public about Israel and to combating the extremism and anti-Semitism that often distorts the issues. Through print materials, speakers, programs, conferences, missions to Israel, campaigns, and internet resources, StandWithUs works to ensure that the story of Israel's achievements and ongoing challenges is told on campuses and in communities, the media, libraries, and synagogues and churches around the world. www.standwithus.com

VAAD HARABANIM L'INYANEI TZEDAKA - Provides financial assistance to support widows and orphans, rehabilitate broken families, help children in distress, aid those enduring abject poverty, and assist the desperately ill. The Vaad tends to every type of sorrow and pain with no distinction made on the basis of community, affiliation, or life-style. Vaad Harabbanim has become the wheel of fortune and salvation for tens of thousands of tragic cases annually. www.vaadharabbanim.com/