

PRESS STATEMENT

The Government of Mauritius is deeply concerned by the Israeli military raid on the Gaza-bound humanitarian aid convoy on May 31st in international waters, which has led to the tragic loss of lives and caused injuries to innocent victims.

Mauritius strongly condemns this unilateral action by Israel, in particular the disproportionate use of force against unarmed civilians.

Mauritius considers the blockade of the Gaza Strip unacceptable and demands that humanitarian aid be allowed to enter the region unimpeded to alleviate the sufferings of the 1.5 million Palestinians.

Mauritius also calls for the immediate release of the ships and civilians detained by Israel during the military intervention.

Mauritius reiterates its appeal to both sides to refrain from using force and calls upon them to return to the negotiating table to reach a long term solution.

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Regional Integration &
International Trade
Port Louis
2 June 2010***