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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

May 26, 2010

His Excellency Dr. Michael B. Oren
Ambassador of the State of Israel
Embassy of the State of Israel
3514 International Drive, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to express my deep concern for the situation in Gaza. In particular, I am troubled by Gaza's ongoing humanitarian crisis that has resulted in malnourishment, lack of access to adequate medical care, inconsistent access to electricity, and a collapsed sewage system. This dire situation is caused first and foremost by Israel's ongoing blockade of basic goods and was exacerbated by the military offensive conducted at the end of last year. I am urging the elimination of the blockade and the unfettered admission of humanitarian assistance into Gaza.

I have been made aware of the latest effort by the Free Gaza Movement to send a fleet of boats to Gaza loaded with medical supplies as well as medical doctors, journalists, politicians, and human rights advocates. I urge your government to allow these boats to pass. I understand that the boats will undergo strict Cypriot (therefore EU) screening at the ports and the cargo will be certified.

Please take the necessary measures to alert your government of the mission of this ship. I encourage you to allow its safe entry to deliver critical humanitarian supplies.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress