**[http://www.un.org/News/ossg/hilites.shtml](https://mail.hudsonny.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.un.org/News/ossg/hilites.shtml" \t "_blank)**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NOON BRIEFING**

**SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL MARTIN NESIRKY**

**U.N. HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK**

**Tuesday, August 10, 2010**

**SECRETARY-GENERAL MEETS PANEL OF INQUIRY ON FLOTILLA INCIDENT**

* Starting at noon, the [Secretary-General](https://mail.hudsonny.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.un.org/sg/) met the members of the [Panel of Inquiry](https://mail.hudsonny.org/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=4699) on the flotilla incident of 31 May 2010. Mr. Geoffrey Palmer, the Chairperson, and Mr. Alvaro Uribe, the Vice Chair, were joined by the Israeli and Turkish members of the panel, respectively Mr. Joseph Ciechanover and Mr. Özdem Sanberk.
* The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to the members of the Panel for undertaking this important responsibility and for the commitment with which they were approaching this task.  He referred, with appreciation, to the support he had received from both the Turkish and Israeli Governments in establishing this panel.
* The Panel will spend the coming days determining how they will undertake their task, and in this effort, the Secretary-General stressed they should seek the fullest cooperation of the national authorities.  He reminded the members of the panel to discharge their mandate in the light of the Presidential Statement of the Security Council on this issue.  The Secretary-General looks forward to their first progress report by 15 September 2010.
* The Panel is not designed to determine individual criminal responsibility, but to examine and identify the facts, circumstances and the context of the incident, as well as to recommend ways of avoiding future incidents.  For that purpose, the Panel will receive and review reports of national investigations into the incident and request such clarifications and information as it may require from relevant national authorities.
* The Secretary-General expressed the hope that this Inquiry would also make a positive contribution to the broader peace process, and more specifically to improving relations between Turkey and Israel.  He promised the full support of the Secretariat, and expected that they would also receive the fullest cooperation of the relevant national authorities.
* In response to questions, the Spokesperson noted that, for the conduct of its work, the panel will decide what steps it will take and will work with the national authorities.
* As was repeatedly emphasized, the cooperation of the parties is crucial to the panel’s work. Today, he said, the Secretary-General is renewing his call on the parties to fully cooperate with the panel.
* Nesirky added that the panel can do its work in parallel with the work of national investigations, but would look into the materials provided by those investigations.
* Asked whether the panel can issue subpoenas, the Spokesperson noted that it was not a criminal investigation and is not looking into criminal responsibility.