

- [Home](#)
- [Aletho News — Recently Featured Content](#)
- [Aletho News – Most Viewed](#)
- [Aletho News Archives](#)

Rep. Sherman: Prosecute U.S. Citizens involved with Gaza Flotilla

[Ali Gharib](#) | [Lobe Log](#) | [June 4th, 2010](#)

On a press call hosted by a pro-Israel organization, Rep. Brad Sherman, Democrat of California, told reporters that he intends seek the prosecution of any U.S. citizens who were aboard or involved with the Freedom Flotilla.

“The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 [\[PDF\]](#) makes it absolutely illegal for any American to give food, money, school supplies, paper clips, concrete or weapons to Hamas or any of its officials,” Sherman said on [the Israel Project call](#), conflating Hamas and Gaza’s civilian population. “And so I will be asking the Attorney General to prosecute any American involved in what was clearly an effort to give items of value to a terrorist organization.”

Sherman also said that he plans on working with the Department of Homeland Security to make sure that any non-U.S. citizen involved with or aboard the Flotilla are excluded from entering the U.S.

Hamas, considered a [foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department](#), won Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006 and has held *de facto* rule over the Gaza Strip since it took the area by force in 2007 in anticipation of an [impending U.S.-backed coup d’etat](#) by the rival Fatah faction.

The Freedom Flotilla was organized by the Free Gaza Movement to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza — in place since Hamas’s takeover — and deliver tons of food aid, medical and school supplies and building materials to repair buildings damaged in the month-long Israeli assault of Gaza in Dec. 2008 and Jan. 2009. The Flotilla was raided by Israeli commandos in international waters during the early hours of Monday morning, leaving at least [nine people](#), including [one U.S. citizen](#), dead.

Though the nine were killed by the IDF, Sherman criticized the Obama administration for not directly blaming Hamas, using the logic that the militant movement brought the blockade on itself: “I think the U.S. could be better now about condemning Hamas as responsible for those nine deaths.”

The blockade and the land siege (by Israel and Egypt) have, by international consensus (leaving out Israel and its hard-line American allies) caused a humanitarian crisis among Gaza’s civilian population.

The Congressman, known as a pro-Israel stalwart who has, in the past, [joined as the sole Democrat on Republican criticisms](#) of Obama’s foreign policy toward Israel, denied that there was a “hunger crisis” or “humanitarian crisis” in the Gaza Strip. “The health circumstances in Gaza are better than they are in many American cities,” he added later.

Questions about the legality of the Israeli blockade and its enforcement in international waters were quickly dismissed by Sherman, who said that the U.S. had itself blockaded Germany in both World Wars, Japan in the Second, Cuba during the missile crisis, and, curiously, the Confederacy during the Civil War.

The irony of the last example was, I'm sure, lost on Sherman. It was in that war, of course, that [another man named Sherman](#), a Union officer, led a scorched-Earth campaign against the blockaded Confederacy. There are [similar examples](#) from the recent Gaza War, which I'd bet Rep. Sherman also had no problem with. (And are we really reduced to using a conflict from 150 years ago to justify military actions of the IDF?)

While Israel alleges ties between IHH, a Turkish relief organization involved in the Flotilla, and terror groups, many credible doubts have been raised about that assertion (see LobeLog contributors [Marsha Cohen](#) and [Max Blumenthal](#)'s pieces on the subject). Nonetheless, Sherman insisted the group has "clear terrorist ties."

The California Congressman also blamed the media for the harsh criticisms of Israel since the incident on the Med (even [from tiny Central American countries](#)). Sherman employed what he called the "Kent State Rorschach Test" — referring to a generation of journalists who grew up in the Vietnam War-era and viewed Western governments critically because of incidents like the 1970 [Kent State massacre](#).

"The liberal media is misled by that Kent State Rorschach Test that is a belief that those who are poorer, less technological, and more scruffy looking are right," he said, alluding to skepticism of "Westerners, Europeans, and the U.S."

All of Israel's problems, said Sherman, are a distraction from Iran's nuclear program, which he alleged is aimed at nuclear weapons. If Iran acquires those weapons, he said, the U.S. itself will be in danger: "You could smuggle one into the States in a bale of marijuana."

"What really matters is the Iran nuclear program and we have a short amount of time to stop that program," Sherman went on. "And our failure to take all the action to stop that program could force Israel to take an action far more controversial than what they've done this week."


Possibly related posts: (automatically generated)

- [Presidential assassinations of U.S. citizens](#)
- [It Is Now Official: The U.S. Is A Police State](#)
- [California Rep Thinks We Should Round Up U.S Citizens And Deport 'Em](#)


[June 5, 2010](#) - Posted by [aletho](#) | [Civil Liberties](#), [Wars for Israel](#) || [7 Comments](#)

7 Comments [»](#)


1. Is it possible that Mr Sherman is...,dare I say it,... Jewish?

 *Comment by greg | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*


- o The majority of Americans prefer not to get involved, therefore we will have to expect the Fourth Reich creeping up on us for sure. All the signs are written on the wall but with their eyes open they still cannot see!

 *Comment by B.Benhamid | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*


2. It is time to vote this mad dog out of office or he may develop into something like a second Adolf Hitler. Why do our politicians always come out of the woodwork and defend the lunatics in Israel when another crime was committed and innocent people were blown to pieces?
Change We Can Believe In
“United States of Zionist America”

 *Comment by B.Benhamid | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*

3. Mr Sherman should also go to Afghanistan to hunt more terrorists there.

 *Comment by abe nagano | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*

4. americans who carry two passports are traitors

 *Comment by henry | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*

5. We now seem to live in the United States of Israel. To hear most of our politicians it seems as though Israel comes first America sucks hind tit. I resent the fact that the American taxpayers support Israel to the tune of almost three billion dollars a year and I understand this figure is to increase to ten billion over the next decade. Is Israel's infrastructure, schools, hospitals roads and bridges falling to pieces? Are there masses of unemployed and homeless with millions of people having to rely on food stamps to survive? I think not!
I think Americans are getting screwed big time by our own politicians and this nasty little state.

 *Comment by Eric Borchers | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*

6. Did I miss the constitution being amended to make our welfare subordinate to Israel's? Our country is falling apart and the only thing Washington can think about is outdoing each other for Israel's favor. This response by Sherman is emblematic of the problem. It is infuriating to keep hearing our government show so much concern for a foreign nation that, quite frankly, I no longer give a damn about. I don't want my taxes supporting it, and I'd rather see Madoff waterboarded than Osama.

 *Comment by G Street | June 5, 2010 | [Reply](#)*

Leave a comment

Name (required)

E-mail(required)

Website