



THE TRIPOLI POST



A Palestinian worker awaits the arrival of a Libyan aid ship at Gaza City port. Israeli warships have prevented the Libyan cargo vessel from reaching the starved Palestinians who been crippled by an Israeli blockade. Libya demanded on Wednesday that UN Security Council stops Israeli piracy, territory which has been crippled by an Israeli blockade, 3 December 2008.(AFP)

Libya Demands SC Stop Israeli Piracy, Allow Aid to Starving Palestinians in Gaza

At an emergency session of the UN Security Council, Libya accused Israel of piracy and demanded that the international body quickly act and facilitate delivering of humanitarian aid to over 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza starved by Israel for more than a year and a half.

Israeli warships on Monday prevented the Libyan cargo vessel, Al-

Marwa, from reaching the Gaza Strip, the impoverished Palestinian territory under a crippling Israeli blockade.

Mr. Giad Allah Attalhi, the Libyan representative to the UN, told the 15-nation Security Council that Israel's prevention of the Libyan boat to reach its destination was "an act of piracy" as defined by Article 101 of the UN convention on law of the sea.

He asked the council "to take the necessary urgent actions to allow the ... ship to enter the port and unload its cargo." He added that Libya would allow the United Nations or other organizations to confirm that its cargo was purely humanitarian.

Attalhi said he hoped the council would agree to issue a statement condemning the Israeli move, which

would require the backing of all 15 council members. The council took no immediate action on the Libyan draft statement.

The ship, laden with 3,000 tonnes of goods, was stopped several kilometres off Gaza's shores and ordered to return to the Egyptian port of El-Arish, said Palestinian MP Jamal Khodary, who

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Seminar on Tax System Recommends Adopting Strong Reform Procedures

Participants in a seminar on the Libyan tax system recommend that a number of drastic steps be undertaken as part of the reform of this important institution in the country.

It called for quick reform of tax laws and speed up the process of establishing a national social security number.

The two-day seminar was held in Tripoli and underlined

the need for a centralized national data base.

In an interview with the Director of the Libyan Tax Authority Mr. Al Bueshi Al Alafi, some local and foreign companies that are violating tax are to be held accountable. (see excerpts of the interview on page 5).

The seminar also called for improving bank services and

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Mr. Al Bueshi Al Alafi

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