



December 31, 2012

The Turkish show trial in absentia of four senior Israelis involved in the events aboard the *Mavi Marmara* is expected to be renewed in February 2013.¹ The IHH, which played a leading role in the violence, is exploiting the trial for an anti-Israeli hate campaign, with anti-Semitic propaganda targeting Turkey's Jews.



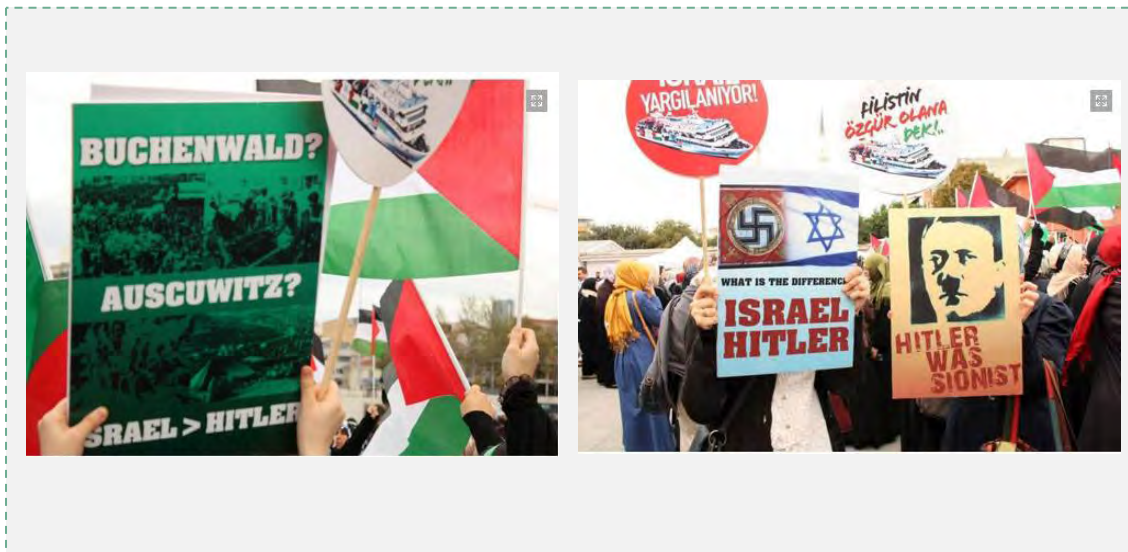
Hüseyin Oruç interviewed by the Islamist Kanal A TV. He falsely accused Turkish Jews of fighting alongside the IDF aboard the *Mavi Marmara* (YouTube).

Overview

1. The Turkish Islamist media recently spread the false claim initiated by the IHH that Turkish Jews fought alongside IDF soldiers aboard the *Mavi Marmara*. *Yenisafak*, an Islamist newspaper affiliated with the Turkish government published an op-ed column on December 13 entitled "**Are there murderers in our midst?**" Three days later **Hüseyin Oruç**, deputy IHH president, interviewed by the small Islamist Kanal A TV station, **made the false claim that five of the IDF soldiers who belonged to force that took control of the *Mavi Marmara* were Turkish citizens**. He also said that the IHH demanded that the Turkish government and the Turkish intelligence service (MIT) locate the five Jews and bring them to trial.

¹ Supplement to the November 13, 2012 bulletin "An Istanbul court holds a show trial of Israelis accused of responsibility for the deaths of nine Turkish operatives aboard the *Mavi Marmara*. The IHH, whose operatives waged a violent attack on the IDF, is exploiting the trial for hate propaganda and plans to use it for international lawfare."

2. The IHH, which organized the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla and whose operatives were the main force in fighting the IDF, **has turned the show trial in Istanbul into an anti-Israeli hate campaign, which the Turkish government has so far done nothing to prevent.** The campaign, whose objective is to turn the trial into an indictment of Israel and its policies, included a mass demonstration in front of the courthouse on the opening day of the trial, where demonstrators carried signs equating Israel ("Zionism") with Nazi Germany and Hitler. Later on, the campaign also integrated anti-Semitic incitement against the Turkish Jewish community.



Signs carried during the demonstration in front of the courthouse (IHH website, December 6, 2012)

3. IHH and its president, Bülent Yıldırım, have a long history of anti-Semitic incitement and hate propaganda, **usually focused on making political capital from *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* myth that the "Zionists" [i.e., the Jews] rule the world,** especially the United States (See Appendix C). This time, however, the IHH and the Islamist Turkish media directed their **anti-Semitic hate propaganda inward towards the country's small Jewish population, which had no connection or involvement whatsoever with the *Mavi Marmara* affair.**²

4. Attacking Turkey's Jews with anti-Semitic hate propaganda and incitement was **the direction taken by IHH leader Bülent Yıldırım.** Interviewed by the Islamist newspaper Sabah Gazetisi several months before the opening of the show trial, he claimed **that there were Turkish-speaking Israelis aboard the *Mavi Marmara*** (Sabah Gazetisi, May 26, 2012). The remark made by deputy IHH president Hüseyin Oruç about "five Turkish-speaking suspects" among the IDF soldiers was intended, in

² Turkey's Jewish population numbers between 18,000 and 20,000.

out assessment, to reinforce and give credibility to Bülent Yildirim's accusations, using the classic anti-Semitic allegation that Jews have dual loyalty.

5. Following a protest by the American-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Turkish ministry of the interior issued a statement intended to moderate the damage to its image. It again took the familiar Turkish government stand that for centuries Turkey has provided a safe haven for the Jews and that it regards anti-Semitism and racism as a crime against humanity (See Appendix A). **In our assessment, however, it is doubtful whether the statement indicates the Turkish administration's intention to take vigorous action to keep the show trial in Istanbul from becoming a stage for anti-Israeli, anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic incitement and hate propaganda** (the distinctions between which are lost on Bülent Yildirim and other anti-Semitic figures).

Appendices

6. Three appendices follow:

- 1) **Appendix A:** The interview with Hüseyin Oruç and the reactions
- 2) **Appendix B:** Hüseyin Oruç, IHH deputy president
- 3) **Appendix C:** Anti-Semitic remarks made by Bülent Yildirim

Appendix A

Interview with Hüseyin Oruç and the Reactions

1. On December 16, 2012, deputy IHH president Hüseyin Oruç was interviewed by the Turkish Islamist TV channel Kanal A. The interview was reported by the Islamist newspaper *Yenisafak* on December 17 in an op-ed column entitled "**Every Turk who helped Israel will pay!**" Hüseyin Oruç was quoted as saying that "among the Israeli soldiers aboard the ship [and during] the interrogation, there were those who spoke Turkish."³ **[Note: Hüseyin Oruç was detained aboard the *Mavi Marmara* and later interrogated in Israel.]** They were there from the time they landed [on board the ship] from the helicopters until we arrived in the airport. It was the Turkish speakers who treated us roughly, insulted us and threatened us." He added that some of those soldiers declared, "We live in Turkey." He said that in view of the "fact" that there were five Turkish speakers among the soldiers aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, **the IHH demanded that the Turkish foreign ministry and the Turkish intelligence service (MIT) find the five suspected soldiers and bring them to trial. Turkey, he said, would use all necessary means to find and try the five suspects. He claimed that they had been identified and that the investigation was proceeding** (*Yenisafak.com.tr* website, December 17, 2012).⁴

2. Hüseyin Oruç's anti-Semitic fabrication drew a response from **Abraham H. Foxman, National Director of the American-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL)**. Writing to Namýk Tan, the Turkish ambassador to Washington on December 22, he stressed that "vague allegations being reported may be intimidating to the Turkish-Jewish community and could create a sense of alarm for Turkish Jews who have felt protected by the government of Turkey for centuries." He added that if the government had "information about specific individuals under investigation, that should be disclosed immediately ... If the news reports are unfounded or misleading, an immediate and public clarification is needed."⁵

3. In response to Forman's letter the Turkish foreign ministry issued a clarification about the involvement of Jews in the affair.⁶ According to the statement, the legal proceedings concerning the "attack by Israel armed forces" on the *Mavi Marmara* were "normal" and would continue. According to the statement, the ministry was "saddened

³ **Note:** Hüseyin Oruç was detained aboard the *Mavi Marmara* and later interrogated in Israel.

⁴ *Yenisafak* is an Islamist newspaper with close ties to the Turkish administration.

⁵ http://www.adl.org/PresRele/IsIME_62/6460_62.htm

⁶ The Turkish ministries of the interior and justice did not relate to the matter.

to see that the way the developments regarding these legal proceedings are presented has been discomfoting and troubling our Jewish citizens. We cannot accept generalization and presentation of allegations regarding possible perpetrators of the incident in a way that targets the Turkish Jewish community who are a part of our society and equal citizens of Turkey." Jerusalem added "It is well known that Turkey for centuries has been a safe-haven for Jews and others fleeing from persecution...Moreover, Turkish authorities have on numerous occasions underlined at the highest levels that we regard anti-Semitism and racism as crimes against humanity." Turkey also strongly rejects efforts in the "international press, "which"try to create a perception that there exists a specific attitude toward out Jewish citizens in Turkey."⁷

⁷http://www.mfa.gov.tr/qa_22_-22-december-2012_statement-of-the-spokesman-of-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs-of-turkey-in-response-to-a-question-regarding-the-press-reports-on-the-mavi-marmara-incident.en.mfa

Appendix B

Hüseyin Oruç, Deputy IHH President



Hüseyin Oruç (center) (Dunyabizim.com website)

1. **Hüseyin Oruç** was born in 1969 in Malatya in eastern Turkey. One of four children, his father was a teacher who moved to Istanbul when Hüseyin was four years old so that his children could receive a better education.
2. After high school he was accepted to study mathematics at the Boğaziçi (Bosphorus) University. Unsuccessful at mathematics, he switched to tourism management and received a diploma (Ikradderneji.com website).
3. During his studies he was active in the National Youth Foundation (MGV). He studied religion and was active in student affairs, at which time he was made the acquaintance of Bülent Yildirim and the rest of the IHH leadership (Ikradderneji.com website).
4. Hüseyin Oruç joined the IHH in 1992, the year of its founding, as a response to the Serbian siege of Sarajevo. He became close to Bülent Yildirim when he went to work in the Iliça hotel owned by one of his relatives. The hotel hosted Bosnian refugees and IHH guests. He later acted as Bülent Yildirim's interpreter and with him visited dozens of countries (Dunyabiz.com website).
5. At the end of the 1990s Hüseyin Oruç was detained by the Turkish administration, apparently as part of the actions it took against the IHH and other radical Islamic organizations. He was pardoned and went back to university to study law (but did not finish his degree).

6. Hüseyin Oruç, today deputy IHH president, liaises with other organizations, the government and the media. As part of his job he was involved in the logistical preparations for the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla (liaising with the other organizations joining it).

7. Hüseyin Oruç participated in the flotilla. During the violent confrontation with the IDF he was detained, was brought to Israel, interrogated and released. Interviewed after his release, he said that all the passengers aboard the *Mavi Marmara* were prepared to die as shaheeds. He also said the flotilla's objective was to reach the Gaza Strip or be killed in the attempt (Al-Jazeera, June 5, 2010).

Appendix C

Anti-Semitic remarks made by Bülent Yildirim

1. IHH president Bülent Yildirim often makes **anti-Semitic remarks in which the words "Zionism" and "Judaism" are interchangeable.**

1) On **April 7, 2011, at a memorial ceremony for the operatives killed aboard the *Mavi Marmara***, Bülent Yildirim gave a speech in which **he compared Zionism to a virus.** He said that a new flotilla to the Gaza Strip was being organized, adding that "we have only one problem...**the virus called Zionism**" (Haberler.com website, April 7, 2011).

2) On **May 23, 2010, at the launching of the *Mavi Marmara* in the Istanbul harbor**, he gave an inflammatory speech **comparing Israel to Nazi Germany** and falsely accusing Israel of **building concentration camps for the Palestinians:** "Israel," he said, "**behaves [toward the Palestinians] the way Hitler behaved toward the Jews.** Hitler built concentration camps in Germany. **Today the Zionists are building concentration camps in Israel**" (IHH Turkish-language website, May 23, 2010).⁸

3) On **November 14, 2010, Bülent Yildirim was interviewed by the Islamist Turkish newspaper Star** about the events aboard the *Mavi Marmara*. **He was asked to respond to the bill proposed in Congress about designating the IHH as a terrorist organization.** His main answer was elaborating the myth that **the United States was ruled by "Zionism:"**⁹

A. The motion to designate the IHH as a terrorist organization, he said, arose after the events aboard the *Mavi Marmara* and **was made by Jewish Congressmen. That illustrates how influential the Zionists are in American life and how they have succeeded in enslaving the country.** Collecting signatures in Congress to propose the bill shows more than anything else its "**dirty face.**" According to Yildirim, if the bill becomes law, it will be possible to "see the dirty face of the Zionists in the United States."

⁸ The theme of concentration camps also appeared during the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla. The passengers aboard the ships in the flotilla were told that there was a closure on the Gaza Strip and they would not be able to enter. They responded by saying they were determined to reach it, also yelling "**Go back to Auschwitz**" in English at the IDF soldiers.

⁹ For further information see the June 6, 2010 bulletin "IHH leader Bulent Yildirim gave an interview focusing on the U.S. intention to designate the IHH as a terrorist organization and on the Mavi Marmara incident. Yildirim claimed "Zionists" controlled the U.S. and world media. He accused Israel of massacring the Mavi Marmara passengers and defended IHH assistance to Hamas"

B. Bülent Yildirim said that the Zionists customarily say "Give us the money of any country and we will make sure to pass the laws we see fit, thus running that country." He added that according to the governmental system in the United States, **"the funds the Zionists provide allow the election of the Senators and ministers [sic]."** President Obama, he said, is afraid of having that happen, and as a result when the United States casts a vote in the UN, "it stands shoulder to shoulder with the unjust and injudicious Zionist conquerors." He added, **"Therefore Obama, during his term, can allow the Zionists to be enslaved by the Zionists."**

C) The IHH, he asserted, will not cooperate with the American Congress: "Ours is the right way. The whole world knows we are right." He said the power of the **Zionists in the United States had weakened**, and that the Muslims living there, despite their distress and the tortures they are subjected to, represent Islam very well. **The American media, he said, which are under Israeli influence**, naturally support Israel. However, "the alternative US media have gained a kind of power they never had before." He said that the human rights organizations, whose numbers continue to increase, have succeeded in coping with Israeli manipulation.

D) Bülent Yildirim was asked how he suggested coping with the global media, which also supported Israel and attacked the IHH. He exploited the opportunity to wage an anti-Semitic attack. He said that Zionism **controlled the world in four areas**: pharmaceuticals, the food industry, the weapons industry and the media. The media provided power for the oil industry, finance and the weapons industry. **All of them formed a foundation for the Zionists to operate the media around the globe.** "The Zionists," he said, "acquire media across the globe."

Bülent Yıldırım, Star gazetesine İHH'yı anlattı

İHH İnsani Yardım Vakfı Başkanı Bülent Yıldırım, Star gazetesinden Fadime Özkan'a verdiği röportajda Mavi Marmara olayı ile ilgili bütün tartışmalı konulara açıklık getirdi. İşte o röportaj:

Amerikan Kongresi'ni şu günlerde meşgul eden konulardan biri 87 senatörün imzasıyla gündeme getirilen ve İHH'nin "terör örgütü" listesine alınmasını talep eden bir tasarı. 31 Mayıs'ta Gazze'ye insani yardım götüren çok uluslu Mavi Marmara gemisine uluslararası karasularda saldırarak 9 sivil Türkiye vatandaşını öldüren İsrail'i haklı çıkarmak. Yahudi lobileri yine iş başında yani. Ote yandan İsrail'in kendi içinde yaptığı soruşturma raporunu da bugünlerde BM'ye teslim etmesi gerekiyor. Bu iki sebeple İHH Başkanı Bülent Yıldırım'ın kapisini çaldım ve sordum:



14.11.2010 - Bülent Yıldırım, Star gazetesine İHH'yı anlattı

Bülent Yıldırım's interview in the Turkish newspaper Star.