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Von: Edith Lutz <edith.lutz@gmx.de>

Betreff: Fwd: [GFM] Egyptian security forces detain and harass Gaza Freedom Marchers

An:

Datum: Sonntag, 27. Dezember 2009, 17:38

deutsche gruppe noch in kairo, wartet general meeting heute ABend ab.
Lichterboote auf dem Nil durch Polizei verhindert
edith

----- Original-Nachricht -----

Datum: Sun, 27 Dec 2009 15:39:59 +0200

Von:

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please get out to press... thanks, medea

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Egyptian Security Forces Detain Gaza Freedom Marchers in

el-Arish and shut down Gaza Memorial in Cairo

What: Egyptian security forces detain internationals in el-Arish,
break up memorial actions in Cairo

When: Sunday, December 27, noon: the Egyptian security forces detained
a group of 30 internationals in their hotel in el-Arish and another
group of 8 at the bus station. They also broke up a memorial action
commemorating the Cast Lead massacre at the Kasr al Nil Bridge

At noon on 27 December, Egyptian security forces detained a group of
30 activists in their hotel in el-Arish as they prepared to leave for
Gaza, placing them under house arrest. The delegates, all part of the
Gaza Freedom March of 1,300 people, were Spanish, French, British,
American, and Japanese. The Egyptian security forces eventually

yielded, letting most of the marchers leave the hotel, but did not permit them to leave the town. When two younger delegates, a French and Japanese woman, attempted to leave el-Arish, the Egyptian authorities stopped their taxi and unloaded their luggage.

Another group of eight people, including citizens from American, British, Spanish, Japanese and Greece, were detained at the bus station of Al Arish in the afternoon of December 27. As of 3:30 PM, they were still being held.

Simultaneously, Egyptian security police broke up a commemoration of the Israeli invasion of Gaza organized by the Gaza Freedom March at Kasr al Nil Bridge, one of the main bridges connecting Zamalek Island, in the middle of the Nile, to Cairo. As a nonviolent way of commemorating the more than 1300 Palestinians killed in the Israeli assault on Gaza that began a year ago on December 27, 2008, Gaza Freedom Marchers tied hundreds of strings with notes, poems, art and the names of those killed to the bridge.

“We’re saddened that the Egyptian authorities have blocked our participants’ freedom of movement and interfered with a peaceful commemoration of the dead,” said Medea Benjamin of CODEPINK, one of the March’s organizers.

Benjamin added that the Gaza Freedom March participants are continuing to urge the Egyptian government to allow them to proceed to Gaza. They visited the Arab League asking for support, various foreign embassies and the Presidential Palace to deliver an appeal to President Mubarak. They are calling their supporters around the world to contact Egyptian embassies and urge them to free the marchers and allow them to proceed to Gaza.