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From:

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Subject:

Fw: Israel won't apologize for Turkish flotilla deaths (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker

Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 08:29 AM

To: NEWS-IO; NEWS-EUR; NEWS-Mahogany; NEWS-NEA

Cc: SES-O_OS; SES-O_Shift-II

Subject: Israel won't apologize for Turkish flotilla deaths (AP)

JERUSALEM - (AP) An Israeli Cabinet minister says Israel won't apologize for killing nine Turkish activists aboard a Gaza-bound flotilla last year.

Moshe Yaalon says he recently held three rounds of talks with the Turks, who demand such an apology to help mend frayed ties. But he says "we are not ready to apologize."

However, he hinted the position could change, saying "there might be some dispute" within the Cabinet.

The activists were trying to breach Israel's naval embargo of Gaza. Israel maintains that commandos who raided the ship opened fire because activists attacked them. The activists say they were attacked first.

Yaalon says an upcoming U.N. report on the raid is expected to defend the naval operation and the blockade but accuse Israel of using excessive force.

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