

# Alert - Jim Manly - in good health but still in Israeli jail

Sunday, October 21, 2012 6:45:26 PM

Hello Friends

\*please circulate\*

Many thanks to all of you who have sent best wishes, letters of support and letters to politicians in support of my father Jim Manly.

My dad, a 79 year old (he turns 80 on Oct 29th) retired United Church Minister and former NDP Member of Parliament, was taking part in a humanitarian aid mission to Gaza with the Gaza Ark flotilla aboard the Estelle. The ship was boarded and seized in international waters by Israeli Defence Forces and the passengers and crew were taken to Israel where they are now in detention. I have heard that Canadian consular officials have seen my father and reported that he is in good health and is receiving his daily medication but that he is very tired.

There were citizens and members of parliament from a number of European countries on board the Estelle. The Spanish, Greek and Italian governments have all applied diplomatic pressure and sent ambassadors to secure their citizens releases. The Canadian government has not done this for my father. Nobody from the Canadian government or from the official opposition has spoken out about this illegal seizure in international waters.

My father is being forced to sign a false confession stating that he entered Israel illegally even though this is not true. The facts are that he was seized illegally in international waters and taken to Israel against his will. My father refuses to sign this false confession and even if he did it would not guarantee his immediate release. Other people who have signed these false confessions in the past have remained in detention for up to a week.

See Jim Manly's pre-recorded video message:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8egYBdf-Zo>

As per his request please contact the Prime Minister and your local member of parliament and ask them to insist that the Israeli government respect the human rights and legal rights of those aboard the Estelle.

- Stephen Harper (Prime Minister of Canada)  
613-992-4211  
[stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca)

- John Baird (Minister of Foreign Affairs)  
613-996-0984  
[john.baird@parl.gc.ca](mailto:john.baird@parl.gc.ca)

thanks  
Paul Manly  
[paul@manlymedia.com](mailto:paul@manlymedia.com)  
250 729-1254

*This is a message written by my mother*

Why is Jim Manly sailing to challenge Gaza blockade?

Why did Jim accept the invitation to be the Canadian on board the Estelle, the Freedom Flotilla boat sailing for Gaza to break the blockade?

Our decision was a joint one, a result of 53 years of working together as a team and supporting each other in both individual and joint pursuits. I have always been attracted to Jim's sense of humour, his ability to think "outside the box" and the fact he did not fit my stereotype of clergy! After all these years we still make each other laugh and are still able to surprise each other.

Another thing drew me to Jim: he has the courage to follow his convictions and the guts to act on them – even when these actions are unpopular. He is also one of the least confrontational people I know.

Jim and I have worked together on many human rights issues. We are grateful to the Haisla people of Kitamaat, with whom we spent the first four years of our married life and whose friendships and influence we still cherish, for opening our eyes to the issues facing First Nations people and other indigenous peoples. This led indirectly to our involvement with other human rights struggles: Mexican American farm workers, refugees from the coup in Chile, the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador, the Maya of Guatemala, and refugees from Colombia and Nigeria among other places. It also led to our involvement in Church Sanctuary for refugees and accompaniment of people facing death threats. Through all this we avoided the issue of Palestine/Israel, accepting the line that "it is too complex", too divisive and likely to alienate friends.

So, people ask, when and how did that change? We read *Drinking the Sea at Gaza* by Amira Haas, the Israeli journalist who lived in Gaza and reported for the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz. We heard Jeff Halper, founder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and for the first time we began to understand the true nature of the "Separation Wall", known among Palestinians as the "Annexation Wall". We learned all we could on the issue (much of it written by Jewish Israelis) and helped form Mid-Islanders for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, and more recently in the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine/Israel. We participated in a Pilgrimage of Solidarity, visiting Israelis and Palestinians who work together for a just and peaceful future. They inspire us to work with them.

Jim has always avoided the limelight (strange for someone who went into politics). It was only his strong engagement with this issue that led him to agree to sail. He is on the Estelle to bring attention to the suffering of the Palestinians of Gaza.

He is there out of a commitment to human rights and social justice. He hopes to bring awareness to Canadians about what is being done to the Palestinians in the name of Israeli security.

He is there in the hope that his actions may bring Canadian MPs from all parties, but especially the NDP and particularly the younger generation of NDP MPs who were elected with the hope for change, to break the walls of silence and speak out.

If there was room for another Canadian I would be there with Jim. There is no other place I would rather be now. May he come home safe.

Eva Manly of Nanaimo B.C. is married to retired NDP MP and United Church minister Jim Manly who is sailing to challenge the Gaza blockade. For updates please see <http://www.gazaark.org/category/follow-jim-manly-on-the-estelle/>