

## The Reut Institute Update on Action and Impact June 2010

### The Challenge of Delegitimization

#### Introduction

The month began with the political-security team's ten-day field visit to London. Following the 'Flotilla Affair,' we decided that two team members would return to Israel early in order to experience and participate in the Israeli response on-the-ground. In the second half of June, the team focused on processing information from the London trip and on analyzing the flotilla affair through the lens of our conceptual framework, [Building a Political Firewall against Israel's Delegitimization](#).

#### The Flotilla Affair

In the aftermath of the Flotilla Affair, we decided to shift our efforts primarily to investigating events surrounding the affair in order to offer our analysis of what we perceive to be Israel's conceptual inferiority. While government-appointed investigative committees are due to analyze Israel's actions following the flotilla's departure, we intend to focus on the Israeli strategy prior.

In this context, this team hosted a roundtable discussion on the topic that included representatives from Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IDF, the Ministry for Strategic Affairs, and leading think tanks.

Our efforts will culminate within the next two weeks in a document that analyzes the Flotilla Affair and its context, and outlines related policy guidelines.

#### London Trip

The team's agenda in London included discussions with representatives of the pro-Israel and Jewish communities, work with the local Israeli embassy, and meetings focusing on the challenges of delegitimization on campus and within trade unions. The team also conducted a roundtable event with representatives from major international human rights organizations, which focused on the importance of driving a wedge between criticism of Israel and its delegitimization. In addition, we delivered a [presentation](#) to students at York University on the political process between Israel and the Palestinians.

In the coming months, we hope to consolidate our findings from the London visit with a report delineating desired Israeli inputs to anti-delegitimization efforts in hubs. We also intend to provide case study approaches to combating delegitimization in key arenas and among primary catalysts.

## Media and Outreach

The team continues to be a frequently evoked point-of-reference in major publications in relation to the delegitimization issue. Two recent articles that focus on our work include a piece in [Yediot Aharonot](#), which included in-depth interviews with Gidi Grinstein and team leader Eran Shayshon; and a [Jewish Journal](#) analysis of Israel's challenge in improving its international standing, which drew upon Reut's conceptual framework.

The team also hosted two student delegations. In the beginning of June, we discussed the threat of Israel's global delegitimization with a delegation of 43 non-Jewish AIPAC campus activists comprising a bi-partisan spectrum of politically active students. Last week, the team hosted 20 Jewish students from the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) to discuss the challenge of delegitimization on British campuses.