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Senator Scott Brown denounces protest at Israeli consulate in Boston

Senator says he stands with Israel in antiterror fight

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT NOVEMBER 07, 2011

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Senator Scott Brown yesterday denounced Friday evening's sit-in protest at the Israeli consulate in Boston.

"This group of protesters has a poisonous message which needs to be loudly refuted," Brown, a Massachusetts Republican, said in a statement. "Israel is a friend and ally to the United States. It was shocking to hear the protestors chanting anti-Israel slogans in support of the terrorist-backed intifada uprising, which has created so much misery and death in Israel."

The Boston protest came after Israel's navy intercepted two small boats carrying about two dozen pro-Palestinian activists of several nationalities on Friday, according to the Associated Press. The vessels that

tried to breach Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip were towed to a port north of Gaza, AP reported.

No one was injured and the 22 activists are expected to be deported from Israel, according to AP reports.

Israel says its naval blockade is vital to stop weapons from reaching Palestinian militant groups such as Hamas, which rules Gaza, AP reported. Last year, Israeli forces killed nine Turks in a raid to halt a larger protest flotilla.



Brown's statement included a link to a YouTube video that showed about 20 demonstrators sitting in the lobby of the Israeli consulate at Park Plaza in downtown Boston, shouting chants including: "Hey hey, ho ho, Israeli apartheid's got to go"; "Occupy the consulate, not Palestine"; and "Militarization is a crime."

In the video, Boston police are shown escorting protesters out of the building, as the demonstrators chant, "We will be back."

In his statement, Brown said: "There should be no mistaking which side America is on in the fight against terror, and I want to make it clear that I stand with Israel."

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