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**M/V „MAVI MARMARA” AND „FREEDOM FLOTILLA”
CASES IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONTEMPORARY LAW
OF ARMED CONFLICTS AT SEA**

The article discusses the incident of capturing „Freedom Flotilla” vessels on 31 May 2010 by Israel’s Navy Commando Regiment, while it was heading to the blocked port of Gaza with humanitarian aid. The “flag” unit of the flotilla of six ships was the m/v *Mavi Marmara* passenger ship, on which Israeli soldiers clashed with Turkish activists from Free Gaza Movement and Turkish Islamic organizations. As a result of the clashes, nine activists were killed and around sixty activists and ten Israeli soldiers were injured. The incident caused widespread international repercussions and was considered by many committees. It was also the subject of many statements and comments of international lawyers, which can be divided into the ones supporting the blockade of Gaza and the activities of Israeli Self-defense Forces and ones condemning the Israel’s activities as incompatible with applicable international law. The Author interprets the actions of Israel in the light of the contemporary law of armed conflicts at sea and concludes that both the blocking of the Gaza Strip, and the activity of the Israeli commando regiment were legitimate, but the voyage of the flotilla and the activists’ behavior were irresponsible and had a tone of provocative nature.