Booming Israel-Turkey ties

By LINDA GRADSTEIN
The Times of Israel

Israel's buying a Japanese car in Tel Aviv might be surprising to learn that the cars actually were built in Turkey.

Tourists buying dried figs in Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda market probably don't know that the figs are also imported from Turkey.

These are just two of the examples of the burgeoning trade between Israel and Turkey, trade that has more than doubled in the past five years, according to the Turkish Statistics Institute, and confirmed by Israeli officials, to $5.6 billion. About half of that is exports from Israel to Turkey, and the other half, Turkish goods, like the cars, coming to Israel.

"The economies of Turkey and Israel complement each other and the trade ties are flourishing," Israeli foreign ministry spokeswoman Einat Nachman said Thursday.

"That's the good news. Unfortunately, the trade ties are not as good, and this is a consequence of the harsh attack by the Turkish leadership against Israel," she added.

The statement did not define the "unanticipated circumstances", but Facebook posts drew a connection to the Netanyahu speech.

"Does this have anything to do with backlash from her boycotting Netanyahu?" wrote one observer.

U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, a frequent presence at local pro-Israel events, was a speaker at the November 2012 Jewish Retail Fund solidarity rally with Israel during the Gaza War held in downtown Chicago.

ACCOUNTS DIFFER ON SCHAKOWSKY'S DINNER NO-SHOW

By GILA WERTHEIMER

The invitations had been sent, the press release distributed.

"Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-9) was to attend Israel's 60th, a gala dinner on March 8 at the Crystal Ballroom & Lounges in Evanston," the press release said.

But the dinner took place, Schakowsky public with her "dilemma," Schakowsky's quote denning not to attend Israel's 60th, a gala dinner on March 8 before both houses of Congress.

On March 2, several days before its event, Ke- shet announced on its Facebook page: "due to unanticipated circumstances beyond the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is supplying the tiny nation, with a population of about 70,000 people, with the GalMobile (above), the world's first desalination vehicle.

"When I was at a meeting with the heads of state of the Small Islands Development States (SIDS) in Samoa, I met with the president of the Marshall Islands, who asked me to help his country, and I decided to join my friend Rabbi Klein at the Tanenbaum Chabad service dinner this evening," Governor had tweeted, "Glad to join my friend Rabbi Klein at the Tanenbaum Chabad service dinner this evening.

"I, as Governor, look forward to traveling to Israel, its vibrant culture, commerce, tourism, and immigration," he added.

The governor did not speak from a prepared text, his statements were confirmed last week for the J’Wear Suite by Rich Gold- berg, the governor’s deputy chief of staff for legislative affairs, at an event as an honoree.

The program marked the 29th anniversary of Rabbi Dov Hillel Klein, head of Tanenbaum Chabad House.
**Turkish-Israeli relations: past, present and future**

**Adnan Yilmaz**

Israel and Turkey have endured a troubled relationship since 2010, when Israeli soldiers killed nine Turkish protestors on the Gaza flotilla, a maritime protest aimed at breaking the Israeli blockade of the enclaved Palestinian territory. This event marks the beginning of the deterioration of bilateral relations between the two countries.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Israel and Turkey were considered reliable partners and have been built a wall between their economies. However, the more anti-Israel you are, the more anti-Turkey you are. Therefore, the relationship between Israel and Turkey has been characterized by mutual suspicion and a lack of trust.

The current state of Turkish-Israeli relations is complex and multifaceted. There are several factors that contribute to the tension, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the historical enmity between the two countries.

The proposal to break Israel’s blockade of Gaza is a significant step in the right direction. It demonstrates a willingness by both countries to engage in a constructive dialogue and to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. This is a positive development that could have a significant impact on the region.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the relationship between Israel and Turkey is complex and characterized by mutual suspicion and a lack of trust. However, the proposal to break Israel’s blockade of Gaza is a significant step in the right direction. It demonstrates a willingness by both countries to engage in a constructive dialogue and to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. This is a positive development that could have a significant impact on the region.

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**Notes**

1. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made statements about breaking the blockade, which has not yet been implemented.
2. Turkey and Greece have had a tense relationship in recent years due to territorial disputes.
3. The flotilla incident led to a diplomatic crisis between Israel and Turkey, with several countries recalling their ambassadors.
4. The Israel-Hamas conflict has been a major issue in the region, with both Israel and Turkey blaming each other for the ongoing violence.
5. Turkey has been a key player in the Middle East, with its strategic location providing it with significant influence in the region.

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**References**