

Dossier : Freedom Flotilla for Gaza /Coalition de la liberté pour Gaza

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Contexte:

Une coalition Européenne/Internationale avec des Grecs, des Turques, des Anglais, des Américains, des Hollandais ont mis leurs bateaux et leurs forces en commun pour partir vers Gaza fin Mai et transporter ainsi près de 5000 tonnes de fret, plusieurs centaines de passagers, des parlementaires, des personnalités...ect. Bref créer les conditions d'une vraie campagne de masse internationale pour tenter de briser le siège de Gaza:

5 organisations :

Free Gaza Movement, Américain/International, proche d'International Solidarity Movement

Ship to Gaza Grece, sorte de collectif national grec regroupant organisations politiques de gauches, syndicats et associations

Ship to Gaza Suède, idem

European Campaign to End the Siege on the Gaza, Anglais/Européen.

Luisa Morgantini en est membre d'honneur.

IHH, Turquie, ONG.

8 bateaux affrétés. 5000 tonnes de fret, majoritairement du matériel de construction (ciment , poutrelles...) et des générateurs électrique qui font cruellement défaut à Gaza.

Plusieurs centaines de passagers.

Objectifs de la coalition:

Au delà de la démarche humanitaire et de solidarité active envers la population de Gaza, il s'agit de dénoncer le blocus criminel dont celle-ci est victime. Blocus criminel organisé par l'Etat d'Israel et Soutenu par la communauté internationale et notamment la Communauté Européenne. En europe et en france, nous avons donc là une responsabilité énorme dans cette tragédie.

Non seulement, la communauté européenne ferme les yeux lorsque Israël tue en une semaine près de 1400 palestiniens et détruit près de 70% des infrastructures publiques financés en grande partie par l'Europe, mais pire la communauté européenne soutien le blocus contre la victime et récompense le bourreau en décidant d'intensifier ces relations avec Israël. Comble de la farce ou de la tragédie, une deuxième délégation parlementaire européenne, comprenant les commissions des Affaires étrangères, du Développement et du Budget, vient juste de se voir refuser l'entrée à gaza par les autorités israéliennes.

Il s'agit aussi de rappeler les conclusions du rapport Goldstone qui indique clairement qu'Israël s'est rendu coupable de crime de guerre et peut-être même de crimes contre l'humanité lors de la guerre qu'il a lancé contre Gaza entre décembre 2008 et janvier 2009.

Enfin, il s'agit aussi de soutenir la lutte légitime du peuple palestinien à Gaza comme en Cisjordanie pour la souveraineté et la liberté.

PRESS RELEASE: "Coalition to Break the Blockade on Gaza Announced"

μέγεθος κειμένου [Εκτύπωση](#) [E-mail](#)

Press Release

April 3, 2010

"Coalition to Break the Blockade on Gaza Announced"

Istanbul, Turkey – Following months of preparation, a coalition bringing together a number of organizations and movements working to break Israel's illegal blockade on Gaza was announced yesterday in Istanbul. The coalition, comprised of the Turkey-based IHH (Insani Yardim Vakfi) organization, the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG), the Greek Ship to Gaza campaign, the Swedish Ship to Gaza campaign and the Free Gaza Movement, will launch a flotilla of ships laden with cargo, media, parliamentarians, celebrities and activists to Gaza next month.

The flotilla will be composed of at least eight vessels, including three cargo ships, and will set sail from European ports starting on May 3, reaching the port of Gaza later in the month. Over 500 passengers from more than 20 countries will take part, and over 5,000 tons of cargo, including cement, prefabricated housing, other building materials, medical equipment, and educational supplies will be delivered to Palestinians in Gaza.

The Free Gaza Movement has been launching ships to Gaza since August 2008, partnering with organizations and activists around the world on

these missions. In December 2009, IHH led a land convoy to Gaza that brought tons of humanitarian aid and other supplies. In January 2010 the European Campaign brought 50 parliamentarians to Gaza in solidarity with the Palestinian people and to witness the devastation wrought by Israel's illegal policies. Ship to Gaza/Greece and Ship to Gaza/Sweden meanwhile have had ongoing campaigns in their countries to raise awareness and funds for this effort and for materials to be brought to Gaza.

"Through this coalition, these organizations will be able to maximize resources, experience and commitment to ending the illegal siege on Gaza. Even as Israel continues its daily persecution of Palestinians, we will use this action to wake the world's consciousness about the crimes committed against Palestinians," said IHH President Bulent Yildirim.

The coalition invites organizations and individuals from around the world to join the effort by providing supplies for Gaza and contributing financial support for the mission.

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ECESG – Mazen Kahel - +33 1 46 81 12 92;

IHH – Ahmet Emin Dag – +90 530 341 1934;

Ship to Gaza / Greece – Vangelis Pissias - +30 697 200 9339;

Ship to Gaza / Sweden – Dror Feiler - +46702855777;

END

List of Parliamentarians and other Delegation Members

- Gerald Kaufman
Member, House of Commons - UK
Delegation leader
- Arafat Shoukri
Chair, European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza
- Malika Benarab-Attou
MEP - France
- Nessa Childers
MEP - Ireland
- Bairbre de Brun
MEP - Northern Ireland
- Jill Evans
MEP - Wales
- Robert Goebbels
MEP - Luxembourg
- Richard Howitt
MEP - UK
- Marisa Matias
MEP - Portugal
- Niccolò Rinaldi
MEP - Italy
- Helmut Scholz
MEP - Germany
- Alyn Smith
MEP - Scotland
- Alexandra Thein
MEP - Germany
- Boris Zala
MEP - Slovakia
- Stefan Liebich
Member of Bundestag - Germany
- Georgios Anastopoulos
Politician - Greece
- Nikolas Kleitsikas
MP - Greece
- Mpitsanis Konstantinos
Politician - Greece
- Anastasios Kourakis
MP - Greece
- Sofia Sakorafa
MP - Greece
- Jolanta Szczypinska
MP - Poland
- Kozak Zbigniew
MP - Poland
- James Tolson
MSP - Scotland
- Gueri Muller
MP - Switzerland
- Jeau Charles Rielle

MP - Switzerland
 • Josef Zisziadis
 MP - Switzerland
 • John Barrett
 Member, House of Commons - UK
 • Jeremy Corbyn
 Member, House of Commons - UK
 • Lynne Jones
 Member, House of Commons - UK
 • Martin Linton
 Member, House of Commons - UK
 • Robert Marshall-Andrews
 Member, House of Commons - UK
 • Clare Short
 Member, House of Commons - UK
 • Nazir Ahmed
 Member, House of Lords - UK
 • Colin Low
 Member, House of Lords - UK
 • Andrew Phillips
 Member, House of Lords - UK
 • Jennifer Tonge
 Member, House of Lords - UK
 • Paul Flemming
 Councilor - Northern Ireland
 • Gerry Maclochlainn
 Councilor - Northern Ireland
 • Sinead Maclochlainn
 Politician - Northern Ireland
 • Henry Mielcarz
 Politician - Poland
 • Ender Demirtas
 Politician - Switzerland
 • Nadir Abadla
 President, Greek Friendship with
 Palestine
 • Majed Al-Zeer
 General Director, Palestinian Return
 Centre - UK
 • Omar Faris
 President, Cultural Society for
 Palestinians in Poland
 • Anouar Gharbi
 President, Rights for All - Switzerland
 • Mazen Kahel
 President, French Palestinian Forum
 • Ahmed Benferhat
 Assistant to Malika Benarab-Attou,
 MEP - France
 • Christoyla Efthimia
 Assistant to Sofia Sakorafa - Greece
 • Sara Jones
 Assistant to Jill Evans, MEP - Wales
 • Aidan O'Sullivan
 Assistant to Nessa Childers, MEP -
 Ireland
 • Michéla Pfeifer

Assistant to Alexandra Thein, MEP -
Germany

- Rory Byrne

Researcher for Robert Marshall-
Andrews, MP - UK

- Daniel de Oliveira
Journalist - Portugal

- Will Peakin
Journalist - Scotland

- Lady Jill Low - UK

- Michel Buhler
Singer - Switzerland

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE SHIPS TO GAZA

The destruction of the Palestinian nation is happening in our midst, and the silence of our world leaders is deafening!

Today, we acknowledge that the legitimate fight of the Palestinian people for freedom and justice is becoming the symbol of our own struggles and fights for Justice, Dignity and Freedom. We acknowledge that Palestine means these beautiful words in the very language of the oppressed and the dispossessed everywhere, and Gaza could be their flag!

Because, there is no difference between the struggle for equality and dignity of women in Asia Pacific, Africa or Europe and Palestinian women resisting humiliation on Israeli checkpoints;

Because, there is no difference between the fights of Indigenous People in Brazil or Indonesia, the struggles of farmers in Philippines or India to reclaim their land, forests and water against greedy multinationals colluding with corrupt governments and the Palestinian people fighting against Israel to reclaim their own land;

Because, there is no difference between the cries and hopes of millions of refugees from Bhutan, Afghanistan, Congo or Colombia and those of the four million Palestinian refugees dreaming to return to their land;

Because, the Bangsamoro or the Lumad in Mindanao, the Basques in Euskal Herria, and all the other people and nations resisting colonialism and imperialism could sum up all their struggle in one word: Palestine;

We will not stand idly,

- while the 1.5 million inhabitants of Gaza are living under a criminal siege perpetrated by Israel,
- while the people of Palestine are suffocated, expelled from their homes, turned into prisoners and refugees as Israelis seize their lands to build settlements;
- after 15, 000 Palestinian housing units, 700 private factories and mainly all public infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, agricultural properties, water and sewage treatment centers have been destroyed or damaged by Israeli assault;
- after 1,400 Palestinians have been killed and Palestinian civilians continue to be threatened with deadly weapons ;
- while Palestinians are confronted by the Israeli Apartheid Separation Wall, checkpoints and roadblocks guarded by Israeli soldiers, deprived of the right to self-determination, free access and movement;
- while Palestinians experience daily humiliation, hunger, thirst, and unemployment which blocks development in their own homeland;
- when the September 2009 Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict led by Justice Richard Goldstone presents strong evidence that during the war in Gaza, Israel engaged in war crimes that revealed a pattern of continuous and systematic assault against Palestinian people and land that has very little to do with Israel's claim of security.

Today, we are joining our voices and hearts in support of the Spring Fleet of Ships which are about to break the inhuman siege imposed on the people of Gaza for more than 3 years:

We unite with the Turkey-based IHH (Insani Yardim Vakfi) organization, the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG), the Greek Ship to Gaza campaign, the Swedish Ship to Gaza campaign and the Free Gaza Movement, who have built a coalition since this April, to send about a dozen boats carrying more than 5000 tons of cargo to Gaza. By the middle of May, all boats will join together in the Mediterranean Sea and should reach Gaza a few days later, carrying

construction materials, medical aid, educational supplies and 500 passengers from all over the globe, amongst them, European and international parliamentarians and personalities.

We hereby pledge to support the resistance of the Palestinian people until the siege is broken, Gaza is free and Palestine is united. While we may not be able to join the boats for this spring, we assure the Palestinian people and our friends in Gaza of our commitment. In response to the Greek Ship to Gaza call for donations to bring a minimum of 1,500 tons of cement to help rebuild houses and buildings in Gaza, we pledge to contribute an amount of 150 Euros to buy one ton of cement, or a part thereof, which will be delivered to the Greek Ship to Gaza campaign. We call on our friends and comrades in the struggle for freedom and justice all over the world to do the same. Next year, we will work hard to be able to send people to Gaza from as far as Mindanao, Philippines, India or Japan.

We demand an end to the Gaza siege!

Justice, dignity and freedom to Palestine!

In solidarity,

SIGNATORIES

To contribute and sign this call you and your organization can contact us directly at one of these emails:

Thomas Sommer Houdeville: thomas@focusweb.org,
Corazon Fabros: corafabros@gmail.com,

You can also directly contribute and send money to the bank account of the Greek Ship to Gaza campaign:

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE,
ACCOUNT NUMBER 116/772732-18
IBAN: GR 8101101160000011677273218 SWIFT [BIC]: ETHNGRAA

And email your personal or organisational contact details and the reference of your bank transaction to the following email addresses (shiptogaza@yahoo.com and thomas@focusweb.org or corafabros@gmail.com) in order for us to be able to send you an official receipt.

Israel's Intimidation Tactics Won't Stop Us: First Ship Sets Sail for Gaza!

Written by Free Gaza Team | 15 May 2010

Posted in [News](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London – 14 May 2010 – At 22:45 local time tonight, the *MV Rachel Corrie*, a 1200-ton cargo ship, part of the eight-vessel *Freedom Flotilla*, set sail from Ireland on its way to the Mediterranean Sea. There, ships from Turkey and Greece will join her, then sail to Gaza.

This past week reports from Israel have indicated that the Israeli authorities will not allow the *Freedom Flotilla* to reach Gaza with its cargo of much-needed reconstruction material, medical equipment, and school supplies. According to Israeli news sources, clear orders have been issued to prevent the ships from reaching Gaza, even if this necessitates military violence.

The Free Gaza Movement, which has launched eight other sea missions to Gaza, confirms that Israel has tried these kinds of threats and intimidation tactics before in order to try to stop the missions before they start. “They have not deterred us before and will not deter us now,” said one of the organizers.

Ship to Gaza -- Sweden, a *Freedom Flotilla* coalition partner, together with parliamentarian Mehmet Kaplan (Green Party) yesterday asked for an audience with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt, to discuss what measures the Swedish government and the European Union will take to protect the *Freedom Flotilla*’s peaceful, humanitarian voyage. Earlier this week during a meeting with the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza – another coalition partner, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan expressed his support for “breaking the oppressive siege on the Gaza Strip...which is at the top of Turkey’s list of priorities.”

Coalition partners, Ship to Gaza – Greece and the Turkish relief organization IHH, stressed that the ships, passengers, and cargo will be checked at each port of departure, making it **clear that we constitute no security threat to Israel.**

Israel’s threats to attack unarmed civilians aboard vessels carrying reconstruction aid are outrageous and indicative of the cruel and violent nature of Israel’s policies towards Gaza. The *Freedom Flotilla* is acting in line with universal principals of human rights and justice in defying a blockade identified as illegal by the UN and other humanitarian organizations. Palestinians in Gaza have a right to the thousands of basic supplies that Israel bans from entering, including

cement and schoolbooks, as well as a right to access the outside world. The *Freedom Flotilla* coalition calls on all signatories to the Fourth Geneva Conventions to pressure Israel to adhere to its obligations under international humanitarian law, to end the lethal blockade on Gaza, and to refrain from attacking this peaceful convoy.

For more information:

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Ship to Gaza / Sweden – Dror Feiler - +46702855777

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition is comprised of: Free Gaza Movement (FG), European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza (ECESG), Insani Yardim Vakfi (IHH), Ship to Gaza Greece, Ship to Gaza Sweden, and the International Committee to Lift the Siege on Gaza, with hundreds of groups and organizations around the world supporting the effort.

www.freegaza.org
www.shiptogaza.gr

www.savegaza.eu
www.shiptogaza.se

www.ihh.org.tr

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