



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

israel Detains Flotilla Participants In International Waters— Exporting Its Tactics of Engineered Destruction

Flotilla Participants Abducted and Others Left Stranded on Boats Damaged By the IOF as Major Storm Approaches

**April 30,
2026**

Mediterranean Sea – Last night, the world witnessed israel exporting its military's doctrine of engineered abandonment as israeli naval forces intercepted, boarded, and systematically disabled and destroyed various boats of the Global Sumud Flotilla In a violent raid in international waters.

Over 180 civilians from around the world have been directly attacked. After detaining participants, smashing an engine and jamming communications, the IOF retreated, kidnapping participants or intentionally leaving civilians stranded on powerless, broken vessels directly in the path of a massive approaching storm.

The logic deployed by israel last night is a snapshot into the relentless years-long campaign of starvation and slaughter of Palestinians: they actively carry out the massacres and war crimes with impunity, or sabotage the means of survival, leaving it to "nature" or "circumstance" to finish the job. The world cannot watch as israel continues its genocide of Palestinians and violates countless international laws with impunity.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ATTACK:

- **A Desperate Silence:** This attack on international observers is a frantic attempt to ensure that the ongoing annihilation of Gaza continues without witnesses or interference.
- **Weaponized Neglect:** By disabling and destroying boats less than 24 hours before a forecasted major storm, the israeli military has outsourced its violence to the Mediterranean. This mirrors the depravity of cutting off life-sustaining resources to a besieged population.
- **Calculated Sabotage:** This was not an arrest; it was an illegal military operation, resulting in the abduction of civilians. The military boarded vessels only to cause damage making it impossible for them to sail and then fled, kidnapping participants and leaving others stranded as the storm approaches.

**LEGAL OBLIGATION OF FLAG STATES: POLAND, ITALY, SPAIN, SLOVENIA,
FRANCE**

The sabotaged vessels fly the flags of Poland, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, and France. Under international maritime law, a primary benefit and duty of the flag is the state's obligation to provide support and ensure the Safety of Life for its vessels.

- **Urgent Request to Delegations:** We are calling on representatives from these five nations to immediately contact their maritime registries and government leadership.
- **Safety Over Property:** The immediate focus of this outreach must be the protection of civilians on a humanitarian mission and thereafter the recovery of the stolen vessels, and a demand for accountability.
- **Mandatory Assistance:** Flag states have the authority to require other vessels flying their flag in the region to divert and provide life-saving assistance to the disabled Sumud boats.

EMERGENCY CALL FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

We demand an immediate response to this flagrant violation of international law.

1. **To Regional Coast Guards:** Greece, Malta, Italy, and Cyprus must immediately launch Search and Rescue (SAR) missions. To ignore these Mayday calls is to be complicit with israel's actions.
2. **To Commercial and Private Vessels:** All ships in the vicinity of Crete and Sicily are urged to divert. The israeli military has abandoned these crews to the elements; we are calling on the law of the sea to protect them.
3. **To the International Community:** We call on all people to call on their country's leadership to demand accountability for the perpetrators of these crimes and the genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank.

SEARCH & RESCUE SUPPORT CONTACT

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