

Civil Society Sets Sails to Break the Siege on Gaza

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) will once again sail to challenge Israel's unlawful and deadly siege of Gaza. In the coming days, a flotilla carrying over five thousand tons of urgently needed humanitarian aid that will be delivered directly to Palestinians in Gaza.



The FFC gathered in Istanbul to plan these campaigns with representatives from the following organisations: Canadian Boat to Gaza (Canada), US Boat to Gaza (USA), Kia Ora Gaza (Aotearoa, New Zealand), Free Gaza Australia (Australia), Ship to Gaza (Norway), MyCARE (Malaysia), Ship to Gaza (Sweden), Palestine Solidarity Alliance (South Africa), IHH (Türkiye), Rumbo a Gaza (Spanish State), Mavi Marmara Association (Türkiye) and the International Committee for Breaking the Siege of Gaza.

After 17 years of a brutal blockade and 196 days of genocidal assault, destroying homes, schools and hospitals, as well as the weaponizing of basic necessities like water, flour and hygiene packs, Palestinians in Gaza are facing an unprecedented and catastrophic humanitarian crisis and man-made famine.

On 26 January 2024 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered provisional measures to protect the Palestinians in Gaza from the plausible risk of genocide. Amongst six strongly worded measures, the ICJ ordered Israel to “take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.” This decision followed UN Security Council resolutions in November and December 2023 which called for urgent steps to immediately allow “safe, unhindered, and expanded” humanitarian access to Gaza.

Israel's blatant noncompliance with these orders, and the failure of other governments to pressure the occupying power to comply, motivate us as civil society organisations to take action.

"It is incumbent upon us to ensure that Palestinians in Gaza receive humanitarian aid", says Ismail Moola of Palestine Solidarity Alliance, South Africa. "We expect that the Security Council will enforce the ICJ ruling, but due to the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza we need to act immediately".

Plans for our Save Gaza Campaign are ongoing, and the FFC calls on the government of Egypt to facilitate the delivery of life-sustaining aid through Rafah into Gaza. FFC's mission, For the Children of Gaza, led by our boat Handala, will in the coming days set sail from Northern Europe to Gaza.

On board will be South African Rights Activist and entrepreneur Mooniba Bhyat. She has assisted in various campaigns to support women and children across the globe since 2000. Mooniba is the CEO of D.A.R.E. Developing Ambitious Resilient Entrepreneurs a Non-Profit Organization in South Africa. She is passionate about Skills development for women and is currently assisting young women with challenges around Period Poverty both in South Africa and currently on the Syrian /Turkey Border with İHH. She hopes to bring attention to the particular plight of women and children of Gaza. Mooniba joins the list of previous participants and activist including [Dr Leigh-Ann Naidoo](#) and the late theologian and lecturer [Dr Clint Le Bruyns](#).

"Where our governments fail, we sail" says Karen DeVito of Canadian Boat to Gaza. "We are charting a course to the conscience of humanity, in solidarity with the Palestinian people."

We call on civil society organisations from around the world who share our values and goals to support and join us.

To support our work and donate to end the blockade of Gaza, write to info@palestinesa.co.za
You can also sign up to be a virtual passenger on the Freedom Flotilla by following the links on <https://boattogaza.com>

More than this we call on all Freedom Loving People and Organizations to:

- share our messages with your family, friends and/or work colleagues and encourage them to join our mailing list;
- send an endorsement message from your association, union, congregation or political party;
- organize and attend events to raise funds and awareness for our campaign;
- join a [Freedom Flotilla](#) campaign near you and encourage others to do so;
- follow us on the web, Facebook, Twitter (see below), and share our posts widely.
 - X (Twitter): [@GazaFFlotilla](#)
 - www.facebook.com/FreedomFlotillaCoalition
 - <https://freedomflotilla.org/2024/04/04/civilian-aid-flotilla/>
- For more information contact one of our campaign spokespersons <https://freedomflotilla.org/media-contacts/>

Together, we can help end the blockade!

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