



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Piracy in Plain Sight: israel Abducts Multi-National Civilians on the Open Sea**

israeli forces intercept and seize Global Sumud vessels hundreds of miles from Gaza shores; jamming communications, abducting civilians, and setting a lawless precedent in international waters

**April 29, 2026**

**Mediterranean Sea** – israel’s actions tonight (Wednesday, April 29, 2026) mark a dangerous and unprecedented escalation: the abduction of civilians in the middle of the Mediterranean, over 600 miles from Gaza, in full view of the world.

Let’s be clear about what this is. This is piracy. This is the unlawful seizure of human beings on the open sea near Crete, an assertion that israel can operate with total impunity, far beyond its own borders, with no consequences.

What we are witnessing is the attempted normalization of israeli control over the Mediterranean itself and an escalation of israel's impunity. No state has the right to claim, police, or occupy international waters. Yet, that is exactly what israel has done, extending its regime of control outward, occupying the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Europe.

As part of their aggression, israeli navy intercepted vessels, jammed communications, including distress channels, and aggressively abducted civilians. These are not contested border zones. These are international waters.

Even more alarming is the silence. Governments that claim to uphold international law have, once again, said nothing. No urgent condemnations. No immediate demands for the release of the captives. No calls for accountability. This absence of response is not neutrality, it is permission and it is complicity.

We demand immediate answers and accountability:  
Where are the abducted civilians? Where were they taken? Were

European governments coordinating with the israelis to facilitate the abductions?

Deeper question remains: how has israel been allowed to reach a point where it can carry out abductions in plain sight, against unarmed civilians, without fear of consequence?

This sets a catastrophic precedent and should be condemned in the most direct ways. Silence from world governments signals that international law applies selectively and that the lives of civilians can be targeted by israel, anywhere in the world, at any time with no consequences.

We demand accountability.

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