



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Global Sumud Flotilla Holds Tunisian Authorities Fully Liable for the Fate of Imprisoned Hunger Strikers as Wael Naouar Enters Semi-Comatose State

Following 37 days of hunger strike, Wael faces imminent organ failure inside Mornaguia Prison—while pre-dawn arrests of peaceful protestors shatter the regime's pretext as today marks the Global Day of Action for the Sumud 4

Sept 22, 2026 **TUNIS** – The Global Sumud Flotilla issues an emergency notice to the international community as actions launch worldwide today: Steering Committee member Wael Naouar is on his deathbed inside Mornaguia Prison. Following a prison visit, his family and legal team reported that Naouar has slipped into a semi-comatose state, suffering a serious physical breakdown, with unrelenting cardiac and stomach pain and a severe loss of vision and hearing. His father stated plainly: *"Wael is on the brink of death."*

Naouar, who initiated his hunger strike 37 days ago, is being held alongside three fellow Flotilla organizers: Ghassan Henchiri, Ghassan Boughdiri, and Nabil Chennoufi. All four are engaged in an uncompromising, open-ended hunger strike against their prolonged pre-trial detention. Inside the facility, Henchiri and Boughdiri are in severe distress. Henchiri is bedridden, unable to walk, suffering from debilitating physical pain and severe, untreated skin sores—conditions exacerbated by the repeated refusal of prison officials to allow him routine medical procedures or dermatologist consultations. This is a clear act of medical neglect on the part of the state.

The Sumud 4—Naouar, Chennoufi, Henchiri, and Boughdiri—are central figures in North African civil society and seasoned veterans of democratic social movements. They are courageous leaders in the global movement for Palestine and were arrested in March of this year, specifically to dismantle their public organizing. To date they have spent over half a year in pre-trial detention under harsh prison conditions, including extreme heat, recurring water shortages, and the systemic denial of medical care.

FABRICATED FINANCIAL CRIMES & DIRECT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CUSTODIAL LIVES

The Global Sumud Flotilla explicitly holds the Tunisian authorities fully and directly responsible for the fate of the Sumud 4: Wael Naouar, Ghassan Henchiri, Ghassan Boughdiri, and Nabil Chennoufi.

The situation inside Mornaguia Prison is far from a legitimate judicial proceeding, it is an execution by obvious state neglect. The state's case rests entirely on accusations of financial violations, a narrative designed to transform transparent, community-backed activism into an illegal enterprise.

The state's decision to drag out an investigation that has produced no credible evidence of misconduct, extending pre-trial detention up to 14 months, is a textbook application of systemic efforts to abuse financial statutes to jail human rights defenders and criminalize Palestine solidarity work. Wael Naouar and his comrades were jailed purely for organizing a non violent humanitarian mission to confront israel's ongoing genocide and siege in Gaza. If any of these hunger strikers suffer irreversible physical damage or lose their lives, the Tunisian regime will bear full, inescapable international responsibility.

JOINING THE LEGACY OF PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

By using their own starving bodies as a final weapon against state injustice, the Sumud 4 join a historic lineage of anti-colonial resistance and Palestinian steadfastness. Their hunger strike directly mirrors the struggle of the more than 9,400 Palestinian political prisoners and hostages currently held in Israeli occupation dungeons. For generations, Palestinian prisoners have used empty stomachs to resist administrative detention, medical neglect, and state tyranny behind prison walls.

When Tunisian authorities attempt to silence solidarity with Gaza, responding to U.S. geopolitical pressure and an aggressive transnational campaign to criminalize those mobilizing against genocide, they force these organizers into the exact same battle faced by thousands of Palestinian political prisoners. As the Sumud 4 wrote from inside their cells: *"We did not step out seeking personal glory... We stepped out because Gaza was, and remains, calling out to the human conscience."*

The Sumud 4 are suffering inside Mornaguia Prison because they refused to compromise on Palestinian liberation. Their battle for freedom is inseparable from the collective global fight to liberate every political prisoner held for resisting genocide.

PRE-DAWN RAIDS EXPOSE THE REGIME'S COVER STORY

The Flotilla also strongly condemns the state crackdown following Saturday's peaceful solidarity march in central Tunis, where hundreds demanded freedom for the Sumud 4. In pre-dawn raids following the rally, security forces arrested at least 17 political activists.

These arrests shatter the regime's narrative that the original detentions were about "financial irregularities". Routine financial audits do not involve pre-dawn snatch squads by security forces, holding people without access to legal counsel, or sweeping up citizens who march against genocide.

By arresting people simply for standing in solidarity with the Sumud 4, the Tunisian government has proven that these individuals were criminalized solely for opposing genocide, and that anyone who speaks out for Palestine faces the exact same state repression.

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION UNDERWAY TODAY

As diplomatic missions open today, civil society groups, trade unions, student organizations, and international allies around the world are executing a coordinated Global Day of Action, with emergency protests, sit-ins, and direct actions targeting Tunisian embassies and diplomatic posts worldwide. Together, these actions demand:

- **The immediate and unconditional release** of Wael Naouar, Ghassan Henchiri, Ghassan Boughdiri, and Nabil Chennoufi, and the complete dropping of all fabricated charges.
- **Immediate emergency medical transfer** for the Sumud 4 to an outside hospital capable of delivering life-saving care.
- **The immediate release** of all activists and human rights defenders arrested during the recent post-protest raids in Tunis.

The men inside Mornaguia have declared that prisons, no matter how harsh, can never confiscate conviction. From behind prison walls, they leave the Palestine solidarity community with a simple imperative: *"This is your time."* The Global Sumud Flotilla reaffirms that no amount of state intimidation will erase Tunis's historic legacy as a sanctuary for Palestinian liberation, nor will it quiet international demands for justice.

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