



Freedom Flotilla Coalition

***2014 campaign to expose and break the illegal blockade
imposed by Israel on the Gaza Strip***

OPENGAZAPORT

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Figures from the latest attack on the Gaza Strip

KILLED			INJURED		
Total	2168	100,00%	Total	10895	100,00%
Civilians	1662	76,60%	Civilians	Majority	
Children	519	23,9% of all 31,7% of all civilians	Children	3306	30,30%
Women	297	13,7% of all 17,8% of all civilians	Women	2114	19,30%

Among those killed are:

- 77 families
- 23 health professionals
- 20 teachers
- 11 UNRWA workers
- 15 journalists

In addition to the numbers of civilian casualties, the bombings caused the following damages:

- 10,000 houses totally destroyed
- 8,000 houses partially destroyed
- 45,000 houses damaged
- 500,000 displaced and internally displaced (30% of the population):
 - 250,000 in 81 UNRWA schools
 - 30,000 in other schools
 - 220,000 sheltered in homes or rentals
- 142 government schools damaged
- 136 UNRWA schools damaged
- 3 UNRWA schools bombed with refugees inside
- 6 universities and colleges damaged
- 4 nursery schools damaged
- 475,000 students affected
- 69 mosques and 12 Muslim cemeteries destroyed
- 2 Christian churches and 1 cemetery destroyed
- 1 Electricity production plant destroyed
- 12 hospitals and 7 clinics destroyed
- 49 health centres closed because of damage
- 17 ambulances attacked

The period necessary for the reconstruction of all the damage caused by the indiscriminate bombing is estimated at 20 years.

It is not an isolated incident

Since the introduction of the plan to colonize Palestine in 1896, and after the partition by the UN in 1947 allocating 56% of the territory to the Zionist movement, the advancement of the illegal colonization has not ceased.

Israeli colonization has reduced the Palestinian population to a number of territories similarly disjointed to the Indian reservations of North America after colonization, or Bantustans which displaced the black population in apartheid South Africa:



The 1993 Oslo Accords have been entirely breached by the Israeli government, that not only took steps to colonize the West Bank, but exponentially increased the number of settlers on the land stolen from their Palestinian owners through illegal occupation or military law.

The number of settlers and colonists in East Jerusalem and 300 colonies —declared illegal by the UN Resolution 242 of 1967 and later ones— is now over 500,000.

40% of the population of Gaza is under 14 years old. Everyone aged between 7 and 14 has lived three attacks similar to the last one since December 2008.

100% of the population of the Gaza Strip has suffered collective punishment by indiscriminate attacks and a blockade by land, sea, and air that has lasted more than eight years and stifles life in Gaza, preventing economic and social development.

It should be emphasized that the collective punishment is explicitly prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention, adopted on August 12, 1949:

TITLE III - STATUTES AND TREATMENT OF PROTECTED PERSONS

SECTION I -Common provisions to the territories of the parties in conflict and the occupied territories

Article 33 - Individual responsibility, collective penalties, pillage, reprisals Protected persons will not be punished for any infringements they have not committed. Collective punishment is prohibited, as well as all measures of intimidation or of terrorism.

Why is the Flotilla needed?

In the absence of answers to these massacres and collective punishment, and given the violation of human rights of an entire population, civil society has organized itself and through direct action demand that governments fulfil their role in the international community.

Our actions are focused on claiming the legitimate right to self-navigation to and from Gaza. Since the imposition of the blockade, Israel prohibits arrival and departure of ships in the port of Gaza and has captured its gas fields.

Fishermen are also attacked even less than two miles from the coast by the Israeli navy, which does not respect the 20 miles recognized in the Oslo Accords over twenty years ago.



The current initiative, following the steps of the fleet in 2010 and 2011 as well as other attempts to break the blockade of Gaza between 2008 and 2014, will bring together a broad and diverse international participation.

The new flotilla is a reflection of the growing solidarity with the Palestinian people; from USA to Jordan, from Scandinavia to South Africa.

Members of Flotilla Coalition:

European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza
Freedom Flotilla Italy
Gaza's Ark Canada, US, Australia
IHH Turkey
International Committee for Breaking the Siege on Gaza (ICBSG)
Rumbo a Gaza Spain
Ship to Gaza Greece
Ship to Gaza Norway
Ship to Gaza Sweden

Also participating in the Open Gaza Port initiative:

Palestine Solidarity Alliance (South Africa)
Free Gaza (EE. UU.)
Life Line to Gaza (Jordan)

What do we ask of our governments and political representatives?

Previous civil action against the blockade has been violently assaulted in international waters by the Israeli navy, with virtually no government so far, acting effectively in defence of the citizens of their countries who were on board in different sailing ships of the fleet.

The most serious was the assault on the Mavi Marmara on May 31, 2010, where ten passengers (nine Turkish and one American) were killed by gunfire in the head from helicopters that stormed the ship or shot at close range, as confirmed by forensic analysis.

To date the only ongoing process is being carried out in the Istanbul courts against five commanders of the Israeli army.

After the slaughter of the Mavi Marmara, five vessels have been attacked and the last one bombed in the port of Gaza during the last attack on Gaza. "Gaza's Ark" was preparing to go sailing west, laden with Palestinian products for export and claiming it's legitimate right to navigate in the 20-mile territorial waters recognized in the Oslo Accords of 1993.

We therefore call for protection and support for this civil initiative, and we claim that free navigation of the Mediterranean Sea is a legitimate right.

Similarly, we denounce the illegal and unilateral appropriation of 100 nautical miles that the Israeli navy has made of the waters of the Mediterranean, attacking civilian ships between 40 and 80 miles from its coast (beyond the 12-mile territorial waters).

We also denounce the Israeli blockade in the Mediterranean, not only located in the Gaza Strip, but extended to the rest of the Mediterranean in 2011, when the Greek government yielded to political pressure and collaborated in blocking ships from sailing to Gaza.

In the Spanish state there is an open case in which the prosecutor of the Audiencia Nacional describes the attack on Mavi Marmara (on board which sailed three citizens of the Spanish State) as a "crime against humanity" and recommends raising the case to the International Criminal Court (<http://www.rumboagaza.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/01/tax-flotilla.pdf>).

Our goals

- **End the illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip since 2006, this blockade is a collective punishment against one million eight hundred thousand people living in the most densely populated area on the planet. Collective punishments are banned since 1949 after the adoption of the Fourth Geneva Convention.**
- **End the occupation of the Palestinian Territory, which has been ongoing since 1967, calling for the effective implementation of the decisions of the United Nations from 1967 Resolution 242 calling on Israel to leave the occupied territories by military force and also requires ending the colonization.**
- **Solutions for the current refugee population that was expelled in 1948, thus giving solution to the UNRWA program, which was a temporary fix for six months conducted by the UN, and still in effect since '67. In the case of the Gaza Strip, 80% of the population of 1,800,000 residents are refugees who can not return to their Palestinian homes of 1948.**
- **Make the occupying power legally and economically responsible for attacks inflicted on the occupied population, as stated on the Fourth Geneva Convention.**
- **Order the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement under violation of Article 2, in which the agreement based on "respect for democratic principles and human rights "by the two signatories.**

(see appendix)

Requests from political groups

In addition to reiterating the need for these civil initiatives, count on the support and protection of our political representatives, as our action is based on the claim of a legitimate right, we would like:

- these consideration to be presented to your political group in order for them to be expressed in statements of support from municipal authorities, and other levels of local government and for them to adhere to our goals.**
- **these considerations be raised in the Congress of Deputies and Senate and also to reach the European Commission.**
- **to know the availability of representatives of your parliamentary group take part as delegates on board the flotilla.**

Appendix: EUROMEDITERRANEAN AGREEMENT

November 20th 1995

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN AGREEMENT

establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part

THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM, THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG,
THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK, THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS,
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA,
THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC, THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,
THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND,
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN,
IRELAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,

Contracting Parties to the Treaty establishing the European Community and the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, hereinafter referred to as the 'Member States', and

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,

THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY,

hereinafter referred to as 'the Community', of the one part, and

THE STATE OF ISRAEL,

hereinafter referred to as 'Israel', of the other part,

CONSIDERING the importance of the existing traditional links between the Community, its Member States and Israel, and the common values that they share;

CONSIDERING that the Community, its Member States and Israel wish to strengthen those links and to establish lasting relations, based on reciprocity and partnership, and promote a further integration of Israel's economy into the European economy;

CONSIDERING the importance which the Parties attach to the principle of economic freedom and to the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly the observance of human rights and democracy, which form the very basis of the Association:

CONSCIOUS of the need to associate their efforts to strengthen political stability and economic development through the encouragement of regional cooperation;

DESIROUS of establishing and developing regular political dialogue on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest;

DESIROUS of maintaining and intensifying a dialogue on economic, scientific, technological, cultural, audiovisual and social matters to the benefit of the Parties;

CONSIDERING the respective commitments of the Community and Israel to free trade, and in particular to compliance with the rights and obligations arising out of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as it results from the negotiations of the Uruguay Round;

Article 1

1. An association is hereby established between the Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Israel, of the other part.

2. The aims of this Agreement are:

— to provide an appropriate framework for political dialogue, allowing the development of close political relations between the Parties,

— through the expansion, *inter alia*, of trade in goods and services, the reciprocal liberalisation of the right of establishment, the further progressive liberalisation of public procurement, the free movement of capital and the intensification of cooperation in science and technology to promote the harmonious development of economic relations between the Community and Israel and thus to foster in the Community and in Israel the advance of

economic activity, the improvement of living and employment conditions, and increased productivity and financial stability,

— to encourage regional cooperation with a view to the consolidation of peaceful coexistence and economic and political stability,

— to promote cooperation in other areas which are of reciprocal interest.

Article 2

Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.