Hughie Stirling — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist

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Last updated: 28 May 2026 (companion date sync)

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Hughie Stirling
Age	68
Home town	Ullapool, Scotland
Occupation	Humanitarian activist
Previous activism	Palestine solidarity, Free Gaza Movement

Detention Account

Hughie Stirling was on the Global Sumud Flotilla when it was intercepted by the Israeli Navy in international waters. He gave detailed accounts of his treatment:

- **"They were ripping my jacket off and punching me and kicking me"** — quoted by @ScotNational (The National)
- Described the **"excruciating pain"** of his treatment
- Reports being **"kidnapped"** by Israeli occupation forces
- Described being **handcuffed, blindfolded, forced to kneel** on the deck
- Taken to a holding facility, questioned, accused of supporting Hamas
- Deported and flew home via Bilbao, Spain

He is described by Scottish media as an "elderly Scottish humanitarian."

A **second elderly Scottish activist** was also detained alongside Stirling on the flotilla, though their identity has not been as widely reported.

Media Coverage

- **The National (Scotland)** — multiple articles covering his arrival home and testimony
- **Sky News** — quoted in coverage of the flotilla interception
- **Middle East Eye** — firsthand account of the raid and detention
- **Al Jazeera** — cited as a primary source on activist treatment
- **BBC Scotland** — Scottish connection coverage

Twitter/X Discussion

> *Source: Nitter search, 25 May 2026*

- **@ScotNational** — "This is the moment Hughie Stirling, a 68-year-old activist from Ullapool, arrives home after being kidnapped by Israel while taking part in the Global Sumud Flotilla."
- **@swilkinsonbc** — "Elderly Scottish humanitarian Hughie Stirling, violently kidnapped by israelis on @gbsumudflotilla describes the inhuman abuse he endured."
- **@gazanotice** — "HEARTBREAKING: Elderly Scottish activist Hughie Stirling... recounts the severe mistreatment and abuse he endured after being kidnapped by Israeli forces."
- **@Gubbed__Again** — Derogatory comment calling him "a stupid old fud."

Reddit Discussion

> *Source: Reddit search, 25 May 2026 (evening)*

- **r/Scotland** (680pts/327cmts) — "Glasgow man onboard the Sumud Flotilla" — ongoing discussion about Scottish involvement
- **r/Scotland** (115pts/201cmts) — "Two Scots detained by Israeli forces after Gaza flotilla intercepted"

- **r/Scotland** (111pts/79cmts) — "Scots activists on Gaza aid flotilla released from Israeli prison"
- **r/Scotland** (77pts/132cmts) — "Elderly activist on Global Sumud Flotilla reports abuse in Israeli custody"
- **r/worldnews** (3066pts/538cmts) — "Clashes in Spain: Gaza flotilla activists beaten by police at Bilbao airport" — Stirling was among those returning through Bilbao

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Hughie Stirling's age (68) and Scottish identity bring a direct UK dimension to the Sumud Flotilla story. His treatment — an elderly humanitarian beaten by Israeli forces — is likely to generate significant media and parliamentary pressure, particularly from Scottish MPs and the SNP.

Sources

- The National (Scotland): thenational.scot
- Nitter search via localhost:8080
- Drop Site News
- Franceinfo

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