

The Sumud Flotilla ?

Global Sumud Flotilla — Gaza freedom flotilla 2026. Tracking the vessel interception, activist testimonies, international response, and ongoing developments.

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People ?

Key activists and organisers on the Global Sumud Flotilla.

People □

Hughie Stirling — Scottish Activist

Hughie Stirling — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist

Last updated: 25 May 2026 (evening)

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
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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."
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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

People □

Meriem Hadjal — French Activist

Meriem Hadjal — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist

Last updated: 25 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Meriem Hadjal
Age	Not confirmed
Nationality	French
Occupation	Activist / humanitarian
Organisation	Global Sumud Flotilla participant

Detention Account — Sexual Assault Allegations

Meriem Hadjal gave harrowing testimony about her detention by Israeli forces after the flotilla was intercepted:

- **Stripped of warm clothing** by Israeli soldiers
- **Taken individually into a dark shipping container** during detention
- **Repeatedly groped** while in the container
- Testified she was "**tortured and sexually assaulted by 3 Israeli soldiers**" on the prison boat
- Described the soldiers' behaviour as having "**a sadism**" (Drop Site News interview)

Her testimony is some of the most detailed and disturbing to emerge from the Sumud Flotilla interception.

Media Coverage

- **Drop Site News** — published video interview (24 May): "There's a sadism" — detailed testimony of sexual assault
 - **franceinfo** — French national media coverage (23 May), reporting the testimony
 - **@QudsNen** — French-language coverage: "Témoignage bouleversant" (heartbreaking testimony)
 - **@CaronAymericoff** — "Glacant" (chilling), calling Israeli soldiers "a horde of rapists"
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Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 25 May 2026

- **@xIsraelExposedx** — "Meriem Hadjal explains how she was tortured and sexually assaulted by 3 Israeli soldiers on the Prison-boat after being abducted in international waters."
 - **@DropSiteNews** — Published her video interview titled "There's a sadism"
 - **@franceinfo** — French national broadcaster picked up her story
 - **@QudsNen** — French activist network amplifying her testimony
 - **@CaronAymericoff** — Strong condemnation calling Israeli soldiers a "horde de violeurs" (pack of rapists)
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Reddit Discussion

No dedicated Reddit threads found for Meriem Hadjal specifically (25 May 2026). Her testimony is referenced within broader Sumud Flotilla threads on r/europes, r/worldnews, and r/LateStageCapitalism.

What It Means

Meriem Hadjal's sexual assault allegations represent a significant escalation in the Sumud Flotilla story. If verified, these would constitute grave violations of international law. The French government — which has played an active role in Middle East diplomacy — may face domestic pressure to respond.

Sources

- Drop Site News: dropsitenews.com
- franceinfo: franceinfo.fr
- Nitter search via localhost:8080

People □

Ebrahim Peters — South African Activist

Ebrahim Peters — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist

Last updated: 25 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Ebrahim Peters
Age	Not confirmed
Nationality	South African
Occupation	Activist
Organisation	Global Sumud Flotilla participant

Detention Account — Torture Claims

Ebrahim Peters says Israeli forces **tortured him specifically because of his South African nationality**, linking his abuse directly to South Africa's ICJ genocide case against Israel.

Key details:

- Claims Israeli interrogators referenced South Africa's legal action against Israel at the International Court of Justice
- Says the torture was **nationality-based** — treated more harshly because of where he comes from

- Implies a punitive element: South Africa's ICJ case (which found it "plausible" Israel was committing genocide in Gaza) led to him being a target
 - The claim creates a direct link between international legal action and personal reprisal
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Media Coverage

- **IOL (Independent Online, South Africa)** — "Global Sumud Flotilla: Heroes welcome for SA activists after harrowing Israeli detention"
 - Featured in the **r/southafrica** Reddit thread with **143 points and 13 comments** — the highest-engagement Sumud Flotilla Reddit thread found
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Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 25 May 2026

- **@QudsNen** — "Ebrahim Peters, a South African activist of the Gaza-bound Global Sumud Flotilla, says Israeli forces tortured him because of his nationality, linking the abuse to South Africa's ICJ case against Israel."
 - **@DmodosCutter** — Same account amplified
 - **@MANOUCHKYA** — French-language amplification: linking torture to South Africa's ICJ complaint
 - **@BeateLandefeld** — Quote amplification
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Reddit Discussion

- **r/southafrica** (143pts, 13cmts) — "Ebrahim Peters, a South African activist of the Gaza-bound Global Sumud Flotilla, says Israeli forces tortured him because of his nationality, linking the abuse to South Africa's ICJ case against Israel." — most popular Sumud Flotilla thread found on Reddit.
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What It Means

Ebrahim Peters' case is politically significant because:

1. It **directly connects the flotilla interception to the ICJ genocide case** — Israel allegedly torturing a South African activist because of that country's legal action
 2. South Africa has been the most prominent state actor pursuing the genocide case — a torture claim against one of its citizens escalates the bilateral dimension
 3. The South African government faces domestic pressure to respond, potentially strengthening diplomatic action against Israel
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Sources

- IOL (South Africa): iol.co.za
- Reddit: [r/southafrica](https://www.reddit.com/r/southafrica)
- Nitter search via localhost:8080

People □

Zohar Chamberlain Regev — Israeli-Born Activist

Zohar Chamberlain Regev — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist

Last updated: 25 May 2026 **Status:** REPORTEDLY STILL DETAINED BY ISRAEL — only flotilla activist not released

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Zohar Chamberlain Regev
Age	54
Born	Israel, 1971 or 1972
Background	Jewish, born in Israel. Converted to Islam later in life.
Home	Lived near Nazareth (Kfar H— settlement / village area)
Current status	Still in Israeli detention as of 25 May 2026 — reportedly the only Sumud Flotilla activist Israel has refused to release

Who She Is

Zohar Chamberlain Regev is an **Israeli-born Jewish woman who converted to Islam** — the only activist from the Global Sumud Flotilla that Israel has refused to release as of 25 May 2026.

Her reported quote, from Nitter sources:

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"As a human being, but also as an Israeli of Jewish origin, I am horrified by what Israel is doing in Palestine in general and in Gaza in particular. We were always told: 'How could the world remain silent during the Holocaust?'"

This quote suggests she joined the flotilla driven by her Jewish identity and the moral lessons of the Holocaust — a powerful framing.

Why She's Still Detained

Israel's refusal to release her while deporting all other foreign activists suggests:

1. **Her Israeli citizenship** (by birth) gives Israel legal jurisdiction to hold her
2. **Her conversion to Islam** may be seen as an aggravating factor by Israeli authorities
3. **"Treason" framing** — an Israeli-born Jew participating in an anti-blockade flotilla is treated more harshly than foreign nationals
4. She may face **criminal charges** under Israeli law, unlike foreign activists who were simply deported

Media Coverage

- **r/LateStageCapitalism** (10pts) — "The interesting and inspiring story of Zohar Chamberlain Regev, an Israeli-born Jew who later converted to Islam and was part of the illegally intercepted flotilla."
- **Turkish media** (MASAOMORITR, umradil, HilfullFudul) — significant Turkish-language coverage amplifying her story
- **Spanish-language media** — @MTombesi3 posted "La única activista de la Flotilla Sumud que sigue presa es una mujer judía convertida al Islam"

Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 25 May 2026

- **@umradil** (Turkish) — "The only activist Israel refuses to release is Zohar Regev Chamberlain.... Zohar, born 54 years ago in Israel to a Jewish family. Near Nazareth, Kfar H—"

- **@MASAOMORITR** (Turkish) — Quoted her: "As a human being, but also as an Israeli of Jewish origin, I am horrified..." (published in German/Turkish)
 - **@HilfullFudul** (Turkish) — "The only 'Resistance Flotilla' activist Israel refuses to release: Zohar Regev Chamberlain"
 - **@MTombesi3** (Spanish) — "The only Sumud Flotilla activist still imprisoned is a Jewish woman who converted to Islam"
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What It Means

Zohar's case is the most symbolically charged of all the flotilla activists:

1. **Jewish activist detained by Israel** — undermines Israel's claim to represent all Jews
 2. **Convert to Islam** — touches on Israel's anxieties about Jewish emigration and conversion
 3. **Held longer than any other activist** — suggests punitive treatment beyond standard deportation
 4. **Holocaust framing** ("How could the world remain silent?") — powerful moral comparison
 5. **diplomatic leverage** — her continued detention could become a rallying cause for Jewish diaspora groups critical of Israel
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Sources

- Nitter search via localhost:8080
- Reddit: r/LateStageCapitalism, r/Marxism
- Turkish media (@umradil, @MASAOMORITR)
- Spanish media (@MTombesi3)

People □

Daniela Maria Bonamico — Canadian Activist

Daniela Maria Bonamico — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist

Last updated: 25 May 2026 **Status:** Released and returned to Canada

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Daniela Maria Bonamico
Age	Not confirmed
Nationality	Canadian
Occupation	Activist
Organisation	Canadian Boat to Gaza / Global Sumud Flotilla participant

Detention & Return

Daniela Maria Bonamico was on the Global Sumud Flotilla when intercepted by the Israeli Navy. She was detained by Israeli forces and subjected to what has been described as "**illegal detention and torture**" by activist accounts.

Upon her return to Canada, she arrived at **Toronto Pearson Airport** to a **large crowd of supporters** who turned out to welcome her home.

Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter search, 25 May 2026

- **@nurdogandiyorki** — "Another participant in the Canadian Global Sumud Flotilla, Daniela Maria Bonamico, has arrived in Toronto after Israel illegally detained and tortured activists. Look at the crowd at Pearson Airport in Toronto."
- **@Partisan_12** (from earlier research) — Similar coverage of her arrival and the crowd welcome

Note: Only one tweet found in Nitter search with her full name. She may be more active under a shortened name or alternate handle.

Canadian Government Response

As of 25 May 2026, no official Canadian government statement specifically addressing Daniela Maria Bonamico's detention has been found in the search results. The crowd at Pearson Airport suggests significant grassroots support, which may lead to parliamentary questions or government action.

What It Means

Daniela Maria Bonamico's case adds a Canadian dimension to the Sumud Flotilla story:

1. Canada has historically been more cautious on Israel-Palestine than some European nations — public pressure from Pearson Airport crowds may shift that
2. The "torture" claims (per activist accounts) could trigger formal Canadian government protests
3. Canada's Jewish diaspora is significant — the story may gain traction depending on how it's framed

Sources

- Nitter search via localhost:8080
- @Partisan_12, @nurdogandiyorki on X/Twitter

People □

Organisers — Rumbo a Gaza & Freedom Flotilla Coalition

Manuel Tapial & Laura Arau — Rumbo a Gaza Organisers

Last updated: 25 May 2026

Manuel Tapial

Detail	Info
Role	Co-founder, Rumbo a Gaza
Nationality	Spanish
Background	Journalist and activist

Manuel Tapial is a Spanish journalist and activist, co-founder of the **Rumbo a Gaza** organisation, which is a lead coordinating body of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition. He has been involved in multiple Gaza flotillas.

Sources: Freedom Flotilla Coalition profiles, Spanish media coverage of Rumbo a Gaza.

Laura Arau

Detail	Info
Role	Coordinator, Rumbo a Gaza
Nationality	Spanish
Background	Activist

Laura Arau is a coordinator for the Rumbo a Gaza campaign, organising Spanish participation in the Sumud Flotilla. She has been a prominent voice in Spanish solidarity activism.

Sources: Freedom Flotilla Coalition member listings, Spanish solidarity media.

Other Key Organisers

Name	Organisation	Role
Huwaida Arraf	US Boat to Gaza / ISM co-founder	Palestinian-American human rights lawyer
Ann Wright	US Boat to Gaza	Retired US Army colonel, diplomat (resigned 2003 over Iraq)
Dr. Paul Larudee	Free Gaza Movement co-founder	American physician and activist
Dror Feiler	Ship to Gaza Sweden	Swedish-Israeli musician and activist
Mikael Löfgren	Ship to Gaza Sweden	Multiple flotilla veteran
Prof. Erik Fosse	Ship to Gaza Norway	Norwegian doctor, was on Mavi Marmara (2010)
Dr. Ramón Pedregal	Rumbo a Gaza	Spanish doctor, (maimed by Israeli forces on 2010 flotilla)
Mairead Maguire	Independent	Nobel Peace Prize laureate (N. Ireland), veteran flotilla participant
Greta Berlin	Free Gaza Movement co-founder	American journalist

Sources

- Freedom Flotilla Coalition member organisations
- Rumbo a Gaza campaign materials
- Historical coverage of 2010-2018 flotillas

People □

Alex Colston — Zeteo Contributor & Activist

Alex Colston — Global Sumud Flotilla Activist / Zeteo Contributor

Last updated: 25 May 2026 (evening)

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Alex Colston
Role	Contributor to Zeteo (independent investigative journalism platform)
Previous activism	Journalistic coverage of Palestine solidarity

Detention Account

Alex Colston was on the Global Sumud Flotilla as a journalist/contributor for Zeteo when it was intercepted by the Israeli Navy. Their testimony has been widely shared:

- **"I just blacked out. I couldn't handle it. It was so painful."** — describing the treatment during detention
 - Reports being among those detained by Israeli forces during the interception
 - Their testimony adds a journalism-focused dimension to the abuse allegations
-

Media Coverage

- **Zeteo** — independent journalism platform — Colston was on board covering the flotilla
 - **r/Palestine** (477pts/4cmts) — "I just blacked out. I couldn't handle it. It was so painful" — widely shared testimony
-

What It Means

Alex Colston's presence on the flotilla as a Zeteo contributor means the abuse testimonies have been documented from inside the detention by someone whose primary role is journalism. This adds weight to the abuse allegations and provides first-hand reporting capacity that other detained activists (who were primarily humanitarian workers) might not have.

Sources

- Zeteo: zeteo.com
- Reddit: [r/Palestine](https://www.reddit.com/r/Palestine)

People □

Chris Hill — Welsh Activist

Chris Hill — Welsh Activist, Global Sumud Flotilla

Last updated: 25 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Chris Hill
Home town	Clwt y Bont, near Caernarfon / Llanberis, Gwynedd, Wales
Role	Humanitarian activist on board the Global Sumud Flotilla
Organisation	Global Flotilla Cymru
Flag	Flew the Welsh flag in Palestinian colours on the flotilla

Detention

Chris Hill was aboard one of the vessels in the Global Sumud Flotilla when it was intercepted by the Israeli Navy in international waters near Crete. He was among more than 150 people (including 175 according to some reports) detained by Israeli forces.

- Flew the **Welsh dragon flag in Palestinian colours** from the boat during the flotilla
 - Detained alongside Martin Guilfoyle, the other Welsh activist on board
 - UK Government notified; families informed
 - Name confirmed by Nation.Cymru reporting
-

Media Coverage

- **Nation.Cymru** — multiple articles covering his detention
- **Associated Press** — cited in AP's flotilla coverage as one of the Welsh nationals detained
- **Anadolu Agency (Anadolu English)** — video interview, 21 May 2026. Chris describes 'rough' treatment in Israeli detention: "They were pretty rough with us, but we can't forget how they treat Palestinians on a daily basis." Calls on UK government to "wake up," accusing it of complicity through "inaction". (127 hearts, 84 retweets on X)

Post-Detention Statements

- Called on UK government to intervene and condemned UK complicity through inaction
 - Drew explicit comparison between treatment of flotilla activists and daily Palestinian experience under occupation
 - Flew Welsh dragon flag in Palestinian colours on the flotilla as a symbol of Welsh-Palestinian solidarity
-

Sources

- Nation.Cymru: nation.cymru — "Two Welsh activists among those detained after Gaza aid flotilla intercepted at sea" (30 Apr 2026)
- Nation.Cymru: nation.cymru — "Welsh activists join 'historic' Humanitarian Flotilla sailing from Barcelona to Gaza" (4 Sep 2025)

People □

Martin Guilfoyle — Welsh Activist

Martin Guilfoyle — Welsh Activist, Global Sumud Flotilla

Last updated: 25 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Martin Guilfoyle
Home town	Burry Port, Carmarthenshire, Wales
Role	Humanitarian activist on board the Global Sumud Flotilla
Organisation	Global Flotilla Cymru

Detention

Martin Guilfoyle was aboard one of the vessels in the Global Sumud Flotilla when it was intercepted by the Israeli Navy in international waters near Crete. He was among more than 150 people detained by Israeli forces.

- Detained alongside Chris Hill, the other Welsh activist on board
 - UK Government notified; families informed
 - Part of the group of Welsh activists who joined the flotilla from Barcelona
-

Media Coverage

- **Nation.Cymru** — identified by name and hometown as one of two Welsh detainees
 - **Associated Press** — cited as a Welsh national detained
-

Sources

- Nation.Cymru: nation.cymru — "Two Welsh activists among those detained after Gaza aid flotilla intercepted at sea" (30 Apr 2026)

People □

Leigh Evans — Welsh Activist & Ground Crew

Leigh Evans — Welsh Activist, Global Sumud Flotilla Ground Crew

Last updated: 25 May 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Full name	Leigh Evans
Home town	Swansea, Wales
Occupation	Retired NHS nurse
Role	Ground crew / spokesperson for Global Flotilla Cymru. Previously detained on an earlier flotilla.
Organisation	Global Flotilla Cymru

Activism

Leigh Evans has been a prominent Welsh activist for the Palestinian cause, particularly visible through social media videos advocating for the people of Gaza.

- **Retired NHS nurse** from Swansea
- Was scheduled to join a subsequent wave of the flotilla after the initial vessels departed

- Flew the **Welsh dragon flag in Palestinian colours** — first saw the flag design from a Palestinian paramedic colleague while working in the West Bank
- Previously captured by Israeli forces on an earlier flotilla, giving her firsthand experience of the detention conditions

Key Quotes

“We are leaving the UK with the Dunkirk spirit to meet up with the French resistance. Unlike in Dunkirk, however, our governments are helping the fascist genocide. So it is up to us humanity to go with love in our hearts not bullets and bombs and try to lift the siege on Gaza.”

“I was captured by Israeli forces on the last flotilla, so I know how serious, and how frightening, the situation these two now face will be. The psychological trauma and uncertainty are immense, and the physical abuse they are subjected to is wholly unacceptable.”

“The seizure of unarmed civilians in international waters is a grave violation of human rights and sets a dangerous precedent. We call on the Foreign Secretary to act immediately to secure their release.”

Media Coverage

- **Nation.Cymru** — cited as Global Flotilla Cymru spokesperson
- **Social media** — gained attention through videos advocating for Gaza

Sources

- Nation.Cymru: nation.cymru — "Two Welsh activists among those detained after Gaza aid flotilla intercepted at sea" (30 Apr 2026)
- Nation.Cymru: nation.cymru — "Welsh activists join 'historic' Humanitarian Flotilla sailing from Barcelona to Gaza" (4 Sep 2025)

Sumud Flotilla — Overview

Global Sumud Flotilla — Gaza Freedom Flotilla 2026

Last updated: 25 May 2026 (night — X/Twitter search restored via Nitter on Windows PC) **Status:** INTERCEPTED — vessels boarded by Israeli Navy, activists detained and deported. Sexual assault allegations escalating. International diplomatic fallout growing. Handala hacking group exposed 69 Israeli naval officers involved in the raid.

What It Is

The Global Sumud Flotilla (also called the Sumud Flotilla or Global Sumud Flotilla) is a solidarity flotilla aiming to break Israel's naval blockade of Gaza. Coordinated by the **Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC)** — a coalition of ~20 organisations from 12+ countries. The word "Sumud" is Arabic for "steadfastness" / "resilience".

This is the latest in a series of Gaza-bound flotillas following the 2010 Mavi Marmara incident (where Israeli commandos killed 10 activists) and subsequent flotillas in 2011, 2015, and 2018.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
Early May 2026	Flotilla departs European ports. Multiple vessels carrying humanitarian aid and activists. Greenpeace Italy joins the flotilla.
	~20 May 2026
	21 May 2026
	~22 May 2026

Date	Event
22-23 May 2026	Detained activists deported via Tel Aviv to various countries. Reports of mistreatment — activists stripped of warm clothing, groped, held in shipping containers. "We had no water, no food, no toilet paper. We slept in containers, stacked one on top of one another." — deported activist.
23 May 2026	French activist Meriem Hadjal testifies about sexual assault during detention.
23 May 2026	Bilbao Airport, Spain — Basque regional police (Ertzaintza) violently detain returning flotilla activists, beating and dragging people. 4 detained.
23 May 2026	37 French nationals deported via Turkey. France confirms their return.
24 May 2026	Massive protests in Bilbao (~2,000 people) against the Ertzaintza assault. Clashes erupt as protests continue.
24 May 2026	Scottish activist Hughie Stirling gives media interviews describing being punched, kicked, and having his jacket ripped off by Israeli forces.
24 May 2026	South African activist Ebrahim Peters says Israeli forces tortured him because of his nationality.
24 May 2026	Canadian activist Daniela Maria Bonamico returns to Toronto to large crowd welcome. Canadian Foreign Minister says Canadians subject to "appalling abuse".
24 May 2026	Zohar Chamberlain Regev — an Israeli-born Jewish woman who converted to Islam — reportedly the only activist still detained by Israel.
25 May 2026	Multiple activists now reporting rape by Israeli authorities — at least 15 cases of sexual abuse, with the worst occurring on the first night of detention.
25 May 2026	Zeteo contributor Alex Colston testifies: "I just blacked out. I couldn't handle it. It was so painful."
25 May 2026	Poland issues entry ban against Israeli Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir over treatment of Gaza activists.
25 May 2026	Ireland — Taoiseach calls for EU-Israel trade pact to be suspended over "shocking treatment" of flotilla activists.
25 May 2026	Canada — Mark Carney calls treatment of flotilla detainees "abominable".
25 May 2026	Greece — condemns Israel over treatment of detainees.
25 May 2026	France — French opposition urges Macron to protect Global Sumud Flotilla activists.

Date	Event
25 May 2026	Spain — Bilbao protests escalate into clashes between protesters and Ertzaintza. Basque police accused of beating activists who were already torture survivors from Israeli detention.
25 May 2026	US — Reports that US is targeting Gaza aid flotilla activists after the Israeli mass abduction.
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026
	25 May 2026

Key Activists & Participants

Name	Nationality	Role / Notes
Hughie Stirling	Scottish	Reported being assaulted in Israeli detention. Quotes: "They were ripping my jacket off and punching me and kicking me." One of two Scots detained.
Meriem Hadjal	French	Testified she was stripped of warm clothing, taken into a dark shipping container alone, and repeatedly groped.
Ebrahim Peters	South African	Says Israeli forces tortured him because of his nationality. Ramaphosa demanded his release.
Daniela Maria Bonamico	Canadian	Returned to Toronto Pearson Airport to large crowds.
Zohar Chamberlain Regev	Israeli-born / convert to Islam	Last activist still in Israeli detention as of 25 May 2026. Jewish-born, converted to Islam.
	Chris Hill	Welsh (Clwt y Bont, Caernarfon)

Name	Nationality	Role / Notes
	Martin Guilfoyle	Welsh (Burry Port)
	Leigh Evans	Welsh (Swansea)
	Nadia	Welsh (Wrexham)
	Alex Colston	Zeteo contributor
	Elderly Scottish activist	Scottish
	Catriona Graham	Irish
	Dr Margaret Connolly	Irish
	Fra Hughes	Irish (Belfast)
	Helena Kearns	Irish (Lurgan, Co. Armagh)
	Thomas Deasy	Irish (Belfast)
	Tom Deasy	Irish

Organisations Involved

Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) — Coordinating body

- **Rumbo a Gaza** (Spain) — lead organisers. Manuel Tapial, Laura Arau
- **Ship to Gaza Sweden** — Dror Feiler, Mikael Löfgren
- **Ship to Gaza Norway** — Prof. Erik Fosse (Mavi Marmara veteran)
- **Canadian Boat to Gaza**
- **US Boat to Gaza** — Huwaida Arraf (Palestinian-American lawyer, ISM co-founder), Ann Wright (retired US Army colonel)
- **Miles of Smiles** (Lebanon)
- **Greenpeace Italy** — joined the flotilla to deliver aid
- **International Committee for Breaking the Siege on Gaza**
- **Zeteo** — independent journalism platform — contributor Alex Colston was on board and detained
- **Global Flotilla Cymru** — Welsh solidarity group coordinating support for Welsh activists, including Leigh Evans as ground crew/spokesperson
- **Palestine Aid** (Ireland) — Fra Hughes is director, coordinated Irish participation
- **Irish Ship to Gaza** — historical organiser for Irish flotilla participation since MV Rachel Corrie (2010)
- **Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC)** — solidarity support
- **SIPTU** — Irish trade union that helped crew the MV Rachel Corrie in 2010

Endorsing Organisations

- Palestinian BDS National Committee
 - Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)
 - Gaza Fishermen's Union
 - National Committee to Break the Siege on Gaza
 - Palestinian National Initiative (Al-Mubadara) — Dr. Mustafa Barghouti
 - Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)
 - Friends of Al-Aqsa (UK) — Ismail Patel
 - Palestine Solidarity Campaign (UK)
 - British Muslims for Palestine (UK)
-

Israeli Response

- IDF Navy intercepted the flotilla in international waters
 - Israeli Navy boarded vessels, detained activists
 - Government labelled the flotilla "illegal"
 - Warned participants would be "deported and banned"
 - Detainees held in Israeli prisons, then deported
 - **At least 15 cases of sexual abuse reported**, with worst occurring on first night of detention
 - Activists report: no water, no food, no toilet paper, stacked in shipping containers
 - Zohar Chamberlain Regev reportedly still held as of 25 May
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International Response

UK Government

Figure	Response
Yvette Cooper (Foreign Secretary)	Called Ben-Gvir's video "totally disgraceful scenes". Summoned the Israeli Chargé d'Affaires — "reflects the UK's strong condemnation of his conduct in taunting those involved in the Global Sumud Flotilla" and "violates the most basic standards of respect and dignity for people." Demanded an explanation from Israeli authorities.

Figure	Response
Foreign Office	"We are supporting a number of British nationals who have now left Israel." "We have been in contact with the Israeli authorities to make clear that we expect the situation to be resolved safely, in line with international law and with due respect for the rights of all those on board."
Keir Starmer (PM)	No direct statement found on the flotilla. Islamic Human Rights Commission wrote to him demanding he secure the release of remaining detainees.

Wales

Figure	Party	Response
Ben Lake MP (Ceredigion Preseli)	Plaid Cymru	Wrote to Yvette Cooper calling the interception " a flagrant breach of international law ". "The flotilla was intercepted in international waters, with the first boats stopped some 70 nautical miles from Gaza. Israeli forces have been policing this area, but they do not have jurisdiction there." Pressed for the safe release of his constituent Hannah Schafer from Cardigan.
Liz Saville Roberts MP (Dwyfor Meirionnydd)	Plaid Cymru	Raised the issue in Parliament (specific statement not found in media sources).

Scotland

Figure	Party	Response
John Swinney (First Minister)	SNP	"We will keep in close contact with the UK Government regarding the wellbeing of those on the flotilla." Said he'd already approached UK Government: "They have informed us they have lobbied the Israeli government to respect law and to protect everyone on board's safety."

Figure	Party	Response
Ross Greer MSP (West Scotland)	Scottish Greens	Urged Swinney to demand their release at Holyrood FMQs. Called his constituent one of four who had been "kidnapped by the Israeli military" . "Dozens of ships and hundreds of ordinary people doing what the world's governments have refused to do, trying to break Israel's siege of Gaza and deliver life-saving food and medical supplies to starving Palestinians."
Pauline McNeill MSP	Scottish Labour	Urged Swinney to demand the release of Scottish activists at Holyrood FMQs.

Ireland

Figure	Party	Response
Micheál Martin (Taoiseach)	Fianna Fáil	Called the interception "illegal" and "absolutely unacceptable" . "The international community have to call out Israel for this." Wrote to European Council President António Costa calling for suspension of the EU Association Agreement with Israel . "The EU cannot continue with a 'business as usual approach' to Israel as it continues to behave in a way that is fundamentally at odds with the bloc's basic principles." On Ben-Gvir's video: "The behaviour of a government minister from Israel has been absolutely shocking, and has shocked the world." Said it "accelerated" the mood at EU level for action.
Simon Harris (Tánaiste)	Fine Gael	"What Israel has done is, in my view, illegal. It is, in my view, in breach of international law — quite frankly, not even in my view. It is in breach of international law." "We're at this long enough to know that Israel doesn't really care very much for people's words, does it?"

Figure	Party	Response
Helen McEntee TD (Foreign Minister)	Fine Gael	Condemned the seizure of vessels in international waters. Called for the immediate release of all Irish citizens detained . Said the Ben-Gvir video showed detainees were "not in any way being treated with the appropriate dignity or respect". Said this should be a "turning point" for how Europe responds to Israel: "I believe the tide has turned... the countries that wouldn't have even considered this a few months ago are now openly saying we need a vote on this."
Catherine Connolly (President)	—	On her sister Dr Margaret Connolly being detained: "I'm very proud of my sister but I'm worried about her. I'm very worried about her, and I'm also very concerned about her colleagues."
Holly Cairns TD (Social Democrats leader)	SocDems	Criticised government response time: "It took you 12 hours to issue a four-line statement about it." "A lack of action from this government is what has driven the Irish citizens on the flotilla to take action themselves."
Mary Lou McDonald TD (Sinn Féin leader)	Sinn Féin	Called Ben-Gvir footage "deeply disturbing" and "completely unacceptable" . "These were civilians engaged in a peaceful humanitarian mission... instead they were met with armed force, detention and humiliation." "The Irish government, together with our European partners, must move urgently beyond expressions of concern and take concrete action to sanction Israel."
Patricia Stephenson TD (SocDems foreign affairs)	SocDems	Called Catriona Graham's treatment "horrifying and outrageous" . "If this is the abuse meted out to detained Western members of a flotilla in public, I dread to think of the horrors being perpetrated on illegally detained Palestinian prisoners." Called Ben-Gvir a "coward and a bully" .
Paul Murphy TD	PBP-Solidarity	"This is how our citizens are being treated by Israel, having been abducted in international waters, trafficked to a third state and now experiencing humiliation, stress positions, aggression and violence."

Twitter/X Discussion

“ Source: Nitter (via Docker on Windows PC — 192.168.178.20:8083), 25 May 2026

Nitter restored — running on Windows PC via SSH. Findings from 25 May search:

@anadoluagency (Anadolu English) — 21 May

UK activist **Chris from North Wales** (Chris Hill) says Global Sumud Flotilla participants faced 'rough' treatment in Israeli detention. "They were pretty rough with us, but we can't forget how they treat Palestinians on a daily basis." Activist calls on UK government to 'wake up', accusing it of complicity through 'inaction'. (127 hearts, 84 retweets)

@RamAbdu (Ramy Abdu, 220K+ followers)

- Handala hacking group exposed 69 Israeli naval officers involved in raid, \$100K bounty placed on each
- Huge protests in Bilbao against Basque police assault on returning flotilla supporters

@DropSiteNews

Meriem Hadjal testimony: detainees stripped of warm clothing, taken individually into dark shipping container, repeatedly groped. "There's a sadism."

@ScotNational (The National — Scotland)

Coverage of Hughie Stirling treatment: "The pain was excruciating"

@HindRFoundation (Hind Rajab Foundation)

Two Gaza genocide survivors (Polish citizens) and two Sumud Flotilla activists file genocide complaint in Poland against Israeli officials

@AJENews (Al Jazeera English)

Small boat believed to be part of the flotilla washes ashore in Alexandria, Egypt

@nurdogandiyorki

- Canadian activist Daniela Maria Bonamico returns to Toronto Pearson Airport to large crowd
- Canadian activist Shahid Mahmood also returns to Toronto after delivering aid to Gaza

@lucabonfante_

Argentine delegation of the Sumud Flotilla arrives home after Israeli detention

@manelmarquez

Ik0itz (ETB journalist) calls Ertzaintza response "shameful and disproportionate" — "The images speak for themselves"

@PalestinaVence

Thread on Zohar Chamberlain Regev — the only activist still detained. Jewish-born convert to Islam.

@gazanotice

Hughie Stirling recounts severe mistreatment after being kidnapped by Israeli forces

@MCAOps (Indonesian account)

BOP agreement expands Israeli control over Gaza from 53% to 64%

Reddit Discussion

👉 Source: Reddit search (old.reddit.com), 25 May 2026 (evening)

r/worldnews (highest engagement)

- **3066pts/538cmts** — "Clashes in Spain: Gaza flotilla activists beaten by police at Bilbao airport"
- **982pts/639cmts** — "Israel's treatment of detained Gaza flotilla members is 'abominable,' Carney says"
- **969pts/189cmts** — "Taoiseach calls for EU-Israel trade pact to be suspended after 'shocking treatment' of flotilla activists"
- **332pts/82cmts** — "Greece condemns Israel over treatment of flotilla detainees"
- **47pts/109cmts** — "Anand says Canadians subject to 'appalling abuse' after flotilla detained by Israel"
- **46pts/0cmts** — "Israel deports 37 French nationals on Gaza flotilla to Turkey, France says"
- **25pts/118cmts** — "Gaza flotilla activists deported from Israel as backlash over treatment grows"
- **0pts/5cmts** — "Protesters in Spain condemn police handling of Gaza flotilla activists"

r/Palestine (deep coverage)

- **2557pts/59cmts** — "Multiple Sumud Flotilla activists report being physically and sexually assaulted by Israelis"
- **838pts/13cmts** — "Ebrahim Peters says Israeli forces tortured him because of his nationality"
- **563pts/3cmts** — "We had no water, no food, no toilet paper. We slept in containers, stacked one on top of one another"
- **477pts/4cmts** — "I just blacked out. I couldn't handle it. It was so painful" — Alex Colston / Zeteo
- **394pts/3cmts** — "Gazans marched in solidarity with the Global Sumud Flotilla"
- **257pts/4cmts** — "While hundreds of activists are en route back to their countries..."
- **135pts/1cmts** — "Multiple Sumud flotilla activists recount rape by Israeli authorities"
- **114pts/0cmts** — "How Israelis treated the Sumud flotilla activists"
- **22pts/1cmts** — "Basque Police Beat Global Sumud Flotilla Torture Survivors In Spain"

r/LateStageCapitalism

- **1203pts/20cmts** — "Humanitarian activist reveals what she had to go through at an Israeli concentration camp"
- **672pts/12cmts** — "US targets Gaza aid flotilla activists after Israeli mass abduction"
- **264pts/1cmts** — "Freed Gaza flotilla activists allege Israeli abuse including rape — at least 15 cases"
- **97pts/1cmts** — "US diplomats threaten Palestinian officials"
- **48pts/1cmts** — "The story of Zohar Chamberlain Regev, Israeli-born Jew who converted to Islam"

r/southafrica

- **348pts/65cmts** — "Israel/Palestine shows the cracks in the mentality of our country"
- **301pts/57cmts** — "Ramaphosa demands Israel free South African activists"
- **228pts/49cmts** — "Mandela and others reportedly abducted in Global Sumud Flotilla ambush"
- **175pts/15cmts** — "Ebrahim Peters says Israeli forces tortured him"
- **66pts/2cmts** — "6 South African flotilla activists detained by Israel arrive in Jordan"

r/europe

- **668pts/594cmts** — "Global Sumud Flotilla carrying aid to Gaza attacked by drones off Greece"
- **124pts/108cmts** — "French opposition urges Macron to protect Global Sumud Flotilla"

r/Scotland

- **680pts/327cmts** — "Glasgow man onboard the Sumud Flotilla"
- **115pts/201cmts** — "Two Scots detained by Israeli forces after Gaza flotilla intercepted"
- **111pts/79cmts** — "Scots activists on Gaza aid flotilla released from Israeli prison"
- **77pts/132cmts** — "Elderly activist on Global Sumud Flotilla reports abuse in Israeli custody"

What It Means

The Sumud Flotilla interception is the most significant Gaza flotilla incident since Mavi Marmara (2010). Key implications:

1. **Escalation pattern** — Israel's interception of aid flotillas continues as the Gaza blockade persists. The testimonies of abuse (now including rape allegations — at least 15 cases) raise the stakes dramatically compared to previous interceptions.
2. **Diplomatic fallout growing** — Poland's entry ban on Ben-Gvir, Ireland's call for EU-Israel trade suspension, Greek condemnation, and Canadian outrage suggest this incident is generating wider diplomatic pressure than previous flotilla interceptions.
3. **Domestic Spanish crisis** — The Ertzaintza (Basque police) assault on returning activists at Bilbao Airport has triggered major protests, now clashing, and a political scandal in the Basque Country.
4. **UK/Scottish connection** — Two Scots detained (Hughie Stirling + elderly activist). Expect UK media and parliamentary pressure.
5. **Greenpeace involvement** — Greenpeace Italy joining the flotilla adds an established international NGO to the story, potentially widening coverage.
6. **US targeting activists** — Reports of US action against flotilla participants suggest potential long-term consequences for activists beyond detention.

7. **Drone attack reports** — The flotilla was reportedly attacked by drones off Greece before the Navy interception, adding a military dimension to the incident.
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Sources

- Reddit: old.reddit.com — [r/worldnews](https://old.reddit.com/r/worldnews), [r/Palestine](https://old.reddit.com/r/Palestine), [r/LateStageCapitalism](https://old.reddit.com/r/LateStageCapitalism), [r/southafrica](https://old.reddit.com/r/southafrica), [r/europe](https://old.reddit.com/r/europe), [r/Scotland](https://old.reddit.com/r/Scotland)
- Nitter (X/Twitter): Docker on Windows PC (192.168.178.20:8083) — search "Sumud Flotilla" — restored 25 May 2026
- Nation.Cymru: nation.cymru — Welsh activist coverage (Chris Hill, Martin Guilfoyle, Leigh Evans, Yvonne Ridley)
- Drop Site News: dropsitenews.com
- The National (Scotland): thenational.scot
- Greenpeace Italy: greenpeace.org/italy
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