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Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission

Kaja Kallas
High Representative/Vice-President Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Commission

António Costa
President of the European Council
European Council

By electronic mail

30 April 2026

Re: Israeli attack on humanitarian Global Sumud Flotilla

Dear Presidents,

We are shocked by the reports from Greenpeace International's ship *Arctic Sunrise* of an attack by Israeli forces on the Global Sumud Flotilla, an international, non-violent attempt to bring humanitarian aid to Gaza. Last night, Israeli forces boarded and harassed vessels of the flotilla in international waters 45 nautical miles west of the Greek island Kythira and 600 nautical miles from Gaza.

A radio warning was received by the Global Sumud vessels at 18:43 UTC (21:43 local time), with the sender identifying themselves as the Israeli Navy and demanding that the flotilla change course. This was followed by jamming communication channels, including maritime emergency SOS communication and the Global Navigation Satellite System, putting the boats and people on them at risk in open sea. Multiple vessels have been illegally boarded by Israeli forces and have since lost contact with the rest of the flotilla.

This morning, the Israel Foreign Ministry [announced on X](#) that they are bringing approximately 175 activists from around 20 boats to Israel.

We are calling on you to:

- condemn the attack by Israeli military and abduction of activists;
- demand the immediate release of people abducted by Israeli military last night;

- demand that EU Member States provide guarantees for the safety of the flotilla in their endeavors to create a humanitarian corridor;
- demand that relevant EU Member States, starting with Greece, take immediate action to support and protect the flotilla vessels currently sailing towards ports in Crete.

At the same time, we renew our call on world leaders to take concrete and immediate action in the face of the genocide being inflicted by Israel on the people of Gaza. The international community's ongoing failure to enforce international law leaves it culpable for Israel's actions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Stoczkiewicz', written in a cursive style.

Magda Stoczkiewicz
Programme Director
Greenpeace European Unit