



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **BREAKING: israeli Forces Attempting to Intercept Freedom Flotilla Coalition Boats off the Coast of Greece; U.S. Lockheed Martin Aircraft and Drones Circle FFC Vessels**

**Global Sumud Flotilla Reports Tactical Surveillance and Approaching Unidentified Ships on FFC Vessels; Fears of Torture and Illegal Abductions Rise Following Treatment of GSF Participants**

**May 4, 2026** **MEDITERRANEAN SEA** — The Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) has received harrowing field reports confirming that the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) fleet, currently off the Coast of Greece to join the GSF in a unified mission to Gaza, is under active military surveillance and intimidation.

#### **Chronology of Tactical Escalation:**

- **19:27 Palestine Time:** Four FFC vessels reported a military helicopter circling their position.
- **21:53 Palestine Time:** Participants reported the presence of three drones and an unidentified ship in the distance that has deliberately turned off its navigation lights.
- **Tactical Surveillance:** Marine Traffic data confirms a U.S. Lockheed Martin plane flew directly over the fleet shortly before the latest escalation.
- **Current Status:** Participants now report seeing unidentified boats and white lights approaching the FFC fleet from the rear.

#### **Demands for Immediate Accountability**

The Global Sumud Flotilla is gravely concerned for the physical safety of all participants. Given the evidence of torture and abuse of GSF volunteers in addition to torture, abuse and death threats, and sensory deprivation currently being inflicted on GSF activists Saif Abukeshek and Thiago Ávila in Israeli custody, fear continues that these tactical maneuvers are a prelude to further illegal abductions.

- **GSF Message to the Greek Government:** Your failure to ensure the safety of civilian humanitarian vessels in your waters is a violation of the Law of the Sea and an act of complicity. We demand you act immediately to protect these vessels from foreign military interference.
- **To the International Community:** We demand guaranteed safety for all participants. The presence of U.S.-manufactured military aircraft and

unidentified "dark" ships suggests a coordinated effort to suppress a peaceful humanitarian mission through fear and force.

- **Prevention of Torture:** We remind all involved parties that the arbitrary detention and mistreatment of civilians—including beatings, blindfolding, and isolation—are war crimes under international law.
- **Accountability:** The Israeli regime, complicit and participatory nations must all be held accountable for these most recent war crimes as well as the ongoing genocide in Gaza and ethnic cleansing in the West Bank

This coordinated assault on the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and the Global Sumud Flotilla is a desperate attempt by the Israeli occupation to maintain its illegal and genocidal blockade of Gaza. The world cannot stand by while civilian boats are hunted in international and regional waters by helicopters and drones, continuing to break international and humanitarian laws.

We call on the public to mobilize and demand that their governments intervene to stop this piracy and ensure the safe passage of aid and human rights defenders.

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