GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Global Sumud Flotilla Departs Marmaris for Gaza: Legal Team Places International Community on Formal Notice

**May 14, 2026**

**MARMARIS** –As the Global Sumud Flotilla lifts anchor from Marmaris to begin the final and most critical leg of its voyage toward Gaza, in a continued effort to establish a humanitarian corridor that breaks israel's illegal siege of Gaza, the mission's legal team has issued a comprehensive declaration defining the lawful nature of this journey and the consequences for any who attempt to obstruct it. The departure marks a transition from diplomatic preparation to active humanitarian passage, supported by a global legal framework designed to hold states and individuals accountable for their actions in real-time.

### The Legal Right to Humanitarian Passage

The mission departs under the firm legal principle that the ongoing siege of Gaza is not a lawful maritime blockade but an engine of genocide and a prohibited form of collective punishment. Because the blockade operates to deny objects indispensable to civilian survival, it cannot generate lawful enforcement powers against civilian vessels. Consequently, the Flotilla asserts its right to humanitarian passage and the right of its participants to be free from abduction, arbitrary detention, or violent interception in international waters. This voyage is a practical exercise of international law in the face of governmental inaction.

### A Strategic Framework for Accountability

To ensure the protection of the mission, a three-pillar legal strategy has been activated involving prevention, documentation, and prosecution. This began with formal notices delivered to flag, home, and port states, informing them of their binding obligations to protect their nationals and prevent the facilitation of unlawful acts. Simultaneously, a robust documentation apparatus is in place to record every act of interference, from communication jamming to physical boarding, to be used as immediate evidence in international courts. This ensures that the world is not only watching but that every violation is recorded for future criminal proceedings.

### Challenging the Architecture of Global Oversight

The Flotilla serves as a critical test for the international community and the current "Board of Peace" architecture. Legal experts argue that such frameworks cannot be used as colonial gatekeepers to convert the legal right of humanitarian access into a foreign-administered permission regime which perpetuates the denial of Palestinian self-determination. There is a growing demand for United Nations member states to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice regarding whether the Security Council may lawfully endorse a regime that displaces Palestinian self-determination. By sailing, the Flotilla forces a choice upon international institutions to

either uphold the rule of law or be complicit in a system that conditions life-saving relief on political approval.

**Active Prosecution and the Rule of Law**

The legal consequences for interfering with the Flotilla are already being realized in multiple jurisdictions. Criminal procedures have been initiated across the globe, including in Spain, Italy and Türkiye, where arrest warrants have already been issued for 37 high-ranking officials. Recent legal filings have expanded these efforts to include identified members of specific military units involved in previous interceptions. With active investigations moving forward in over twenty countries and ongoing coordination with the International Criminal Court, the mission's legal team has made it clear that those who choose to enforce an illegal blockade do so at the risk of personal criminal liability and international isolation.

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