

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FRANCESCA ALBANESE AMID ESCALATING EFFORTS TO SILENCE INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

February 16, 2026

International — The Global Sumud Flotilla expresses its unequivocal and unwavering support for United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, in the face of escalating efforts to discredit her work and undermine her mandate: to monitor, document, and report on violations of international law.

Francesca Albanese's reporting is not political advocacy, it is the fulfillment of her formal United Nations position. Her work and commentary is grounded in legal analysis, evidentiary scholarly research and documentation, and the established framework of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Attempts to intimidate, discredit, or remove a UN Special Rapporteur for fulfilling their mandate are not procedural disputes, they are assaults on the very foundation of the international human rights system.

UN Special Rapporteurs are among the last truly independent accountability mechanisms in a world where power too often shields itself from scrutiny. Their autonomy is essential as they are the backbone of international oversight.

When a Special Rapporteur is targeted for carrying out their lawful duties, the attack extends far beyond one individual. It strikes at the core principle that no state is above international law. Undermining these mandates sends a chilling message: that truth-telling will be punished, and accountability will be silenced.

As an international civilian mission, the Global Sumud Flotilla is committed to upholding international law and ending Israel's illegal siege on Gaza where state actors have failed to do so. Our mission exists precisely because the international system has for decades failed to enforce its own legal and human rights obligations.

At this historic moment: amid mass displacement, starvation, and the systematic destruction of civilian life in Gaza, the work of independent and reputable UN investigators is more critical than ever. Efforts to silence those documenting these realities do not alter the facts on the ground. They only deepen the crisis of accountability and impunity.

Civil society has both a legal and moral responsibility to defend the institutions and individuals working to uphold international law. Francesca Albanese's work embodies that responsibility.

The Global Sumud Flotilla therefore calls on governments, international institutions, and civil society worldwide to:

- Defend the independence of UN Special Rapporteurs
- Reject political interference in human rights investigations
- Uphold the authority and integrity of international law
- Protect those working to document violations and ensure accountability

International law cannot function if those tasked with enforcing it are silenced.

The Global Sumud Flotilla stands firmly with Francesca Albanese and with all those working to defend human dignity, legal accountability, and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

Silence is complicity. Accountability is our obligation.

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