

From 55 MEPs to the Honourable High Representative Ms Federica Mogherini

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On Wednesday 14 September, the latest Freedom Flotilla Coalition will set sail from Barcelona to Gaza, aiming to arrive by 1 October. This year the mission Women's Boat to Gaza (WBG), on two boats named 'Amal-Hope and Zaytouna-Oliva, will carry out a humanitarian mission to send a message of hope and solidarity to the people of Gaza.

The WBG will carry twenty notable politicians, activists, cultural artists and media from around the globe. These include Nobel Laureate and peace activist Mairead Maguire, Swedish MEP Malin Björk, American playwright Naomi Wallace, and Turkish athlete and coach Cigdem Topçuoglu, whose husband was killed in the Israeli attack on the Mavi Marmara flotilla in 2010.

Its goal will be to highlight the indomitable spirit of Palestinian women who have been central within the Palestinian struggle in Gaza, the West Bank, inside the Green Line and in the diaspora.

Gaza has been under illegal Israeli blockade for the past decade, and has effectively become an open-air prison for 1.8 million people. During this time, Israel has also launched countless attacks against the besieged population, turning their lives into a nightmare and a continuous struggle.

While these physical wars have destroyed the homes, schools, economies, cultural heritage and land of Gaza, the illegal blockade prevents the entry to Gaza of aid and daily consumables such as paper, fuel, fruit and vegetables, wheat, sugar, meat, chicken, fish products, dairy products, animal feed, hygiene products, clothing and shoes.

The Freedom Flotilla is a peaceful, civil society protest against the passivity and complicity of the international community, especially western governments, in the face of the inhumane situation in Gaza. The WBG seeks not only to challenge the Israeli blockade, but to also show solidarity and to bring a message of hope to the Palestinian people.

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, from different political Groups and parties, stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and call upon the European Union to help restore that hope by:

- Acting to ensure the safe passage of the Flotilla to Gaza
- Pressuring Israel to lift its illegal blockade of Gaza
- Insisting that Israel comply with international law as a step towards restarting the Middle East Peace Process

Sincerely,

- Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL; Chair, Delegation for Relations with Palestine)
- Malin Björk (GUE/NGL)
- Javier Nart (ALDE)
- Ernest Urtasun (Greens/EFA)
- Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL)
- Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)
- Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL)
- Alyn Smith (Greens/EFA)
- Pascal Durand (Greens/EFA)
- Soraya Post (S&D)
- Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)
- Ángela Vallina de la Noval (GUE/NGL)
- Sergio Gaetano Cofferati (S&D)
- Yannick Jadot (Greens/EFA)
- Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL)
- Eleonora Forenza (GUE/NGL)
- Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL)
- Josep-Maria Terricabras (Greens/EFA)
- Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE/NGL)
- Margrete Auken (Greens/EFA)
- Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)
- Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)
- Liadh Ní Riada (GUE/NGL)
- Luke Flanagan (GUE/NGL)
- Jill Evans (Greens/EFA)
- Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)
- Bodil Valero (Greens/EFA)
- Gabi Zimmer (GUE/NGL)
- Alfred Sant (S&D)
- Anna Hedh (S&D)

- Karima Delli (Greens/EFA)
- Eva Joly (Greens/EFA)
- Judith Sargentini (Greens/EFA)
- Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL)
- Ivo Vajgl (ALDE)
- Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL)
- Elly Schlein (S&D)
- Michèle Rivasi (Greens/EFA)
- Tanja Fajon (S&D)
- Marita Ulvskog (S&D)
- Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)
- Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL)
- Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)
- Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)
- João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)
- Joao Pimenta (GUE/NGL)
- Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL)
- Younous Omarjee (GUE/NGL)
- Rina Ronja Karis (GUE/NGL)
- Ana Gomes (S&D)
- Stelios Kouloglou (GUE/NGL)
- Nessa Childers (S&D)
- Jordi Sebastià (Greens/EFA)
- Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)
- Xabier Benito Ziluaga (GUE.NGL)