

# PRESS ADVISORY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Global Sumud Flotilla Expands by 50% in Italy as Dozens of Additional Boats Join Growing Civilian Fleet Bound for Gaza**

Fleet Convergence in Siracusa Marks Major Escalation, With Mission Now Surpassing Last Year's Total Size Ahead of Final Ports

**April 23, 2026** **SIRACUSA** – On Thursday, April 23, 2026, the Global Sumud Flotilla will enter a new phase of escalation as vessels from Barcelona and across Italy converge at Marina di Siracusa, forming a significantly expanded unified fleet preparing to continue its journey toward Gaza.

With 25 additional boats joining in Italy, the flotilla now exceeds the size of last year's entire mission, signaling growing international participation and intensifying civilian pressure to challenge Israel's illegal siege on Gaza. With two additional ports still ahead, the mission continues to build in scale, coordination, and global visibility.

The convergence in Siracusa is both a logistical milestone and a political statement: the flotilla is not static, it is growing, adapting, and advancing.

#### **A Growing Fleet, A Growing Signal**

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepens, the Global Sumud Flotilla continues to gather strength across borders. The addition of new vessels from Italy transforms the mission into an even more formidable civilian presence at sea—one that reflects mounting international refusal to accept blockade, starvation, and collective punishment as normal.

Each new port strengthens the flotilla not only numerically, but politically, expanding its reach, deepening its alliances, and amplifying the global call for accountability.

#### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: ITALY FLEET CONVERGENCE & DEPARTURE**

**Thursday, April 23 — 17:00**

#### **Fleet Convergence, Public Gathering & Departure Program**

Location: Marina di Siracusa, Siracusa

As boats from across the Mediterranean converge into a single unified fleet, media will have access to:

- Visuals of an expanded, multi-national civilian fleet
- Speeches from international organizers and movement leaders
- Interviews with participants, partners, and solidarity delegations

- Cultural programming, performances, and public participation

The program will feature live music, political interventions, and a public celebration of international solidarity, marking a pivotal moment before the flotilla continues its journey.

### **SPEAKERS INCLUDE**

- Maria Elena Delia (GSF Steering Committee)
- Tony La Piccirella (GSF Steering Committee)
- Yazan Eissa (GSF Steering Committee)
- Sümeyra Akdeniz Ordu (GSF Steering Committee)
- Dr. Maimon Herawati (GSF Steering Committee)
- Muhammad Nadir Al-Nuri (GSF Steering Committee)
- Dario Salvetti (Collettivo di fabbrica GKN)
- Representatives from Greenpeace, Open Arms, and Banca Etica (TBC)

### **A Mission Advancing Port by Port**

The Global Sumud Flotilla is not a single departure, it is a rolling, expanding intervention, building momentum across the Mediterranean. With each stop, the mission grows in scale and visibility, strengthening its capacity to challenge the blockade and mobilize international pressure.

As the fleet departs Italy larger than it began, it sends a clear message: this mission is advancing, and it will not be deterred.

### **MEDIA ACCREDITATION & CONTACT**

Email: [media@globalsumudflotilla.org](mailto:media@globalsumudflotilla.org)

Tel: +44 1414 620 950

Website: [globalsumudflotilla.org](http://globalsumudflotilla.org)

Submit press inquiries [here](#).