



PRESS RELEASE

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Release the Footage: israel's Cover-Up Begins with Denial

The Global Sumud Flotilla rejects official israeli denials of detainee abuse and calls for the immediate and full release of CCTV record of detention to prove compliance with international law

June 1, 2026 **INTERNATIONAL** – The Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) demands that israeli authorities immediately release the unedited, continuous CCTV footage of the entire duration of the illegal abduction and detention of our participants. The onus to prove compliance with international law and the humane treatment of detainees lies entirely on israel. israel must reveal the evidence of its own conduct to the global public.

The Routine of Institutional Denial

The israeli Prison Service and the military have issued strongly-worded denials, claiming that the physical and sexual humiliation, violence and torture reported and documented by GSF survivors are "entirely without factual basis."

The israeli government's propaganda, israel's version of events and the views of zionist aligned media are not evidentiary standards. The israeli state has a deeply entrenched, decades-long history of manufacturing brazen fabrications to mask its atrocities and ensure total impunity.

This is the same regime that blamed Palestinians for bombing their own hospitals, systematically lied about the execution of civilians, and relies on a hollow system of "self-investigation" that leading human rights organizations have long exposed as a complete whitewash designed to guarantee state immunity. When israeli forces assassinated Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in 2022, the state immediately lied to the world, fabricating a narrative that she was killed by "indiscriminate Palestinian gunfire". It was only after relentless independent forensic investigations forced their hand that they slowly retreated from that lie.

A Documented Anatomy of a Lie

This is not a one-off communication failure; it is a calculated pattern of deception. israeli military and state authorities have repeatedly issued immediate, categorical denials after major incidents involving civilians, journalists, aid workers, and detainees, only for those accounts to be debunked with independent investigation, internal review, or overwhelming evidence.

We have seen this playbook deployed again and again: a confident denial, followed by global amplification, and then, weeks or months later: a revision, a contradiction, or a quiet

admission. We saw it when aid workers were killed and israel later acknowledged what it called a “mistake.” We saw it when civilians were shot at food lines and live fire was later admitted. We saw it when hospitals and humanitarian sites were targeted, only for initial israeli justifications to be walked back once scrutiny mounted.

State-Sponsored Cruelty on Display

israel is lying about their treatment of our participants. We have already seen how brazenly public this regime is with its violence, documented by its own leadership, such as various widely circulated videos released by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir showcasing the deliberately degrading, abusive conditions inflicted on Palestinian detainees and our participants. A state apparatus that proudly broadcasts its cruelty behind closed doors cannot be trusted to self-report on the violence it inflicts on captive human rights defenders.

Our civilian participants were targeted in international waters, arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, and subjected to treatment amounting to torture and sexual violence under international law. If israeli authorities claim otherwise, they must release the unedited, continuous custody footage immediately...every single minute of it.

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