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GLOBAL SUMUD FLOTILLA ANNOUNCES EXPANDED SPRING 2026 MISSION: 3,000 HUMANITARIANS TO HELP BREAK THE SIEGE, ESTABLISH UNARMED PROTECTIVE PRESENCE, AND SUPPORT GAZA RECONSTRUCTION

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PALESTINE – In response to a direct call from Palestinians in Gaza, the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) announces a decisive expansion of its upcoming Spring 2026 mission to Gaza. More than an aid delivery effort, the mission represents an important shift toward a sustained and specialized civilian presence to work alongside Palestinians as they survive the Israeli regime’s ongoing attacks and attempt to rebuild basic civilian infrastructure destroyed by two years of genocide.

The Spring 2026 mission will include over 100 boats and more than 3,000 participants from over 100 countries—more than twice the size of its previous mission and the largest coordinated civilian maritime action for Palestine to date.

The Spring 2026 Global Sumud Flotilla is organized around five explicit, interlinked mandates:

- **Helping to Break the Siege:** The flotilla directly confronts Israel’s illegal, decades-long blockade of Gaza, asserting Palestinians’ right to access their coast and the world beyond it. It challenges the siege as unlawful collective punishment that has produced prolonged humanitarian catastrophe, forced mass starvation, and death due to deprivation.
- **Delivering Life-Saving Aid:** The mission includes a large-scale humanitarian component, delivering urgently needed food, baby formula, school supplies, medicine, and other essentials, as Gaza continues to receive only a fraction of what is needed
- **Establishing an Unarmed Protective Presence:** Highly trained unarmed civilian protectors will be deployed to work alongside Palestinian communities, helping deter violence, document violations, and strengthen local mechanisms for protection and accountability amid the Israeli regime’s continued assaults on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

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- **Supporting Reconstruction:** The flotilla mission includes a recovery effort, with dedicated teams remaining to accompany Palestinians through early stages of rebuilding homes, schools, hospitals, and civil institutions under Palestinian leadership.
- **Confronting Complicity:** The flotilla aids in exposing and confronting the international complicity that enables Israel's illegal blockade, occupation, and genocide, mobilizing global civil society in coordinated actions to demand accountability from governments and institutions that sustain these violations.

When Institutions and Governments Fail, People Must Act

“For decades, governments and international institutions have claimed the responsibility to protect civilians and uphold international law. In Gaza, those mandates have been ignored and failed catastrophically,” said Saif Abukeshek, a member of the GSF Steering Committee. “This mission emerges from that failure. When institutions abandon their legal and moral obligations, people inherit that responsibility.”

Participants from nearly every country, spanning a wide range of professions and backgrounds, are stepping into that responsibility through this coordinated, nonviolent civilian action.

“The flotilla brings together experts and everyday people alike,” said Sumeyra Ordu, a member of the GSF Steering Committee. “It reflects a shared belief that no community should be left to face siege and genocide alone.”

Dedicated Medical Mission: 1,000+ Healthcare Professionals

As part of its expanded mandate, the Spring 2026 flotilla includes a dedicated medical fleet carrying more than 1,000 healthcare professionals aboard ships stocked with life-saving medicines and equipment. Working in partnership with Gaza's medical teams, the mission aims to reinforce emergency care and stabilize a healthcare system devastated by siege and continued bombardment.

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“This effort exists because Palestinian doctors and nurses have carried an unbearable burden, continuing their work under conditions designed to make it impossible,” said Dr. Mohammed Mustafa, a spokesperson for the medical fleet. “Our aim is not only to deliver what has been unjustly denied, but to support the steadfast efforts that keep care possible and preserve life.”

A Replicable Civilian Model

While organizers emphasize that the flotilla represents a tiny fraction of what will ultimately be required to fully support Gaza’s recovery, its significance lies in the precedent it sets: a replicable, civilian-led model grounded in international law, humanitarian principles, and Palestinian leadership.

“This mission is not only about the people on the boats,” said GSF Steering Committee member Wael Nawar. “As with previous flotillas, it is about the millions around the world who are ready to say ‘enough is enough,’ who are prepared to take to the streets, demand accountability, and act when governments refuse to do so.”

The Spring 2026 mission will depart in the coming months, with rolling announcements to follow regarding participating delegations, Mediterranean launch ports, and mission phases.

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