New Gaza Flotilla Mission is Underway: All You Need to Know

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Israeli navy moves to seize Gaza-bound flotilla near Crete. (Photo: video grab, file)

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By Palestine Chronicle

Staff

> **The Freedom Flotilla Coalition announced a new maritime mission to Gaza, with vessels traveling through European ports before sailing toward the enclave.**

Key Developments

- Freedom Flotilla vessels will visit ports in Spain, Portugal and Italy before attempting to reach Gaza in October.
- The coalition said the mission aims to challenge Israel's blockade and mobilize public pressure across Europe.
- Organizers called on governments to guarantee safe passage and take diplomatic, economic and legal measures against the blockade.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) has announced a new international maritime mission to Gaza, with participating vessels traveling through several European countries before a planned attempt to reach the Palestinian enclave in October.

The coalition said the mission is intended to challenge Israel's blockade of Gaza and build international pressure for unrestricted access to the enclave.

"We are sailing again because Israel hasn't stopped its genocide and because Palestine is still not free," the coalition said in announcing the mission.

The voyage is already underway. The FFC vessel Handala II visited ports in Norway, Sweden and Denmark during June and July, while the Kate departed from Bristol, Britain, in August and subsequently made stops in Ireland, Germany and France.

The vessels are expected to make further stops in Spain, Portugal and Italy before continuing toward Gaza in October.

European Port Campaign

According to the coalition, the mission includes human rights advocates, trade union activists, elected representatives, journalists, medical professionals and other supporters of Palestinian rights.

At each port, organizers plan to work with local groups to pressure governments to block weapons and energy shipments to Israel, end diplomatic and military cooperation and impose sanctions.

“The Freedom Flotilla sails again because our governments continue to fail to uphold their obligations,” FFC Steering Committee member Zohar Chamberlain Regev said.

“At every port, we will carry the demand that Palestinians be free to live with dignity,” she added.

“In October, we intend to carry that demand and the solidarity of people around the world to Gaza’s shores.”

The coalition said public gatherings, media events and visits to the vessels would be organized during the European portion of the voyage.

Calls for Safe Passage

The FFC called on governments to demand safe and unobstructed passage for the vessels and to make clear that attacks, seizures or detentions involving flotilla participants would trigger consequences.

It also called for immediate and unrestricted access to Gaza and an end to Israeli restrictions on food, water, medicine and other essential supplies entering the enclave.

The coalition urged governments to use diplomatic, economic and legal measures to challenge the blockade and protect freedom of navigation.

“We know that sailing toward Gaza carries serious risks,” said Edward Digilio, an engineer from Maryland participating in the mission.

“But silence and inaction carry a much greater cost for Palestinians and the world,” he said.

Digilio described the mission as “an expression of shared humanity and a refusal to accept the destruction of an entire people as normal.”

Previous Flotilla Missions

The new voyage follows previous attempts to reach Gaza by sea.

Hundreds of participants in flotilla missions earlier this year were detained by Israeli forces. Participants reported beatings, tasering and sexual assault while in Israeli custody.

Amnesty International separately documented sleep deprivation, denial of water and medical care, and other forms of ill-treatment following Israeli interception of flotilla vessels.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition has organized maritime missions challenging the blockade since 2010, continuing efforts initiated by the Free Gaza Movement in 2008.

In May 2010, Israeli forces raided the Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara. Ten activists were killed as a result of the raid.

The coalition said its October mission would continue the campaign to challenge the blockade by sea while building public and political support through its European port stops.

Gaza Genocide

The new flotilla mission comes nearly three years into Israel's genocide in Gaza, where the population continues to face widespread displacement, destruction and severe restrictions on humanitarian access.

Despite the ceasefire announced in October 2025, Israeli attacks have continued across the Strip. On September 4, the UN Human Rights Office said 24 Palestinians, including four children and a woman, had been killed in Israeli attacks between August 28 and September 1 alone.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), most of Gaza's population of approximately 2.1 million remains displaced, while ongoing airstrikes continue to cause civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure.

The UN said this week that most Palestinians in Gaza are now confined to less than 40 percent of the territory because of Israeli access restrictions beyond the so-called "Orange" and "Yellow" lines. Humanitarian organizations also continue to face restrictions on bringing essential supplies into Gaza and reaching areas where assistance is needed.

OCHA reported in late August that an estimated 1.98 million Palestinians — 94 percent of Gaza's population — require shelter assistance and essential non-food items, while 58 percent face critical or catastrophic shelter needs.