

How you can make a difference:

- * Inform yourself, follow our website and social media, share our messages: <https://freedomflotilla.org/i-want-to-help/>
- * Learn about the Israeli theft of Palestinian undersea resources and the BDS campaign to expose the complicity of corporations like Chevron and Siemens that fuel Israeli apartheid.
- * Share information with others (family, friends, work colleagues). Write and publish.
- * Endorse the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, contact the campaign closest to you and mobilize others (send messages of support from unions, political parties or community associations).
- * Organize events to raise funds and awareness. Make a donation or offer to volunteer with us as land crew or passenger on land.
- * Come to our port stops to welcome our boat and send your solidarity towards the Palestinians of Gaza.



THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA COALITION IS SAILING FOR THE CHILDREN OF GAZA

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) will sail once again in 2023 as we resume our efforts to break the illegal land, air, and sea blockade of the Gaza Strip. As in previous years, the FFC will be stopping at various ports where, in coordination with local groups, we will raise collective awareness about Israel's illegal and inhumane occupation and blockade of Gaza. We are focusing on the severe effects this on-going crime against humanity has on children and youth, who represent the future of Palestine.



As communities emerge from the Covid pandemic, this year will see the FFC sail within Europe to build support for another non-violent, direct action challenge to Israel's inhumane blockade of Gaza. With preparations underway to sail towards Gaza in 2024, this year's sailing through multiple European ports will highlight the complicity of governments with Israel's apartheid regime, and raise media awareness about the blockade of Gaza.

This year's solidarity-building mission comes against the backdrop of the call, from the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organisations Network (PNGO), for serious pressure to be exerted in ending Israel's illegal blockade of Gaza. PNGO's call comes as the Palestinians of Gaza enter their sixteenth year under Israel's illegal blockade.

Despite the United Nation's repeated calls for action and its declaration that Gaza would be 'unlivable' by 2020, the humanitarian situation remains dire and unsustainable. Between growing food insecurity, increasing unemployment, severe restrictions on freedom of movement and constant military attacks by Israel, Gaza finds itself in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The UN's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan has stated that nearly 60% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million people, including over 1.2 million children, require urgent humanitarian aid.

MILLIONS OF PALESTINIAN KIDS ARE TRAPPED BY ISRAEL'S APARTHEID WALLS

The dire situation in Gaza also continues for its fishers. Fishing in Gaza, which more than 35,000 people depend on for their livelihood, is becoming increasingly precarious. The fishing trade, which is

Gaza's second largest after agriculture, is also restricted with Israeli Occupation Forces only 'permitting' Palestinian fishing as little as 3 nautical miles from the Gaza coast before they are likely to be attacked by Israeli gunboats.

The reliance on a small over-fished area along Gaza's coast has compounded Palestinian food insecurity in the enclave and exacerbated poverty levels. Israel denies Palestinians access to their own territorial waters, while pillaging Palestine's undersea resources.

In December 2021, the Israeli blockade on the Palestinian people in Gaza was tightened further when the Israelis erected a new iron wall. The wall, which runs above and underground and extends out to sea, stretches 65 km from Zikim beach in north Gaza to the Kerem Shalom crossing in the south. The wall further isolates the Gaza Strip from the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and ensures that Israel can continue to keep Palestinians of Gaza under its illegal blockade.

2023 also marks the emergence of the thirty-seventh government of Israel, formed following the 1 November 2022 election. The new six-party governing coalition is undoubtedly one of the most racist and right-wing governments in Israel's history. In the months since its inception, Israel's new government has already taken steps towards the implementation of an ultra-nationalist agenda that increasingly threatens the human security of Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territories. For Palestinians in Gaza, the growing political extremism in Israel threatens to further exacerbate their dire humanitarian situation.