











In Gaza, where 60 percent of the population lives under the poverty line, thousands of people lack homes because of the illegal Israeli embargo. Residents of about 4,000 houses that were destroyed in the latest Israeli offensive are living in tents or with their relatives, because the import of construction materials into Gaza is not allowed. There is also a shortage of urgently needed medicines due to the border restrictions. Many patients either become crippled or die due to a lack of adequate medication and medical equipment.

A major initiative is underway to deliver aid via the sea to the Gaza Strip, which has been under an embargo for over three years. Hundreds of concerned people will set out on 10 ships in May to take over 5,000 tons of relief aid and materials to Gaza.

The support of all the nations and organizations is needed to successfully carry out such a major aid campaign. In this regard, we are reiterating our call for co-operation and support from all the nations of the world to help the Palestinian people recover.









Goal

To support the Palestinian people, to show we do not recognize the arbitrary Israeli siege, to prove that the embargo/blockade can be legally broken and to deliver relief supplies to Gaza.



Organization

It is led by the Coalition of

IHH, The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief-Turkey

The Free Gaza Movement

The European Campaign to End the Siege of Gaza (ECESG)

Ship to Gaza-Greece

Ship to Gaza-Sweden.

However, it is supported by many individuals, groups and organizations around the world.



The date the Filotilla will set sail

The ships are planned to set off during the beginning of May 2010.



Route

Some passenger ships will depart from Istanbul and some from Athens and sail for Gaza in international waters, calling at the ports of Mersin, Turkey.

The ships laden with relief supplies, however, will call at Istanbul and Mersin ports. Some of the relief supplies will be loaded onto the ships at Istanbul, while supplies collected in Anatolian cities will be loaded at Mersin.



Relief Supplies

The Relief Supplies that will be carried in ships;

- Construction materials such as cement, iron, etc.
- Generators (over 100 KW)
- MR devices (preferably new or less than two years old)
- Ultrasound machines
- Dentist chairs and equipment
- CBC blood testing devices (preferably new or less than three years old)
- Electric wheelchairs



Participants

For individual participation in the flotilla the Participant Application Form should be filled in and emailed to filo@ihh.org.tr or faxed to 00 90 212 671 7051.

Individual applications will be evaluated and vetted by the IHH Gaza Ship Commission. Selected participants will have to sign a covenant.

Individual applications will be announced at least 15 days earlier than the sail out.



Participants

Participants from Turkey do not need visas, although they are required to carry passports that have a validity date of at least six months. However, participants from other countries are responsible for their own visa procedure for Turkey.

Participants should be between the ages 18 and 60, and those over 50 may be asked to provide medical documentation confirming they are fit for a long sea voyage.

Every participant should bring their own sleeping bag, clothes fit for stormy weather, and any medication they require .

The participants will return to Turkey in the same ships after delivering relief supplies to Gaza .



Relief supplies will be delivered to the Commission formed in Gaza.

There will be stay of between two and five days depending on the duration of programs in Gaza.

Hospitals, orphanages, etc will be visited and certain programs will be organized in Gaza.

The ships will be used for future aid shipments.







