

## Key Talking Points for Flotilla 2023:

Please review these BEFORE speaking to any media about the FFC: these are our primary FFC talking points, to be used in conjunction with our [FAQ](#), the additional points and the resources linked below. If you have any suggested changes or additions, please write to [mediawbg@gmail.com](mailto:mediawbg@gmail.com) and let your primary FFC media contact know as well.

<b>For the Children of Gaza: FFC 2023</b>		<b><i>We are sailing this year to:</i></b>	
<b><i>THREE key messages</i></b>	1. End Israel's illegal and inhumane blockade of Gaza, in line with the universal right to freedom of movement. Demand that Israel must allow children to travel freely, including to access medical care, study or visit relatives outside Gaza.	2. Challenge and end our governments' and many corporations' (including media) complicity in supporting the Israeli blockade, Occupation and Apartheid, which systematically deny rights of children and other Palestinians.	3. Affirm all the political, social, economic, cultural, civil and human rights of the Palestinian people, including the Right of Return, through active political solidarity, not charity.
<b><i>Proof points: Supporting Facts &amp; Stats</i></b>	<p>- Blockade denies the vast majority of people in Gaza: <a href="#">access to clean water</a>; <a href="#">sustained access to electricity</a>; sufficient food; adequate sanitation; and freedom of movement. Israel limits imports and exports causing extremely high unemployment.</p> <p>- Gaza is the only closed port (since 2007) on the Mediterranean.</p> <p>- Fishing limitations: just 3-6 nautical miles (attacks on fishing boats and on fishers).</p> <p>- Land crossing limits - <a href="#">Rafah crossing is closed most of the time</a> (UN report, <a href="http://gisha.org">gisha.org</a> )</p> <p>Israeli permits required to leave &amp; enter Gaza, inc for medical treatment. <a href="#">Gaza airport destroyed by Israeli Occupation Forces in Dec 2001/Jan 2002.</a></p>	<p>US, Canadian, UK, Germany, France, EU, and other governments are complicit with the Occupation and the blockade, e.g. :</p> <p>- military cooperation &amp; two-way arms trade with Israel, both arming and funding the Occupation;</p> <p>US military provides intelligence &amp; weaponry to bomb Gaza; provides bulldozers that demolish homes and schools</p> <p>Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, France, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, US, [among others] enacting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism (IHRA WDA), criminalising criticism of Israel]</p> <p>Many governments &amp; media are biased when they cover this; when they do they don't use the accurate term</p>	<p>Israel denies Palestinians their rights including:</p> <p><a href="#">Convention on the Rights of the Child</a> 1989 (freedom from incarceration; right to education, water, among others)</p> <p>UN General Assembly Res 194 (1948): <a href="#">Right of Return</a></p> <p><a href="#">UN Security Council Res 242</a> (1967): illegality of land seizure by force, just settlement for refugees;</p> <p><a href="#">4th Geneva Convention</a>: Rights of an occupied people, and illegality of: land seizures by an occupying power; settlements</p> <p><a href="#">International law</a></p>

	<p><a href="#">Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Article 13 including the Right of Return.</a></p>	<p>for Israel's occupation: Apartheid.</p> <p>Many corporations like Chevron &amp; Siemens are complicit in &amp; fuel Israeli Apartheid.</p>	<p><a href="#">prohibits collective punishment.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rome Statute and International Criminal Court: Crime of Apartheid.</a></p>
<p><b>Anecdotes &amp; Stories</b></p>	<p>Since birth, 1 million children in Gaza are robbed of their childhood; rights to safety, education, and health; and prospects for a just future; in the largest open air prison in the world. <a href="#">15 year olds have lived through four massive Israeli military attacks.</a></p> <p><a href="#">High rates of psychological trauma (Continuing Traumatic Stress Disorder not Post):</a> they have seen many parents, other family members and friends killed and wounded.</p> <p>Many children live among rubble as <a href="#">international community has failed to fulfil promises to finance &amp; ensure rebuilding post Israeli destruction.</a></p> <p>Shortage of <a href="#">education facilities, health services and supplies</a> and <a href="#">here too</a>)</p> <p>Personal stories of <a href="#">past JFP and WBG Flotilla participants</a> and via our partner in Gaza <a href="#">We Are Not Numbers</a></p>	<p>Direct actions against complicit corporations (e.g. <a href="#">Palestine Action against Elbit</a> in UK) as well as complicit politicians</p> <p>Journalist Dimitri Lascaris <a href="#">confronts Canadian officials about supporting Israeli apartheid.</a></p> <p>Governments and organizations are complicit in <a href="#">silencing criticism of Israel</a>: IHRA WDA used to silence Palestinians and solidarity activists speaking out for universal human rights.</p> <p>US State Department was asked to describe the situation under which Palestinians in the West Bank live: the <a href="#">spokesperson would not acknowledge that they are under occupation.</a></p> <p>Increasing <a href="#">UK</a> military collaboration with Israel (2023).</p> <p><a href="#">German company selling submarines to Israel.</a></p> <p><a href="#">BDS campaign</a> against Siemens and Chevron, re <a href="#">Israel's theft of Palestinian under sea resources.</a></p>	<p>Jews who cannot name a single relative who has ever lived in historic Palestine can become citizens in 48 hours while non-JewishPalestinian s, including 70% of residents in Gaza, many with title to their homes, cannot.</p> <p>Israeli military law forbids peaceful protest including the <a href="#">March of Return in Gaza (2018-9)</a>. However, the military (and <a href="#">settler community</a>) is rarely charged even for acts of murder and major acts of destruction (destroying olive groves, poisoning agriculture, burning cars, home demolitions)</p> <p>More than 800,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank on illegally occupied Palestinian land.</p> <p>No access to fishing, other marine resources, travel and trade by sea (<a href="#">film. "6 Miles Out"</a> from <a href="#">We Are Not Numbers</a>; our</p>

	In 2018 (70th anniversary of Nakba) <a href="#">#GreatReturnMarch</a> .		partner UAWC represents fishers & farmers in Gaza).
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### ALSO PLEASE KEEP IN MIND:

- We are challenging the Israeli **blockade** of Gaza, where over 2 million Palestinians, more than half of them children under 18, live under a **blockade** (not a 'siege' : if Gaza were under siege, that would mean it is not occupied by Israel).
- There are [over 2 million Palestinians living in Gaza](#). Of these, over two-thirds are refugees from other parts of Palestine, as a result of the 1948 Nakba.
- Gaza has been occupied since 1967 and [continues to be occupied today](#). The 2005 'withdrawal' of Israeli settlers & troops was simply a redeployment of the occupation to the edges of the occupied territory, from where Israeli Occupation Forces attack at will to kill and maim Palestinians in Gaza. (Note that removing settlers does not mean an end to occupation; per the Geneva Conventions, settlers are illegal in all occupied territories.) Israel still maintains effective control of the borders of Gaza, as well as all ID and travel documents, currency & the economy. The UK Foreign Office, Canada, Australia, the EU, the UN, and all major international organizations recognize the occupation. The claim that 'Israel no longer occupies Gaza' is [rejected by the UN](#) among others.
- We use the term **Israeli Occupation Forces** (IOF) rather than Israeli Defense Forces or IDF to highlight the actual role of the Israeli Military, which is not "defense".
- Gaza is often called the world's largest open-air prison, though in many ways the conditions are much worse than a prison (for example, prisoners are usually not bombed, they usually have access to safe drinking water, and a specific release date).
- Israel has created an apartheid state, which depends on segregation and restricting the right of movement (among other repressive systems and human rights violations). See [https://www.cjpme.org/apartheid\\_list](https://www.cjpme.org/apartheid_list) among other resources.
- We refer to the **Palestinians of Gaza**, or **Palestinian people in Gaza** (not "Gazans" or "people of Gaza"). This is a long-standing request from our Palestinian allies in Gaza, to emphasize the territorial unity of Palestine, and that more than two thirds of the people in Gaza are Palestinians whose home is in what is now called Israel.
- the folks on board our vessels are PARTICIPANTS (some of them CREW), never PASSENGERS

## Some Useful Links

Campaign Against the Arms Trade - <https://caat.org.uk/data/countries/israel/>  
Palestine Action - <https://www.palestineaction.org/>

Search: <https://visualizingpalestine.org/#visuals>

e.g. US military aid to Israel:

<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/end-30b-of-us-military-aid-to-israel-weapons>

System of silencing: <https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/system-of-silencing>

Decolonize Palestine: <https://decolonizepalestine.com/>

(War on Want, [Campaign Against the Arms Trade](#), World BEYOND War, Visualizing Palestine, etc.):

Chevron/Siemens: <https://freedomflotilla.org/israeli-theft-of-gaza-resources/>

<https://bdsmovement.net/Call-to-Boycott-Chevron-Siemens>

## Apartheid

Amnesty International report (2022)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>

## Local/National Groups

Norway: Palestine Committee of Norway - <https://palestinakomiteen.no/>

England/Wales: Palestine Solidarity Campaign - <https://www.palestinecampaign.org/>

Scotland: Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign - <https://www.scottishpssc.org.uk/>

Ireland: Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign - <https://www.ipsc.ie/>

France: Plateforme Palestine - <https://plateforme-palestine.org/>

Netherlands: Rotterdam Voor Gaza - <http://www.rotterdamvoorgaza.nl>

German: Palästina Spricht - [www.palaestinaspricht.de/](http://www.palaestinaspricht.de/); Deutsch-Palästinensische Gesellschaft e.V. -

<https://dpg-netz.de/> and AG Palästina - <https://attac.hamburg/ag-palaestina/>

## Handala

<https://prc.org.uk/en/post/4434/prc-holds-webinar-commemorating-naji-al-ali-s-eternal-legacy>

## Education

<https://gazaunlocked.org/resources/education-under-blockade>

<https://prc.org.uk/en/post/4279/document-gaza-s-children-deprived-of-their-right-to-education-june-2021>

## Military Collaboration

German company selling Israel submarines:

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-signs-34-bln-submarines-deal-with-thyssenkrupp-2022-01-20/>

## Military expenditure

<https://twitter.com/ajplus/status/1650380298016677891> (US)

## Military attacks

<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/four-wars-old-animation>

At 10 June 2023

## **Health**

[https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/15\\_years\\_of\\_blockade\\_and\\_health\\_in-gaza.pdf](https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/15_years_of_blockade_and_health_in-gaza.pdf)

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/gaza-health-access-2022-who-factsheet/>

Mental Health/Emotional Distress/Depression

Israel's War on Children. Palestinian Psychiatrist Dr Yasser Abu Jamei, Gaza Community Mental Health:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q65fXq7hbJ4>

<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/deterioration-mental-health-situation-gaza-strip>

## **Water**

<https://visualizingpalestine.org/visuals/gaza-water-confined-and-contaminated>

<https://www.waterjusticeinpalestine.org/weeklyfacts>

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/how-israel-weaponises-water-gaza-strip>

## **Electricity**

<https://al-shabaka.org/briefs/confronting-energy-poverty-in-gaza/>

[https://www.btselem.org/gaza\\_strip/20201029\\_gaza\\_electricity\\_crisis\\_deepens\\_summer\\_2020](https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/20201029_gaza_electricity_crisis_deepens_summer_2020)

## **Miscellaneous:**

Airport destroyed: <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-199706/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/08/31/344329313/gazas-shattered-airport-once-a-symbol-of-sovereignty>

Collective punishment - International Law: <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule103>

Reconstruction failure:

[https://www.btselem.org/gaza\\_strip/20190303\\_13000\\_gazans\\_homelss\\_since\\_2014\\_war](https://www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/20190303_13000_gazans_homelss_since_2014_war)

Great Return March - <https://freedomflotilla.org/life-in-gaza/#march-of-return>

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance:

C - critique includes <https://www.noihra.ca/> <https://www.jewishvoiceforlabour.org.uk/search?s=ihra>

Palestinian NGO Network: <https://freedomflotilla.org/2023/02/24/responding-to-pngo-call/>

UNRWA Gaza <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip>

MECA for Peace, Gaza <http://www.mecaforpeace.org/blog/gaza-women-suffering-struggling>

Roger Waters video of support for a previous flotilla -

<https://wbg.freedomflotilla.org/news/solidarity/roger-waters-supports-womens-boat-to-gaza>