



To the President of the European Commission
Ursula von der Leyen

Bruxelles, 18/05/2026

URGENT – *Immediate diplomatic intervention and consular protection for EU citizens detained on the "Global Sumud Flotilla"*

Dear President von der Leyen,

we write to you with the utmost urgency regarding the severe events unfolding today in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The "Global Sumud Flotilla"—a peaceful humanitarian convoy of civilian vessels—has been intercepted and boarded by Israeli military forces in international waters near Cyprus. Communications have been jammed and dozens of human rights defenders are currently being unlawfully detained and forcibly transferred to the Israeli port of Ashdod.

This military assault against civilian ships in international waters is a flagrant violation of international maritime law and the freedom of navigation. The European Union cannot tolerate such open contempt for legality and international law, which directly threatens the safety and fundamental rights of our citizens.

We urgently request the European Commission and the EEAS to deploy all diplomatic channels to guarantee the physical integrity, legal defense and full consular protection of our fellow citizen, ensuring their immediate release and safe return.

The European Union has a fundamental duty to defend the rule of law and protect its citizens. We trust in your prompt intervention.

Sincerely,

Danilo Della Valle

Mimmo Lucano

Carolina Morace

Cecilia Maria Strada

Dario Tamburrano

Giuseppe Antoci

Leoluca Orlando

Benedetta Scuderi

Brando Benifei

Gaetano Pedullà

Pasquale Tridico

Valentina Palmisano

Mario Furore

Members of the European Parliament