

ECCP
EUROPEAN COORDINATION OF COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS
FOR PALESTINE

To the attention of Mrs. Catherine ASHTON,
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission

Brussels, July 4th, 2011.

Re: **“Let them sail”**

Madam the High Representative,

You endorsed the Quartet statement, published Saturday July 2nd, which calls for all Governments to prevent the departure of the pacific and humanitarian Flotilla to Gaza.

This Flotilla composed of American, Canadian and European boats is a noble expression of civil society solidarity denouncing the illegal blockade imposed by Israel on the population of Gaza.

By stating, in reference to Gaza, « that Israel has legitimate security concerns that must continue to be safeguarded », you become an accomplice in the blockade of Gaza and you deny to the peoples of Europe the right to act in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, the humanitarian law and the 1860 Resolution of the United Nations Security Council.

By referring, in the context of the Flotilla, to « possible illicit trafficking of arms and ammunitions into Gaza » and by accepting that aid should be delivered to Gaza « through established channels » under Israeli control, you fall into line with the occupying power and the oppressor of the Palestinian population.

You are well aware that all the captains of the boats in this Flotilla have officially required their cargo to be checked by Greek, European or United Nations inspectors. The EU position is contrary to the vision of Europe we defend, namely promoting Human Rights and Humanitarian and International Law.

We call urgently upon you to denounce the blockade that has been imposed for the past 4 years on the Gaza population and to support the just demands and the brave actions of European citizens to end this blockade.

Madam, join the civil society call: « Let them sail », in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Yours sincerely,



Pierre GALAND.
Chairman of European Coordination of Associations and Committees for Palestine.

Cc: Press.