



Ambasciata d'Italia
25th March Street n 11
2408 Engomi (Nicosia)

Subject: Protection of Civilians Aboard Humanitarian Mission Global Sumud Flotilla – Ongoing Attack, International Law Violations

I write to bring to your urgent attention the enormous and imminent risk facing your nationals aboard vessels engaged in a peaceful humanitarian mission under the Global Sumud Flotilla, who are currently being intercepted and boarded by Israeli authorities within the Cyprus search and rescue zone.

The safe and unimpeded passage of these vessels is protected under international law, including the UNCLOS Treaty. This notice invokes the binding legal obligations of states under international law, including, in particular:

- The European Convention on Human Rights (Articles 2, 3, 5, and 6),
- The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 6, 7 and 9,
- UNCLOS article 98 and customary international law which casts a duty on states to provide assistance to people in distress everywhere at sea, anchored on the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS, 1974) the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR, 1979), and UNCLOS (1982),
- Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), which casts a duty on the EU on the international scene, to be guided by the principles of democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law,
- Article 8(2)(b)(xxv) of the Rome Statute which prohibits acts that impede humanitarian relief in conflict zones.

There are thirty-five Italian nationals participating in this mission, and eight vessels involved in the mission are sailing under the Italian flag.

It is recalled that during the recent flotilla mission in April 2026, over 20 boats were unlawfully intercepted by Israel inside Greek search and rescue area, their passengers were abducted, tortured and unlawfully imprisoned, without



receiving assistance from the Greek government in breach of their legal duties and responsibilities.

At that time, communications were jammed and should a similar situation happen, and communications are jammed again, we emphasise that the coastal authorities of Cyprus are under increased duty to monitor closely its SAR area to ensure that assistance is provided to vessels in distress that are blocked from sending a distress signal.

Cyprus as the coastal authority is under a duty to closely monitor its SAR area to ensure that assistance is provided to vessels in distress, even if the vessels are blocked from sending a distress signal. The precedent of the perpetrator jamming communications, as observed in the Greek SAR zone, places an increased duty on Cyprus, as a coastal state, to be alert to provide lifesaving assistance to the crew even in the absence of a distress signal. There is currently an imminent risk to the lives of your nationals on board these vessels, casting legal duties upon your diplomatic mission to take steps to ensure their safety.

I urgently request that you use your influence, within your diplomatic mandate, to urge the Cypriot government to uphold its international and European legal obligations and to deter and counter any unlawful act of interception or other unlawful intervention against civilian, unarmed humanitarian vessels sailing within the Cypriot SAR zone.

This communication is intended to place the relevant authorities on formal notice of the imminent and foreseeable risk faced by the civilians aboard the mission.

Please accept my sincere regards and appreciation.

18.05.2026