



The Flotilla to the Gaza Strip (Update No. 1)

July 24, 2018

Overview

Three flotilla boats have set sail to the Gaza Strip: on **July 21, 2018**, the *al-Awda* left the port of Palermo, Sicily; on July 22, 2018, **the *Huriya* and *Falestine* also set sail. There are about 40 passengers on board** (Freedom Flotilla Coalition Facebook page, July 22 and 23, 2018). The fourth boat, the *Mairead*, did not set sail because of what was described as crew issues. The information we currently possess about the flotilla participants is the following:¹

The *Huriya*



**The passengers aboard the *Huriya*
(Ship to Gaza – Sweden blog, July 22, 2018).**

► There are 12 passengers aboard the *Huriya*. **One of the new passengers is Richard Sudan, a correspondent for the British-based Iranian TV channel Press TV, who boarded the ship in Palermo** (Press TV Facebook page, July 22, 2018). **Press TV is affiliated with the Iranian regime.** Its broadcasts are aimed principally at Western countries. Its correspondent to the flotilla, Richard Sudan, is **also an anti-Israeli political activist from London**, whose articles have been published in various newspapers

¹ Update to the July 22, 2018 bulletin, "A "flotilla" of three small boats has begun its voyage to the Gaza Strip, expected to arrive around the end of July 2018, having conducted a propaganda tour of several European ports." We do not yet have a full picture of the situation.

(including The Independent, The Guardian, the Washington Spectator and The Huffington Post). On July 1, 2015, he wrote an article for the Russia Today channel dealing with Israel's halting of the Swedish ship *Marianne* which was en route to the Gaza Strip that same year. **He wrote he was supposed to have been aboard one of the flotilla ships.** An examination of his Facebook page indicates **he holds anti-Israeli positions.** He is apparently a Muslim, hinted at by a picture he posted of a Ramadan fast-breaking meal (Facebook page of Richard Sudan, May 24, 2018).



**Richard Sudan aboard the *Huriya*
(from his Facebook page, July 23, 2018).**

► **Other passengers aboard the *Huriya*:**²

- ◆ **John Turnbull:** captain during the last stage of the voyage (replacing Jens Marklund).
- ◆ **Anna Dressler:** social activist living in Sweden.
- ◆ **Ferry Sarpooshan:** pro-Palestinian Swedish activist.
- ◆ **Ellen Hansson:** singer, writer and human rights activist from Gothenburg, Sweden (Facebook page of Ellen Hansson).

² In this update the information appearing in the previous bulletin has not been repeated, only the names and occupations have been mentioned. Information is given about new participants.



Ellen Hansson
(Press TV YouTube channel, July 22, 2018).

- ◆ **Paco Canales:** Spanish activist. According to a lone report, may be a member of the Alajar, Andalusia city council (kaosenlared.net, July 17, 2018).



Paco Canales
(from his Facebook page, May 1, 2018).

- ◆ **Pascal Maurieras:** French activist (from a video posted to the Ship to Gaza – Sweden Facebook page by Divina Levrini, July 19, 2018).



Pascal Maurieras
(from a video posted to the Ship to Gaza – Sweden Facebook page by Divina Levrini, July 19, 2018).

- ◆ **Collan Staiger:** Swedish activist (from a video posted to the Ship to Gaza – Sweden Facebook page by Divina Levrini, July 20, 2018).



Collan Staiger
(from a video posted to the Ship to Gaza
– Sweden Facebook page by Divina Levrini, July 20, 2018).

► **The names of the passengers aboard the *al-Awda***

- ◆ **Herman Reksten:** Norwegian. Ship's captain. In 2012 and 2015 participated in flotillas to the Gaza Strip and was detained by Israel (Bergensavisen website, April 27, 2018).



Herman Reksten
(Bergensavisen website, April 27, 2018).

- ◆ **Charlie Andreasson:** Swedish activist, ship's first officer.
- ◆ **Zohar Chamberlain Regev:** Israeli living in Spain.
- ◆ **Mikkei Grüner:** Danish-born Norwegian politician.
- ◆ **Divina Levrini:** Swedish singer and human rights activists. Moved from the *Huriya* to the *al-Awda*.



Divina Levrini
(from her Twitter account, June 28, 2018).

- ◆ **Jan Petter Hammervold:** head of the Lillehammer branch of the Norwegian Boat to Gaza campaign. Ship's cook.
- ◆ **Jørgen Pedersen:** Chef from Oslo. Ship's cook for the final stage of the flotilla. Has been active in demonstrations protesting the "Israeli occupation" (Freedom Flotilla Coalition website, July 18, 2018).



Jørgen Pedersen
(from his Facebook page, October 6, 2016).

- ◆ **Arne Birger Heli:** naval mechanic; *al-Awda's* mechanic. Head the Palestinian Committee in Drammen, Norway. Visited Judea and Samaria a number of times (Freedom Flotilla Coalition website, July 23, 2018).



Arne Birger Heli
(Freedom Flotilla Coalition website, July 23, 2018).

- ◆ **Professor Gerd von der Lippe:** sociologist specializing in sports. Vice president of the Ship to Gaza – Norway organization and its representative to the flotilla.
- ◆ **Dr. Ang Swee Chai:** orthopedic surgeon from Britain, flotilla doctor.
- ◆ **Mike Treen:** human rights activist and workers' union leader from New Zealand.
- ◆ **Professor Mohd Afandi Salleh:** representative of New Zealand for the final stage of the flotilla.
- ◆ **Chris Graham:** edits the independent Australian website New Matilda.
- ◆ **Joe Meadors:** representative of the American branch of Freedom Flotilla Coalition to the flotilla.
- ◆ **Lucia Mazarrasa Alvear:** Rumbo a Gaza representative.
- ◆ **Professor Mazen Qamsia:** academician from Bethlehem.
- ◆ **Yonatan Shapira:** former Israeli Air Force helicopter pilot and one of the initiators of the 2003 "Pilots' Letter."
- ◆ **Emilia Nacher Verdaguer:** Spanish nurse. Rumbo a Gaza and BDS-Valencia activist (Freedom Flotilla Coalition website, July 5, 2018). Her presence aboard the *al-Awda* needs further verification.



Emilia Nacher Verdaguer
(Freedom Flotilla Coalition website, July 5, 2018).

- ◆ **Sarah Claude Katz:** member of the UJFP, the French Jewish Union for Peace.
- ◆ **Larry Commodore:** Canadian activist (Canada Boat to Gaza website, July 16, 2018).



Larry Commodore (right)
(from his Facebook page, July 27, 2018).

► **The names of the passengers aboard the *Faestine*:**

- ◆ **Andreas Gustafsson** or **Andréas Gustavfsson:** ship captain (Ship to Gaza – Sweden Facebook page, July 19, 2018).



Andreas Gustafsson
(from a video posted to the Ship to Gaza
– Sweden Facebook page by Divina Levrini, July 19, 2018).

- ◆ **Jan Strömdahl:** a former member of the Swedish parliament.



Jan Strömdahl
(aftonbladet.se, May 15, 2018).

- ◆ **Nils Andersson:** Swedish activist



Nils Andersson
(from a video posted to the Ship to Gaza
– Sweden Facebook page by Divina Levrini, July 19, 2018).

- ▶ Another participant (unclear on which boat he is a passenger):
 - ◆ **Gabor Tiroler**: a Swedish-Jewish activist (Ship to Gaza – Sweden Facebook page, July 21, 2018).



Gabor Tiroler
(from an article by Richard Sudan,
from the Press TV Facebook page, July 21, 2018).

- ▶ **Note: Muhammad al-Sa'ud**, a Jordanian member of parliament, was supposed to sail on the *Falestine*. On July 24, 2018, Zaher Birawi, one of the flotilla's organizers, announced that on July 22, 2018, al-Sa'ud left the flotilla for "reasons of health" (Facebook page of "the international committee for breaking the siege on the Gaza Strip" July 24, 2018).