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## Global Flotilla Near Gaza Faces Imminent Israeli Interception Threat



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Ships from the Global Sumud Flotilla sailing toward the Gaza Strip are bracing for possible interception by Israeli forces as they near a designated high-risk zone in the eastern Mediterranean, according to Italian daily La Stampa.

Two of the flotilla's vessels, Jeannot III and Estrella, continue their course with an expected arrival in three days. Activists warn, however, that an Israeli intervention could occur within hours.

“We are about 200 miles from the Gaza Strip, two or three days of sailing. Most likely tonight or tomorrow we will be intercepted by the Israeli army,” said Yassine Lafram, president of the Union of Islamic Communities of Italy (UCOII), in a video message from aboard the vessel Karma. He condemned any such action as “piracy and kidnapping” and stressed that the mission remains determined to deliver humanitarian aid and challenge the blockade on Gaza.

Italian activist Tony La Piccirella added that the flotilla is soon to enter the interception zone, calling Israel's naval blockade unlawful and warning that peace initiatives offered so far amount to “total surrender” of Palestinian rights.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, comprised of nearly 50 ships and more than 500 activists, set sail earlier this month carrying medical and humanitarian supplies. Its mission aims to break Israel's blockade, which has worsened conditions in Gaza where relentless bombardment since October 2023 has killed over 66,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and triggered famine.