

## **Statistics on the Hijacking of the Spirit of Humanity**

- The Spirit of Humanity (MV Arion) is a converted inter-island ferry and Greek-registered boat.
- The Spirit departed Larnaca Port on 29 June for an estimated 30 hour voyage to the Gaza Strip.
- The ship carried 3 tons of medical aid, crayons and children's toys, 20 olive tree saplings, 1 bag (50 kilos) of cement, and 20 reconstruction "kits" meant to highlight the need for reconstruction materials in Gaza.
- Aboard were 21 passengers and crew representing 12 different countries: Bahrain, Denmark, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Palestine, Scotland, Tunisia, the UK, the US, and Yemen.
- The passengers included 6 journalists, 4 long-term human rights workers, 2 documentary film makers, 1 nurse, as well as Nobel laureate Mairead Maguire, and former U.S. congresswoman Cynthia McKinney.
- 4 days prior to the Spirit's departure, as well as immediately after departure, an "Official Notification" letter was emailed and faxed to Israeli government officials in the PM's office, the Foreign Ministry, and the Department of the Navy, as well as posted on our website. This letter detailed our intent to sail to Gaza, our legal authority to make this voyage, and clearly stated we were unarmed and posed no threat to either the State of Israel or its armed forces.
- Several press releases were also sent out to all major media outlets, including Israeli media.
- Prior to departure, we provided appropriate Cypriot authorities with a complete passenger list and cargo manifest.
- All passengers were cleared by Cypriot immigration officials prior to boarding the Spirit, and the ship and cargo were checked by port authorities and security personnel before departure.
- A complete passenger list and cargo manifest was posted to our website and emailed to our mailing list (over 2,400 individuals and organizations) immediately after the ship's departure from Cyprus.
- At 01:00 am on the morning of 30 June, approximately half-way through the estimated voyage and 82 miles off the coast of Israel in international waters, Israeli warships began harassing the Spirit, shining spotlights into the ship and threatening

to open fire if it did not return to Cyprus. This was over 100 miles from Gaza, clearly in international waters.

- From approximately 01:30-06:30am on 30 June, in violation of international maritime law, Israeli forces actively jammed all navigation systems aboard the Spirit, including the radar, GPS, and SPOT locator.
- By daylight, when the Spirit attempted to radio UN ships in the area for assistance, Israeli forces jammed Channel 16 – a blatant violation of international maritime law, directly endangering the welfare of the civilian passengers aboard the ship.
- At 15:00pm on 30 June, Israeli military commandos forcibly boarded the Spirit, commandeering the ship to Israel at gunpoint, confiscating the cargo and boat, arresting and detaining the 21 passengers for up to a week, before deporting them to their home countries for “illegally entering Israel.”
- When the Spirit was hijacked, the ship was approximately 19 miles off the coast of Gaza, in neutral waters belonging to Palestine. Israel does not possess legal authority to stop the ship.
- Israeli spokespeople have stated that the medical aid may be delivered to Gaza via land crossings if “appropriate,” but have not addressed the issue of the confiscated ship or the rest of the cargo.