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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.6.2026)

The EU has been clear in calling for the immediate release of flotilla members. During the detention of flotilla members in April, the High Representative/Vice-President was in direct contact with Foreign Affairs Minister of Israel and urged him to ensure their safety and dignity in detention. The EU Delegation to Israel has also been following closely the situation on the ground and has been in contact with Member States who have the primary responsibility for consular issues.

The EU respects the intentions of activists to raise awareness about the catastrophic situation in Gaza and shares the same goals: the immediate and essential delivery of humanitarian aid, end of suffering in Gaza, and respect for international humanitarian law. However, the EU encourages the delivery of humanitarian assistance through traditional means, which are more effective and safer. The EU has reiterated its call on Israel to respect international law, including international humanitarian law and international maritime law. No use of force, including seizures or attacks, against vessels in international waters is acceptable.

Every detained person must be treated with safety and dignity in line with international humanitarian law. The EU has repeatedly called on the Israeli government to ensure the protection and dignified treatment of all detainees.