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Foreign minister Margot Wallström's reply to our letter

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Utrikesdepartementet
Utrikesminister

Jeanette Escanilla
Ship to Gaza Sweden

Tack för ditt brev daterat den 3 augusti 2018.

Situationen som råder i Gaza är mycket kritisk. EU:s generalsekreterare Antonio Guterres har beskrivit läget som en humanitär katastrof och som de största riskerna på självständighetsområdet, inte minst efter att så många människor stupats då israelisk militär stötte in i samband med demonstrationer längs med Gazas gränser de senaste veckorna.

EU och Sverige verkar för att situationen i Gaza ska lösa och utbyggnaden upphöra. Regeringen har kontaktat Israel om att släppa ut gästfrågarna som ägnas för humanitär hjälp, handelsvaror och personer. Detta är av yttre värde en humanitär lösning till Gaza såväl som.

Sverige väntar på att kunna få ut svar från Israel. Regeringen har varit i kontakt med israeliska myndigheter rörande Ship to Gaza och har skickat ett svar om de israeliska myndigheterna i förhållande till den svenska flaggade fartyget Freedom och personerna ombord såsom såväl i förhållande till fartyget som till de personer som befann sig ombord såväl som. Sverige har också i Tel Aviv bett om att återvända utomlands med hjälp av svenska myndigheter i samband med de senaste veckorna under veckorna den 3 augusti.

Regeringen kommer att fortsätta verka för att lösa på konflikten mellan Israel och Palestina och för en större och hållbar värdelösning där två stater kan existera fredligt sida vid sida. Att lösa situationen i Gaza och lösa med humanitära sätt till Gazanerna är två betydande och viktiga steg på vägen.

Margot Wallström

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[1]

Ship to Gaza has now received an answer to [the open letter](#) [2] that we, through our chairman Jeanette Escanilla, have sent to the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margot Wallström on August 5:th.

The Minister writes:

"Sweden upholds the principle of freedom of the seas and freedom of navigation. The government has been in contact with the Israeli authorities regarding Ship to Gaza, and has expressed that the actions of the Israeli authorities in relation to the Swedish-flagged vessel Freedom and the persons onboard constitutes a breach of international law. The government has also demanded that the ship, its cargo and the persons who were aboard be released." (Translated by Ship to Gaza)

Wallström's full reply can be read below. Ship to Gaza wishes to emphasize that the wording in the cited paragraph in principle corresponds with our own demands that the crew, cargo and boat should be returned to the place where they were boarded and be allowed to continue their journey to Gaza. We are now being notified that the activists and crew is being deported from Israel. This is not in agreement with our demands or with the requests of the Swedish government.

We also want to know what the Swedish government is doing now to enforce the demands regarding our ships, cargo and crew, but even more importantly, also with regards to the blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Thank you for your letter dated 5th of August 2018.

The situation in Gaza is very critical. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has described the situation as a humanitarian crisis. Furthermore, as you wrote, the lack of medical supplies is disastrous, not least since so many people have been injured as Israeli military has been deployed in connection with demonstrations along Gaza's border in recent months.

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The Swedish government will continue to work towards an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and towards a fair and sustainable two-state solution in which the two states can co-exist, peacefully, side by side. Ending the isolation of Gaza and providing humanitarian aid to its people are two critical, urgent steps towards that end.

(Translated by Ship to Gaza)

[3] [4]

Links

[1] https://shiptogaza.se/sites/default/files/pressreleaseImages/skarmklipp_svar_0.png

[2] <https://shiptogaza.se/en/news/open-letter-government-sweden>

[3] <https://shiptogaza.se/print/2404>

[4] <https://shiptogaza.se/printpdf/2404>