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— REALIZZA IL CAMBIAMENTO —

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Segretariato Internazionale
Johannesburg

18th May 2026

Ms. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

Dear Ms. Metsola,

We write to bring to your urgent attention the imminent risk facing 52 vessels carrying hundreds of civilians from over 45 countries engaged in a peaceful humanitarian mission to deliver aid to Gaza. As the Global Sumud Flotilla nears Gaza, Israel has accelerated its rhetoric in an attempt to manufacture consent for what we predict will be a violent illegal interception in international waters. We anticipate this will be an escalation from the 29 April interception of the Flotilla that occurred inside Greek territorial/search and rescue area, where 180 civilians were abducted and reported sexual abuse and torture.

The safe and unimpeded passage of these vessels is not only a moral imperative, but is protected under international law:

- The European Convention on Human Rights (Articles 2, 3, 5, and 6),
- The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Article 6, 7 and 9,
- UNCLOS article 98 and customary international law which casts a duty on states to provide assistance to people in distress everywhere at sea, anchored on the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS, 1974) the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR, 1979), and UNCLOS (1982),
- Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), which casts a duty on the EU on the international scene, to be guided by the principles of democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, and
- Article 8(2)(b)(xxv) of the Rome Statute which prohibits acts that impede humanitarian relief in conflict zones.

At a time when the catastrophe and ongoing genocide in Gaza continue to deepen, it is essential for all governments to take a collective and principled public position. This appeal goes beyond political affiliation or institutional positioning. At stake are fundamental principles of international humanitarian and maritime law, the protection of civilians engaged in humanitarian missions, and the responsibility of institutions toward their own citizens.

We urgently request that you use your influence and diplomatic mandate to help ensure the Flotilla's safe passage to Gaza by issuing a public statement in its support and calling for its protection. Failure to act urgently may lead to their unlawful interception, abduction, detention, mistreatment and potential death. We urge you to uphold your responsibilities under international law which casts legal duties upon your government to respond.

Katia Scannavini and Lorenzo Eusepi
Co-Secretary Generals ActionAid International Italy E.T.S.

