

Gaza Freedom Flotilla, BDS & Banned from Israel

A talk by
Colonel Ann Wright

and fundraiser for the 2018
Gaza Freedom Flotilla that will
sail this summer

Retired US Army Colonel and former US diplomat Ann Wright, who resigned from the US government in 2003 in opposition to the war on Iraq and who has been on three Freedom Flotillas including the most recent 2016 Women's Boat to Gaza, will give an update on deteriorating conditions in Gaza and challenges to Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

If you cannot come to Ann Wright's talk, please consider donating here:
<https://freedomflotilla.org/>



Wednesday, February 21, 2018 7–9 pm

San José Peace and Justice Center

48 South 7th Street
San José, CA 95112

Bus routes: 22, 522, 23, 63, 64, 72, 73, 81, Hwy 17 Express, MST 55, Dash, LRT, 66, 68, 168, 181

Open to the public

Info: 408-297-2299 | coordinator@sanjosepeace.org | sanjosepeace.org

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The Israeli Blockade of Gaza and its Impact on Gaza Fishermen

On the windy evening of January 4, 2017, 33-year-old Muhammad al-Hissi of Gaza set out with 13 of his brothers, cousins and uncles to make a living the only way they know how: fishing. But he never came home.

The family was spread out in three different boats, with the waves choppy and stiff, when the Israeli Navy appeared on the scene. The 60-ton ship rammed into Muhammad's wooden boat and crushed it like a rock on an egg. Palestinian fishermen and the Israeli navy searched for Muhammad for three days, but his body was never found.

Muhammad was one of two Palestinian fishermen killed by the Israeli Navy in 2017. Four others were injured, 14 were detained and five boats were seized. However, shootings at Gaza fishermen by the Israeli Navy are daily occurrences, terrorizing and forcing many to abandon the sea. This pattern is set to continue into 2018 with the decision in December 2017 by Israeli officials to restrict Gaza fishermen to 6 nautical miles instead of the recently-allowed 9 nautical miles (and only on the southern coast).

Approximately one billion people worldwide rely on fish as their primary protein source. Many of these people live in poverty and many of the world's 54 million fishers are also poor. Gaza, Palestine, a 43-km coastal strip of land, has traditionally depended heavily on its inshore fishery to feed its population of nearly 2 million Palestinians. Over the past nine years, the ability of Gaza's fishers to make a living from fishing has been severely undermined as a result of fishing access limits and restrictions along the Gaza coast, arbitrarily imposed by Israel.

Solidarity with Gaza Fishers is a campaign of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition which aims to link the struggle of Palestinian fishers in Gaza, under blockade and under constant attacks by Israel, with their counterparts in countries all over the world, and to build international civil society support for the end of Israel's illegal blockade of Gaza.

Freedom Flotilla Coalition partners in Gaza include the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, which represents Palestinian fishers.

<https://sgf.freedomflotilla.org>

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