



"Oliva" in Gaza:

Launch of international boat to monitor human rights in Palestinian waters



On Wednesday April 20th, the "Oliva", a human rights monitoring boat with an international crew, will launch from the port of Gaza City.

This initiative has the support of dozens of international organizations and numerous local Palestinian organizations.

The crew of the Civil Peace Service, which currently consists of citizens from Spain, the United States, Italy and Belgium, will accompany Gazan fishermen within Palestinian waters.

Violations of international law will be monitored and documented.

Data and video materials will be collected and disseminated.

Vittorio Arrigoni, the murdered human rights activist, strongly supported this project

and therefore a commemoration of his life and work will be held at the end of the press conference.

The launch of Oliva, an 8-meter long white motor boat, will inaugurate the Civil Peace Services mission in Palestinian waters.

Since Operation Cast Lead, access to fishing grounds has been unilaterally restricted by Israel to 3 nautical miles.

This dramatic reduction of the 20-mile limit which was agreed upon in the Oslo Accords

has resulted in the overexploitation of fishing grounds in which stocks are close to exhaustion.

Fishermen are threatened by gunfire, confiscation of their boats and fishing tools and arrest

by the Israeli Navy which regularly launches attacks and incursions in Palestinian waters.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, nearly 90% of Gaza's 4000 fishermen

are now considered either poor (with a monthly income of between 100 and 190 US dollars)

or very poor (earning less than 100 dollars a month), up from 50% in 2008.

The launching of the Oliva is a response to this situation of extreme vulnerability.

Dozens of international organizations are supporting this initiative which comes in cooperation with local organizations.

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights is an essential partner, providing legal expertise and training.

Other organizations who work closely with CPS Gaza are the Popular Struggle Coordination Committees, the Union of Agriculture Committees and Fishing and Marine Sports Association.

What: Launching of the Oliva

Where: City of Gaza Port

When: Wednesday, 20th of April at 10 am

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