

SUMUD 4 BRIEF & LETTER

URGENT APPEAL AS PALESTINE SOLIDARITY ORGANIZER'S LIFE IS AT RISK

Our urgent appeal

This is an urgent appeal from the Global Sumud Flotilla to the public figures, creators, and artists who stand with Palestine.

We're asking you to stand now with our Tunisian four organizers, criminalized by their own government for standing with Palestine and their role in the GSF missions to break Israel's illegal siege on Gaza. They've been detained for 6 months, and their lives are at risk.

Wael Naouar, lifelong human rights defender and father of two children, is now more than 30 days into his hunger strike.

He is barely conscious, unable to walk or speak, and his heart can stop at any moment.

[Sign the Letter.](#)

[Campaign Page.](#)

Who the Sumud 4 are, and why this matters

[Seven organizers](#) were arrested in March of this year on alleged financial crimes, the same tool Tunisian authorities have used, and continue to use, to shut down organizing for Palestine. **No credible evidence has been provided to substantiate the charges.**

Three were released. Four remain in prison, the Sumud 4: Wael Naouar, Nabil Channoufi, Ghassan Henchiri, and Ghassan Boughdiri.

This is a blatant attempt to punish those standing with a people facing genocide and ethnic cleansing, and it's part of a broader pattern: governments around the world are caving to US and Zionist pressure and moving to criminalize solidarity with Palestine.

All four are now on hunger strike in protest of their unjust detention. Three have been striking since September 10. Wael has been striking since August 16, and was already hospitalized once after losing consciousness on September 8. On September 11, a court extended their pre-trial detention for four more months.

They're striking inside conditions already killing people. Heatwaves have killed more than 20 prisoners in Tunisian detention facilities in recent weeks, per human rights monitors.

Why their detention is unjust

They are accused of money laundering and misappropriating donations. Yet:

- No donor has filed a complaint.
- The fundraising was public and known to the authorities.
- The funds were used for boats and equipment.
- A financial report was produced, and the remaining money was transferred to the official body designated to collect donations for Gaza.

This is a political case. Solidarity with Palestine is not a crime.

Timeline

March 4	Tunisian authorities officially deny the flotilla permission to depart from Tunisian ports for the Spring '26 mission.
March 6	Arrests begin. Seven organizers detained.
April - May	Three released under restrictive conditions (Sana Msahli, Jawaher Chana, Dr. Mohamed Amine Ben Nour). Four remain: the Sumud 4.
August 16	Wael begins his hunger strike.
September 5	The GSF Steering Committee sends a letter to the president of Tunisia with over 5,000 signatures calling for the Sumud 4's immediate release and the dropping of all charges.

September 8	Wael collapses. Hospitalized and receives oxygen but refuses IV.
September 10	Nabil, Ghassan Henchiri, and Ghassan Boughdiri join the hunger strike.
September 11	Court extends detention four more months. The four refuse to sign the official record.
September 14	Lawyer's prison visit finds Wael on the brink of death, 21 kg lost; Ghassan Henchiri down 10 kg in five days.

Tunisia's history with Palestine

Tunisia has a long, well-known history of standing with the Palestinian people. Tunisia is not being asked to become something new. It's being asked to remember the anticolonial values it has long, and sometimes at great cost, been committed to.

Our Demands

- Release the Sumud 4 immediately and unconditionally.
- Provide urgent medical care.
- Drop all charges and end the prosecutions.
- Lift all restrictions imposed on those already released.

What you can do

Pick whichever of these fits your platform, more than one is even better:

- **Sign** the [open letter](#) from artists and public figures.
- **Mobilize.** Create a post or shoot a video calling people to [send a letter](#) to the Tunisian embassy and to protest outside Tunisian consulates and embassies. Assets [here](#).
- **Use these lines**, ours or your own version of them:
 - "They stood with Palestine. Now, we stand with them."
 - "Free the Sumud 4."

The Sumud Four

Wael Naouar

GSF Steering Committee. Led the General Union of Tunisian Students. Father of two children ages 4 and 8.



Nabil Channoufi

GSF Steering Committee. Engineer. Father of two. Longtime Palestinian rights defender.



Ghassan HENCHIRI

Organizer since 2008. Urgently needs surgery for a head injury from the IOF last year and has been denied adequate medical care. Has already lost 10kg in hunger strike.



Ghassan Boughdiri

Engineer and organizer. Helped lead the Carrefour boycott and anti-normalization campaigns.

