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[Press release](#) | 09.06.2025

Detention of Madleen shows urgent need for aid to reach Gaza

Gaza

Early this morning, Israeli forces detained the private aid vessel 'Madleen' known as the Gaza freedom flotilla, in international waters as it was aiming to deliver aid supplies to Gaza. Israel must release the Madleen immediately together with the 12 volunteers on board. Amongst the volunteers are climate activist Greta Thunberg and Rima Hassan MEP.

Terry Reintke MEP, President of the Greens/EFA Group, comments:

"We condemn the detention of the Madleen and the twelve unarmed civilians on board. The Madleen was carrying humanitarian cargo; including baby formula, medical, and other life-saving supplies urgently needed for the population of Gaza who have endured months without adequate aid.

"The crew of the Madleen posed no threat, and were operating in full accordance with international maritime, humanitarian and human rights law. We urge respect for international obligations and the safety of all involved. International law is clear: People have the right to give and receive humanitarian aid."

Bas Eickhout MEP, President of the Greens/EFA Group, comments:

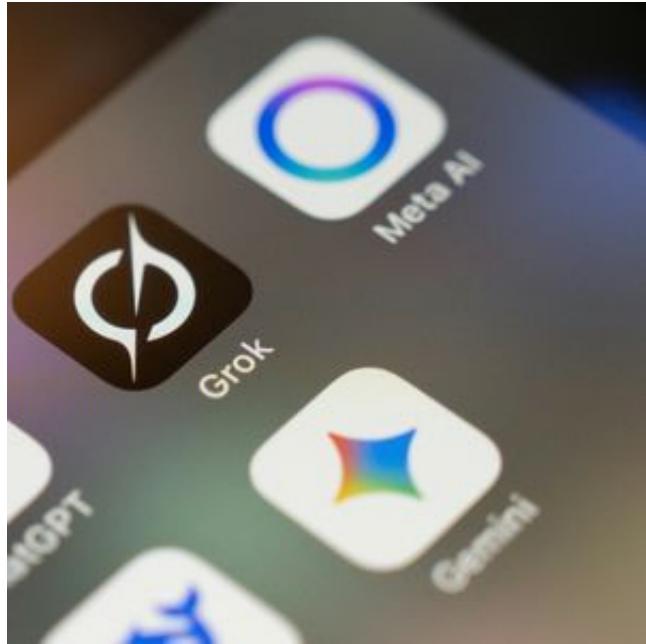
"The humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire and thousands are at risk of starvation. We stand in full support of this peaceful effort and underscore the urgent need for aid to reach the people of Gaza. Israel must respect that right and allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need. Blocking aid kills.

"We continue calling for the immediate suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and an immediate embargo on the export of arms and equipment that fuel the destruction in Gaza."

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