

Victoria activist prepares to defy Israeli naval blockade in Gaza

Written by

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Victoria activist Kevin Neish, a volunteer with the Free Gaza flotilla (Freegaza.org), begins the last leg of his journey to Gaza tomorrow. Neish and 50 other volunteers in Crete will board two ships, the Challenger I and II, joining eight other ships from ports around the world. The ships are carrying humanitarian aid and more than 800 volunteers committed to breaking the Israeli blockade of Gaza.

Israel is threatening to use military force to prevent medical supplies, school supplies, and construction materials from reaching villages in Gaza that have been under siege since 2008. Reports from the military indicate it will attempt to jam communications from the flotilla. Earlier aid shipments were boarded and everyone arrested by Israeli forces.

Neish says international law is on the side of the humanitarian group. "We have spent the last few days practicing non-violent means of preventing the Israeli navy from boarding and seizing the ship, as they have done in the past," he said on Monday.

After the ships arrive in Gaza, Neish will stay on to volunteer with the International Solidarity Movement (palsolidarity.org), acting as a human shield to assist and protect Palestinian workers repairing their water and sewer systems and fishing fleet. Neish will stay in Gaza for a few weeks or months depending on when the next Free Gaza ship can return.

Raw audio of Neish's May 24 interview with Chris Cook of Gorilla Radio is available here:

<http://www.gorilla-radio.com/index.php?id=377>

News and messages of support are posted regularly at www.FreeGaza.org

Video and up-to-the-minute information on the flotilla is available at www.WitnessGaza.org

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