

The Israeli navy stopped the so-called Sumud Flotilla on Thursday night as it attempted to break the blockade of Gaza. The 44 ships in the flotilla were carrying 500 pro-Palestinian activists from Europe to bring aid to Gaza. According to previous reports, the Israeli navy's action was non-violent. The former Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is among the arrested activists who are to be taken to the Israeli port of Ashdod and deported from there.

The activists had previously rejected offers from Italy, Greece and the Vatican to have the aid transported to Gaza via official channels. Italian Prime Minister Georgia Meloni had condemned this refusal.

This week, the Israeli army in Gaza seized documents proving that the activist flotilla was co-financed by the terrorist organization Hamas. Some of the ships with which the activists wanted to sail to Gaza belong to a Spanish front company called Cyber Neptun, which is run by a Hamas member, Saif Abu Kashk, and financed by Hamas. The Palestinian Conference for Palestinians Abroad (PCPA) also helped to organize the flotilla. The PCPA is regarded as the international arm of Hamas. Its representative in the UK, Zaher Birawi, has already been involved in organizing such flotillas in the past.