

**EMERGENCY PROTEST IN ALBUQUERQUE: LET THE FREEDOM FLOTILLA SHIPS SAIL!
STOP THE BLOCKADE!**

Dozens of activists from Albuquerque joined together in an emergency protest on Saturday, July 2 at the busy intersection of Central Avenue and Tulane to demand that the U.S. and Israel stop blocking the ships of the Freedom Flotilla II from sailing to Gaza in Palestine in solidarity with the people of Gaza. The action was called by the Albuquerque Network for Palestinian Rights (ANPR) and endorsed by the ANSWER Coalition of New Mexico.

The U.S.-backed Israeli blockade of Gaza continues to deprive the people there of food, water, medicine, healthcare and other basic necessities of life, causing great suffering among the people. "The Freedom Flotilla II is a powerful expression of international outrage at the brutality of the racist colonial state of Israel", said Preston Wood, New Mexico Coordinator of the the ANSWER Coalition. "We are here to stand in solidarity with all the people of Palestine. In spite of Israel's continued brutal measures of repression, the people of Palestine will prevail and will be free. The Flotilla and those of us who are here today stand firmly with the irght of the Palestinians to return to their lands and exercise their right to full justice and self-determination."