



11 July 2014

LPHR public statement on current military offensive on Gaza

As lawyers committed to the protection and advancement of Palestinian human rights, we reiterate our call upon the international community to act decisively to halt the latest resort to sustained military action in the Gaza Strip, following Israel's announcement on 8 July 2014 that they have launched a military operation codenamed Operation Protective Edge.

LPHR is hugely concerned by today's report from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights stating that as of 10:00am today, 73 Palestinian civilians, including 24 children and 16 women, have been killed following Israeli military strikes. Another 614 people have been injured, of whom 199 are children and 127 are women. The number of houses targeted and destroyed is now 99.

LPHR reiterates its acute concern at an issue highlighted by these human rights organisations of homes being deliberately targeted for military air strikes in the presence of civilians, which are resulting in a large number of civilian deaths and injuries. Today's Palestinian Center for Human Rights report states that:

- The number of Palestinian civilians killed under the debris of their targeted houses has increased to 28, including 6 women and 11 children.
- The number of Palestinian civilians killed under the debris of their houses adjacent to targeted houses has increased to 4 (2 women and 2 children).
- The number of Palestinian civilians killed near their houses has increased to 10, including 3 women and 2 children

In light of these appalling civilian casualty figures resulting from the apparently unlawful use of force against civilian objects, LPHR reiterates its urgent call upon the parties to military action, Israeli or Palestinian, to fulfil their binding legal obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and immediately refrain from the indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force against civilians or civilian objects.

LPHR further urgently calls upon the international community to ensure that credible investigations and full legal accountability is secured for all deaths and injuries caused by unlawful military actions.

LPHR shall continue to closely monitor the current military offensive on Gaza and will make further public statements as and when necessary.