



14 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 for the fifth successive day 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 enormously concerned by today's report from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights stating that as of 10:00am today, 137 Palestinian civilians, including 34 children and 28 women, have been killed following Israeli military strikes. Another 1058 people have been injured, of whom 332 are children and 212 are women. The number of houses destroyed is 209, with hundreds further that are severely damaged.

LPHR repeats its acute concern at the apparent systematic and deliberate targeting of family homes and civilian facilities in disregard for the protection of civilians. In light of the apparently systematic and unlawful use of force against civilian objects causing civilian casualties, 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.