



27 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. The onset of an Israeli military ground offensive on 17 July 2014 has, as feared, exacerbated the enormous harm to the civilian population of Gaza.

LPHR is gravely concerned by today's report from the [Palestinian Center for Human Rights](#) (PCHR) stating that as of 10:00am today, the total number of Palestinian civilian fatalities since the start of Operation Protective Edge is 832, including 221 children and 121 women. Another 4,706 people have been injured, of whom 1,263 are children and 939 are women. 561 houses have been targeted and destroyed, and hundreds of others have been extensively damaged. According to the [United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#), at least 215,000 Palestinian civilians have been forcibly displaced, with many seeking shelter in UNRWA schools. 22 hospitals, clinics and medical centres have been hit and damaged by shelling.

LPHR strongly deplores that during a temporary ceasefire medical crews recovered over a hundred bodies of Palestinians from areas invaded by Israeli forces, of whom 62 are civilians, including five children and two women. LPHR reiterates its extremely serious concern that civilians and civilian objects are being indiscriminately and disproportionately targeted by Israeli military attacks in disregard for the protection of civilians.

LPHR also 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.