



13 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, 132 Palestinian civilians, including 34 children and 27 women, have been killed following Israeli military strikes. Another 934 people have been injured, of whom 280 are children and 194 are women. The number of houses destroyed is now 172.

LPHR repeats its acute concern at the apparent systematic and deliberate targeting of civilian facilities and homes in disregard for the protection of civilians. We are deeply appalled at the report that at 22:30pm yesterday 17 members of the al-Batash family were killed and dozen of civilians were wounded when an Israeli military airstrike struck the al-Batash family home in Gaza City.

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.