



15 July 2014

**LPHR public statement on current military offensive on Gaza**

As lawyers committed to the protection and advancement of Palestinian human rights, we welcome the tabling of a proposed ceasefire agreement by the Egyptian government to halt the latest resort to sustained military action in the Gaza Strip, which comes a week after Israel's announcement on 8 July 2014 that they had launched a military operation codenamed Operation Protective Edge. We however remain seriously concerned that civilians will continue to enormously suffer for as long as a ceasefire agreement is not reached.

LPHR is gravely concerned by today's report from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights stating that as of 10:00am today, the total number of Palestinian civilian fatalities since the start of Operation Protective Edge is 147, including 36 children and 29 women. Another 1181 people have been injured, of whom 368 are children and 253 are women. The number of houses destroyed is 246, 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.