



Right Hon William Hague MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
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For the attention of: Right Hon William Hague MP

9 July 2014

Dear Mr. Hague,

Re: Urgent need for UK government intervention concerning the current military offensive on Gaza

As lawyers committed to the protection and advancement of Palestinian human rights, we urge the UK government to take all necessary diplomatic measures to urgently halt the latest resort to sustained military action in the Gaza Strip, following Israel's announcement earlier yesterday that they have launched a military operation codenamed Operation Protective Edge.

We are hugely concerned by widespread reports of civilians suffering, including yesterday's report from the Palestinian Center for Human Rights stating that 27 Palestinian civilians, including 10 women and five children, were wounded in Israeli military air strikes against civilian objects, including homes, during the early hours of the 8 July 2014.

We urge the UK government to immediately take the following urgent actions:

1. Take all necessary diplomatic measures to achieve the urgent cessation of the use of force;
2. Insist the parties to military action, Israeli or Palestinian, fulfil their binding legal obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and ensure against the indiscriminate and/or disproportionate use of force against civilians or civilian targets;
3. Take positive steps (unilaterally and together with other EU governments) to convene a special session of the Human Rights Council and an urgent meeting of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention; and
4. Ensure that full legal accountability is secured for any unlawful military action.

lawyers for palestinian
human rights



We shall be grateful for your urgent intervention and your written response.

Yours sincerely,

Tareq Shrourou
Director, Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights