



27 August 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. LPHR welcomes the open-ended ceasefire agreed by the armed groups in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority and Israel which entered into force yesterday at 19:00.

LPHR has grave concern in noting that today's report from the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) states the total number of Palestinian civilian fatalities since the start of Operation Protective Edge is at least 1,462, including 495 children and 253 women. Over 100,000 people, whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged, will need longer-term shelter solutions. The mass movement of civilians, children in particular, returning into areas that were intensively targeted by airstrikes and shelling, raises the concern about Explosive Remnants of War. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, as of 20 August, 10,224 Palestinians, including 3,106 children and 1,970 women and 368 elderly, have been injured. Preliminary estimates indicate that up to 1,000 of the children injured will have a permanent disability.

LPHR reiterates its extremely serious concern that civilians and civilian objects have been indiscriminately and disproportionately targeted by Israeli military attacks in disregard for the protection of civilians. Our [letter](#) published earlier this month in the Guardian highlights this grave concern with a specific focus on the legality of Israel's policy of directly targeting family homes.

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 will work with appropriate partner organisations to advocate for this vital rule of law and justice objective.