

Global Refugee-led Network's Statement on the Israeli war on Gaza

October 25th, 2023

The Global Refugee-led Network (GRN) is horrified and dismayed by the recent escalation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and the level of violence committed against civilians in Gaza causing the loss of thousands of innocent lives.

The international community should not be silent over the violence, collective punishment, and forced displacement of 2.2 million people.

We call on the international community to stand up against the killing of civilians by imposing an immediate ceasefire and by allowing access to humanitarian aid. Israel has cut access to water, electricity, and food supplies from civilians in Gaza, who include women, children, people with disabilities, and older persons. [70% of this population](#) has already been living as refugees in protracted displacement for decades and under a 16-year siege of Gaza. Many of them have already been impoverished and harmed because of decades of violence, discrimination, and oppression committed against the Palestinian people through the occupation and apartheid.

We are dismayed at the targeting of homes, schools, hospitals, and public infrastructure in Gaza, which constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity. The UN has raised alarm bells of a [mass ethnic cleansing](#) taking place in Gaza and that Israel's order for 1.1 million civilians to relocate to the south of Gaza without having secured safe conditions and accommodations, and its continued targeting of convoys of people evacuating, potentially constitutes a forced relocation of civilians and is [likely to be in breach of international law](#).

We demand the international community to respect all human life by calling for an immediate ceasefire, access to humanitarian aid and safe passage for all civilians, and to comply with international law as stipulated in the Geneva Conventions.

We call for all members of the international community to immediately take steps to protect civilians so that they are spared the horror of this war. As a network representing refugee-led organizations that have directly felt the impacts of war and conflict on our lives and that of our families and communities, we know full well that condoning further violence against civilians in the name of security is not a solution.