



HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY
INSTITUTION OF TÜRKİYE

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in my official capacity as the Chairman of the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, established on April 20, 2016, with the mandate to serve as the national human rights institution, the national preventive mechanism, and the equality body.

It is with profound concern that I address the recent conflicts between Palestine and Israel, which have led to a substantial loss of civilian lives and have grievously afflicted the global conscience, given the destabilization of peace and security in the region. The heavy attacks on Gaza and the deployment of disproportionate force have led to a severe humanitarian crisis in the region, mostly affecting vulnerable populations, notably children, women, and the elderly. The civilian population, who should be shielded from the devastating impacts of the conflicts according to the principles of international humanitarian law, now find themselves at the epicenter of these attacks.

Without a doubt, one of the most imperative actions dictated by international humanitarian law is the creation of humanitarian corridors to safeguard the civilian population. The obstruction of vital food, water, energy, and humanitarian assistance to Gaza, along with the evident targeting of civilian settlements, represents a clear and severe violation of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention pertaining to the 'Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.' Deliberately denying individuals' access to these essential supplies as a method of warfare is strictly prohibited and is considered a war crime.

The Israel-Palestine conflict must be promptly resolved to prevent further humanitarian disasters. The increasing loss of innocent civilian lives in the conflict is a source of great concern. From a humanitarian law standpoint, the paramount objective is to guarantee the safety and protection of both the lives and properties of the civilian population in these conflicts.

As an active member of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), our Institution strongly condemns the systematic acts of violence against Gaza's civilian population. In a letter dated October 13, 2023, addressed to fellow national human rights institutions within ENNHRI, we highlighted the cutoff of vital food, energy, and humanitarian aid to Gaza, along with the indiscriminate targeting of civilian settlements. By expressing our solidarity with the Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine (ICHRP), we call upon all GANHRI members and national human rights institutions to demonstrate increased vigilance and sensitivity in the face of this brutality.

Respectfully yours,

Prof. Dr. Muharrem Kılıç
Chairman