

# Gaza: Civilians must be spared from impact of fighting

Israel and the occupied territories    Protected persons: Civilians



**Over the last week, communities in northern Gaza have endured increased fighting, resulting in large numbers of civilians killed and injured. This comes on top of nine months of hostilities throughout the Gaza Strip.**

Share

Evacuation orders have impacted thousands of families, most recently in Gaza City. These instructions are often unclear and have led to confusion and fear.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hotline has received hundreds of calls in recent days from people desperate for help. Entire families are trapped and desperately seek security. The huge needs are beyond our capacity to respond.

Those in Gaza City are instructed to move southwards to areas that are overcrowded, lacking in essential services, and are experiencing hostilities. The grim reality in Gaza today is that nowhere is safe. The struggle to simply survive is robbing people of their dignity.

International humanitarian law is designed to preserve human dignity even during the height of war.

We urgently reiterate the need for parties to the conflict to respect the law, which includes doing their utmost to spare civilians from the effects of the hostilities, and to enable the work of humanitarians to safely and effectively help people.