



# **ACHR Condemns the Israeli Airstrikes on Residential Areas in Lebanon and Calls for Immediate International Action**

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Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR)  
Paris, France

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[www.achrrights.org](http://www.achrrights.org)

Access Center for Human Rights (ACHR) condemns the recent widespread and indiscriminate airstrikes launched by the Israeli Airforce directed against residential areas in its conflict with Hezbollah. Widespread attacks on the South of Lebanon and other areas have, at the time of writing, killed over **500 civilians**, including medical rescue team members and **56 Syrian refugees**, and resulted in the destruction of residential areas in many Lebanese villages and towns, leaving thousands of Lebanese citizens and refugees forcibly displaced.

We stand in solidarity with the approximately **300,000 civilians** who have been forced to leave their homes and belongings behind and condemn in the strongest terms any attempts to escalate the situation or any attempts to impede them from returning. We also stand with all medical rescue teams, humanitarian workers, and journalists who are risking their lives while responding to the crisis and reiterate that they should never be military targets.

As of 25 September, Israel has issued “evacuation orders” and reportedly sent text messages to Lebanese civilians ostensibly to provide warnings to civilians to keep away from buildings/sites linked with Hezbollah and has claimed that attacks have targeted Hezbollah military targets. However, ACHR condemns the high civilian death toll and notes that Israel has a long-standing policy of directly targeting civilians, civilian objects and infrastructure and that Israel has previously been condemned by international organizations and the United Nations for issuing insufficient and unrealistic warnings. Additionally, claims that civilian deaths are a result of Hezbollah using “human shields” cannot justify the targeting of civilians, and ACHR reiterates that collective punishment of the civilian population is illegal under international law.

ACHR stands with Syrian refugees who have been residing in the South and have been, once again, forcibly displaced due to armed conflict and indiscriminate airstrikes. While we support the positive steps taken by Lebanese authorities in announcing the opening of schools as temporary shelters to receive the displaced and ensuring that hospitals provide medical care for all the injured, we express our concern over any forms of discrimination that prevent syrian refugees or other groups within the civilian population from accessing these essential services equally. It is worth noting that International Humanitarian Law (IHL) protects refugees in particular when they find themselves in a territory where armed conflict is taking place and in addition to the general protections afforded to the civilian population, refugees are entitled to certain specific protections. We call on the Lebanese Government to uphold these obligations and ensure that these protections are provided without discrimination.

ACHR calls on the international community to uphold the need to protect civilians and respond to this humanitarian crisis by supporting all displaced persons, including Syrian refugees and other vulnerable groups, to ensure that they have access to basic rights such as safety, education, healthcare and shelter.