

ANNEX

Submission to United Nations Special Procedures

Human Rights Framework – Protection of Civilians and Children in Armed Conflict

This Annex is submitted for consideration under relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms, including Special Rapporteurs and thematic mandate holders.

This document does not determine criminal responsibility. It provides structured, verifiable information relevant to international human rights law and international humanitarian law, with specific focus on the right to life, protection of children, humanitarian access, and protection of civilian infrastructure.

All incidents referenced are based on identifiable public reporting, primarily United Nations documentation and internationally recognized reporting agencies.

SECTION I

Applicable International Legal Framework

1. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Article 6 – Right to life

Article 7 – Protection from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment

2. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Article 6 – Inherent right to life

Article 19 – Protection from all forms of violence

Article 38 – Protection of children in armed conflict

3. Fourth Geneva Convention

Protection of civilian persons in time of war

4. Additional Protocol I

Article 48 – Distinction

Article 51 – Protection of civilians

Article 57 – Precautions in attack

SECTION II

Situation: Occupied Palestinian Territory (Gaza)

Primary Source Base:

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Gaza Humanitarian Response Situation Report No. 69 (27 February 2026)

Incident Reference: OPT-2026-02-20-25

Timeframe: 20–25 February 2026

Location: Gaza Strip

Type of Incidents: Airstrikes, shelling, gunfire

Reported Civilian Impact: 7 fatalities and 33 injuries within reporting period; cumulative 618 fatalities and 1,663 injuries since 10 October 2025, as reported by Gaza Ministry of Health and cited by OCHA

Human Rights Relevance:

- Article 6 ICCPR (right to life)
- Article 6 CRC (child protection where children are among victims)
- Protection of civilians under international humanitarian law

Key Questions for Human Rights Review:

- Are civilian casualties occurring in a manner consistent with precaution and distinction obligations?
 - Are children disproportionately affected?
 - Are independent investigations conducted into civilian harm?
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Incident Reference: OPT-2026-02-EO

Location: Gaza Strip

Type: Explosive ordnance remnants incidents

Reported Impact: 34 explosive ordnance incidents since ceasefire; 76 casualties including 18 children; 9 fatalities and 67 injuries

Human Rights Relevance:

- Ongoing threat to civilian life post-hostilities
- Child safety and environmental hazards
- Obligation to protect returning civilian populations

Key Questions:

- Are clearance and marking measures adequate?
 - Are children receiving adequate risk education and protection?
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Incident Reference: OPT-2026-02-AID

Location: Gaza Strip

Type: Restrictions and impediments to humanitarian access

Reported Impact: UN missions denied or delayed; low cargo offloading rates; risk to food security

Human Rights Relevance:

- Right to life (ICCPR Article 6)
- Protection from deprivation affecting survival
- Access to food, water, and medical care

Key Questions:

- Do access restrictions materially impact civilian survival?
 - Are vulnerable populations, including children, disproportionately affected?
 - Are restrictions justified, proportionate, and temporary?
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SECTION III

Situation: Escalation Involving the United States, Israel, and Iran (2026)

Primary Source Base:

Reuters and Associated Press reporting (28 February – 3 March 2026)

Incident Reference: IR-2026-02-28

Location: Tehran and multiple reported sites

Type: Large-scale airstrikes

Reported Impact: Military infrastructure targeted; reported civilian casualties; regional escalation

Human Rights Relevance:

- Right to life under ICCPR
- Protection of civilian infrastructure
- Risk to children in urban areas

Key Questions:

- Are strikes conducted in compliance with distinction and precaution principles?
 - Are civilian harm mitigation measures documented?
 - Are casualty figures independently verified?
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Incident Reference: IR-2026-03-02

Location: Reported school facility

Type: Strike allegedly affecting educational site

Reported Impact: Claims of significant civilian fatalities; denial of intentional targeting

Human Rights Relevance:

- Protection of educational facilities
- Special protection of children under CRC
- Obligation to investigate civilian harm

Key Questions:

- Was the site functioning as a civilian educational facility?
- Were children among victims?
- Was an independent investigation initiated?

SECTION IV

Pattern and Structural Human Rights Concerns

The following structural indicators warrant examination:

1. Recurrent civilian casualties in densely populated urban areas
2. Repeated reporting of child casualties
3. Damage to medical, educational, and humanitarian infrastructure
4. Restrictions affecting food security and health services
5. Insufficient transparency regarding civilian harm assessments

These elements may be relevant for review by:

- Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- Special Rapporteur on the right to food

This Annex is submitted for assessment within the United Nations human rights framework to determine whether further communication, investigation, or engagement with concerned States is warranted.