

Open Letter to the Member States of the UN General Assembly, on behalf of the IASC Principals

***Signed by 413 humanitarian organizations around the world
who are calling for the protection of civilians,
including their staff***

19 August 2024

Excellencies,

This World Humanitarian Day, our staff and volunteers around the world will stand in solidarity to spotlight the horrifying toll of armed conflicts on their colleagues and on all civilians, particularly children.

The brutal hostilities we are seeing in multiple conflicts around the world have exposed a terrible truth: We are living in an era of impunity. Attacks that kill or injure civilians, including humanitarian and health-care personnel, are devastatingly common. Yet despite widespread condemnation, serious violations of the rules of war too often go unpunished.

This status quo is shameful and cannot continue.

In 2023, tens of thousands of civilians were killed or injured in armed conflict, with fatalities among humanitarian workers doubling compared to the previous year.

The toll in 2024 – the number of deaths, injuries, detentions and kidnappings – is already staggering. The overwhelming majority of recorded attacks on aid workers are inflicted on national staff. Women-led organizations and female humanitarian staff face unique and often increased risks, just because they are women. The impact on the mental health of civilians and humanitarian workers has reached unprecedented levels.

And yet parties to conflict continue to flout laws meant to protect civilians, including humanitarian workers, and civilian objects.

This year, on World Humanitarian Day, we appeal to all States, parties to armed conflict, and the wider international community to:

1. End attacks on civilians and take active steps to protect them – and the critical civilian infrastructure they rely on.
2. Protect all aid workers, including local and national actors, and their premises and assets and facilitate their work, as called for in UN Security Council Resolution 2730 adopted this May.
3. Hold perpetrators to account. Those who commit violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) cannot go unpunished.

We should not have to wait for an annual moment such as World Humanitarian Day to remind all parties to armed conflict, and all States, of their obligations under IHL. Adherence to IHL must happen every day irrespective of occasion. It is non-negotiable and is not subject to exceptions.

It is vital that all parties to armed conflict and all States adhere to their obligations and leverage their influence to ensure respect for the rules of war and minimize human suffering.

Fulfilling these obligations requires more than mere declarations – it demands immediate and decisive actions. Turning a blind eye when humanitarian workers are targeted only emboldens those who seek to hinder their work. This only serves to increase food insecurity, childhood malnutrition, involuntary displacement and the spread of infectious diseases and other threats. The immediate effects of these will not only be limited to areas of conflict but often spread far beyond.

We will continue to stay and deliver in humanitarian crises around the world – but the situation requires us to take a united stand to call for the protection of our staff, volunteers and the civilians we serve.

Signed by:

1. CARE International
2. A Chance Again Girl Education Foundation (ACAGEF)
3. ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality
4. Abak Peace Foundation
5. Abs Development Organisation for Woman and Child (ADO)
6. Access Development and Relief Organization-ADRO
7. Action Against Hunger
8. Action Contre la Faim
9. Action For Humanity
10. Action for Social and Economic Progress (ASEP)
11. Action for the needy in Ethiopia (ANE)
12. Action pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant (APDE)

13. ActionAid
14. ActionAid International
15. Active in Development Aid (ADA)
16. Adamawa Concern Disable Foundation
17. Adamawa Initiative for Underprivileged Empowerment (ADIFUE)
18. Adamawa Women Initiative for Leadership and Development (ADWILD)
19. ADRA Europe
20. ADRA Lebanon
21. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
22. Advocacy, Research, Training and Services (ARTS) Foundation
23. Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
24. African Relief and Development (ARD-African)
25. Against All Odds Foundation (AGAOF)
26. Agency for Minority Rights and Development (AMARD)
27. Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)
28. AKKMA National Coalition Pilipinas
29. Al Mehran Research & Development Foundation (AMRDF)
30. Al Sham Humanitarian Foundation
31. Alaman Organization for Blind Women Care (AOBWC)
32. Alawite Islamic Charity Association (AICA)
33. Alimat Care Foundation
34. Alliance of International Doctors (AID)
35. Ambassadors of Dialogue, Climate and Reintegration (DCR Ambassadors)
36. AMEL Association International
37. Americares
38. AMURT
39. Anera
40. Anglican Missions
41. Arewa Young Women Graduates Support Initiative (AYW-Grads)
42. Association Najdeh
43. Assured Better Life Initiative
44. ASWHAN Adamawa
45. Australian Council for International Development
46. Australian Lutheran World Service
47. AwazCDS-Pakistan
48. AWO International (Germany)
49. Baptist World Aid Australia
50. Bege House Foundation
51. Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief
52. BINAA Organization for Development
53. Bioforce Afrique
54. Blumont
55. Bondeko Refugee Livelihoods Centre
56. Bonyan for Youth and Development

57. Bridge Builders Women and Girls Initiative
58. Budapest Centre for Dialogue and Mass Atrocities Prevention
59. Building Blocks for Peace Foundation
60. Building Foundation for Development (BFD)
61. CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
62. CARE
63. Caritas Africa
64. Caritas Australia
65. Cáritas Española
66. Caritas Internationalis
67. Catholic Relief Services Nigeria
68. CCDRN
69. CDA Collaborative Learning
70. CDAC Network
71. Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
72. Center of Concern
73. Centre d'Appui aux Initiatives de Developpement Local (CAIDEL)
74. Centre for Community Resource, Health and Social Development (CCRHSD)
75. Centre for Sustainable Development
76. CESVI
77. CHAD INGO Forum
78. Cheerful Hands Initiative (CHI)
79. Child & Women International Development
80. Child Protection and Peer Learning Initiative
81. ChildFund Alliance
82. ChildFund International
83. Childvoice
84. Christian Aid
85. Christian Blind Mission Ireland
86. Christian World Service New Zealand
87. CHS Alliance
88. Church World Service
89. Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS)
90. Civil Society Coalition for poverty Eradication (CISCOPE)
91. Community and Family Services International (CFSI)
92. Community Development and Media Centre
93. Community Empowerment and Peace-Building Foundation for Women and Youth (CEPFoWY)
94. Community Empowerment and Social Development Organization (CESDO)
95. Community Reach out Initiative (CRI) Yola
96. Community World Service Asia
97. Concern Worldwide
98. Confluence Development inn (CODI)
99. Congo Explorer

100. Consortium of Youth Associations for the Defense of Victims of Violence (COJEDEV)
101. Coordination of National NGOs Chad (CONA-T)
102. Coordination SUD
103. Cordaid
104. Council for International Development Aotearoa New Zealand
105. Dadah Foundation for Educational Empowerment (DAFEE)
106. DanChurchAid
107. Danuwa Empowerment Foundation
108. Daryas Organization for Developing Woman and Society
109. Dawis Initiative for Sustainability, Community Development (DISCOD)
110. Debbie Kauna Foundation (Disability Rights)
111. DEEG-ROOR Medical Organization
112. Democracy School Yemen (DSYemen)
113. Development Initiatives
114. Development Institutions Network Pakistan (DIN)
115. Developmental Action Without Borders- Nabaa
116. Dharti Development Foundation
117. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
118. Dóchas
119. Dorcas Sisters Foundation
120. DRC Danish Refugee Council
121. Dream alive women and orphans support foundation (Dawos foundation)
122. Dünya Doktorları/Médecins du Monde
123. Education Cannot Wait
124. Empowerment for Development
125. Environmental Protection Society (EPS)
126. Episcopal Relief & Development
127. EU-CORD Network
128. Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF)
129. Every Casualty Counts
130. Farm Radio International
131. Femenni Development Initiative
132. Femmes et Développement FEDE
133. FHI 360
134. Field Ready-Middle East
135. Fiji Council of Social Services
136. Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
137. First Step Action for Children Initiative (FSACI)
138. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
139. Food for the Hungry
140. Forum des ONGI en RDC
141. Freedom Jasmine
142. Fundamental Human Rights & Rural Development Association FHRRDA

143. Gargaar Relief and Development Organization (GREDO)
144. Garib Unnayan Sangstha
145. GBIHLI Guardians Brotherhood International Humanitarian Leadership Inc.
146. Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Children Initiative
147. General Union of Voluntary Societies
148. German Doctors e.V.
149. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect
150. Global Communities
151. Global Education Emergencies Support Initiative (GEESI)
152. Global Educational, Economic and Social Empowerment
153. Global Giving International
154. Global Mission Partners
155. Global Support and Development (GSD)
156. Global Women's Institute
157. Global Womens Health Rights and Empowerment Initiative
158. GOAL
159. GOAL Global
160. Grassroot Life Saving Outreach
161. Grow With Data Youth Foundation (GWD)
162. HD Foundation
163. Headwaters Relief Organization
164. Health And Nutrition Development Society (HANDS) Pakistan
165. Heifer International
166. Hellen Keller International
167. HelpAge Canada
168. HelpAge International
169. Help-Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe
170. Helvetas
171. HIAS
172. Hidig Relief & Development Organization
173. Himaya Daeem Aataa
174. Hope and Rural Aid Foundation (HARAF)
175. Hope Revival Organization
176. Hope Rising for the Less Privileged and Vulnerable Foundation
177. Hopeful Women Initiative
178. Horan Foundation - HF
179. Horn of Africa Peace Network (HAPEN)
180. HUUJRA Village Support Organization
181. Human Organization for Peaceful Environment (HOPE)
182. Humanity & Inclusion – Handicap International
183. Humanity Forum Indonesia
184. Hwa Foundation Sindh Pakistan
185. iACT
186. IHE Delft

187. IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation
188. Ihsan Relief and Development
189. Iimaan Relief and Development Organization
190. Imam Sadr Foundation
191. Independent Public Health Consultant
192. Indus Environment Development Organization (IEDO)
193. Initiative Africaine pour le Développement Durable
194. Initiative For Women's Health Development and Rights Protection Nigeria
195. Innovative Humanitarian solution (IHS)
196. Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS)
197. Integrated Regional Support Program
198. Integrated Social Services Program (ISSP)
199. InterAction
200. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
201. International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
202. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
203. International Medical Corps
204. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
205. International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
206. International Rescue Committee
207. INTERSOS
208. IRADO
209. Islamic Relief
210. Islamic Relief Deutschland e.V.
211. Islamic Relief USA
212. Jabu Development Foundation JDF
213. Jaggarta Organization
214. Jami Al Hakeem Foundation (J-HF)
215. Jen initiative for Integrity and Development
216. Jesuit Refugee Service
217. JHPiego
218. Johanniter International Assistance
219. Jordan Health Aid Society International
220. Kanzul Masakin Islamic Foundation
221. LASOONA Relief & Development Organization
222. Lembaga Daya Dharma Keuskupan Agung Jakarta
223. LIFE
224. Life Helpers Initiative (LHI)
225. Life Makers Meeting Place Organization (LMMPO)
226. LM International/Läkarmissionen
227. Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization
228. LSPR Centre for Crisis and Resilience
229. Lutheran World Federation
230. Management Sciences for Health

231. Mandhere Relief and Development Organisation
232. Marginalized Communities Advocacy Network (MCAN)
233. Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation
234. Matasa 360 initiative for social justice and development
235. Medair
236. Médecins du Monde International Network
237. Medecins du Monde Network
238. Medecins sans Frontieres - Western and Central Africa (MSF - WaCA)
239. MedGlobal
240. MedGlobal-Yemen
241. Medical Teams International
242. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
243. Mercy Corps
244. MERCY Malaysia
245. Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
246. Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies
247. Morning Star Foundation (MSF)
248. Muslim Hands
249. Muzaffarabad Poverty Alleviation Programme
250. Muzun for Humanitarian and Development
251. Nahda Makers Organization (NMO)
252. Nak Akphivath Sahakum
253. Nana Maren Association for Charity and Awareness
254. National Disaster Management Network of Nepal (DiMaNN)
255. National initiative for social advocacy (Nisafoundation)
256. NEAR (Network for Empowered Aid Response)
257. Never Again International - Canada
258. New Followership New Africa Initiative
259. New Ways Organisation
260. NGORC
261. Nigerian Aid Group of Islam NAG-JNI
262. Nkafamiya Rescue Mission
263. No Borders Humanity Organization (NBH)
264. Nonviolent Peaceforce
265. Northwest Syria NGO Forum
266. Norwegian Peoples Aid
267. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
268. Now Bahar Rehabilitation Organization
269. Olive Branch Organisation
270. ONG-ASHAD
271. Oxfam
272. Oxfam America
273. Oxfam International
274. PACIDA

275. Pak Education Society/Pakistan Development Network
276. Pak Mission Society (PMS)
277. Pampam development initiative
278. Pattan Development Organisation
279. PAX
280. Peace Foundation Pakistan
281. People for Successful Corean Reunification (PSCORE)
282. People in Need
283. Permanent Peace Movement
284. Petuniya children youth and women initiative
285. Physicians for Peace
286. Plan International
287. Plan International Ireland
288. Plan International Nigeria
289. Plant with Purpose
290. Population Communication
291. Prattasha Samazik Unnayan Sangstha (PSUS)
292. Premiere Urgence Internationale
293. Project HOPE
294. Project HOPE: The People-to-People Health Foundation Inc.
295. Protect Humanitarians
296. Rahma Worldwide
297. Reformist's Social Welfare and Development Organization WORDS
298. Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)
299. Refugees Seeking Equal Access at the Table (R-SEAT)
300. Regional Advocacy for Women 's Sustainable Advancement
301. Regional Advocacy for Women's Sustainable Advancement Alliance for African and Arab States
302. Relief International
303. Resolve To Save Lives (RTSL)
304. Restoration of Hope Initiative (ROHI)
305. Road to Economic Development Organisation
306. Roshni Development Foundation
307. ROWYOD
308. Rural Agency for Community Development and Assistance (RACIDA)
309. Rural Agricultural Transformation and Empowerment Initiative
310. Rural Education and Agriculture Development Organization READO
311. Rural Education and Economic Development Society
312. Rural Outreach Africa
313. Ruwad alHoukouk FR (Frontiers Rights)
314. Sahara Economic Development Organization
315. Saibaan Pakistan
316. Salam Humanitarian Foundation (SHF)
317. Salient humanitarian organizations

318. Samir Aldarabi
319. Save the Children
320. Scalabrini International Migration Network - SIMN
321. Search for Common Ground
322. Secours Islamique
323. Sened organization
324. Service Chretien d'Haiti
325. SEWAR organization
326. SHAFAK
327. Shahbaz welfare association
328. SHIFA Welfare Association-SHIFA
329. SIF - Secours Islamique France
330. Siiqqee Women's Development Association
331. Syrian Local NGO Platform (NES)
332. Smart lives Initiative
333. Smiling Hearts Initiatives International (SHI)
334. Social Development International (SDI)
335. Society for Empowering Human Resource (SEHER)
336. Solidarités International
337. Solution for Humanity (SFH)
338. Somali NGO Consortium (SNC)
339. Somali Relief Centre
340. Sorasun Foundation
341. SOS Children's Villages, Nigeria
342. South Sudan NGO Forum
343. Space Of Peace
344. Sphere
345. Spring of Hope Global Initiative
346. SSEWA-Pak
347. Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
348. Step Organisation for Democracy and Election
349. Stichting Vluchteling
350. Sukh Development Foundation
351. Sustainable Development Foundation
352. Synergie des ONG Nationales pour les actions Humanitaires au Niger.
(SONAH)
353. Syria Relief & Development (SRD)
354. Syrian American Medical Society
355. Syrian Expatriates Medical Association
356. Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)
357. Tabitha for Relief and Development
358. Takaful Al Sham Charity (TAS)
359. Tamkeen Foundation for Development
360. Tarjimly

361. Tearfund
362. Télécoms Sans Frontières
363. Terre des hommes (Tdh) Helping children worldwide
364. The Amazon Healing for Women and Children Empowerment Initiative
365. The Lebanon Humanitarian & Development NGOs Forum (LHDF)
366. The Nigeria INGO Forum
367. The Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation
368. The White Helmets
369. The Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations - Rasd Coalition
370. Today For Tomorrow Initiative (TFT)
371. Trócaire
372. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
373. Unique Care and Support Foundation (CASFOD)
374. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
375. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
376. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
377. United Nations Foundation
378. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
379. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
380. United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat)
381. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
382. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
383. United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons
384. United Nations Youth Office
385. UNOPS
386. VENRO - Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs
387. Violet for Aid and Development
388. VOICE
389. Voluntary Service Overseas
390. Volunteers for Emergency and Disaster Rescue Initiative VEDRI, Numan
391. Volunteers for Sustainable Development
392. Wahatana Empowerment Initiative
393. Wajir South Development Association (WASDA)
394. War Child Alliance
395. WATAN
396. Water for South Sudan
397. Watoto Walanga Project
398. Wecare Foundation Sujawal
399. Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
400. Welthungerhilfe Country Office Zimbabwe
401. Will Association

402. Women Economic Emancipation Initiative
403. Women for Women International
404. Women's Refugee Commission
405. World Food Programme (WFP)
406. World Health Organization (WHO)
407. World Vision International
408. Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)
409. Yetim Vakfı (Orphan Foundation)
410. Yola Renewal Foundation
411. Youth Front Pakistan
412. Zamzam Foundation
413. Zwala Foundation