

# **PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM THE USE OF EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS**

*An event co-convened by the International Network on Explosive Weapons and  
The Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations in New York  
The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations in New York  
The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations in New York  
The Permanent Mission of Mozambique to the United Nations in New York*

**Wednesday 23 May 2018, 13.15 – 14.45  
CR D, United Nations, New York**



Views of Beit Hanoun, one of the neighborhoods most affected by the bombings in Northern Gaza. © Yann Libessart/MSF

The bombing and shelling of towns and cities presents grave challenges to the effective protection of civilians in today's conflicts. The increasing location of conflict and battles within major urban and built-up areas has contributed to an acknowledgment that the accompanying high levels of civilian death and injury are a pressing humanitarian priority that must be addressed. Meanwhile, the use of explosive weapons, particularly those with wide-area effects, in populated areas continues to cause widespread civilian casualties, destroy vital infrastructure and services, and drive displacement.

This briefing will give an overview of the direct and indirect humanitarian harm resulting from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. It will lay out military policies and practice to avoid and mitigate these harms, and review current action at the regional and international political levels towards the development of an international political declaration on explosive weapons.

**Chair:** Ambassador Jan Kickert, Austria

**Speakers:**

- Ms. Anna de Courcy Wheeler, Article 36
- Ms. Veronique Christory, ICRC
- Ms. Sahr Muhammedally, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
- Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mozambique (TBD)

*The side-event will follow the SC Open Debate on PoC organized by Poland #United4Civilians*