The principle of distinction is a fundamental principle of international humanitarian law which provides that parties to an armed conflict must “at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives and accordingly shall direct their operations only against military objectives”. This implies that indiscriminate attacks and the use of indiscriminate means and methods of warfare are prohibited.

See Fundamental principles of IHL; Adverse distinction; Civilian population; Combatants; Civilian objects; Military objectives; Indiscriminate attacks; Means of warfare; Methods of warfare;
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