The principle of proportionality prohibits attacks against military objectives which are “expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life, injury to civilians [1], damage to civilian objects [2], or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage [3] anticipated”.

In other words, the principle of proportionality seeks to limit damage caused by military operations by requiring that the effects of the means [4] and methods of warfare [5] used must not be disproportionate to the military advantage [3] sought.

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Israel/Gaza, Operation Cast Lead (Part I, Paras. 120-126, 230-232)

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suggested readings:


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“Symposium: The International Legal Fallout from Kosovo” (articles of GAZZINI Tarcisio, HILPOLD Peter, CERONE John, FENRICK William J., BENVENUTI


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/proportionality

**Links**

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