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 anticipated”.

In other words, the principle of proportionality seeks to limit damage caused by military operations by requiring that the effects of the means and methods of warfare used must not be disproportionate to the military advantage sought.
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suggested readings:


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

Links
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