

## **OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM CTIF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE ONGOING ARMED CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

The International Association of Fire Services (CTIF) as a non-political organisation condemns all aggressive military action against all civilians.

It strongly urges its members and all those engaged in the armed conflict now engulfing the Middle East, to immediately act with respect for civilian human life seeking to fully to protect civilians, first responders and civilian infrastructure, in all conflict zones.

Article 48 of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention 1949\* requires combatants “to respect and protect civilians and first responders”.

CTIF seeks support from independent National States and their proxies, international humanitarian organizations and other non-governmental actors, to pursue whatever actions they can to ensure this protection exists. This includes political and diplomatic de-escalation initiatives, securing humanitarian access, providing protective equipment, and supporting local emergency services.

We reaffirm our commitment to saving lives and alleviating suffering. In times of armed conflict, the protection of first responders and civilians is non-negotiable. Only through mutual respect for human rights and international humanitarian law can the suffering of those affected be reduced and the foundation laid for a future peaceful solution.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CTIF



\*Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977.