



TE OPE KĀTUA O AOTEAROA
DEFENCE FORCE

ANNUAL REPORT: DEFENCE FORCE ORDER 35

New Zealand Defence Force Response to Civilian Harm

For the period 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026

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Purpose

1. This report provides a summary of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) response to civilian harm arising from its actions when operating in situations of armed conflict, for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, as required by Defence Force Order 35: NZDF Response to Civilian Harm (DFO 35), Chapter 5 section 2 paragraph 5.02.
2. Publishing this data gives recognition to those civilians harmed by NZDF activity and ensures transparency of, and accountability for, those actions.

Requirement

3. DFO 35 requires the Chief of Defence Force to publish, no later than 1 October each year, a summary of the reports lodged with NZDF in the preceding period 1 July – 30 June, regarding civilian harm arising from NZDF actions in situations of armed conflict.
4. Specifically DFO 35 stipulates a summary be provided of:
 - a. civilian harm reports involving NZDF that were determined not to be credible;
 - b. non-critical civilian harm reports involving NZDF, including number determined credible, type of harm, and amends provided (where relevant);
 - c. critical civilian harm reports, including number determined credible, number under current investigation, type of harm, and amends provided (where relevant);
 - d. value of ex-gratia payments paid in the period and the source of the funds, as well as any other forms of amends offered in the period;
 - e. methods and uptake of external reporting mechanisms; and
 - f. information from monitoring bodies in relevant areas of operation, with explanation for any discrepancies in civilian harm reports.
5. Data included in this report has been obtained from both internal and external sources. To the fullest extent possible the report publishes this data in unclassified form, however where necessary redactions have been made.

NZDF and reports of civilian harm

1. In the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 the NZDF received no reports of civilian harm related to its activities in situations of armed conflict.
2. Over this period, NZDF has also sought further clarification from a coalition partner regarding the civilian harm report included in NZDF's previous Annual Report. At the time of publishing, the coalition partner is considering this request.

External reporting mechanisms

3. The reporting mechanisms available for the public to report civilian harm to NZDF for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026 included, *inter alia*:
 - a. NZDF website;
 - b. NZDF phone number;
 - c. NZDF email address;
 - d. NZDF field personnel;
 - e. NZDF HQ and/or authorities; and
 - f. NZDF partner(s) in a multinational Force.

Contact

4. For further information on the information contained within this report, please contact:

Headquarters New Zealand Defence Force
34 Bowen Street
Wellington 6011
Phone: 04 496 0999
<https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/contact-us>

5. Information on the NZDFs response to civilian harm can be found here
https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/assets/Uploads/DocumentLibrary/dfo_35-v2.pdf
6. To lodge a report of civilian harm as a result of NZDF actions in a situation of armed conflict, please contact us at <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/nzdf/contact-us>



T DAVIES
Air Marshal
Chief of Defence Force