Media Advisory

The Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare
Austria Center Vienna, 1 & 2 October 2019

In recent years, the world has become increasingly aware of the urgent need to better protect civilians from the harm caused by the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects in populated areas. With civilians comprising as many as 90 percent of the victims of armed conflicts fought in populated areas, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged the international community to take action on this issue and proposed the elaboration of a political declaration.

In a first important step to facilitate greater awareness of this issue and to build support for efforts to address it, the Government of Austria will host an international meeting titled the “Vienna Conference on Protecting Civilians in Urban Warfare” from 1 to 2 October 2019 at the Austria Centre Vienna.

The Vienna Conference will foster a common understanding by discussing the various forms of harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the legal context and good examples of military practices. Furthermore, the Vienna Conference will provide space for an exchange of views on relevant issues regarding the UN Secretary-General’s proposal to develop a political declaration.

Participants in the Vienna Conference will include representatives of government, international organisations, academia, civil society organisations active in this field and other experts. The goal of the Vienna Conference is to draw attention to the urgent need to better protect Civilians in Urban Warfare.

More Information is available on the Conference website: www.POC19Vienna.at.

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