



# Strengthening Water Protection During and After Armed Conflicts : the Geneva List of Principles on the Protection of Water-Related Infrastructure

Geneva Peace Week, 9 November 2018





**The increasing targeting of water and related infrastructure during armed conflicts is of deep concern. The parties to the conflicts, especially non-State armed groups, are using this practice as a means of warfare, destroying water plants and sabotaging water delivery systems, in clear violation of the rules of International Humanitarian Law.**



## Colombia - June 2015

FARC fighters blew up a water plant by a high-power explosive device in the town of Algeciras, in southwestern Colombia, disrupting supply to 13,000 people.





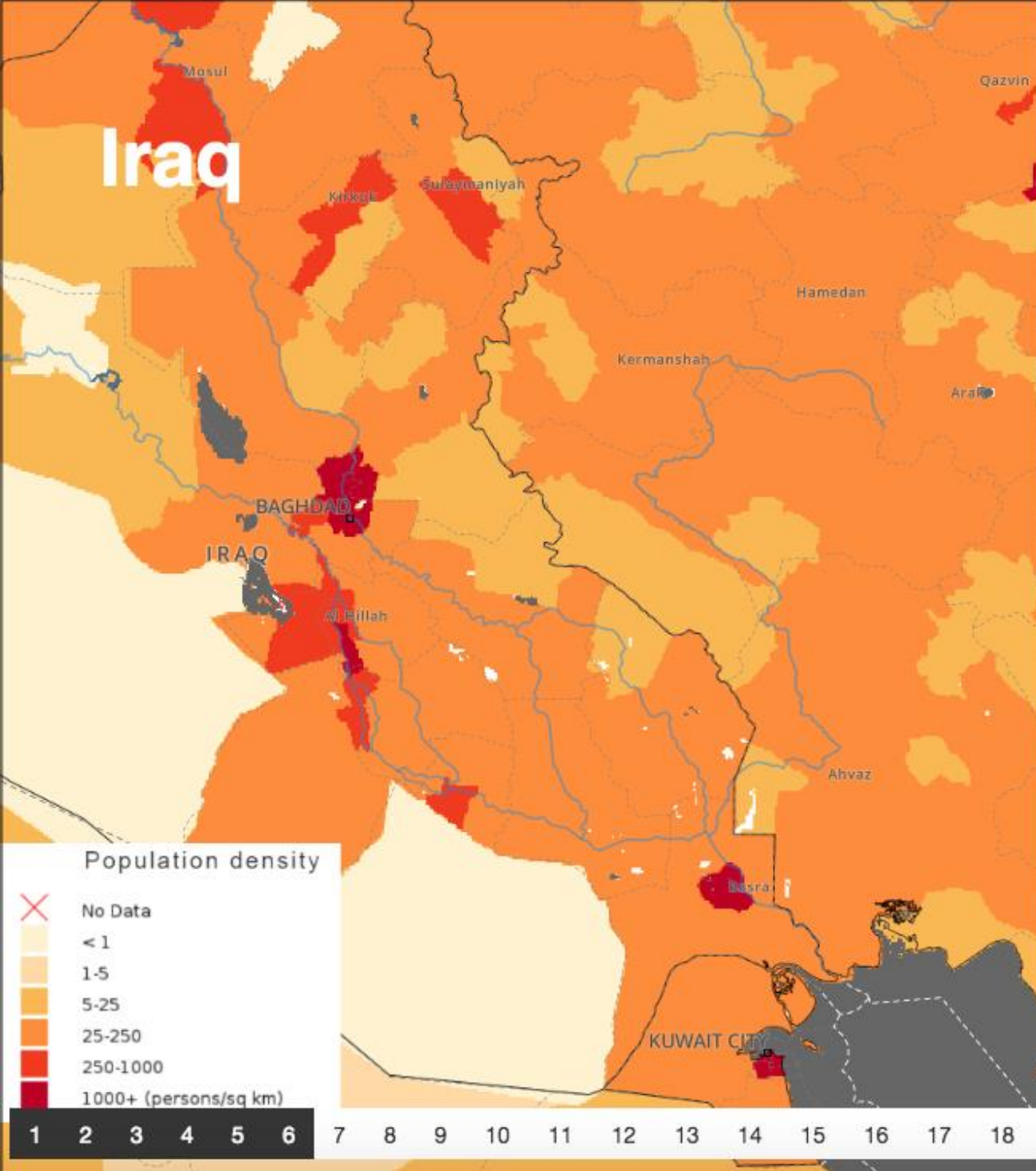


Photo: Reuters, Y. Budlal

**Iraqi government, supported by an international coalition led by the United States, is in a non-international armed conflict with the Islamic State (IS).**

**IS's war strategy involves capturing hydro-power infrastructure in an attempt to bolster its ability to form a separate state.**

**Annual Report 2017 of the International Committee of the Red Cross**



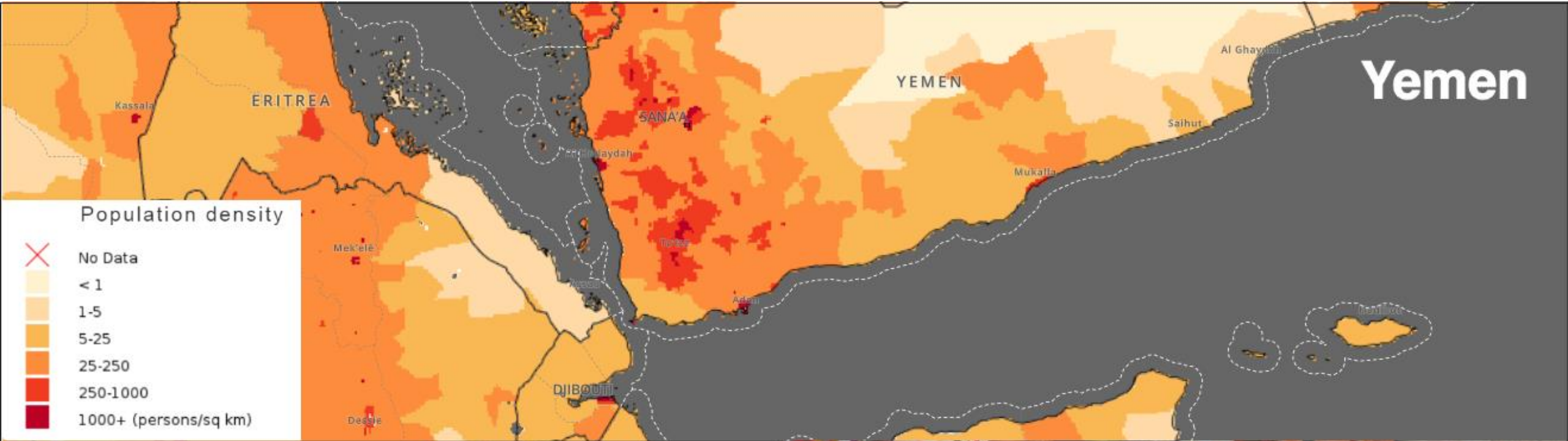


## Syria - May 2014

The Syrian Army destroyed the main water supply pipeline for Aleppo, the largest city in the country, during an air offensive.







**In Yemen, the frequency of targeting civilian infrastructure is alarming and the situation is referred to as the world's largest humanitarian crisis where millions face starvation and are in need of humanitarian assistance.**

**UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)**







**Libya is involved in several non-international armed conflicts with different non-State armed groups, and also a scene to fighting taking place among these latter.**

**As an extremely arid country majorly covered by the Sahara, a part of its population is dependent on a Great Man-Made river system for fresh water supply, an infrastructure which has not been immune to damages caused by the ongoing conflict.**

OCHA's 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview of Libya



## **Gaza - 2017**

The effects of blockade are catastrophic in Gaza. The infrastructure and public services are in dire condition, increasing the risk of disease among the population. Of the water pumped in the Gaza Strip, 96,2 % is contaminated and unpotable. Residents have to buy desalinized water from private suppliers.

Sheikh Zuwayid

Tuma

Hareeya Jet

Rafiah

Rafah

Khan Yunis

al-Qarara

Deir el-Balah

Nuseirat  
Refugee Camp

Gaza

Jabalila Camp

Zikim

Mavklim

Gvarara

Erez Or Ha

So

Abasan al-Kabira

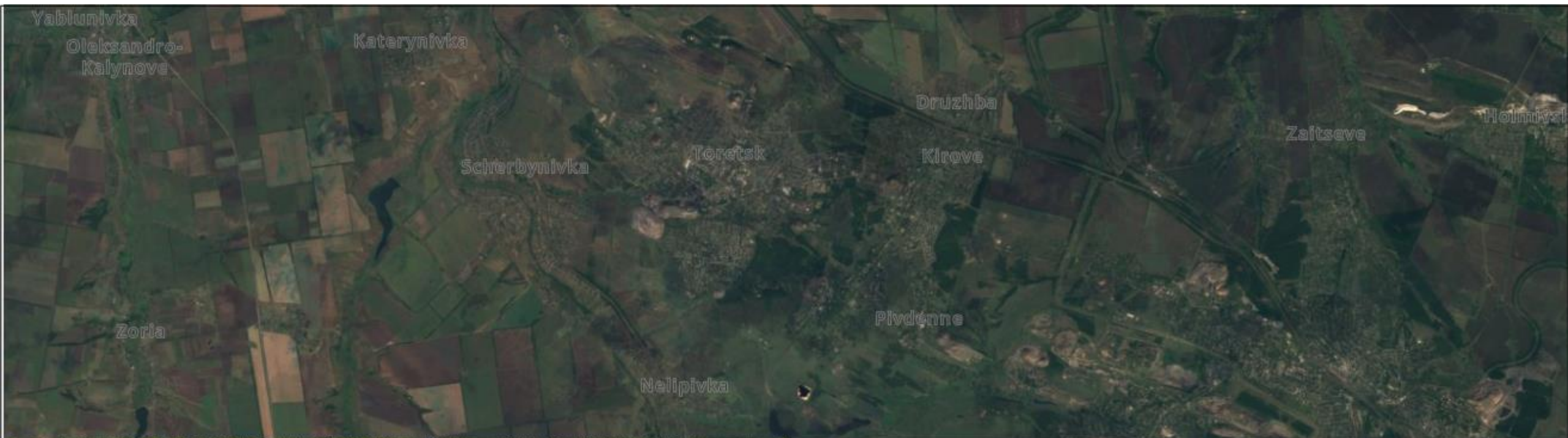
Khuza'a

Mivtahim

Talmei Yosef

Yevul





## Ukraine - November 2016

A complete ceasefire was agreed around Toretsk to allow a mine removal team to make the area safe for workers to fix a pipe, which connects the town to a water filtering station and which lies in a buffer zone between government and separatist positions, damaged by a shell.



**For more information, visit:**

**Geneva Water Hub** [www.genevawaterhub.org](http://www.genevawaterhub.org) **MapX:** [www.mapx.org](http://www.mapx.org)

**University of Geneva, UN Environment**

**Story map performed by the MapX story map engine**