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In the Name of God

IAUNS Call for Action to the International Civil Society and Academic Institutions with Consultative Status of the United Nations

Dear colleagues,

The Iranian nation is once again facing the cruelty of war. Since the beginning of the new round of the US and Israeli aggression against Iran on 28 February 2026, our beloved country and its people have been subjected to intensive bombardment for more than four weeks. Many civilians have lost their lives; civilian objects, infrastructures and industrial sites have been destroyed; aid workers, hospitals, Red Crescent properties and humanitarian equipment have come under attack; airports and harbors have been struck repeatedly; numerous cultural heritage sites and monuments have been destroyed; nuclear facilities were targeted and bombarded; oil reserves in several cities, including Tehran, have been deliberately targeted, resulting in severe contamination of air and soil with highly dangerous substances; and civilians are living under the constant threat of attacks on their power plants. All of this is occurring against a nation that was already grappling with the consequences of the June 2025 aggression by the US and Israel and suffering from the maximum economic pressure imposed by US sanctions against Iran. The grave violations of international humanitarian law in this war are stark, and include the inhumane direct attack against a school in Minab city, which resulted in the deaths of more than 168 pupils.

This is not new to us. As an ancient nation, Iranians have throughout history repeatedly faced the brutality of war and violence, and each time the Persian people have preserved their culture and overcome the enemy with love and peace. We will do so once again, drawing on our rich history of chivalry and pride.

While mainstream media are largely focusing on the global economic impact of this war against Iran, we warn our peers around the world, and especially those

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entities with consultative status at the UN, that the ongoing aggression and unjust war against Iran also profoundly threatens the roots and foundations of the Charter-based international order and, more broadly, the very idea of the rule of law in international relations. Fundamental principles such as the prohibition of the use of force, the prohibition of intervention in the internal affairs of states, the right to self-determination of peoples, the peaceful settlement of international disputes, and *jus cogens* norms prohibiting the crime of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes against the environment are at stake. This will not remain a challenge limited to Iran or the Middle East and, as indicated in certain U.S. statements, such as those referring to Greenland, has the potential to extend to other regions and nations as well.

Sadly, neither the United Nations Security Council nor the member states appear willing to address this tragedy, which ultimately risks returning us to an era when there was no UN or body of international law to safeguard our world. It remains unclear to the entire international community what this war is about, and how, in our time, an aggressor can openly demand “unconditional surrender” from another party that is defending its territorial integrity. As you all know, apart from a few vague and unsatisfactory statements, we have never heard any legal justification for this war of aggression. It should be recalled that the 2015 Iran nuclear deal was unilaterally terminated by the U.S. Furthermore, both the June 2025 and February 2026 aggressions took place while Iran was in the midst of negotiations for a peaceful and constructive arrangement concerning its nuclear activities under the NPT.

Therefore, we, as one of the leading scientific associations in Iran in the fields of international relations and international law, and as an organization with special consultative status at the UN, hereby issue this open Call for Action. We humbly invite all those who care about the fate of the international legal order, especially our counterparts in academia to join us and rally around the cause of humanity and justice, each in whatever manner they deem appropriate, in support of preserving the international order. We hope that through our collective efforts, we the peoples of the United Nations, can find a way to uphold the fundamental values of humanity and peace.

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The International Nowruz Day, commemorating a Persian tradition that celebrates the arrival of spring and symbolises renewal and rebirth in our peace-loving culture, was marked earlier on March 20 around the world. As we enter this new season with heavy hearts, we pray that Nowruz will bring an end to the cruelty of war.

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