

## Minister says fuel supply stable despite attacks on Tehran, Karaj depots



A thick plume of black smoke rises into the sky following an Israeli airstrike on fuel storage facilities in northwest Tehran on March 7, 2026.  
● MIZAN

### Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Sunday that US-Israeli attacks on fuel depots in Tehran and Karaj on Saturday night have not disrupted the country's fuel supply, emphasizing that emergency measures are in place to maintain stability.

During a visit to one of the targeted depots in Tehran, Paknejad said that while stable supply continues without interruption, public cooperation is needed to address the resulting challenges.

The strikes, which targeted five fuel storage and distribution centers across Tehran Province and neighboring Alborz Province Saturday night, triggered fires at the facilities — critical nodes in the provinces'

energy infrastructure.

"The criminal American and Zionist regimes have deliberately attacked our energy infrastructure in an attempt to inflict hardship on the Iranian people," IRNA quoted Paknejad as saying.

"However, with the measures in place, fuel supply will remain stable."

He urged residents of the capital to avoid non-essential travel to gas stations, calling for public cooperation to manage demand during the crisis.

In a parallel effort, the National Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Association launched a nationwide campaign titled "Energy Empathy: CNG for Iran," beginning Sunday afternoon. Under the initiative, select CNG stations in Tehran and Alborz

provinces will provide free fuel to dual-fuel vehicles indefinitely, aiming to ease pressure on the system. Meanwhile, Executive Vice President Mohammad Jafar Qaempanah confirmed that emergency protocols have been activated and reiterated that fuel supplies remain stable. Speaking during a meeting with Mohammad Sadeq Azimifar, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), Qaempanah said the situation is expected to be fully resolved within two to three days. "If people reduce consumption, we can restore full operations within one to two days," he added.

Azimifar confirmed there are no current shortages of gasoline and said repair crews are working around the clock to restore damaged infrastructure and reestablish optimal distribution networks.

Since the US and Israeli aggression on Iran on February 28, gasoline consumption has jumped sharply from an average of 135mn litres per day due to people travelling by road from cities under attack to safer areas.

Minutes after the airstrikes on fuel depots, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced it had targeted the Haifa refinery in Israel with Kheibar ballistic missiles which have 500kg high-explosive warheads.

Tasnim News Agency published footage purportedly showing smoke rising from part of the Haifa refinery.

## Iran Air CEO: US, Israel carried out deliberate attacks on four planes in violation of int'l law

### Economy Desk

The head of Iran Air said on Sunday that four passenger aircraft operated by Iranian airlines have been deliberately targeted in US-Zionist attacks, calling the actions a clear violation of international human rights laws and norms.

Taher Abdolhay, CEO of Iran Air, told the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) that the US and Israel had intentionally attacked an Iran Air Airbus A319. "I was the pilot

of the Airbus A319 that was hit by an American missile at Bushehr Airport," he said. "The aircraft was not grounded and had just transported passengers to (the southern port of) Bushehr. It was deliberately targeted (last week)."

He emphasized that the US-Israel actions were intentional and completely contrary to international laws and human rights regulations.

Abdolhay added that, in addition to the Iran Air A319, two

Fokker 50 aircraft belonging to Karoon Airlines were hit at Ahvaz Airport in southwestern province of Khuzestan, and one Pars Air aircraft was damaged at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran. He said the aircrafts were either destroyed or severely damaged. The US and the Zionist regime launched their aggression against the country on February 28, with civilian targets and the country's infrastructure among the primary sites struck.



● IRNA

## Iranians returning to defend homeland

Amid the ongoing US-imposed war on Iran, thousands of Iranians residing in Turkey are demonstrating remarkable love for their country by traveling back to reunite with families and stand united against foreign aggression, rather than seeking refuge abroad.

This wave of returns highlights the deep-rooted patriotism among Iranians, who view the conflict not as a reason to flee but as a call to protect their sovereignty and support their

people, Tasnim news agency reported.

In a striking display of national pride, Iranian citizens at Turkey's Kapiköy Border Gate in Van are crossing back into Iran, emphasizing their commitment to their homeland.

In an interview with CNN Turk, one returning Iranian expressed unwavering resolve, stating, "They are harming our country and our people. Now, I want to be by their side. I want to help my country as much as I can.

First, my homeland and my land."

Another one shared similar sentiment, noting they had come to Turkey for tourism but chose to return early due to the war. "We had come to Turkey for sightseeing. We would have stayed a little longer, but the war broke out. That is why we are returning to our homeland. But now we want to go back to support our country and stand by our people."

Separately, reports from the border underscore that these

returns are driven by a sense of duty, with one Iranian mentioning impending military service as part of their support, saying, "We returned a little early because of the war. We are going to support our country. When I go, I will join the army. My time for military service has already come. In Iran, military service lasts two years. I will do whatever I can to support my country." In a related development, Turkish media has captured the fearless spirit of Iranians, with headlines proclaiming "Iranians Who Are Not Afraid of War Are Returning to Their Country! 'We

Are Protecting Our Homeland,'" reflecting a collective determination to safeguard their nation. Meanwhile, social media and video reports reinforce this narrative, where Iranians assert there is no fleeing, but rather a choice to stand against the aggressors, as one video transcript states, "No one fled; everyone chose to return to their country and stand against Israel. Entering a war with Israel was not our choice; they started the war."

This patriotism extends beyond borders, with Iranians in Turkey viewing their return as essential

to family reunions and national unity, countering any notions of escape by affirming, "There is no escaping."

English-language reports align with these accounts, noting some Iranians are returning from Turkey out of concern for loved ones amid the conflict, further illustrating the familial bonds intertwined with national loyalty.

Overall, these stories connect to paint a picture of resilient Iranians whose love for their country propels them homeward, embodying a unified front against external threats.

## UN under fire for silence over environmental destruction

### Social Desk

The deputy of international law affairs at the Legal Office of Iran's Department of Environment, referring to documentation of damages caused by US and Israeli military attacks on the country's environment, said it is "astonishing that the United Nations, and particularly its Environment Programme (UNEP), which serves as the global guardian of environmental protection, has remained silent in the face of the environmental devastation inflicted on Iran during this aggression".

In an interview with ISNA, Adel Mohammadi stated that the hostile entities, disregarding fundamental principles of international law — such as the prohibition of using environmental destruction or alteration as a weapon, and the ban on causing widespread and long-term, irreparable harm

— have attacked Iran's forests, mountainous regions, and water, mineral, and oil resources.

He pointed out that "the recent strikes on the Qeshm desalination plant and Tehran's oil depots are only a few examples of such actions, which, beyond polluting water, soil, and air, pose serious threats to public health."

Mohammadi added that experts at the Department of Environment have been documenting and assessing the full extent of environmental damage since the onset of the conflict. "The organization will determine the damages and, in addition to public disclosure, will certainly seek redress through international courts," he said.

Emphasizing the obligation, under international law, to avoid environmental pollution, Mohammadi reiterated, "It is surprising that the United Nations, and especial-



The photo shows the black marks left on a car due to a toxic rain precipitated by the US-Israeli attack on Tehran's oil depots that filled its sky with black smokes.  
● IRNA

ly UNEP, has maintained silence over the extensive destruction of Iran's environment and failed to fulfill its duties properly."

The deputy for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Department of Environment stressed

that "environmental rights are not only among human rights, but, as intergenerational rights, they are also one of its most fundamental. Any invasion, destruction, or alteration of the environment in any form or dimension is prohibited,

and when such actions are carried out with intent to annihilate, they constitute an evident war crime." The vice president and head of Iran's Department of Environment also stated that "the environment is the silent victim of wars."

Shina Ansari wrote on her social media page: "Despite previous warnings and correspondence with the UN secretary general, the United Nations Environment Programme, and environment ministers of the regional countries about the consequences of war in the Persian Gulf region — which faces high environmental vulnerability — once again an unjust war has been imposed on our beloved country."

IRNA reported that the vice president for Women and Family Affairs, in another letter addressed to Antonio Guterres, wrote: "What occurred amid the diplomatic ef-

orts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives during the negotiations, similar to the experience of the 12-day war, represents a systematic violation of peremptory norms of international law." In the letter, Zahra Behrouz-Azar described attacks on Iran's political and religious authorities as "clear examples of state terrorism," and assaults on civilian, residential, and medical centers and the killing of noncombatants — particularly women and children — as "manifest crimes against humanity" and "war crimes".

Behrouz-Azar stressed that these actions not only contradict the fundamental principles of humanity but also explicitly violate international law, including Articles 23, 69, 70, 71, and 75 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949), and Articles 13-16, 51, 53, and 59-67 of Additional Protocol I.