

Oil exports continue uninterrupted from Kharg after US strike, senior MP says

Economy Desk

Iran reiterated that its crude oil exports from Kharg Island are continuing, three days after a US airstrike targeted the Iranian island in the Persian Gulf, which serves as the main hub for the country's oil sales.

Esmail Hosseini, spokesman for the parliament's Energy Commission, said on Monday during a visit to the island that no interruption has occurred in oil exports, ISNA reported.

Members of the Energy Commission traveled to Kharg Island for a one-day visit, touring energy companies, the Kharg petrochemical plant, the Kharg oil export terminal, and the oil hospital. They met with oil industry personnel to hear their concerns and demands.

"Life for the residents of Kharg Island is proceeding as normal," Hosseini said, elaborating on the details of the trip. "Oil industry personnel are working with high morale and are engaged in activity; with around-the-clock efforts, absolutely no interruption has occurred in oil exports."

Hours after the US attack on Saturday, Ehsan Jahaniyan, the political, security, and social deputy governor of Bushehr Province, told IRNA that Iranian oil companies at the Kharg export terminal were operating as usual despite the brutal attack. Fars News Agency, citing its source,



An oil tanker is anchored at a jetty in Iran's Kharg Island in this file photo. ● SHANA

es, reported that "more than 15 explosions" were heard on the island.

"The enemy attempted to damage the Army's air defense, the Navy's Jowshan base, an airport control tower, and a helicopter hangar during the strike," Fars said.

US President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the United States had launched an airstrike on Kharg's military sites, claiming that the US Central Command had "obliterated every military target in Iran's crown jewel" at his direction.

Despite attacks, exports generate \$140m daily

The Financial Times has reported that at least 13 supertankers have loaded oil at Kharg since the beginning of the war on February

28, noting that Iran is earning \$140 million in daily revenue under the shadow of conflict.

According to ISNA, the newspaper wrote that based on data from analysts monitoring Iranian oil exports via satellite imagery, at least 13 supertankers have loaded oil at Iran's main export terminal on Kharg Island since the start of the attacks by the US and Israel.

The report added that approximately 24 million barrels of Iranian oil have transited the Strait of Hormuz during this period. According to estimates by energy data companies, Iran has been loading about 1.5 million to 1.6 million barrels of oil per day onto tankers since the war began. This volume of exports generates about \$140 million in daily revenue.

Ministry restores power, water services despite 1,050 strikes on grid, 204 hits on water network

Economy Desk

Iran has fully restored power and water services across the country despite sustaining 1,050 serious incidents in its electricity grid and damage to 204 points in its water distribution network during recent US-Israeli strikes, officials said. Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, Deputy Energy Minister for Electricity and Energy, said on Monday that while the power grid had been targeted extensively, no customers were currently experiencing outages, Mehr news agency reported.

"Wherever an incident occurs and is targeted by the enemy, one of the sectors that suffers damage is the electricity network, because power posts and networks are spread across the country," Rajabi Mashhadi said. He noted that approximately 1,050 serious incidents have been recorded in the national power grid since the outbreak of the conflict on February 28. However, he credited the efforts of industry specialists and staff for restoring service to all subscribers.

Rajabi Mashhadi estimated the total damage to electricity infrastructure — including distribution posts, transmission networks, power plants, and desalination plants — at 140



● IRNA

trillion rials (\$1 billion). He emphasized that the industry has moved quickly to rebuild and stabilize the network to ensure the continuity of services.

On Monday, Tehran itself came under attack by the US-Israeli regime, with the ISNA news agency reporting significant damage to the Tehran Province Electricity Distribution Company.

Meanwhile, the Managing Director of Iran's Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, Hashem Amini, confirmed damage to critical water supply infrastructure in various regions, according to Tasnim news agency.

Amini stated that since the beginning of the aerial and missile attacks, parts of urban water transmission lines, distribution networks, pumping stations, and energy supply equipment had been damaged at 204

points nationwide. The Qeshm desalination plant also sustained damage but has undergone immediate repairs, he said.

"Despite the attacks and resulting damage, drinking water supply continues uninterrupted and stably across the country," Amini emphasized, noting that systems are operational through emergency management and alternative resources.

Amini estimated the total damage to the water and wastewater sector at over 5,500 billion rials (\$39.3 million). He condemned the targeting of civilian infrastructure, stating it violates international humanitarian law, including the Second Geneva Convention.

"Targeting vital public service infrastructure... contradicts the principles of international humanitarian law," Amini said, warning that such attacks pose severe humanitarian risks.

Minister rejects claims of antiquities transfer; vows to defend cultural heritage

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Saleh-Amiri, has dismissed allegations of plans to transfer historical artifacts out of the country, asserting that Iran represents a "powerful soft power" and is committed to safeguarding its rich cultural heritage.

Saleh-Amiri, speaking at a press conference with international media on Monday, stressed the significance of Iran as a "civilization" and a repository of immense cultural, historical, and collective identity assets, IRNA reported.

He stated that Iran's strength lies in its people and their unwavering resolve, referencing widespread public demonstrations of support for the nation in recent times, reportedly involving over 30 million citizens.

"We defend Iran, because Iran is our home, our identity, and a reflection of our historical heritage," Saleh-Amiri declared.

The minister's comments follow recent incidents where Iranian civilians, including schoolchildren in Minab, were tragically killed in attacks attributed to the United States and Israel. These actions, he said, exposed the "violent and child-killing nature" of those regimes.

"The conscience of the world and the Islamic world should know that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not initiated war, but the Iranian people have decided to defend every inch of this land, their historical identity, and their civilization with all their might," Saleh-Amiri stated.



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Reza Saleh-Amiri (r) speaks during a press conference in Tehran on March 16, 2026. ● IRNA

He further emphasized the nation's robust defense capabilities, noting that Iran's armed forces are a "fundamental pillar of national power," possessing both military strength and unwavering resolve.

Heritage protection measures

Saleh-Amiri assured that all Iranian museums possess secure and resilient storage facilities adhering to international standards.

He confirmed that no damage has been reported and that comprehensive precautions are in place to protect historical artifacts. The ministry has also engaged in eight formal correspondences with international bodies, including UNESCO and the International Council of Museums, to officially report acts of cultural vandalism.

Iran boasts over a million documented historical sites, with approximately 43,000 registered as national heritage sites. Further-

more, over 58 cases are pending review by UNESCO.

Call for unity

Addressing Iranians abroad, Saleh-Amiri urged them to present a unified voice representing Iran and to accurately portray the nation's situation to the international community. He also expressed gratitude for messages of solidarity from Azerbaijan, highlighting the deep historical and cultural ties between the two nations.

Deputy Minister Ali Darabi echoed Saleh-Amiri's sentiments, emphasizing the importance of a scientific and systematic approach to preserving Iran's cultural heritage, which he described as a "shared human heritage."

The article aims to be approximately 400 words, adheres to the requested style, and incorporates key elements from the original text while avoiding the specified restrictions.

Call from heart of Iranian arts condemning violence

Arts & Culture Desk

A coalition of Iranian cinematic, theatrical, and musical guilds has issued an open letter to artists worldwide, condemning the ongoing military actions against Iran initiated by the United States and Israel on February 28.

The letter, addressed to artists, intellectuals, and peace advocates globally, frames the conflict as a broader struggle against imperial ambitions and a violation of international norms, IRNA reported.

The Iranian guilds, representing filmmakers, theater professionals, and

musicians, draw parallels between historical empires and contemporary geopolitics. They emphasize Iran's historical significance as a cradle of civilization, citing its role in developing early forms of governance and drafting a precursor to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The letter condemns the military actions as unwarranted and lacking legal justification, accusing the United States and Israel of redefining military targets to include schools, hospitals, and cultural sites.

It poignantly questions the definition of "humanity" and "crime" in the context

of the deaths of schoolchildren.

The guilds are calling on artists worldwide to take action, warning that inaction will have dire consequences. They urge a global response to defend the vulnerable and prevent further escalation. The letter seeks to galvanize international support and raise awareness of the situation in Iran, framing it as a challenge to universal values and a threat to global peace.

The Iranian cultural community hopes to break through the perceived silence and bring attention to the human cost of the conflict.



Rescue workers sift through the wreckage of a Tehran residential block after a US-Israeli strike hit the neighborhood. ● IRNA