

FM condemns US-Israeli attacks on civilian sites, calls for international action

Raids on universities demonstrate spite toward Iran's scientific advancement: *SpoX*

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned US and Israeli attacks on civilian infrastructure, highlighting the responsibility of all regional countries and the international community to confront the collapse of international legal norms as a result of these countries' law-breaking and egregious crimes against humanity. In a phone call with his Pakistani counterpart, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, on Saturday evening, Araghchi detailed the atrocities committed by the US and Israel against the Iranian people, specifically

highlighting attacks on public infrastructure, schools, universities, hospitals, scientific centers, and residential areas, IRNA reported. The conflict, initiated by the US and Israel on February 28, continues to escalate, with numerous civilian sites and public infrastructure reportedly targeted despite claims to the contrary. The latest such attacks include strikes on the Science and Technology University and the Isfahan Industrial University. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Esmail Baqaei, stated in an article that the attacks on universities

demonstrate American-Israeli spite towards Iran's scientific advancement. "This desperate act of the enemy will, like all its previous attempts, lead nowhere, because Iranian science and knowledge are not imported, nor do they grow amidst bricks and mortar. Rather, they are an integral part of the enduring and progressive capital of an authentic civilization that has consistently benefited humanity with its achievements and innovations," he added. Baqaei later posted on X that these universities are just two of dozens of educational and research centers that

have been targeted over the past 30 days. He emphasized that the "nuclear program" and the "imminent threat" presented by the US and Israel as justification for the aggression are nothing more than flimsy and fabricated excuses to conceal their true intentions.

Four-nation talks on Iran conflict

During the phone conversation with Araghchi, Pakistan's Foreign Minister reaffirmed his country's principled stance in condemning the military aggression against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.



Iran's Science and Technology University in Tehran was struck by projectiles during an airstrike on March 28, 2026.

IRNA

He informed the Iranian Foreign Minister about Pakistan's efforts to halt the conflict and expressed hope that through the commendable efforts of regional coun-

tries, an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to security and stability in the region would be achieved. Among these efforts is the hosting of a four-nation

meeting of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia in Islamabad. According to the Pakistani Foreign Ministry, the talks, which will span two days, will focus on exploring practical solutions to de-escalate tensions, halt the conflict, and return the parties to the path of dialogue. Recent developments have had a significant impact on the global economy, with rising oil prices, disruptions to energy routes, and concerns about threats to shipping in strategic chokepoints cited as consequences of the ongoing conflict.

American E-3 Sentry aircraft destroyed in IRGC strike

International Desk

An American E-3 Sentry aircraft was utterly destroyed in Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia, during the latest round of airstrikes carried out by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on US bases in West Asia. The crucial E-3 Sentry was one of 16 airborne warning and control system aircraft possessed by the United States, six of which have been deployed to the region amid an ongoing military conflict between Iran and a US-Israeli coalition. "In response to the hostile actions of the terrorist army of the United States and following the destruction of refueling planes in the air base in Al Kharj, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Aerospace Force conducted a joint missile and drone operational strike, completely destroying at least one E-3 aircraft, also known as AWACS, while causing serious damage to neigh-



The photo, published on March 29, 2026, shows an American E-3 Sentry aircraft destroyed by the IRGC Aerospace Force in an US air base in Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia.

MNA

boring aircraft," read the IRGC statement on Sunday, following the attacks on Prince Sultan Air Base. Earlier on Sunday, the IRGC said it targeted two major industrial units "related to American military and aerospace industries in the region." "The EMAL factory [in Abu Dhabi], with the longest aluminum production line in the world and a production capacity of 1.3 million tons, and [Bahrain's] ALBA aluminum factory, with investment and joint ownership of American companies, play a significant role

in the military-industrial products of the US terrorist army," the IRGC statement read. The attacks came in retaliation for the airstrikes on Iran's industrial infrastructure, namely the Foolad Mobarakeh and Foolad Khuzestan steel companies, located in Isfahan and Ahvaz respectively, on Saturday. **Legitimate targets** All American and Israeli universities in the region will be "legitimate targets" for Iranian forces, the IRGC said on Sunday.

The announcement came after the Science and Technology University in Tehran was attacked by US-Israeli airstrikes on Saturday. "From now on, all universities of the occupying regime and American universities in the West Asia region will be legitimate targets for us until two universities are hit in retaliation for the destroyed Iranian universities," the announcement No. 50 of Operation True Promise 4 read. "We advise all staff, professors, and students of American universities in the region, as well as residents nearby, to stay at least one kilometer away from the universities to ensure their safety," added the statement. The US government will have until 12:00 P.M., Tehran time, on Monday to issue an official statement condemning the bombing of the Iranian universities to avoid airstrikes on its academic centers in the region, the IRGC warned.

US seeks negotiations publicly, ground invasion privately: Qalibaf

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the US is publicly sending a message of negotiation and dialogue while secretly plotting a ground invasion. On the fourth week of American-Israeli aggression on Iran, which began on February 28, US President Donald Trump claimed to be initiating talks and presented a 15-point peace plan, which Iran dismissed as unilateral. In a message marking the 30th day of the aggression, Ghalibaf asserted that the US is merely articulating its desires, declaring as a 15-point list what it has failed to achieve through warfare, and seeking a resolution through diplomacy. He emphasized that as long as Americans seek Iran's submission, the Iranian response to these



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf

IRNA

American aspirations remains clear: "We shall never surrender." In his message to the Iranian people, Ghalibaf stated that the war is now at its most critical juncture, and the enemy, who claimed to have destroyed Iran's air, naval, and missile forces, has now set its sights on opening the Strait of Hormuz. "Opening a strait that was open before the war has become an operational aspiration of Trump," he stated.

Ghalibaf also noted that Trump has been accused globally of initiating aimless wars and lacks a response to public opinion. "The consequences of the war's wickedness has returned to its instigator," he added. According to Ghalibaf, Iran is engaged in a major global conflict and will not emerge from it without victory. "We will not allow our enemies to exit the war without solidifying Iran's power. We will turn this war into a great lesson for every aggressor."

Attacks on universities, violation of international norms



By Kamran Yeganegi
Political analyst

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Attacks on universities are not ordinary military actions; they constitute a clear violation of peremptory norms of international humanitarian law. These norms explicitly protect civilian objects, particularly educational institutions. As universities have come under attack, it is evident that certain actors—including the United States and Israel—have crossed well-established red lines of the international legal order.

Legal status of universities under international humanitarian law

Under international humanitarian law (IHL), the principle of distinction obliges parties to an armed conflict to differentiate between military objectives and civilian objects. Universities and educational institutions, as civilian entities, are protected under this principle and must not be targeted unless they are used for direct military pur-

poses. In addition, the principle of proportionality and the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks further reinforce the obligation to avoid harm to civilian infrastructure. Institutions such as the United Nations have consistently emphasized the protection of educational facilities during armed conflicts.

Legacy of World War II, from destruction to norm formation

During World War II, widespread destruction affected not only cities but also universities and centers of knowledge across Europe. The devastation of academic institutions highlighted the profound consequences of disregarding the civilian character of educational spaces. These experiences played a crucial role in shaping the post-war international legal framework, particularly the development and consolidation of norms aimed at protecting civilian objects. In this sense, safeguarding universities is not merely a moral imperative but a legal obligation rooted in the lessons of history.

Clear violations, responsibility of US & Israel

In light of the attacks on universities,

actions carried out by the United States and Israel must be explicitly and unequivocally condemned. Targeting educational institutions—especially in the absence of any direct military use—constitutes a clear breach of the principle of distinction and amounts to unlawful attacks against civilian objects. Such actions are not only inconsistent with international legal obligations but also undermine the normative foundations established after World War II to limit violence in armed conflicts. Moreover, when such violations are committed by actors who claim to uphold a rules-based international order, they expose a fundamental contradiction between rhetoric and practice, further eroding trust in the international legal system.

Legal, diplomatic consequences

Violations of the protected status of educational institutions are not isolated incidents; they carry significant legal implications, including the international responsibility of states. Such actions may give rise to demands for accountability and potential recourse within international

legal mechanisms.

From a diplomatic perspective, the continuation of such violations weakens established norms and diminishes the effectiveness of international humanitarian law. Silence or inaction by the international community risks normalizing these breaches, thereby lowering the threshold for future violations.

The experience of World War II demonstrated the devastating consequences of failing to protect civilian institutions, including universities. In response, the post-war international legal order sought to institutionalize norms aimed at preventing the recurrence of such tragedies. Today, attacks on universities signal a troubling departure from these norms. It is therefore imperative for the international community, through multilateral diplomacy, to reaffirm and strengthen the protection of educational institutions.

Protecting universities is not only a legal duty but a prerequisite for preserving civilization, rationality, and sustainable peace. Without safeguarding education and knowledge production, no international order can maintain its legitimacy or long-term stability.

First Announcement

National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) Tender

"Copper Concentrates Tender
1405#01-12,000WMT -FCA Turkey"

National Iranian Copper Industries Company
intends to export:

Commodity: Copper cathodes LME grade «A» produced in Sarcheshmeh or Khatoon Abad, Kerman Province, I. R. IRAN.

- Legal foreign companies are invited to visit the Tender section on our official website at www.nicico.com (tender section) to review the tender terms and conditions available up to Saturday, 04th April 2026 11:00AM Iran local time (GMT+3:30).
- All offers must be submitted exclusively via email to the NICICO Marketing & Sales Dept. at: sales-tender2@nicico.com no later than 11:00 AM (Iran local time) on Saturday, 04th April 2026. For any questions or further information, please reach out to NICICO's Marketing & Sales department using the contact details below:

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