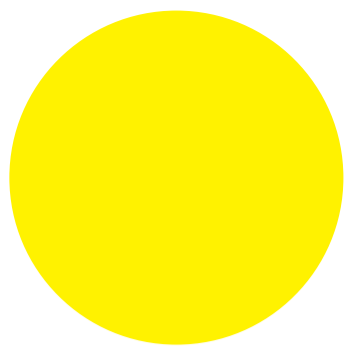


Japan eyes talks with Iran as energy crunch deepens

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Iran condemns US-Israel bombing of universities as an act of 'desperation'

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi denounced US-Israeli strikes on Iranian universities as an act of "desperation", accusing the regimes of believing they can destroy knowledge through violence.

In a statement posted on his X account late Sunday, Araghchi said the attacks on Iranian academic institutions — part of a broader campaign that includes assassinations of Iranian scientists and strikes on nuclear facilities — reveals a persistent delusion.

"Israel and its partner-in-crime believe that knowledge can be bombed away," he said.

"It's reflected in the murders of Iran's scientists and attacks on Iran's nuclear sites, and now universities," he added.

"Reality check: your actions ooze of desperation and only inspire more pursuit of knowledge," Araghchi reminded the US and the Zionist regime.

600 educational centers targeted

According to the Red Crescent Society, "the enemy has so far targeted approximately 600 educational centers across Iran — including schools, universities, and other academic institutions." In response, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) declared all universities in the occupied Zionist regime and American universities in Western Asia as legitimate targets, pending retaliation for the destruction of Iranian universities.

"Leaders of the reckless White House must understand: from



The photo shows the site of an airstrike by the US and Israel on the University of Science and Technology in Tehran, Iran, on March 28, 2026.

MEHR

now on, all universities of the occupying regime and American institutions in Western Asia will be legitimate targets until two universities are destroyed in retaliation for the Iranian ones already destroyed," the IRGC stated. The IRGC further warned, "If the US government wishes to prevent its universities in the region from being targeted beyond the two in retaliation, it must issue a formal statement condemning the bombing of universities by 12:00 p.m. Tehran time on Monday, March 30. If not, the threat will be carried out with full force."

The IRGC also announced that five Israeli Hermes drones were destroyed on Sunday by ground forces and local fighters from southern Hormozgan Province. In another statement on Monday, the IRGC announced that

its missiles targeted command and control centers, drone facilities, and locations used by the US and Israeli personnel in the 87th wave of Operation True Promise 4.

Radar sites, US positions struck in UAE

Iran's Army also reported that radar stations and US military deployment sites in the UAE had

been struck by Iranian drones in recent hours.

Zionist strike on Kuwait plant decried

In a separate statement, Ebrahim Zolfaghari, spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbia Command, condemned the Zionist regime's attack on Kuwait's desalination plant, which occurred under the pretext of falsely implicating Iran on Monday.

"This aggressive act by the Zionist occupiers, disguised as a pretext against Iran, is a clear sign of their moral degradation and disgrace," Zolfaghari said.

He urged regional countries to remain vigilant against the US-Zionist alliance's efforts to destabilize Western Asia and called for an end to the presence of the US military and Zionist occupiers in the region.

Foreign military bases and state responsibility:

Rethinking neutrality in modern warfar



By Kamran Yeganegi
Political analyst

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

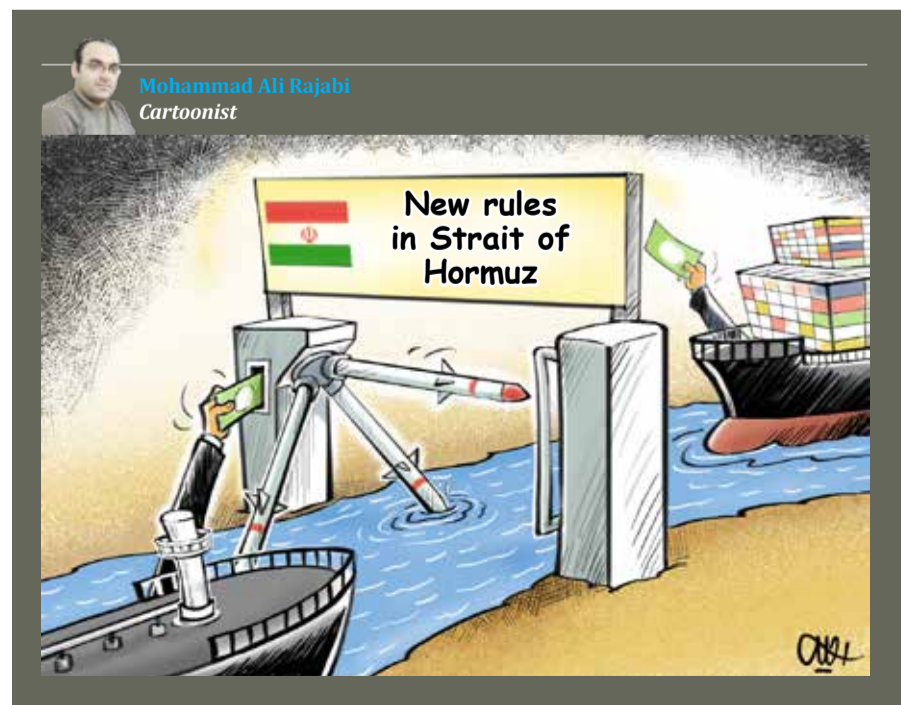
In the evolving landscape of the international system, the concept of state neutrality can no longer be interpreted in its traditional, simplistic form. The expansion of foreign military bases across strategically significant regions has increasingly blurred the line between neutrality and indirect participation in armed conflict. Under the fundamental principles of international law—most notably the prohibition of the use of force enshrined in Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter—states are obligated to refrain from actions that violate the

sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states. At the same time, Article 51 of the Charter recognizes the inherent right of self-defense in response to an armed attack.

Against this backdrop, a critical question arises: can a state that permits a foreign power to establish military bases on its territory still credibly claim neutrality in an ongoing conflict? From an international legal perspective, neutrality is not merely a political posture but a status accompanied by clear legal obligations. According to customary international law and established legal doctrines, a neutral state must not allow its territory to be used for military operations by parties to a conflict. Failure to uphold this obligation may expose the state to being regarded as an indirect participant in hostilities. In contemporary conflicts—particular-

ly those characterized as hybrid or networked warfare—the use of military infrastructure located in third states has become a central instrument of power projection. This development has not only transformed the geographical scope of warfare but has also expanded the legal and strategic responsibilities of host states. Where military operations are organized, supported, or facilitated from the territory of a given state against another country, a fundamental legal question emerges: can such territory still be considered external to the battlefield? A growing number of international legal scholars argue that, under such circumstances, the principle of neutrality is effectively undermined, and the host state cannot fully dissociate itself from the legal and security consequences of the conflict.

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