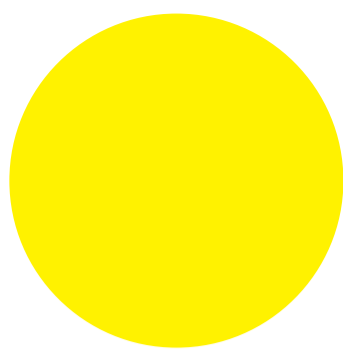


IRGC likens US humiliating defeat to 1980 Tabas Operation fiasco

Parliament speaker derides Trump's 'victory' bluster in rescue op.

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## Iran's UN envoy raps strikes on petchem sites, bridges as war crimes

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### Iran gains strategic upper hand through controlling Strait of Hormuz

by **Mohammad Bayat**  
International affairs analyst

**OPINION EXCLUSIVE**

Forty days into the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran, the war has not proceeded according to the invaders' initial plans. The failure to achieve their primary objectives has reportedly caused confusion and disarray within the enemy camp and among its decision-makers.

The situation that the aggressors, led by the United States, is facing today is the result of their miscalculation regarding Iran's political and social structure, and ultimately the combat capability of its armed forces.

The enemy's assessment and the image that the Zionist regime had shaped for the Americans before the start of the war was that through joint military aggression and rapid operations against Iran, targeting the command circle — namely the meeting of the Supreme National Defense Council and the commander-in-chief, the Leader — the establishment would be shocked and would be paralyzed within 72 hours. Subsequently, with the initial blows they would inflict on Iran during the war, they would place the establishment in a state of severe weakness and collapse, paving the way for Iran's surrender.

Contrary to these expectations, Iran has maintained a cohesive defensive front. While the US-Israeli alliance has achieved some tactical successes by hitting predetermined targets in its "target bank," inflicting human and material losses — to which Iran has responded in kind. But at the strategic level, the situation is different, and it appears that Iran is one step ahead of its enemies.

Previously, the core disputes centered on nuclear, missile, and regional issues, leadership succession and Iran's future relations with China. Iran has now revealed a new card: the Strait of Hormuz and global energy security.

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### Nation marches in glory, unity to support Islamic Establishment



People wave Iran's flags during a gathering to support the establishment amid an aggression by the US and Israel in the city of Shahr-e Kord, Iran, on April 4, 2026.

FARS

#### National Desk

Iranians from all walks of life took to the streets in many cities across the country on Saturday for the thirty-fifth night to show their unity and support for the country and armed forces fighting American and Israeli aggressors.

Iranians gathered in the cities' main squares, shrugging off the US president's threats to bomb Iran "back to the Stone Ages" as blasts hit many cities including

the capital Tehran. Waiving Iran's flags and holding placards and pictures of those martyred in the ongoing aggression by the US and Israel, the Iranians chant slogans against the US and the regime.

The gatherings are aimed at showing unity and resistance against the unprovoked aggression by the US and Israel as well as voicing unwavering loyalty to Iran's leadership. The people take to the streets each night, filling public squares

to show loyalty even amid the strikes.

In Isfahan and Kashan, the combination of sporting enthusiasm, media productions, and the presence of the people created a special manifestation of the natural flow of life.

In the western cities of Kermanshah, Qasr-e Shirin, and Kangavar images of public presence in urban spaces, depicting scenes of resilience and solidarity. Iranians in the central city of Yazd said they participate in the

nightly gatherings to support the establishment and revolution, and to show their love for Iran and confronting the US bullying.

The massive gathering of the people also took place in the northern city of Behshahr in Mazandaran Province. The people called for revenge for the killing of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as well as the students of the southern city of Minab in the US and Israeli attacks.

In recent days, Iranian officials including President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, have also participated in the gatherings, walking openly in the streets among small crowds despite recent assassinations of Iranian officials.

The US and the Israeli regime have launched a large-scale unprovoked military campaign against Iran since February 28. Hundreds of Iranians have lost their lives in the aggression.



#### SCO ministers caution against regional impacts of Iran war

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#### Iran's domestic league players set for national training camp

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#### Industry group says steel output holds steady despite strikes

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#### Nowruz box office draws 31,000 viewers despite wartime constraints

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