

War against people of Iran

 **By Gholamreza Zarifian**
Former university professor

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

One of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law is the immunity of civilian infrastructure during wartime. Vital facilities such as water and electricity networks, power plants, roads, bridges, medical centers, and hospitals are not merely a collection of physical structures; rather, they constitute the vital arteries of popular life. For this reason, international documents and regulations have not only condemned attacks on these infrastructures, but have, in numerous instances, treated such attacks as war crimes. The rationale for this sensitivity is likewise clear; the destruction of infrastructure directly affects the lives of millions of citizens, and its consequences are not limited to financial damages. The outage of a power plant is not merely the extinguishing of household lights; this event can endanger the life of a patient undergoing cardiac surgery in the operating theater, disrupt the operations of hospital intensive care units, and remove vital medical services from public access. The destruction of bridges and communication routes likewise does not signify merely damage to a road; rather, it precipitates a crisis in relief operations, patient transport, the

provision of essential commodities, and even the everyday existence of the populace. From this perspective, the attack on public infrastructure must be regarded as an attack on the people because the primary and most direct victims thereof are ordinary citizens — those who play no direct role on the battlefield, yet bear the heaviest costs of war. The thought-provoking point is that in a world that incessantly speaks of human dignity, human rights, and humanitarian values, we witness behaviors that stand in open contradiction with these very declared principles. Countries that introduce themselves as defenders of democracy, liberty, and human rights either maintain silence in the face of attacks on civilian infrastructure or even, through various forms, extend political and media support to the perpetrators. This duplicity has engendered serious questions within global public opinion concerning the integrity of the existent human rights regime. In such circumstances, global public opinion is, more than before, capable of distinguishing between rhetoric and reality. The experience of recent wars has likewise demonstrated that the destruction of vital infrastructure is not a sign of strength, but rather a sign of incapacity to adhere to the humanitarian rules of warfare. The images and narratives pertaining to attacks on Iran's bridges, service centers, and urban areas revive, within the public consciousness, the bitter memories of some of the most savage wars of the 20th century, and subject these

actions to the judgment of the global conscience. The human examples of these attacks, more than any legal argument, attest to the depth of the catastrophe. When, as a result of the targeting of a bridge or communication route, a family is bereaved, a mother loses her life, or a child sustains severe injuries, it is no longer possible to analyze these actions solely within the framework of military objectives; these are the direct consequences of a war on the lives of the people. At the same time, this experience has once again demonstrated that, although defensive and military capacity is an undeniable necessity for the preservation of national security, it is not sufficient in itself. Countries that possess technological and armaments superiority are capable of inflicting extensive damage on infrastructure. Hence, in addition to strengthening defensive capacity, all national capacities — from social cohesion and active diplomacy to the utilization of legal and political instruments on the international stage — must be employed to confront such illegal and inhumane actions. What ultimately matters is the protection of popular life and the safeguarding of those infrastructures on which the continuity of societal existence depends. The attack on these infrastructures, irrespective of any political or military justification, constitutes an action against fundamental human rights, and the awakened global conscience will, sooner or later, render its judgment thereon.



Following the criminal US strikes near Shahid Baqaei Hospital in Ahvaz, southwestern Iran, on July 15, 2026, a patient is evacuated from this medical facility, which had "211 patients undergoing chemotherapy," to be transferred to other treatment centers.
● IRNA

All of Iran is our home

 **By Fatemeh Mohajerani**
Iranian government's spokesperson

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The geography of Iran is not merely the borders of its territory; it is the shared narrative of a people whose destinies are intertwined in every part of this land. For this reason, any aggression on any corner of this territory is a wound on the body of Iran. From the very first hours of the recent criminal American attacks on our country's soil, the government has defined its responsibility with this very perspective; a perspective that distinguishes not between north and south, east and west, or the center of the country, and regards the security, tranquility, and dignity of all Iranians as equally valuable. For the government, Hormozgan, Bushehr, Khuzestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, and the other provinces that, in these days, have been more exposed to enemy aggression than other parts of the country, are inseparable parts of Iran — just as are Tehran, Tabriz, Mashhad, Shiraz, Kermanshah, or any other city. If the adversary endeavors, through the targeting of certain parts of the country, to create a sense of insecurity and fragmentation, our response shall be nothing other than the reinforcement of national solidarity and effective presence alongside the people. In these days, the government does not perceive its duty solely as crisis management. Our responsibility is to preserve, insofar as possible, the normal course of popular life; to continue public services; to support relief and medical institutions; to secure essential needs; to maintain the stability of infrastructure; and to accompany those families that bear a greater burden. Within this same framework, all executive bodies have been obligated to continue, with maximum capacity, the services required by the people without interruption, and to ensure that no disruption occurs in the provision of cit-

izens' basic needs. What transpires in the field is the product of the round-the-clock collaboration of a collection of executive, relief, medical, and service-providing institutions. Many of these actions may not be exposed to the view of public opinion, but their outcome must be perceptible in the lives of the people, in the continuity of services, in attention to the afflicted, in the provision of essential commodities, in the maintenance of vital networks, and in the endeavor that will help families surmount these difficult days with the least possible concern. In such circumstances, close communication with local administrators and the continuous receiving of field reports constitute an important part of the government's decision-making process. Each province, in accordance with its own conditions, possesses different needs and requirements, and decisions are made accordingly. The objective is that the nation's resources and capacities be placed, in a just manner and in proportion to circumstances, at the disposal of those people who, today, are more exposed to harm than others.

Alongside all executive measures, another important responsibility rests on the government; the preservation of public trust. The Iranian people have, throughout all historical periods, demonstrated that, in difficult days, the principal asset of the country is national solidarity and empathy. This asset is reinforced when the people are assured that the government stands beside them, hears their voices, pursues their concerns, and will spare no effort to alleviate hardships. War does not proceed solely on the battlefield; the preservation of hope, tranquility, and social cohesion is likewise a part of that field. The adversary endeavors to disseminate a sense of insecurity throughout the entire country and to create a distance between the people and officials. The government's response to this strategy is its continuous presence alongside the people, the continuation of service, accountability, and the effort to resolve their issues. No province shall be left alone in this path, and no Iranian should feel excluded from the purview of government attention. Simultaneously, planning for the com-

pensation of damages, support for affected families, and the swiftest possible restoration of normal conditions to the affected regions constitute a part of the government's responsibility, which will be pursued with seriousness. We believe that surmounting these difficult days is possible only through reliance on national capacity, popular empathy, and the continuation of service delivery. Iran is the common home of us all. The security and tranquility of this home are not divisible, and no part of it is separate from another. If today a point of this territory has become the target of enemy attacks, all of Iran stands beside it, and the government deems itself obligated to remain, with all its capacity, alongside the people at that very point, until the day when tranquility returns to their lives. The government will continue its path with this same conviction; a conviction that is not a slogan, but rather the foundation of our action and accountability: All of Iran is our home.

The article first appeared in the Persian-language newspaper Iran.



Mohammad Ashouri Taziani (2nd-R), the governor of Hormozgan Province, Iran, personally inspects the damages inflicted by the recent American air strikes on the southern province's infrastructure to better manage reconstruction efforts.
● IRNA

Another important responsibility rests on the government; the preservation of public trust. The Iranian people have, throughout all historical periods, demonstrated that, in difficult days, the principal asset of the country is national solidarity and empathy. This asset is reinforced when the people are assured that the government stands beside them, hears their voices, pursues their concerns, and will spare no effort to alleviate hardships.