

End of fragmented action, beginning of cohesive campaign



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INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

A specialized assembly to examine the legal and judicial dimensions of the two recent imposed wars convened on Saturday, under the chairmanship of Masoud Pezeshkian. This assembly, more than anything else, emphasized the necessity of formulating a cohesive strategy for the legal and judicial prosecution of war crimes and of ending the fragmentation of actions undertaken by various institutions. Mohammad Darvishzadeh, President of the Iranian Law and Legal Research Institute, announced during this assembly the compilation of the "Comprehensive Atlas of Legal-Judicial Action Research Concerning Aggression and War Crimes," with the identification of over 700 legal issues. This document is intended to serve as the basis for the coordination of 35 institutions and for Iran's cohesive entry into domestic and international legal prosecutions.

Darvishzadeh, speaking to the Iran Newspaper correspondent at yesterday's assembly, stated: "What was introduced at the president's meeting with jurists as the most significant achievement was the compilation of the 'Comprehensive Atlas of Legal-Judicial Action Research Concerning Aggression and War Crimes.' This document, which was prepared by the private Iranian Law and Legal Research Institute at the behest of the Strategic Deputy of the Presi-

dency, endeavors to systematically identify, categorize, and translate into legal action all legal dimensions arising from aggression and war crimes." He also explained, regarding the choice of title for this atlas, that special legal precision was exercised in its nomenclature. For this reason, terms such as "12-Day War" or "America's War" were not employed; rather, relying upon the definition of aggression in international instruments, including the definition of aggression resolution and the provisions of the International Criminal Court, the title "Aggression and War Crimes" was selected. Because, from the perspective of international law, the actions undertaken constitute instances of aggression and, in numerous instances, also constitute clear instances of war crimes. According to him, even the selection of terminology in legal documents carries significant legal implications, and for this reason, in the compilation of this atlas, efforts were made to formulate all concepts on the basis of the accepted terminology of international law. Darvishzadeh also alluded to certain manifest examples of these crimes, such as the attack on the Shajareh Tayyebbeh elementary school in Minab, as well as the targeting of civilian areas and installations. "These constitute clear instances of war crimes that are susceptible to legal prosecution," he added. The president of the Iranian Law and Legal Research Institute, stating that "law is not merely a theoretical discipline," further remarked that "in such circumstances, law functions as a strategic instrument and even a weapon." According to him,



Members of the Civil Commission of the Iranian Parliament inspect the extent of the destruction at the Shajareh Tayyebbeh elementary school in Minab, where a US missile strike reportedly killed 175 people, mostly children, on February 28, 2026.
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many military achievements, after the conclusion of conflict, are consolidated in the form of documents and judicial opinions, and what transpires on the battlefield will ultimately be preserved in legal and judicial dossiers. Hence, precise documentation and legal planning, simultaneous with field developments, acquire decisive importance. He also spoke of the extensive scope of this atlas and explained that the implementation of this roadmap is contingent upon more than 35 ministries, organizations, and related institutions. According to him, even institutions that at first glance do not have a direct connection to wartime issues, such as the National Library, will have

specific missions in the areas of documentation, preservation of documents, and registration of records. Consequently, one can imagine the vast volume of responsibilities and legal matters that have been defined for institutions such as the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Justice, the Deputy for Legal Affairs of the Presidency, and the Judiciary. "In addition to determining the role of institutions, the groundworks for initiating claims have also been identified. Accordingly, approximately 15 domestic, foreign, and international assemblies and platforms for the prosecution of cases, as well as nearly 18 policy-making areas related to these cases, have been enumerated so that it may

be clear through which channel each matter should be pursued and which institution shall bear responsibility for each part." According to Darvishzadeh, the most important product of this project is the provision of a "roadmap" for the coordination of the country's legal actions. A roadmap that specifies what duty each organization has, how it must coordinate with other institutions, and what process must be followed for documentation, consensus-building, prosecution, and execution of cases. The President of the Iranian Law and Legal Research Institute, regarding the discussions held at Saturday's assembly, also stated that the examinations revealed that many in-

stitutions had independently undertaken valuable actions, including the preparation of documentation protocols, the collection of documents, and the drafting of specialized reports; however, the principal problem had been the absence of communication and coordination among these actions. According to him, the President's emphasis was likewise on this very issue: that fragmented activities must be interconnected within a unified structure.

On this basis, it was decided that a working group, comprising the Ministry of Justice, the Deputy for Legal Affairs of the Presidency, the Strategic Deputy, and other relevant institutions, should be formed under the supervision of Ayatollah Mohaghegh Damad, so that all of the country's legal capacities may be mobilized along a single common path.

The former judge of the Supreme Court affirmed: "One should not offer definitive predictions regarding the final outcomes of this legal campaign because success in such cases is contingent upon the degree of preparedness, cohesion, planning, documentation, and coordination, and not merely upon the initiation of claims." He also alluded to certain gaps within the domestic legal system and remarked that it is necessary to design mechanisms whereby, simultaneously with compensating the victims for their damages, the authority for legal prosecution and the initiation of claims against the aggressor may also be obtained from them, so that the prosecution of cases before international assemblies and even the courts of other countries may be facilitated.

Iran should increase cost of indifference for other countries



By **Sohrab Rostami Kia**
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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

During the 40-Day Imposed War, Iran's infrastructure was subjected to attack. The military assault on vital infrastructure, including energy, water, and electricity installations, as well as scientific and academic centers, from the perspective of international law, is a clear instance of war crime and a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law. This piece endeavors, with a national perspective, to condemn the matter from humanitarian and legal dimensions and, from the standpoint of public interest, to address the duty of the various segments of Iranian society in relation to this approach.

Legally, pursuant to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the targeting of civilian infrastructure, particularly in the absence of direct military justification, is prohibited and shall place international responsibility on the aggressor state. Although our adversary, in its new approach, does not respect international law even in appearance and exerts pressure on international institutions,

nevertheless, given the absence of substantiated justifications for the aggression against Iran, the legal prosecution of the aforementioned matter through international authorities and all relevant institutions, by the government and even by Iranian actors within and outside the borders, is not devoid of merit. Another matter pertains to the historical test of nationalism for commentators, elites, members of the academic and artistic communities, and actors in various political, social, and civil arenas under these circumstances. From the perspective of domestic law and national sovereignty, infrastructure represents a symbol of development, independence, and national dignity. Its destruction entails not only economic and social harm, but also constitutes an overt attempt to undermine national will and disrupt public order. In such circumstances, nationalism in its genuine sense manifests itself not in slogans but in action: in the defense of territorial integrity, in the preservation of developmental achievements, and in the maintenance of national cohesion in the face of foreign aggression.

These voices of protest and the unity of the nation are best represented by the elites of that society, which can express themselves through cohesive



Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerdi (R) visits residential areas damaged in the American-Israeli war in the capital on June 22, 2026.
● IRNA

media and academic statements, in poetry, literature, and art, and across the extensive social sphere so pervasively that the world becomes aware, on the one hand, of the depth of the enemy's crimes and, on the other, of the resolve, unity, and solidarity of Iranians in difficult circumstances. Of course, the official reactions of domestic institutions, the condemnations by a portion of the educated, and the declarations of senior state officials demonstrate efforts against this type of

violence. However, in domestic and foreign condemnations by ordinary Iranian people, the capacity for national convergence has been and remains greater; nevertheless, it is essential that the media and diplomatic capacities, as well as activist Iranians within and outside the country, undertake measures such that the international community also responds practically and decisively to this flagrant violation of international law and that the cost of indifference toward it is elevated.

Silence in the face of this crime is not merely moral indifference, but shall also pave the way for its recurrence on a larger scale. Certain incorrect positions and behaviors on the part of some domestic movements should not cause numerous concerned critics, intellectuals, and commentators of society to neglect their national and human duty at the most critical juncture of contemporary history. One of the important deterrent factors against the continuation of the enemy's

aggression against the country or the success of their nefarious objectives is comprehensive national unity and solidarity in difficult circumstances of threat and assault. If understood, this renders inaction in the present situation meaningless.

Of course, alongside these matters, the military and field domain of the country also requires the comprehensive support of the nation and all segments of society for defense, the preservation of national reserves, and the establishment of equilibrium on the battlefield; and, of course, the country's media management, on the basis of this sensitivity, requires transformation in the utilization of all popular and human capacities for resilience and the construction of national convergence. In the domain of economic management, diversification measures concerning infrastructure, scenario-based planning, the creation of alternative routes and networks, the engagement of the government, the private sector, and civil society for convergence in supplying the country's essential needs, the protection of the current production capacity of goods and services, and the reconstruction of damages are also essential.

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