

Chairman's Statement on the Military Attack on Iran by Israel and the United States

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On 28 February this year, Israel and the United States launched a military attack on Iran, causing widespread turmoil. We strongly hope that the citizens of Middle Eastern countries will regain their peaceful daily lives as soon as possible.

This military action violates Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which generally prohibits the use of force or the threat of force against member states, and does not meet the requirements for exceptions (① authorisation by the UN Security Council, ② exercise of the right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter).

Furthermore, concerns have been raised that the attacks were extensive in scope and may have caused significant damage to non-military targets. This may constitute violations of the principles of international humanitarian law: the distinction between military and civilian targets, the prohibition of unnecessary suffering, and the principle of proportionality.

Furthermore, Iran is a UN member state and a sovereign nation. State sovereignty is understood to encompass, internally, the exclusive right to govern within its territory and the inviolability of its borders, and externally, the respect for its political independence. Reports indicate that this military operation resulted in the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and other senior officials while they were performing their duties. It is therefore clear that this military attack on Iranian territory constitutes a violation of Iran's state sovereignty.

Thus, the military attack on Iran by Israel and the United States,

which violated the UN Charter and international law and brought grave danger and terror to civilians, is utterly impermissible.

Meanwhile, Iran has extended its retaliatory strikes not only against Israel but also to neighbouring countries hosting US military bases. It has effectively blockaded the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy transport route, and is escalating the conflict by drawing in seemingly unrelated nations. The potential for the war to spread and its impact on the global economy remain unpredictable.

As citizens within the international community, we must first recognise the facts unfolding in other nations without dismissing them as someone else's problem; secondly, we must avoid succumbing to irrational nationalism; and thirdly, we must reaffirm the importance of protecting and upholding the lives, freedoms, and human rights of others.

In today's international community, where the cycle of war and violence persists, we wish to reaffirm that 'we, the peoples of the world, are entitled to live in peace, free from fear and want' (Preamble to the Constitution of Japan).

The United States is Japan's sole ally, and the security framework with the US forms the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policy across a broad spectrum of fields.

Precisely for this reason, we demand that the United States, Israel, and Iran immediately cease all hostile acts. We also call upon the Japanese government to exert its utmost efforts to achieve a ceasefire in this war and pursue a diplomatic resolution.

Our association has, on numerous occasions, joined citizens in demanding the guarantee of the right to peaceful existence, indispensable for the realisation of individual dignity and lasting peace. As lawyers whose mission is the respect for fundamental human rights and the realisation of social justice, we sincerely hope that

diplomatic efforts will prevent the horrors of war from deepening further. With this hope, we issue this Chairman's Statement.

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