To:

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations Her Excellency Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO

Subject: Urgent Appeal for Action Regarding Israeli Regime's Unlawful Military Aggression Against Iran

Your Excellencies,

The undersigned submits this formal protest regarding the Israeli regime's sustained unlawful aggressions against Iran since 13 June 2025, constituting severe breaches of international law under the UN Charter. These systematic attacks endanger regional stability, civilian lives, ecological integrity, and global cultural heritage, escalating beyond mere geopolitical conflict into an international existential threat. The deliberate targeting of civilians, residential areas, and sovereign institutions undermines the international legal order, risking irreversible catastrophe. The situation demands urgent intervention before diplomatic and mitigative capacities are exhausted. It is earnestly urged that this appeal be regarded not as a matter of routine procedure, but as a solemn and final urgent call to action—one that necessitates the immediate and coordinated mobilisation of all juridical, diplomatic, and institutional capacities, in order to prevent the onset of an irreversible systemic disintegration of international institutional legitimacy and credibility.

Verified data confirm a systematic and deliberate aggression targeting Iran's civilian population and critical infrastructure. This is not incidental warfare, but a calculated strategy designed to dismantle the functional pillars of civilian life—most gravely in the domains of healthcare, education, scientific advancement, energy, and cultural preservation.

To date, the Israeli regime's aggressions across Iran have killed over 415 people and injured around 1,550, with civilians accounting for 90% of the casualties. The majority of the dead are women and children, and the attacks have also intentionally targeted prominent scientists and senior military officials. Strikes on residential zones, hospitals, research centres, and religious sites illustrate a pattern of indiscriminate violence carried out in the absence of legitimate military imperative.

As of the moment of this appeal, the Israeli regime's forces have carried out 125 strikes across residential areas, civilian, governmental, scientific, industrial, and military sectors. The wide geographic scope and repeated attacks indicate a coordinated escalation that constitutes a grave violation of the principles of "distinction" and "proportionality" under international humanitarian law.

Material losses are extensive as well. Immediate physical damage is estimated at \$3.2–4.9 billion, with long-term economic losses surpassing \$10 billion due to infrastructure collapse and oil revenue decline. The destruction of key installations—including airports, water treatment facilities, refineries, and nuclear sites—has paralysed essential services and public life.

The Israeli regime's sustained pattern of aggression observed constitutes a series of grave breaches—not only of the Charter of the United Nations but also of international humanitarian

law, the laws of armed conflict, and universally recognised human rights norms. These actions have constituted a serious violation of the principle of national sovereignty and have had catastrophic consequences for civilian life, infrastructure, and international stability.

- Under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, such use of force is prohibited unless authorised by the Security Council or justified under Article 51 as self-defence. The acts of the Israeli regime meet the criteria of aggression as defined in UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (1975), and are further criminalised under the Rome Statute and the 2010 Convention on the Crime of Aggression.
- Strikes have consistently breached International Humanitarian Law (IHL), especially the principle of distinction codified in Article 48 of Additional Protocol I (1977) and Customary IHL Rule 1. Attacks on civilian homes, hospitals, schools, and cultural sites violate Articles 51(2) and 52(2) of the Protocol, as well as Rule 14, which prohibits excessive incidental harm. Evidence suggests repeated breaches of Rule 103, prohibiting collective punishment.
- The principle of proportionality under Article 51(5)(b) of Additional Protocol I has also been violated. Strikes on critical infrastructure such as water systems and power grids have produced humanitarian crises disproportionate to any military gain. This has led to blackouts, water shortages, and serious medical system disruption, exceeding acceptable collateral damage under IHL.
- Attacks on nuclear and scientific facilities threaten global security and contravene the IAEA Safeguards Agreements under the NPT, as well as IAEA General Conference Resolutions GC(XXIX)/RES/444 and GC(XXXIV)/RES/533. Such actions violate Article 1 of the 1994 Convention on Nuclear Safety and parallel earlier condemned attacks, notably UN Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) regarding Iraq's Osirak reactor.
- Targeted assassinations of scientists and officials constitute extrajudicial killings, violating Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and qualifying as war crimes under the Rome Statute, particularly where due process is absent.
- Strikes on sites containing dangerous forces—such as nuclear reactors and chemical facilities—violate Article 56 of Additional Protocol I and Customary IHL Rule 42, which mandate precautions to prevent widespread civilian harm and environmental disaster.
- The destruction of universities, cultural heritage, and research institutions breaches
 Article 15(1)(b) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 (1966), directly undermining national development and global cultural and scientific
 heritage.

In view of the grave and escalating violations set out above, and in accordance with the legal and moral responsibilities vested in the bodies under your jurisdiction, we urge the immediate implementation of the following measures to uphold international law and avert irreversible harm to global order and the international society:

- a formal and unequivocal condemnation of the Israeli regime's strikes is required, recognising them as breaches of international law, including but not limited to international humanitarian law, human rights norms, and nuclear safety law, and as an affront to the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and international peace and security.
- 2. we call for the urgent convening of an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council and/or General Assembly, under the Uniting for Peace framework, to address the legal and geopolitical consequences of the Israeli regime's actions.
- 3. an impartial international fact-finding mission should be established under UN auspices, with input from relevant Special Rapporteurs, to investigate the legality and humanitarian impact of the strikes.
- 4. the aggressions must be referred to the International Criminal Court for preliminary examination under Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute.
- 5. a binding resolution must be adopted demanding cessation of hostilities, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition.
- 6. UNESCO must dispatch experts to assess damage to educational, scientific, and cultural institutions.
- 7. international safeguards must be issued to protect nuclear facilities from military attack.

This is not a national crisis, nor a regional matter but a grave assault on the legal and moral order underpinning our universal, shared foundations of international and civilisational law. Silence and inaction now ushers in an irreversible deterioration of the international order, endangering peace, knowledge, and the survival of humanity itself — a reality that has united the noble people of Iran in steadfast support for their nation and in profound moral revulsion toward the Zionist regime.

Now is the moment to contain it—decisively, lawfully, and without delay.

We urge Your Excellencies to act.

Respectfully submitted,

21 June 2025

Professor Saied Reza Ameli (IRAN)

Head of the UNESCO Chair on Cyberspace and Culture: Dual-spacisation of the World (UCCC) (UNESCO No. 2015IR1107), Dean of Faculty of Studies – University of Tehran

Signatories:

An Unprecedented Letter to the UNSG Signed by over 130 **Academics, Former Political and** Military Figures, **Economists and Notable Anti-war Personalities** throughout the World

1. Pr. Seyed Mohammad Marandi (IRAN)

Professor at the University of Tehran

2. Massoud Shadjareh (IRAN)

Chair of Islamic Human Rights Commission-London, consultative status at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

3. Scott Ritter (USA)

former UN Special Commission weapons inspector

4. Pr. Norman Finkelstein (USA)

Political Scientist and son of Holocaust-survivor parents

5. Pr. Richard Falk (USA)

Professor Emeritus of International Law at Princeton University and former UN Special Rapporteur

6. Pr. Jan Kavan (Czech)

President of the UN General Assembly 2002-2003, former Minister of Foreign Affairs

7. Pr. Yanis Varoufakis (Greece)

Former Minister of Finance, economist and professor at the University of London, the University of Sydny and the University of Athens

8. Denis Halliday (Ireland)

Former UNSG deputy and ex-UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq

9. Alberto Bradanini (Italy)

Former director of *UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute* and *UN Research Institute on Crime and Drugs*, former *ambassador in* Tehran and Beijing, president of the *Centre for Contemporary China Studies in Italy*

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Former UN Assistant Secretary-General and ex-UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq

11. Cindy Sheehan (USA)

"Peace Mom", Antiwar Activist and author, 2012 vice-presidential nominee of the *Peace and Freedom Party*

12. Raimondo Caria (Italy)

Retired general of the Italian Army

13. Dr. Ajamu Baraka (USA)

2016 Green Party nominee for Vice President, Director of Black Alliance for Peace

14. Aiman Athirah Sabu (Malaysia)

Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government, Former deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, former Member of Parliament

15. Alain Corvez (France)

Former advisor to the General Commanding the UN Force in South Lebanon

16. Ralph Bosshard (Switzerland)

Former Military Advisor to the Secretary General of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

17. Mick Wallace (Ireland)

former Member of the European Parliament, Politician

18. Clare Daly (Ireland)

former Member of the European Parliament, Politician

19. Tommy Sheridan (Scotland)

former Member of the Scottish Parliament, Politician

20. Pr. Jean Bricmont (Belgian)

Theoretical Physicist and Philosopher of Science, Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain

21. Dr. Michael Springmann (USA)

former Diplomat, Attorney and Counselor at Law

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founder and Director of Alternative Radio (heard on 250 radio stations worldwide), Writer

23. Art Olivier (USA)

2002 *Libertarian Party* nominee for Vice President, former *Mayor of Bellflower, California,* Libertarian Candidate for *California Governor* in 2006

24. Pino Cabras (Italy)

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Philosopher and ICREA Research Professor at the Pompeu Fabra University

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Appointed by *Nelson Mandela* as *gender-equality commissioner* Head of the Department of Religion Studies at the *University of Johannesburg* and former professor at *Harvard University*

28. Pr. Hamid Algar (USA)

Professor Emeritus of Economics at of Persian studies at the University of California, Berkeley

29. Imam Suhaib Webb (USA)

Former imam of the *Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center,* Former Resident Scholar of the *Islamic Center of New York University*

30. Iurie Roșca (Moldavia)

Former Deputy Prime Minister and former deputy of parliament for almost 2 decades

31. Datuk Raja Kamarul Bahrin (Malaysia)

Former Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government

32. Sara Flounders (USA)

Co-director of the International Action Center and Secretariat Member of the Workers World Party

33. Sheikh Ahmad Awang (Malaysia)

Chairman of the Alliance of World Mosque in Defence of Al Aqsa, former President of the Malaysian Ulama Association

34. David Swanson (USA)

Executive Director of World Beyond War, Antiwar activist

35. MP Suhaizan Kayat (Malaysia)

Member of Parliament who represents the National Trust Party, former Political Secretary to the Ministers of Domestic Trade and Living Costs

36. Pr. Mazin B. Qumsiyeh (Palestine)

Director of the *Palestine Museum of Natural History* and the *Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability* at *Bethlehem University*

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Sociologist and Professor Emeritus at the Department of Ethnic Studies at the *University of California, Berkeley*

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Historical Anthropologist and Professor of American studies, religious studies, and ethnicity, race, and migration at *Yale University*, documentary filmmaker

40. MP Mohd Sany Hamzan (Malaysia)

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41. MP Aminolhuda Hassan (Malaysia)

Member of Parliament

42. Pr. Abbas Edalat (UK-IRAN)

Professor of computer science and mathematics at Imperial College London and founder of Campaign Against Sanctions and Military Intervention in Iran (CASMII) and the Science and Arts

43. MP Ahmad Tarmizi bin Sulaiman (Malaysia)

Member of Parliament, former Deputy President of the Malaysian Consultative Council of Islamic Organisation

44. Dr. Alice Rothchild (USA)

former professor at Harvard Medical School, author, and filmmaker

45. MP Azli Yusof (Malaysia)

Member of Parliament who represents the National Trust Party

46. Pr. Jodi Dean (USA)

Political Theorist and professor at *Hobart and William Smith Colleges*, former Erasmus Professor of the Humanities in the Faculty of Philosophy at *Erasmus University Rotterdam*

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Senator, physician and former Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur Development

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Former Professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), the *University of East London*, *Campaign Against Misrepresentation in Public Affairs, Information and the News*

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Senator, former Minister in charge of Religious Affairs Foundation (SAF)

50. Pr. James H. Fetzer (USA)

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Antiwar Activist and Author

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Historian of Philosophy and Professor of History of political doctrines at the *University of Turin*

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Sociologist and former professor at the *University of Strathclyde*, the *University of Bath* and the *University of Bristol*

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Professor of communication in the Department of Communication at Lebanese American University

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77. Dr. Marta Araújo (Portugal)

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Antiwar Activist and Journalist, author at The Journal of Palestine Studies and CounterPunch

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84. William Rodriguez (USA)

Antiwar Activist

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Academician, author and Winner of Canada's Primer Minister prize for High Education

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Former Journalist of Le Figaro Magazine, Writer

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Arabist-Islamologist Scholar, former Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

93. Dr. Revd. Andrew Ashdown (UK)

30 years of Interreligious Initiatives and Dialogues in Africa, Middle East and the UK

94. Youssef Hindi (France)

Writer, Historian of religions and Geopolitologist

95. Rabbi Dovid Feldman (USA)

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96. Sander Hicks (USA)

Guitarist and Publisher, Antiwar Activist

97. Peter Koenig (Switzerland)

Economist and Geopolitical Analyst with more than 30 years of experience in the World Bank, the World Health Organization and the Swiss Development Cooperation

98. Imam Muhammad al-Asi (USA)

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99. Father Dave Smith (Australia)

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100. Jürgen Cain Külbel (Germany)

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102. Eric Walberg (Canada)

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103. Merlin Miller (USA)

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118. Caleb Maupin (USA)

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119. Zaher Birawi (UK-Palestine)

Chair of the Palestine Forum of Britain, Journalist

120. Muhammad Rabbani (UK)

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121. Margherita Furlan (Italy)

Journalist and director of Casa Del Sole TV

122. Thami Khalid (Belguim)

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130. Gordon Duff (USA)

Vietnam War Veteran and Antiwar Activist

131. Mohd Azmi Abdul Hamid (Malaysia)

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132. Ahmad Fahmi Shamsuddin (Malaysia)

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133. Glen Milner (USA)

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135. Mouhad Reghif (Belgium)

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