



Statement from the Association of Iranian University Professors Condemning Attacks on Academic Centers

Academic institutions, including universities, research centers, and higher education facilities, are foundational pillars of society, dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, the cultivation of critical thinking, and the development of technological innovation. By their very nature, these centers are intended to be independent and protected spaces. Throughout history, despite numerous conflicts, academic institutions worldwide have consistently been preserved, recognized as vital resources for future generations and safeguarded under international law. They should remain inviolable, free from attack.

It is with profound sorrow that we have witnessed the devastating consequences of the recent invasion on Iran. From its inception, this aggression has resulted in the tragic loss of civilian lives, including the horrific massacre of schoolchildren in Minab. Furthermore, these attacks have extended to our universities, with repeated assaults on institutions such as the "Iran University of Science and Technology" and "Isfahan University of Technology," among others.

The aggressors claim that any facility involved in missile and drone manufacturing is a legitimate target. By this logic, any industrial complex—be it iron and steel manufacturing, power plants, or other factories—could be deemed a legitimate target, as all industries, in some capacity, contribute to national defense capabilities. Consequently, universities and academic centers that provide the fundamental scientific and engineering education for all industries, coupled with the professors who impart this knowledge, would inherently fall under this justification for attack by the joint American and Israeli forces. Such a rationale risks implicating all of Iran and its populace in the indiscriminate targeting and ensuing atrocities.

The Association of Iranian University Professors unequivocally condemns the invasion of our country and the unlawful, brutal targeting of our scientists and the destruction of our academic infrastructure. We implore our colleagues in the global academic community to stand with us, to voice their strong protest against these atrocities, and to urge their respective political leaders to take action to end this devastating conflict.

While we express our gratitude and appreciation to the Iranian armed forces for their courageous defense of our nation, we respectfully request that they exercise restraint regarding retaliatory strikes on enemy universities. This adherence to a higher standard, even in the face of aggression, reflects the distinguished cultural and civilized character of Iranians. It is our hope that such conduct will serve to guide political leaders toward a more just and peaceful path.

We appeal to the Almighty for the protection of our soldiers and for a victory that leads to a swift, hopeful, and just conclusion to this unfortunate and treacherous war for all parties involved.

“The association of Iranian university professors”

