



IRAN:

View from the LEFT

Feb 2026

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Word of the Month, THE WAR ON IRAN

By: Majid Siadat

The war on Iran has started. Israel and the US claim that this is a pre-emptive war. None of the known facts attest to such claims. This war attempts to impose US/Israeli hegemony over the whole of the Middle East. Already, Trump declared he has the right to pick the next supreme leader of the Islamic Republic.

The brutality of the Islamic Republic (and its anachronistic clerical regime) is obvious. This regime must go. The Iranian people are determined to achieve this lofty goal and – as recent uprisings prove – they are ready to pay the price for it.

But this lofty goal can only be achieved by Iranians. No more CIA 1953 coups. The US wants a regime subservient to American dictates. We want a democratic, secular regime, at peace with the entire world.

The outcome of this war is unknown. What is known is that the Iranian people, together with the entire people of the Middle East, will pay a heavy price for Netanyahu and Trump's adventurism. More than 1200 fatalities have been declared in the first week of this war. How many thousands more? And what about the millions who will be subject to unspeakable crimes if US/Israeli hegemony is successfully imposed?

This war must end. A ceasefire is the urgent demand of all peace-loving and democratic actors, including the UN. Let all the world's democratic and peaceful organizations, institutions, indeed the entire world, demand that this unjust and horrific war be halted NOW.

CEASEFIRE NOW!

Escalation Without Exit: The Growing Cost of War for Iran and the Region

By: Roza Roozbehan

The military aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran has entered a broader and more dangerous phase. At the center of this escalation stands Donald Trump, who has remained firm despite the growing wave of criticism regarding both the necessity of launching the military offensive and the absence of a clear vision for how it might end. He has not fully ruled

out the deployment of ground troops, and the administration has avoided presenting a transparent assessment of the operation's future. Meanwhile, the scope of the conflict has expanded to include retaliatory attacks between Iran, Israel, and U.S. forces in the region, alongside escalating tensions with Hezbollah in Lebanon, developments that heighten the risk of the war spreading into a full-scale regional confrontation.

Within the United States, political divisions over the war have deepened. A portion of the "America First" base that Trump mobilized with promises to avoid

“endless wars” has grown increasingly dissatisfied amid rising casualties, higher energy prices, and signs that the conflict may become prolonged. Critics describe the confrontation as a “war of choice” and question both its precise objectives and its intended outcome. It remains unclear what mechanism for political transition is envisioned if Iran’s governing structure is weakened or collapses, and what consequences such a scenario would bring for the region.

Yet the most profound consequences will be felt across the region and among the people of Iran. The widening scope of hostilities threatens to pull the Middle East into a deeper cycle of instability, proxy rivalries, and disruptions to vital energy and trade routes. Escalating reciprocal attacks have already increased the risk that Gulf countries and other regional actors could be drawn into the conflict, reinforcing the prospect of a long, costly, and unpredictable war.

For ordinary Iranians already facing internal repression, economic crisis, and years of sanctions, war carries devastating implications. It means heightened insecurity, the destruction of infrastructure, diminished access to

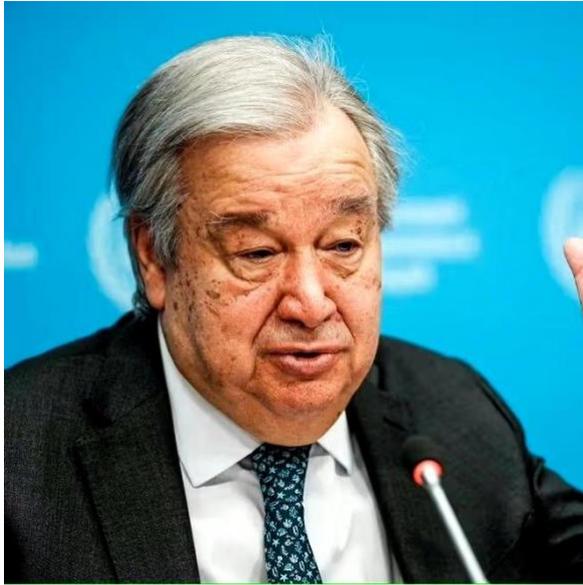
essential goods, and the possibility of new waves of displacement. Even if the declared objective is to weaken the ruling structure, regional experience demonstrates that sudden political collapse often produces power vacuums, fragmented violence, and greater suffering for civilians rather than stability or democratic transition.

In sum, the continuation of this war not only deepens political divisions within the United States but also dramatically increases the risk of widespread regional instability and severe human costs for the people of Iran. Without a clear definition of victory or a credible political strategy for ending the conflict, the path forward remains dangerously uncertain.

For these reasons, the most urgent priority must be an immediate ceasefire. Halting the escalation is the essential first step toward preventing further regional destabilization, protecting civilian lives, and opening space for diplomacy. **A ceasefire is not merely a pause in hostilities—it is the only realistic path to preventing an open-ended war whose costs will be borne by millions across the region.**



■ **Mr. António Guterres**
Secretary-General of the United Nations



Your Excellency Mr. Guterres,

We hereby express our deep concern regarding the recent military attacks by the United States and Israel against Iran. These attacks, and the response of the Islamic Republic in launching strikes against Israel and United States bases in countries of the region, have taken on new dimensions, causing damage to civilian areas and infrastructure across the region and effectively expanding the war.

We call upon the United Nations to address this matter as an urgency, in accordance with its responsibility to maintain international peace and security. The claim that these attacks constitute a necessary and evidence-based response to an imminent nuclear threat has not been conclusively substantiated. Recent United States intelligence assessments, as well as statements by the International Atomic Energy Agency, indicate that there is no definitive evidence of an active program aimed at building a nuclear weapon in Iran. Israel has described the operation as a “pre-emptive strike,” while Donald Trump has characterized it as a response to Iran’s refusal to accept his conditions in negotiations.

Beyond the legal and security dimensions, the humanitarian consequences of this escalation must be emphasized. Over recent months, the people of Iran have endured severe hardship, pressure, and violence at the hands of their own government. They now face further dangers as a result of foreign military action ordered by Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu. The lives of civilians, vital infrastructure, and the basic security of the population are under serious threat, compounding the suffering of a society already under immense strain.

Regrettably, instead of striving to halt the war, several European countries, by condemning Iran’s attacks, have effectively signalled their alignment with the United States and Israel’s military actions against Iran.



UNITED NATIONS

It is also deeply concerning that the countries carrying out these attacks possess nuclear weapons themselves and have opposed practical measures aimed at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, an objective supported by the majority of countries in the region and discussed within the framework of the United Nations.

In light of the above, we urge the United Nations to condemn actions that are inconsistent with international law and the principles of the UN Charter, to work actively to prevent further escalation, and to call for an immediate cessation of hostilities to protect the lives and rights of the people of Iran and to restore peace in the region.

Respectfully,

International Affairs – Left Party of Iran

condemn the military aggression and violation of the national sovereignty of the Venezuelan people



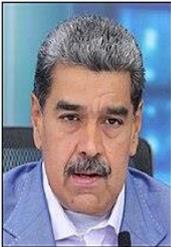
On 3 January 2026, Mr. Trump’s administration launched a surprise military aggression on Venezuela, kidnapping the President of the country and his wife and bombing some strategic national defence centres. This action is not only a clear violation of the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, but also, in terms of its implementation, amounts to gangster behaviour that has replaced dialogue and diplomacy.

Although the elections in which Maduro declared himself as the winner, has been declared fraudulent by many international

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authorities, including the European Union, such an action by a permanent member of the UN Security Council that has the most powerful army in the world is a sign of a crisis of legitimacy, a failure to conduct peaceful international policies and an inability to gain the trust of the world.

Past bitter experiences have clearly shown that exploiting crises to control the natural resources of other countries has had disastrous consequences for nations and world peace. This arbitrary action by the President of the United States will be a prelude to violating the civil rights of the American people themselves, the destructive consequences of which will weigh heavily on the citizens of that country.

We emphasize that respect for the right of nations to self-determination and avoidance of imposing their will through military force are fundamental conditions for achieving lasting peace and peaceful coexistence in today’s world. The political, economic, and social fate of each country must be determined by its people through democratic and peaceful processes. These developments have once again sounded the alarm about the spread of instability, violence, and the growing threat to international peace and security.

We firmly condemn the aggression and military attack by the United States government on Venezuela. This act of violence again demonstrates that resorting to force is a dangerous and unacceptable alternative to political and diplomatic solutions.

Coalition for a Secular and Democratic Republic in Iran

10 January 2026

■ **Statement of Deep Gratitude for the European Parliament's Resolution Denouncing the Violent Repression of the Iranian People**



Ms. Roberta Metsola

President of the European Parliament

The Left Party of Iran expresses its deep and sincere gratitude for the adoption of the recent European Parliament resolution on Iran. In this resolution, the violent repression of the people of Iran, especially civil activists, protesters, women, and minorities, has been clearly condemned by a significant majority.

This decision by the European Parliament, along with your clear message, is not only a principled stance in defence of human rights but also an encouraging and hopeful message for the people of Iran. It illustrates that their voices have overcome censorship and repression, and that their legitimate demands against authoritarianism, in pursuit of freedom and democracy, are being heard and supported on the international stage.

We are particularly and sincerely grateful for the European Parliament members' support for the popular movement in Iran and for their firm call for the immediate

release of all political prisoners, including Ms. Narges Mohammadi. The clear condemnation of the violence inflicted upon the people of Iran is an important and meaningful step towards safeguarding universal human rights values.



At the same time, we emphasize that while we seek support for the democratic demands of the Iranian people, we consider any form of foreign intervention, whether military or non-military, to be detrimental to the process of achieving democracy in Iran. Historical experience has shown that democracy becomes lasting and truly guarantees freedom for all only when it is built by the will and hands of the people themselves. It is solely through the free will of citizens, broad participation, and reliance on the internal capacities of society that democracy can be achieved.

Undoubtedly, the support of the international community for the fundamental rights of the people of Iran, within the framework of respect for national independence and the right to self-determination, can serve as a strong, effective, and hopeful backing for the people's movement for freedom.

Respectfully,

Political-Executive Board of the Left Party of Iran

Read More:

<https://www.bepish.org/en/node/13515>

Environment

Environmental activists arrested as thousands of protesters are brutally murdered



According to reports from independent media outlets, at least 10 environmental activists from different parts of the country were arrested during the nationwide protests of January 2026 under the pretext of posing a “security threat” and facing charges such as “disrupting national security.” Most of these arrests took place in the second half of January, coinciding with the peak of the protests, and the condition of several detainees has been reported as concerning.

Among those arrested are Hossein Ansarian (an artist and local environmental activist from Dehdasht), Fariborz Heydari (a professional environmental photographer and cartoonist arrested in eastern Tehran), and Arash Nikookhou (a teacher and founder of the volunteer wildfire-control group “Siavash Unit” in the Zagros region). Amirhossein Heydari, Erfan Parvaresh, Amir Mohammad Abrishami, Mohammad Seyadat, Hamzeh Alimoradi, and Shayan Khodayar, environmental science students at Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, have also been detained.

These actions reflect an expansion of systematic repression by the government into the sphere of civil society, including non-political activists, through the use of security-related accusations. Although one detainee, Niyayesh Mozaffari (an environmental student), was temporarily released on bail after 25 days, serious concerns remain regarding the situation of the other detainees, particularly in light of past cases involving enforced disappearances and coerced confessions.

The arrest of these individuals appears not only to be an attempt to silence independent environmental activists but also to send a warning message to organized grassroots networks operating outside state control.

The detention of environmental activists in Iran illustrates the securitization of civil activities, including environmental work. These arrests suggest that any form of independent collective action — even in seemingly non-political fields such as environmental protection — is interpreted by the authorities as an organized security threat and met with repression, arrest, and prosecution.

Read More:
<https://bepish.org/en/node/13555>

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IRAN: View from the LEFT may occasionally contain news from Iran that the media might not have drawn attention to.

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The Left Party of Iran - International Relations

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