



Media Statement

by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Republic of South Africa Condemning the U.S. Military Aggression against Iran and Emphasizing the Islamic Republic of Iran's Right to Self-Defense

8 September 2026

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the U.S. military aggression against Iran and unequivocally condemns the recent horrific crime involving an attack on a wedding ceremony in Sirik County, Hormozgan Province, which resulted in the killing and injury of more than 70 of our compatriots, predominantly women and children. The attack on civilians and the targeting of a family gathering constitute a blatant example of the attackers' disregard for the most basic principles of humanity and the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. This crime, together with the previous attacks by the USA and the Zionist regime on various parts of Iran, including Minab, Lamerd, and Qeshm, once again exposes the true nature of the aggression against the Iranian people and its catastrophic consequences for ordinary civilians.

Iran stands firm in the face of the aggressor and considers its defense of itself to be an inalienable and lawful right for as long as the aggression and threats against the country's security and sovereignty continue.

The current military aggression cannot be assessed separately from the long history of hostility and pressure exerted by the USA against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Over the past decades, the USA has sought to undermine the independence and national will of the Iranian people through a wide range of instruments, from economic sanctions and the policy of maximum pressure to political interference, support for destabilizing actions, and sustained pressure against the Iranian people.



Under the current circumstances, this policy has continued through the use of new pretexts and, ultimately, through direct military action against Iran—an action that constitutes a clear manifestation of the USA’ hegemonic and excessive demands toward independent countries.

The attack on the wedding ceremony in Sirik, particularly given the presence of a large number of women and children, once again demonstrated that the consequences of U.S. military aggression are not limited to its alleged targets; rather, they directly threaten the lives of civilians and the security of ordinary people. Such actions, if not seriously and unequivocally condemned, risk normalizing attacks against civilians and further undermining the fundamental rules of international law.

Silence in the face of these crimes cannot be construed as neutrality, nor does it absolve States and international institutions of their moral and legal responsibility for the consequences of this aggression.

The international community, and in particular the United Nations and the Security Council, have a responsibility not to remain silent in the face of military aggression and the blatant violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and to take effective action to halt these measures and prevent the conflict from escalating and spreading across the region.

The Iranian nation has demonstrated that it will defend its independence and national sovereignty in the face of pressure, threats, and aggression. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while reaffirming its inalienable right to self-defense, calls on the international community to distinguish between the aggressor and the victim, and between aggression and legitimate self-defense, and not to allow bullying, interference, and hegemonic ambitions to replace the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and those responsible for war crimes will ultimately be put on trial.