



In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

No. 2848013

16 March 2026

Excellency,

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters concerning the ongoing acts of aggression and the unprovoked war carried out by the United States and the Israeli regime against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I wish to draw your attention to the grave risks posed to the cultural and historical heritage of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of the ongoing military aggression carried out by the United States and the Israeli regime since 28 February. As a consequence of these unlawful attacks, several cultural and historical sites have already sustained damage, raising serious alarm regarding the safety of Iran's invaluable cultural heritage.

In this regard, while vehemently condemning the military aggression perpetrated by the Israeli regime and the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is imperative to draw attention to the irreparable dangers that such acts pose to Iran's ancient cultural heritage. Several sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List—including **Golestan Palace, Naqsh-e Jahan Square, Chehel Sotoun Palace**, in Isfahan, as well as the **historical valley of Khorramabad and its prehistoric caves**—are now exposed to direct risk as part of the shared cultural patrimony of humanity. Any damage to these sites would constitute an irreparable loss not only for the Iranian people but for the entire international community.

Such actions stand in flagrant violation of international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They also contravene binding international legal instruments dedicated to the protection of cultural property, including the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol (1999), as well as relevant Security Council resolutions including Resolution 2347 (2017), which unequivocally condemns the destruction of cultural heritage including the destruction of religious sites and artefacts.

Furthermore, under international humanitarian law, intentional attacks against cultural property and historic monuments are strictly prohibited and may constitute war crimes. Such acts are explicitly prohibited under the 1954 Hague Convention, customary international humanitarian law, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which criminalises intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, art, science, or historic monuments, provided they are not military objectives.

Cultural and historical heritage, standing as the quintessential manifestation of human creativity and a living testament to the passage of time, constitutes not only an irreplaceable asset and a shared legacy of humankind, but also the fundamental bedrock of historical identity and the collective memory of human societies. The safeguarding of these unique treasures is therefore both a moral and legal imperative that transcends borders and rests upon the solidarity and shared responsibility of the international community.



In light of the foregoing, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon Your Excellency to bring this matter to the attention of the members of the United Nations and the Security Council, to condemn these unlawful acts, and to urge the aggressors, the United States and the Israeli regime, to comply with their obligations and refrain from targeting the cultural and historical sites recognised as a shared legacy of humankind.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also calls upon the international community to uphold its shared responsibility to protect the cultural heritage of humanity and to ensure accountability for any acts that endanger or destroy these irreplaceable monuments of human civilisation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under agenda item 84, entitled “The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels.”

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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