



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

No. 3003566

13 August 2026

Excellencies,

I wish to transmit herewith, in the attachment, the Communiqué issued on 13 August 2026 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Anniversary of the Adoption of the Four 1949 Geneva Conventions on International Humanitarian Law.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its attachment circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

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

Gholamhossein Darzi
Ambassador and Chargé d'Affaires

H.E. Ms. Christina Markus Lassen
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York

H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations, New York



**Communiqué of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the
Anniversary of the Adoption of the Four 1949 Geneva Conventions on International
Humanitarian Law**

Tehran, Iran- 13 August 2026

Seventy-seven years ago, on 12 August 1949, the four Geneva Conventions concerning the law of armed conflict were adopted. These binding international instruments established a comprehensive body of principles and rules governing armed conflict, including the principles of distinction between military and civilian targets, proportionality, military necessity, and the prohibition against causing unnecessary pain and suffering. Common Article 1 of all four Conventions further obliges the High Contracting Parties not only to respect the Conventions “in all circumstances,” but also to ensure respect for them. These rules now constitute an integral part of international humanitarian law and are binding on all States.

Despite the clarity of these principles and rules, and notwithstanding the legal obligation of all States to “respect and ensure respect for” them, the world is witnessing unprecedented violations of international humanitarian law. The Israeli regime stands as one of the most egregious violators of international humanitarian law and, over the past eight decades, has committed the gravest international crimes, particularly war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, in Occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere across the West Asia region. The war crimes committed by the Israeli regime during its acts of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 2025 and February–April 2026, carried out with the complicity and direct participation of the United States, rank among the most serious violations of international humanitarian law since 1949.

The war crimes committed by the United States Army and the genocidal Israeli regime during their military aggression against Iran have crossed the most extreme boundaries of brutality and barbarity. The slaughter of students and teachers in Minab by Tomahawk missiles, the cluster-munition attack on the Lamerd stadium on 28 February 2026, and the bombing of residential homes in Qeshm with one-ton bombs on 30 July 2026 are merely a few examples of the thousands of war crimes committed by the United States and the Israeli regime against the Iranian people.

The blatant and systematic disregard by the U.S. authorities for the fundamental rules of international humanitarian law, coupled with explicit statements by senior US officials, including the President, Secretary of War, and Secretary of State, as well as the repeated pattern of attacks against civilians and civilian objects and infrastructure, demonstrates the existence of a deliberate intent and policy of committing grave, serious, and systematic violations of the laws governing armed conflict. The attacks by the United States and the Israeli regime against hospitals, universities, schools, residential areas, bridges, airports, and fire stations, and the killing of civilians, women, and children, including in Minab, Lamerd, and Qeshm, fall within the categories of grave breaches set out in Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, including willful killing, torture or inhuman treatment, willfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health



and extensive destruction of property. Article 147 defines such acts as “grave breaches”, where the requisite elements are demonstrated, the material and mental elements of these crimes.

Repeated statements by US officials declaring that there would be “no quarter, no mercy,” together with explicit threats to attack Iran’s infrastructure, bridges, and power plants, and the use of expressions such as “sending Iran back to the Stone Age” and “destroying Iran’s civilization,” coupled with repeated attacks against civilian objects, constitute compelling, corroborative, and indisputable evidence of prior intent and knowledge concerning the nature and foreseeable consequences of the acts committed. They also demonstrate a deliberate and systematic pattern of conduct amounting to grave breaches within the meaning of Article 147.

Accordingly, once attribution, causation, and the other requisite legal elements are established in each case, the material and mental elements of the grave breaches (the *actus reus* and *mens rea* of the grave breaches) referred to in Article 147 may be established, giving rise to the individual criminal responsibility of the perpetrators and those who ordered or directed such violations, and pursuant to Article 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the States Parties are required to investigate and prosecute persons alleged to have committed, or ordered to be committed, grave breaches.

The continued commission of grave and serious violations of international humanitarian law by the United States and the Israeli regime, on the one hand, and the failure of the United Nations, the High Contracting Parties to the four Geneva Conventions, and the depositary State of those Conventions to discharge their obligations under Common Article 1, on the other, have contributed to the normalization of violations of international humanitarian law and the perpetuation of impunity for war crimes. This is not merely a threat to one nation; it represents a catastrophic setback to the entire international legal order that humanity painstakingly developed in the pursuit of civilization and the restraint of violence.

The international community, the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, and Switzerland, as the depositary of the Conventions, cannot remain indifferent in the face of such unprecedented violations that may constitute blatant and grave breaches of international humanitarian law amounting to war crimes.

Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions does not merely require States to respect the Conventions themselves; it also obliges them to “ensure respect” for their provisions. Silence in the face of explicit threats against civilian objects is not merely an act of political passivity. It undermines one of the most fundamental legal and civilizational achievements of the international community following the Second World War imposed on the world by the European powers.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, while unequivocally condemning these grave breaches of international humanitarian law, emphasizes that, pursuant to Article 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the obligation of States Parties in relation to such crimes is neither merely political nor moral. It is a legal, binding, and universal obligation to identify, investigate, and prosecute



persons suspected of committing or ordering the commission of grave breaches, irrespective of their nationality. This obligation is not limited to States directly involved in the armed conflict; it applies to all High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions.